

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, SERVE THE WORLD
IN WAYNE & BEYOND
MAY 2022

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

GLOBAL FOCUS WEEKEND – MAY 14-15

Dear church family,

I remember being struck by something I read from Pastor Timothy Keller some time back:

Julian, the Roman emperor, tried to revive paganism. He built temples and spruced them up, but Christianity was spreading faster than he could compete. In the midst of this, he wrote to a friend, a pagan priest: “Nothing has contributed to the progress of the superstition of these Christians as their charity to strangers. The impious Galileans provide not only for their own poor but for ours as well.”

This has to be the greatest “criticism” ever against Christians! Greatest in the sense of it being historically true but also truly reflective of Jesus’ heart for those who don’t yet know Him. I love it! Known for being charitable to strangers. Known for providing for the “pagan poor” as well as the Christian poor. A Christ, whose power and beauty are reflected like that, can literally change the world. And that is what He did through the early church, where His character flowed through them to a lost and hurting world.

Jesus wants us to learn to love like that today at COS. And our missions team is putting together a weekend where we can tangibly love Afghan refugees who have settled in Greater Philadelphia. So, I hope you will join me and block your Saturday, May 14, and Sunday, May 15, so that you and your family can fully participate. There is more information from our Global Outreach Director, Debra G., in the following article.

Saturday morning will be a time where you can serve the Afghan refugee community. Then that afternoon will be an opportunity to build relationships with some of our new friends. Building friendships is the KEY. I hope our new friends will be deeply touched by our “charity to strangers.” I hope they will feel Christ’s love flowing through us to them as we extend a simple expression of hospitality. Then Sunday will be a special time of learning and instruction as we have a guest preacher followed by break-out workshops after the services with boxed lunches available.

Our new mission strategy is glocal (global + local). We want to combine the power of ministering to those God has dropped on our front doorstep, so to speak, with the hope that this will help us to do an even greater job of loving unreached peoples on the other side of the world. Local and global... our new strategy combines the two... glocal!

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LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

But wait, isn't this kind of work for missionaries, and shouldn't we be paying professionals to do it? Good question! Missionaries do this kind of work, but, according to Scripture, they aren't the only ones who get to do it. So, YES, we want to support missionaries who cross cultural, linguistic, and geographic barriers... actually even more than we ever have. But world evangelization, i.e., reaching all peoples for Jesus Christ, is an effort that takes everyone in the church. So, we need both missionaries committed to this, and we also need YOU – regular Joes and Janes – to do your part in spreading the great news of Jesus Christ to Wayne & beyond. Our Global Focus Weekend is a significant first step. Please save these dates and get ready to welcome some new friends to Philly!

Until all have heard,

Kevin
PASTOR

GLOBAL FOCUS WEEKEND
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 14-15



MONTHLY CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR NEWSLETTER

MISSIONS UPDATE

The GOCT (Global Outreach Catalyzing Team) continues to ask the question – **where and how is God calling COS to engage in reaching those that do not have access to the Gospel?** One area that God has laid on our hearts repeatedly is to reach those that He is bringing to live in our neighborhoods from these unreached places. We're also asking the question – how do we get the whole church involved? We've built this weekend with these two questions in mind.

On Saturday there are two different ways that you can get involved with your family.

Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., two service project locations need assistance sorting and preparing donated goods that go to refugees and others in need. Kids ages 5+ can serve with their parents. There are size limits at both locations, so register early! [Register HERE!](#)

Saturday afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m., we have invited Afghan families that have been resettled into the area to join us for a picnic and games. We'll meet in the north field on the COS campus and welcome our guests with games for kids and adults, a soccer match, and a halal/ Mediterranean meal. Our guests have varying degrees of English, but all need community and people that are patient with them and willing to help them learn and adjust to life in a new place with a new language. Games, families, and food help bridge many gaps. We want you to come, help create a welcoming space, and hopefully make a real connection with someone with whom you can build a friendship in the months to come. Register in advance to help us plan the food accordingly. The suggested donation is \$15 per meal. [Register HERE!](#)

On Sunday we are excited to welcome a special guest to our pulpit, Rob Antonucci. He is the Assistant Director of the Dr. J Christy Wilson Jr. Center for World Mission at Gordon Conwell Seminary, and he previously served in Central Asia for 15 years.

We know that God will be working throughout the weekend as we serve, welcome, and hear from God's Word. To equip us more for the work that God is leading COS to engage in, we will host "lunch & learn" workshops after the Sunday services. Topics will include: navigating Muslim culture, sharing your faith with Muslims, and a panel discussion about refugee resettlement. [Register HERE!](#)

Registration is needed for each of these events to ensure we have space and food available. Please register in advance so we can plan accordingly. There are also many volunteers needed throughout the weekend. [Sign-up here to volunteer!](#)



FAITH IN CONTEXT RECAP

Through the Faith in Context ministry, our faith was stretched, and we grew in grace and truth as we engaged some difficult questions. With the help of believers that are experts in their fields, we discussed how to responsibly handle scripture, how science and faith interact, whether belief in God is just a psychological crutch, and how Christians can respond to sexual and gender identity formation. You can find information about these talks at coswayne.org/faithincontext.

