

Calling ALL Christians!!!

- Jeremy S. Jones

We have started a New Year and some exciting things have been happening here at Columbia. I would like a minute of your time to let you know what's been happening and to ask for your help. Now that sounds like an advertisement letter.

Well anyway, for the past two months the **Youth Group** has been gaining momentum. We started by making Wednesday Nights solely youth, changed up the worship and introduced Memory Verses. The kids loved the change, and have almost knocked down the door to show that they have been working on that month's memory verse. This month (January) they have been working on:

Psalms 40: 1 – 2 *"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."*

This excitement has exploded, in that, as of our 1st January 2023 meeting, the numbers have doubled in all age brackets and continue to do so. It's exciting to see young people not only hungering for the Word but wanting to share that with their friends.

A splinter group was formed for the young ladies, middle and high school, and their moms. They call it **Sundae Sundays**. This group meets every 2nd Sunday of the month at 6pm here at the church. They get together and dive into what it means to be a young lady in a world where a 3-year-old can't even leave the house without showing some inappropriate skin. The young ladies have started a series called "Lies Girls Believe." This group has doubled as well. And some mothers have said, "This is just what they needed."

There have been some exciting things happening for the adults as well.

The 1st Saturday of the month the women have gotten together to study God's Word in someone's home. They are going through the book "**Lies Woman Believe.**" A Biblically sound book, showing lies the world has led women to believe, and what God's Word says about women.

A **Family Small Group** has also been started. They will meet in February on Monday night at 6pm. The group will be discussing how to answer those tough questions the world and the family are facing. Things, like what is the church and what does it mean to be part of a Gospel believing church.

Another Family opportunity is the "**Read Through the Bible in a Year**" challenge. You can read as a family, husband and wife, grandparents and grandkids, or some ladies have gotten together and created

a team. The point is to do it together, to start a conversation and to encourage one another as you read God's Word. And the cool part is there will be prizes for all who complete the challenge.

And finally, we have started exploring the **Book of Judges** on **Sunday Evening**. Judges is a book of action, downward falls, and the mercy of God. January 15th was the beginning and we only made it through half of Chapter 1. So, please join us. We meet at 6pm here at the church.

The fellowship all these have created is amazing. People, parents, kids are not just coming to an event and leaving when it's over. They are hanging around and sharing life together. And that's how the 1st Century church was. They came together, heard God's Word, and then spent time laughing, crying, praying together. Just because the scheduled time ended didn't mean they were finished or that God was done. We are seeing this again, here at Columbia. What an amazing, beautiful thing that is.

Now that you know all that is going on. Here comes the plea to you. All of this could not be possible without the dedication and hard work of so many giving up their time to volunteer to serve. From leading small groups, to teaching kids, to serving snacks, none of it is possible without us coming together. But we still could use help. We still need teachers, van drivers, snack servers, small group leaders, people to come alongside others and disciple them.

Matthew 9:37 *"He (Jesus) said to the disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.'"*

We need YOU!! Right now, Columbia Church is in a place of harvest. We need as many people as we can to jump in. Do we want to look down the road in the next 2 years as the doors are being closed and say, "I don't understand what happened." Or do we want to look down the road in the next 2 years as the church is being filled and say, "God, You are great and we need Your help to make more room because we don't have it now," God honors those that honor Him.

1 Samuel 2:30 *"But now declares ADONAI (the LORD), far be from ME! For I will honor those who honor Me, but those who despise Me will be disdained."*

We are to honor God, by keeping His commandments. His commandments are: 1) To Love Him with ALL we are 2) To teach our children His Word and how to love Him 3) Disciple those He brings to us. The opportunity for ALL that is right before us. Will we be faithful? Or will we disdain Him? Columbia will you join together, for now is that time!