

God's Mighty Acts Psalm 145:4-7

One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds.

I. With Me (God Uses People)

Slide: sign of Mayberry

Born to good parents in a loving church. Dad not a believer, Mom was... church not too strong on Bible teaching.

Mom - woman of prayer and of inspiration... she took all of us to church and taught us of the things of God. Mom - super compassionate and kind. She got involved.

In High School, God moved in our small community. We had some really great Bible churches who taught scripture and who were filled with people of prayer.

1. Developed a small group Bible Study - Godly men taught me the scriptures
2. Actually had a tent meeting - I became involved - lots of people gave their lives to Christ
3. I became a Christian - and devoted my heart/life to Christ.

Pretty directionless - tried college - not good - poor student - too immature and felt unqualified to do music.

Ended up in the Navy. - great time of spiritual growth. Started as a E-2 Found solid Christian friends. Found the Navigators - Scripture memory

Christian Servicemen's Center - Taste of ministry - need for further education - Moody

Liked school - needed degree - Wheaton was just down the road
Worked in trades

Worked at a church in Chicago - assistant pastor - taught adult classes while student at Moody

Went through a terrible church split

Became convinced that God had given me ministry gifts and so I pursued further education at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Got out and began looking for a church.

Slide: Exodus 3:11

Teaching point - When God does a good work, He starts with people who will stand up. (Acts 1:15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers)

II. With the early Church

Slide: Small group of people praying in a home setting (like around a kitchen table)

Slide: Acts 1:14

Started with Hancock Wesleyan Church - good work, but without a pastor for a time and they were open to Pastor Gary Zacharias

Non-Wesleyan - EFCA guy

Graduate of Moody and Trinity - Free Church Guy - church began to grow and they asked if Gary would become ordained in the Wesleyan Church, but he declined... heart was with the EFCA. He left the church and went to the mission field in Mexico.

Things were just different. Some folks had become accustomed to the EFCA style but in a different denomination. They pursued the EFCA and met with the district office at Plover WI. There was a strong emphasis then as there is today to plant healthy churches.

Issue was emphasis on Bible teaching and outreach. Pastor Gary was strong on teaching and application. His idea of outreach was loving people God brought to his world. Started playing kick ball in the church yard... went into people's homes to do ministry... grace and truth emphasis.

17 Adults began talking with the EFCA and wondered if they might be the people God would use to start a new church in the area.

Folks of the original group include

Chuck and Judy Crawford - Almond Scott and Lori Erdman - Plainfield

Steve and Kathy Pennau- Wautoma Jeff and Sue Wise - Wautoma

They began to meet for prayer

They moved to meet for Bible Study

They met as a church in the former Senior Center and at different times at the bank basement - near Milty Wilty's

Initially they invited Pastor, Pastor Ed Riddick of Waupaca's Faith EFCA came down and provided pastor ministry on Sunday evening. Pastor Ed brought with him the Jeff and Larry Wise families.

Later in 1989 they invited Pastor Kurt Hetinga from Clintonville EFCA to come and hold Sunday morning services at our Waushara County Senior Center.

This small group of committed believers got to a point where they were ready to extend a call to a church planting pastor.

There were about 3 or 4 others before me. Just didn't for whatever reason work out. They were, however, in the hunt and believed God was moving them forward

They were committed to the sacrifice required to do a new work in the area. At that time the closest one was in Plover WI and one in Terrace Shores in Markesan, WI on Green Lake. There were no EFCA churches in Oshkosh or Berlin.

Teach: God often uses unity of mind to begin a good work. This was not a top - down initiative. God certainly has used those as well. This was a bottom- up kind of grass roots agreement on the kind of church they wanted to see planted.

Illus: We need to do a Sunday school, or we need to do better missions, or we need to meet the needs of the poor.