Dr. John Walton (Wheaton)

Over 300 people attended as John presented his view that the Bible is written “for us, not to us” and suggested that a high view of Scripture needs to consider the expectations and knowledge of the original audience (ancient Israelites). He presented the concept of the “cultural river” of God’s people, who were interested in questions of **who** created nature and **why** it was created... not **how** it happened (a scientific question). He concluded by sharing that because Genesis is not a scientific text, the Bible and science are compatible and need not be at war with each other.

Dr. Jeff Hardin (UW-Madison)

Jeff presented a historical survey of notable scholars who viewed science and faith as compatible and outlined several helpful models for how we can think about origins and Christianity. His second talk explored his own biological research on embryos, how it shows the hand of God, and how a commitment to a Biblical view of humankind should inform our ethics surrounding human dignity and life.

Dr. Justin Barrett (Blueprint 1543)

Using his expertise in the scientific study of how people develop beliefs about God, Justin presented several reasons to believe that God is not simply a figment of our imagination and that scientific descriptions of religion or religious experience cannot rule out that God is real... they simply describe the ways that God interacts with us. As a Christ-follower himself, Justin shared how he balanced his faith and doubt, and together we explored ways to navigate this dynamic in our own lives.

Dr. Mark Yarhouse (Wheaton)

Mark joined us for multiple events, with over 500 in attendance over the weekend. On Thursday night, Mark’s doctoral student shared his personal experience navigating same-sex attraction and his Christian identity, which informed his calling to singleness and celibacy. On Friday, Mark partnered with ServingLeaders ministry to present two training sessions to over 100 counseling professionals and ministry leaders from the area, which was followed by a workshop on Saturday that explored the science of sexual and gender development and how Christians can be more welcoming and loving to the marginalized LGBTQ+ community. Mark concluded his visit on Sunday by meeting with over 70 COS students to field their questions.

God is clearly at work in our church and in our community as we wrestle with how we put our faith into practice to Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World.

To learn more, visit coswayne.org/faithincontext.

MINISTRY UPDATES

KIDS CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Summer is **ALMOST** here, and Kids Camps are approaching quickly! Each camp provides unique and exciting ways to engage children with the good news of the Gospel, and we can't wait to see what God will do.

One important aspect of Kids Camps is our Kids Camp Scholarship Fund, which makes it possible for all children (preschool to 7th grade) to attend camp regardless of the cost. This directly helps families, both in and around our community, who can't afford to send multiple children to camp. It also supports kids from several City Ministries, who can only attend through our scholarships.

Would you consider helping us reach our goal of providing 60 Adventure Camp scholarships (\$30,000) by giving to our Kids Camp Scholarship Fund? We're 55% there, but we need your help to close the gap!

Every \$500 donation sends 1 middle schooler to Adventure Camp! And it's easy to give. Go to coswayne.org/give, select GIVE NOW, and pick "Kids Camp Scholarships" as the Fund.

Join us in sharing Jesus with our Kids Camp kids this summer! Would you sponsor a child today?

FAMILY IS AT THE HEART OF STUDENT MINISTRY!

For the past year, the Student Ministry has emphasized the importance of Family. In addition to fun activities and Bible study at our gatherings, students are forging eternal relationships as brothers and sisters in Christ. God commands us to make disciples, so we do not want our Family to be exclusive. Instead, we hope it will grow and multiply! When a visitor sees how students love God and love others, it's an open invitation to be adopted as a son or daughter of God.

But we don't want it to stop there. As the students form a culture of Family at youth group, parents are intentionally developing relationships too. After our Winter Parent Social, a group of parents decided to plan a Student + Family Picnic. The goal is to connect more families within the Student Ministry, strengthening the support system for students both in and out of the church context. Another hope is to include families not yet engaged in the student ministry, so if that's you, please come on out!

Whether your teen is a regular attender or brand new, **we invite the whole family to join us on May 22 for the Student + Family Picnic!** Meet us on the Quad (outside the gym) for food and fellowship. This is an opportunity to meet Student Ministry leaders and families and to hear about the students' summer schedule. Look for the Info Table on May 15 after the services to sign-up, or email deborahb@coswayne.org for more information and to RSVP.



GIVING UPDATE

FISCAL YTD FINANCIAL UPDATE

	<u>Ministry/Operations</u>	<u>Missions</u>
GIVING TO DATE	\$2,411,296	\$575,361
BUDGET	\$2,410,349	\$709,703
OVER/(UNDER)	\$947	(-\$134,342)



Text Messaging

Text **"JOIN COS"** to **833-744-9334** to receive alerts or important messages from COS.

Questions & Feedback

We welcome and encourage all inquiries:
info@coswayne.org