

December 2024



greg the preacher

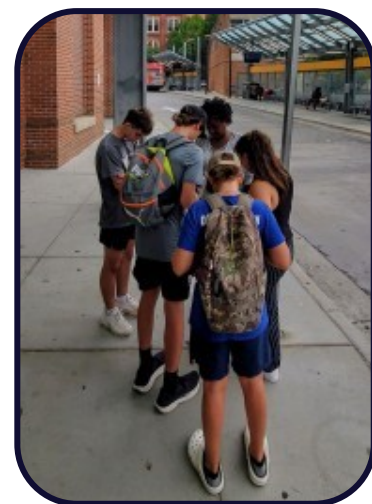
Preaching Christ Publicly with Courage, Compassion & Clarity!

To our friends, family and faithful partners in the Gospel, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year! Thank you for your love, prayers and support. Your generosity makes it possible for us to answer the call to: Preach the Gospel, Make Disciples and Equip the Saints. Over the years the ministry has organically developed into 4 areas of focus: Sharing the Gospel, Pro-Life Ministry, 1-2-1 Discipleship & local Church leadership. We hope this Ministry Update will encourage & bless you.

Outreach Team

The picture above is a group from our church that joined us for evangelism at the bus stop downtown. This outreach has continued for months now, and we've seen young and old step out in faith, overcome fear, talk with strangers, share the Gospel, pray for people, answer questions, and some of our middle schoolers have

started open-air preaching. This is an Evangelist's dream come true! God's people sharing God with people. We all know an ingrown toenail hurts the body. It's growing, but it's growing the wrong direction. And an ingrown church hurts the Lord and the world. Its been famously said, "The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity." It's exciting to see the church not just grow up, but grow out! The picture to the right is James and Jonny with other youth from church praying for a lady downtown as they passed out bottled waters and tracts. These kids have learned that God uses anyone who just shows up.





Good New to Gay Pride

Every year we make it a priority to bring the Good News to Gay Pride. These outreaches are always interesting as we trust God and attempt to share Christ, pray for people and answer questions while crowds of intolerant, angry, hate-filled homosexuals and LGBTQ supporters try to stop people from listening and talking with us. However, what the enemy means for evil the Lord uses for good to actually bring more people over to watch, listen and ultimately discover that we're there in love, listening and sharing and answering questions all day long.



Naked and Exposed

Sometimes people will try to stop or discourage us by covering our faces with signs like spider-man to the left. One time I was preaching to a crowd and a young man took all of his clothes off in front of me, except for his socks. It was terrible, but he gave me a spring board to preach about how "everything is naked and exposed before the eyes of God to whom we're accountable..." Hebrews 4:13. The police watched for a little while and then came and made him put on his underwear. I guess the dress-code for a Pride Festival is underwear.



LGBTQ Voodoo

One time my friend Stephen was open-air preaching for the first time (we call that breaking the sound-barrier). As he was just reading through Romans chapter 1 a man sat down on the ground next to him, set up a bunch of little idols and started calling down voodoo curses on Stephen. Then a crowd gathered in front of them and began dancing to the song YMCA in the most vile and disgusting way in front of little children. It was pure evil, but God was there capturing the ears of those who would hear through the preaching of the Gospel. One Pride Festival they burned Bibles at our feet! These kinds of events remind us that the book of Acts is not simply a history book in the Bible but real life in the USA.



"Love Warns"

In spite of all the crazy protesting and opposition, even from so called "gay pastors" or "gay Christians", God always brings us humble, honest seekers who ask great questions and give us time to answer and share Christ. The young man in the picture to the left talked with me for a long time until tears began to fill his eyes and he said, "I can't do this, I can't listen anymore, I'm sorry, I'm sorry." I said, "It's OK, can I give you a hug before you go?" He said, "Sure, thank you." I hugged him and then gave him to the Holy Spirit. I'll never forget my time with him.

Higher Learning

College ministry proves to be fun and exciting every semester. We visit 2 colleges every week, set up a ministry table with Bibles, tracts, booklets and little gifts. We write a thought provoking question on our whiteboard and invite students to vote YES, NO, UNSURE or just share their thoughts. Whether it's about God, the Bible, abortion, politics, transgender issues, science, racism or the resurrection we have amazing conversations every week. We've seen atheists persuaded by design, Muslims come to Christ and pro-choicers become pro-life. Friendly debate and apologetics is 100% effective in turning not just minds, but hearts to Christ when God is in it.



