

THE COS NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

by Pastor Kevin

Thanksgiving | Perspectives Course 2021 | Update on Saturday, 5 p.m.
Worship | COVID Survey | Open House (10/31 & 11/01) | Fall Fest
(10/31)

Hello Church Family,

Giving thanks to the LORD is such a crucial spiritual discipline in reminding us that His love endures forever (Psalm 136)! For me and my wife, Cheryl, the month of November is particularly special. This is the month that we began working at COS, and this year marks our 5-year anniversary with Church of the Saviour. We are thankful for a church family that is passionate about worshiping Jesus, taking His gospel to the nations, enthusiastic about His Word, and truly a family of faith that loves people both inside and outside of the church! What is not to be thankful for with these kinds of qualities? We are thankful for you, church family! What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

I am very thankful for COS's commitment and love for world evangelization. Considering this, I want to share some exciting information. From February 4 to May 6, 2021, 7 to 9:30 p.m., we will be hosting a virtual 'Perspectives' Course on Thursday nights. Orientation will be held on Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Our own Fran Patt with FrontierVentures is running point on this course. Why 'Perspectives'? God has a "world-sized" role for every

Christian in His global purpose. Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover a vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable, and crucial for any Christian. What is 'Perspectives'? 'Perspectives' is a fifteen week course designed around four vantage points or "perspectives" — Biblical, historical, cultural and strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose. The Biblical and Historical sections reveal why our confidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless work from the dawn of history until this day. The Cultural and Strategic sections underscore that we are

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**Don't forget to Fall Back
this Sunday, 11/1!**

in the midst of a costly, but very "do-able" task, confirming the Biblical and Historical hope. Stay tuned for more information in coming months, or contact Debra G., our Global Outreach Associate, at debrag@coswayne.org. For more information and/or to register [click here](#).

Our Saturday 5 p.m. outdoor worship services are another thing for which I am thankful. It has been great being together under our oak tree grove. This Saturday, Oct. 31, will be our last service outside, and on November 7 at 5 p.m. we will move the service into the Gym. Our plan is to open all the doors from the outside to create an airflow, and continue to allow people to physically distance. Please bring a coat, and continue to bring your lawn chairs or blankets that will help to keep the atmosphere outdoors-like. Kids are welcome, and they can continue to be kids just like if the worship was outside. Let's try it!

I am also thankful for what is coming up this weekend, here are three kindly reminders:

1st, Survey update: Executive Pastor, Drew Angus, and I are working with a great team that knows how to write surveys so that we get reliable information. The teams is made up of two of our Nurse PhDs (Amy Lisanti and Lauren Starr), and Jeff Morris (Prof. of Biostatistics / Dir., Biostatistics Division at UPenn). We want to take the pulse on the congregation, so please be on the lookout for this survey in the middle to late November. The survey will run for about a month, and then we will cull the information from it so that we can sharpen our ministry focus during COVID as we enter 2021.

2nd, COS Open House (Sun., Nov. 1 & Sat., Oct. 31—weather permitting!): Do you have friends, neighbors, coworkers, or family members who don't know Jesus or don't have a church home? Church of the Saviour will host our annual Open House as an intentional outreach where you can invite those in your sphere of influence to experience a wonderful Saturday/Sunday at Church of the Saviour. Our kids, student, & adult ministries will be reaching out on this special weekend!

Our hope is that everyone who visits (in-person or virtually) will feel God's presence and be drawn to worship our great God and Savior. This specific Sunday is picked for several strategic reasons. First, people are especially receptive to spiritual things as the holiday season approaches. Second, the holidays highlight our God-given desire for authentic relationships. Third, Daylight Savings Time ends on this Sunday, so people get an extra hour of sleep; what better time to invite someone to church than when they are well rested! Fourth, it is a bridge event from our COS Fall Fest Outreach that will take place on Saturday, October 31.

3rd and last, our Fall Fest Outreach, will take place on Saturday afternoon, October 31 from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone who attends our Fall Fest will receive an invitation to join us that night at our Open House, 5 p.m. outdoor worship service, or the next morning, November 1 at either our traditional worship service at 9 a.m. or our modern worship service at 10:30 a.m. Please be praying for this outreach and visit our [events page](#) for more information.

Won't it be great to see our church filled with new faces who are joining our familiar faces? All worshipping King Jesus! Let's start praying now and asking God who we might bring. Let's share the greatest gift in our lives with those around us! May God draw a great crowd to COS through our personal invitations.

Until all have heard,

Pastor Kevin

THE GRATEFULNESS CHALLENGE

by Debra G.