III. Merging.

Slide: pouring two cups of water together in a bucket (the emphasis here is that both streams were pretty little 😊)

I graduated in Dec of 1989. The church had been meeting for about 18 months

I had been looking for a small church that would love me and let me make mistakes with them. I never considered a plant (usually requires a Type A personality with strong gifts in evangelism)

Debbie and I also asked God if we could stay in the Midwest as my folks lived in Illinois and Deb's lived in Ohio. Nothing. Considered the possibility of a plant

Candidated up in Kewaunee Terrible fit. I did not preach well. We did not connect.

Got a call from Steve Pennau ... they must have been looking at resumes and found someone who at least had the same schooling as Pastor Gary. We talked.

Did a follow up call with Scott Erdman.

Sounded good. Reminded me of my home, Cissna - about the size of Plainfield. Primarily agricultural base with lots of other things going on.

My emphasis was on explaining and applying the Word of God to whoever could listen. They were looking for someone who would teach them the scriptures. At least in theory, we were on the same bus.

I think I came up and preached. As I remember I was not with my family. I sensed the power of the Holy Spirit and felt empowered to preach in a way that seemed to connect with those who had been praying for a pastor.

Then Deb and I came up with our kids and stayed for a week. Preached on two Sundays and was able to have a meal with every single. I sensed that I preached better than I knew how.

They voted ... it was without dissent. We came in 1990

Teach: God is able to move two parties together for the sake of His glory

IV. Growth and Provision

Slide: maybe a pic of a boy standing in front of a ruler on the wall that his dad is using to measure his height

People just started inviting their friends and family -
Lots of kids - little place for them to learn - small nursery area

Early On - challenge from another associate pastor - Post Office challenge... why do you think we need another church. We already have plenty. - great question. Distinctives

Non-liturgical
Simple - worship and Bible teaching
Mission minded - local and nationally
Committed to prayer
Culturally engaged and relevant
Owner operated 😊 not pastor driven

Met in Senior Center

Tornado of 1992. Our communion plate was dinged in the damage.

Moved to Defoe School - 1 block south of the post office in Wautoma - 6 months... school was very gracious, but also became anxious for us to find our own home.

Purchased the old Honda Building - Major overhaul - did all the work ourselves - maybe a hundred people or so... still working the vision to provide Bible teaching in such a way as to encourage people to become disciples of Christ.

Moved in and the building helped us pick up speed. We became official then.

People began to visit

God began to prepare current leaders
Scott Abbrerderis - moved in and became serious about his faith.
Phil Sanfilippo moved with his family
Tom Demeyer and Mary moved into their retirement house full time - around 2004 and Tom became the deacon of building and grounds... we about wore him out

Best and Worst day - Christmas Eve - sent folks away - literally nowhere to seat anyone.

God provided funds to build debt free - unheard of

Needed to build new building 2004 - first wedding in new building - Kasani Farrell and Mat Walejko
Lots of volunteer staff - Di and Doug Tubbs - super involved in our worship leading... led for years

Added Paid Staff Dianne McCann - Office manager (7)
Jamie Lou Mason - first youth director
Robert Timmerman - associate - admin and children's ministries
Niall Philyah - Youth
Beth McClellen - PT worship leader
JD Elgin - Youth
Aaron Sowma -FT Worship Leader/

Media support

Support Staff - Nancy Anderson
Val Blaisdell

Craig Anderson
Duane Senn
Any Krause
Devon Kopeletta

Teach: God Gives provision and growth as He sees fit.

V. Ministries along the way (10 units - couples and singles)

Slide: Supported Missions all along the way

Dan and Melain Jansen - Africa

Tim Prince - college ministry

Aviation ministry - pilot missionaries around the world

Heddie Marie Florez (Dussan) - Florida

Brad and Ruth Foremen - 10/40 window

Ron and Duane Rissie - Indonesia

Dennis And Vania Aggrey - Liberia

Jim and Irmgard Block Germany

Jim and Destaye Crawford - Ethiopia and international ministries in

Minneapolis

Ash and Leanna Sanfilippo- Minneapolis - At risk kids

Slide: Short Term missions Trips (at least 10 different countries and 12 US locations)