No One Cares

One day I was preaching at the college for a while and eventually quit because it seemed like no one was listening. I went back to handing out tracts when all of the sudden a student came up to me with his head down and he was convulsively weeping. I thought he was faking it and just trying to make fun of me. Then I felt like God rebuked me and said to pay attention. This young man was truly broken and couldn't stop crying. I hugged him and after a few minutes asked, "What's going on?" He said through tears, "I'm so far from God, I've screwed up so bad. I'm a mess." He said he had been sitting around the corner listening to me preach the entire time, and when I quit he thought he'd come over and talk to me. It was the real deal. We talked, he prayed to surrender to Christ, and I prayed for him. We offered him a Bible & immediately connected him to some campus Christians for follow up. I didn't think anyone was listening or cared, but God showed me that day, we walk by faith not by sight, not by feelings.



Team Jesus

As you can see not only are we evangelizing at these colleges & events, but God continues to bring me brothers & sisters, young and old that I get to pour into, disciple, train, equip & walk through life with. Sometimes a Christian college student feels emboldened by our ministry & wants to join us in passing out tracts or talking with other students but doesn't know where to start. It's a joy to stick a stack of tracts into their timid hands & say, "Go for it and just watch God use you."



Abortion Director

We're still serving and training other pro-life workers to speak in churches and lead prayer walks. Our "Love Life" team has seen over 100 babies rescued from abortion this year! Since the overturning of Roe V Wade, North Carolina has seen an increase in abortions because people are coming from other states, so we need to continue to pray & be present at these abortion centers. One day the director of Planned Parenthood came out & stood next to our prayer group as a pastor was reading, "God is patient and not willing that anyone perish but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:9. I told the pastor she's never done that before. That was pretty cool.



Planned Parenthood director



Youth Ministry

Over the past few years I've served as youth director at our church and with the help of great leaders, we've been able to develop the youth ministry, build some momentum and see a culture shift as we've created more regular opportunities for the youth to connect, serve and grow in God. We're currently planning our first Winter Youth Retreat for 2025. Seeing kids get serious about God, get baptized and grow in Christ is a highlight for any parent or pastor. The pictures above are of our Youth Christmas Party, one of our high schoolers getting baptized and prayed over by their peers, and me teaching our family Easter Service.

1-2-1 Discipleship

As I get older God seems to bring to me young men that I can spend time with. The past 2 years specifically I've spent hours and hours with different brothers, walking with them through marriage struggles, or being single, dating, getting married, expecting a first child, ministry, family issues..... life. I think God puts inside all of us a desire to be mentored and a desire to mentor others. Having a "Paul" pouring into us and a "Timothy" we can pour into is one way we keep the Great Commission a priority throughout the different seasons of life and obey Jesus. Biblical wisdom leads me to be accountable to my pastor and other brothers, while at the same time being available to provide that accountability to others. Our home church mission statement is: Building Relationships, To Transform Lives, To Impact the World.

Stephens Family

Our family is doing well. Angela is a super-wife, faithful to manage the home, activities and finances. She's steady, strong, wise, frugal and kind. In other words she's Proverbs 31. James has developed a real gift for videography and graphic design that he has been actively using to bless the pro-life ministry, churches and Christians. Jonny has proven to be a great baseball player and pitcher. He's extremely gifted at playing the drums, guitar, writing songs and art. Rylan is loved by everyone, very athletic, a great reader and easily makes friends. All that we are and everything we own has been given to us by God through His people and we are extremely grateful. Thank you for your support all these years. We ❤️ you!

Would you like to Partner with Us:

Please pray for us. If you feel led to donate, all support is tax deductible & can be given to us through our local church at:

Garner Christian Fellowship P.O. Box 744, Garner NC 27529

You can give electronically by going to:

www.garnerchristianfellowship.org/give/

Click on "Evangelism Donation."

THANK YOU!

www.gregthepreacher.com



Jonny, Angela, Rylan, Greg & James