In recent years, my social media feed during the month of November has been filled with people sharing things they are grateful for each day. I am sure that will happen again this year, although just like so many things, it will be different. Some may really struggle with finding things to be grateful for, so in the spirit of this trend, here is the Global Outreach version of daily gratitude to God for what He has done around the world and through our Global Partners in 2020:

1. Christi Armstrong Completed 2 years of learning the Bosnian language.
2. Translation & publishing of “The 3D Gospel” in simplified and traditional Chinese for global distribution.
3. Disciple-making groups were launched in 5 US cities.
4. Families and singles are being trained and sent-out into the mission field, even during a pandemic!
5. The birth of new babies in two of our Global Partner families.
6. The marriage of one of our Global Partners! In addition, several of the children of our GP’s also got married!
7. The process to introduce a certification program for Christian Schools in Haiti to develop and achieve standards of excellence has begun.
8. Media to Movements, which use social media to identify seekers and people of peace in unreached people groups around the world, has seen an increase in those that are spiritually interested and those that continue meeting with church planters in their area.
9. Baptisms of new believers in France, Taiwan, Thailand, Middle East, North Africa and many other locations.
10. Shalom University in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been able to resume classes this fall in person!
11. There are new team members in several key locations where Global Partners were carrying a heavy load.
12. \$21,000 was raised by a Global Partner to help feed believers in Bangladesh during the pandemic.
13. Attendance in community Bible studies in the Philippines has more than doubled since going virtual due to the pandemic.
14. The EveryCampus movement that seeks to see gospel move on every university campus in the USA now has prayer coverage for EVERY campus, all 4,948 of them!
15. Countless hours of care and counseling has been provided to missionaries around the world to enable them to stay or transition well.
16. There has been an increase in requests to be a part of correspondence Bible studies from those incarcerated.



17. Leaders in newly planted indigenous churches are learning, growing, and taking on more responsibility.
18. The writing and publishing of books, articles, blogs, etc. researched and written by several of our Global Partners.
19. Outreach to international students in the USA was able to pivot to online meetings and has found ways to stay connected to students that stayed or returned to their home countries.
20. MuKappa, the ministry to college missionary and third culture kids, was updated and their website redone to better reach this generation.
21. The 38,000+ healthcare workers that IHS Global have trained in 115 countries around the world viewed the pandemic as an opportunity to be salt, light and witnesses of the love and reality of Jesus among the overworked workers and the multitudes of sick and fearful patients.
22. Encountering the World of Islam continues to teach believers around the world how to love Muslims and share about Jesus.
23. Construction of the Middle School at Hesed Academy in Nigeria has begun.
24. People have found new opportunities to reach out and minister in neighborhoods and apartment buildings as they find themselves at home more.
25. Coaching and development of Christian leaders and future missionaries.
26. Preaching, outreach and events have been successfully moved online when needed in the places our Global Partners work.
27. Safe travels as some Global Partners traveled back to their country or back to the USA during the pandemic.
28. Many new people seeking to learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow Him.
29. God has faithfully provided for COS to be able to meet our financial commitments to our Global Partners so far during the pandemic. Thank you for giving to the missions fund at COS!
30. That our faithful God reigns as King and is worthy of all worship and that He is using the chaos of this world to draw people to Himself, and that we get to be a part of it!

What are you thankful and grateful for this year? Where are you seeing God at work?

Debra G. Global Outreach

Giving Tuesday

Our culture has designated the Tuesday after all the post-Thanksgiving shopping to be Giving Tuesday to encourage people to give to non-profits. This year it is December 1.

As the world battles a global health crisis, it's a stark reminder of how fleeting life on earth is. But as believers, it's a reminder that this world is not our home, and our purpose here is to point others to the One that can provide eternal life and hope. COS has a burning passion to make sure the world hears the Good News and we feel the sense of urgency that Scripture teaches us, that time is short. For Giving Tuesday this year, COS will be using the money donated to support outreach and missions around the world through the Global Outreach budget.

We want to encourage you to think and pray about how God may be leading you to give this year. All donations to COS marked "Giving Tuesday" will go to the Global Outreach budget. [Click here](#) to give, be sure to select "Giving Tuesday" under 'Fund'. As Pastor Kevin shared this past week: COS's Mission of Missions is "To summon the nations, through holistic discipleship, to worship the one true God with us."

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

BY DREW ANGUS

Now more than ever, we are aware of how much we need each other, and how important connection is for our well-being. One of the struggles we all battle as Western Christians is that we tend to be too independent. It is our American culture to become immersed in the value of autonomy. Becoming a formal member of a church is counter-cultural because it goes against the grain of our cultural pull to stay away from commitment. However, we believe, by biblical conviction and experience, that one of the essential aspects of the Christian life is membership in and faithful commitment to a local church. Church membership is a decision and a public agreement to be vulnerably interdependent with other Christians in order to be encouraged, rebuked, corrected, and served.

Christians are called to live in community with mutual accountability and love (Heb. 3:13; Eph. 4:11-16). Elders/Pastors are called to give an account for their people (Heb. 13:17). Church membership helps to clarify who has willingly put themselves into community and under the pastoral care of the church.