Slide: Crisis Relief

New Orleans - Hurricane Katrina

New Jersey - Hurricane Sandy

South Carolina - flooding

Galveston Tx - Hurricane Ike

New York - Hurricane Sandy

South Carolina - Hurricane Joaquin

Slide: Youth Outreaches

Daytona Beach Florida

Chicago

Slide: Church National Mission effort
Utah
Minneapolis
Milwaukee
Ft. McCoy

Slide: Church International Mission efforts
Haiti
Ethiopia
Romania
Mexico
Liberia
Costa Rica
Canada
China
Nicaragua
Croatia

Slide: Long Term ministry efforts

Slide: Outreach Efforts

Friendship Sunday - big tent - invite your friends
Laughter Under the stars - hire Christian Comedian
Obadiah - Christian Concert - Gospel group
VBS
Christmas Programs - seeker targeted
Easter Celebrations - seeker targeted
Community Days
Took Worship Team to Ft. McCoy just after 911
Art Fair
Mothers of Preschoolers
Kids Klub - local school system
AWANA
Athletes In Action

Slide: Support Efforts

Food Pantry - Bountiful Blessings
Backpack ministries
Meals from the Heart
Support to Foster and Adoptive families - WCKK
Car Repair Ministry
Worship team
Musicians
Audio technicians
Video technicians
Choir

Slide: Spiritual Growth

*Small Group Ministries - life groups
Mid-week Bible studies
Dedicated Youth ministry
Sunday School program
Prayer efforts
Women of Waushara
Men's Ministries
Young At Heart*

Slide: Supported Ministries

*Youth and Family Outreach
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*

Slide: A. Church or mission related careers either from or alongside WCC

*Steven Blader - Youth pastor - Oshkosh
Nial Philyah - youth pastor who became a Senior Pastor in Northern Wisconsin
Ash and Leanna Sanfilippo - Minneapolis - work with at risk kids
Vania Huff/Aggrey - Liberia
Jim Cawford - Minneapolis - work with foreign nationals
Bob and Sue Miller - Worked with first nations ministries in Canada
Jeremy and Nicole Strause - pastor
Josh Hause - Associate pastor in Michigan
Caleb Spitler - Youth guy - Kenosha
Scott and Carie Kingston - Foster Care support
Joel and Sandi Jarvis - camping ministry
Jon and Mandy Prince - ministry grad - super active in Katrina support
John and Amy Krause - all over the place - also doing mechanic ministries
Heather McKittrick- Madison - church plant*

Slide: B. People engaged in full time Christian Ministry - Every member and most people who call WCC their church home.

Slide: C. Church Planting efforts

*Montello - three of us preached a month at a time in Montello library
Lots of Montello worshippers came here. We commissioned them and sent them off. They are having a significant ministry in Montello
Oshkosh - Ed Riddick planted in Oshkosh - We provided financial support and helped them build their building.
We tried Hancock - failed to thrive.
Currently supporting the effort of Michael and Heather McKittrick - in Madison*

Slide: Other Blessings

*Slide: People healed - lots - many are alive now that could easily have been gone
Marriages healed - lots - I stopped counting
People who came to Christ - lots
People who became serious about their walk with Christ - lots
People who were baptized - lots
People who dedicated their children the Lord - Lots
Resources channeled to meet the needs of people who had nowhere else to go for
help... lots*

Slide: Heartache... lots

*Slide: - all has not been smooth nor perfect. Some have walked away from their faith.
Some have not been healed. Some marriages did not survive and some Bible studies did not
go as we had hoped they would go.*

Slide: Lessons and Observations

Aaron - Can you make these come one point at a time?

*Slide: 1. We are a church of Jesus Christ. We are His Bride. We exist to honor and bring
glory to Him.*

*2. Obedience to Christ is more important than natural ability. The founders had no
clue what they were doing. Neither did their first pastor. God still uses our five loaves
and two fish.*

3. Zechariah 4:6 Not by might and not by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord.

*4. We have yet to see what God is intending to do in our future. Ministry happens as
God's people respond to God's voice.*

5. The Church is God's answer to reach the world.