When you join a church, you raise the banner of faith and make visible your commitment to Christ and his people. When you become a member you place yourself under leaders who are called by God, yet who are imperfect. Membership is an admission that you need other believers to grow in your relationship with Christ. It is saying that you are a part of something bigger than yourself and it is also an acknowledgement that you were given unique gifts meant to be used to bless others. When someone becomes a member of Church of the Saviour, they make promises to pray, give, serve, attend worship, and accept spiritual guidance. These are solemn promises that we take seriously. If you are not a member yet, do something counter-cultural: go all in.

Our Autumn New Member Class will be held virtually on Saturday November 14th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information email stephenc@coswayne.org. To register [click here!](#)

You will learn about COS's history, vision, mission, doctrinal positions, and church governance. This will also provide an opportunity for us to get to know you and your story with God.

Attending the new member class does not obligate you to become a member. If you decide to take the step for membership once you complete the class the final step would be for us to arrange an interview with one of our elders. We hope you'll decide to take this next step!





THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year, as we are approaching Thanksgiving we wanted to create a special virtual Thanksgiving service to celebrating our God. We know this has been a hard year for many of us, but we have heard so many stories of how He has been faithful through it all. We will not have a live service on Thanksgiving Eve like we typically do, but we would like you to play an active part in our virtual celebration. Would you consider recording a short video for us, sharing what you have been thankful for in the midst of this year? Our theme will be Psalm 136. Please record a 10 second video and end it with the phrase “His Love endures forever.” You can send the video to Dave Rogel at DavidR@coswayne.org by Monday November 16th.

SONG THEOLOGY

by Jim Dougherty

Music is a powerful teacher. When we were young, songs helped us learn the alphabet, numbers, geography, and what the wheels do on the bus. As we grew older, there were songs that shaped our view of life and helped us understand truth like you can't always get what you want, the sun will come out tomorrow, and love hurts! We all know that God has created our brains to be uniquely receptive to music. The distinguished neurologist Oliver Sacks tells us in his book, *Musicophilia*, “Every culture has songs and rhymes to help children learn the alphabet, numbers, and other lists. Even as adults, we are limited in our ability to memorize series or to hold them in mind unless we use mnemonic devices or patterns—and the most powerful of these devices are rhyme, meter, and song”. We know this to be true about the songs we sing in worship to

our God. These songs not only help us express praise to God, but teach us about who He is and what He has done. They teach us Scripture in a unique and powerful way, creating neurological pathways in our brain through the power of His Spirit. I typically drive home from services with the songs stuck in my head for days afterward. One of things that I pray for our church weekly, is that the songs we sing on Sunday would become embedded in our hearts and bring transformation in our everyday lives. This transformation is the true worship that God desires.

Therefore, the content of what we are singing is very important. There is a good amount of thought and prayer that goes into the music each week in the services. We do our best to align thematically with the sermon and respond with the appropriate sentiment. We know that we will never hit the mark for everyone, but we want to make sure what we are singing is theologically correct.



SONG THEOLOGY (CONT.)

One of the beautiful marks of this church, is our care about what we teach and sing. I love the dialogue that I have with many of you around the songs we sing. We really appreciate the opportunity to talk about these topics with you so we can learn and grow together in unity. Some of those recent conversations have moved us to dive into this area with more detail.

Over the last few months we have gathered a team of staff, elders and lay leaders to process how we select songs at the modern service. The goal was to explore the mental grid that Andy Lenko, our worship leaders, and I operate through, add some other voices to the conversation, and lay it out in writing. We've articulated a list of values and a vetting system for our songs that we choose to play in the modern service. This will help us establish a musical curriculum that our congregation has a voice in as we sing to and learn about God.

Through this process we had some great conversations about current popular movements (Bethel, Hillsong, Elevation, etc.), the challenge of evaluating metaphor, and the reality of singing God honoring songs written by the hands of imperfect people. I'm excited to share this document with you. You can find it by [clicking here](#).

I look forward to continuing the journey as we experience the wonderful gift of music from our God.

Jim Dougherty
Pastor of Worship Arts

WHAT'S NEW AT COS?

COS APP

We are excited to have launched our COS App! This is a great tool for you to learn more about us, get connected to our ministries, and have easy access to our resources! Go to your app store and search 'Church of the Saviour' to download. We hope you'll join our online community in this way!

THE TECH WISE FAMILY SEMINAR: ANDY CROUCH

Save the date for "The Tech Wise Family Seminar" with Author Andy Crouch. This event is for anyone 6th grade and older. It will take place on Monday, November 30th, 8-9 p.m. This is virtual event, so [click here](#) to register!

OPEN HOUSE & FALL FEST

We are excited to be hosting our COS Open House once again! Do you have friends, neighbors, coworkers or family members who don't know Jesus or don't have a church home? Our Open House is our intentional outreach where you can invite those in your sphere of influence to experience a wonderful Saturday/Sunday at Church of the Saviour. Join us on Sat., Oct. 31 & Sun., Nov. 1. We also have our Fall Fest Outreach, will take place on Saturday from 1-4 p.m., October 31. This will be a time for us to love our kids and their friends. We hope to see you there!