

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

740 W. University Heights Dr. South
Flagstaff, AZ 86005

Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

Church Office Hours
Flexible Morning Hours

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Church of the RESURRECTION

“Where People Come Alive!”

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-7

As I write this article, I am sitting by the window that overlooks a massive beautiful coffee plantation. The wind gently enters through the screenless window and caresses and teases me with the anticipation of respite from the heat and humidity. I am three-days away from returning to Flagstaff and my beautiful wife Jennifer. As I reflect on this past month and my preaching, teaching, and conference itinerary... I compare what the text says, and the mission completed here in Costa Rica. Jesus provided the litmus test of what his disciples were and are called to do. Let's look a little closer to what He said in scripture.

First, the text tells us that: “*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*” (9:35). Then the text tells us that he commanded His disciples to do the same (10:6b-8). Eugene Peterson, in his book *The Message* wrote: “*Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.*”

Second, the text tells us what caused Jesus to send his disciples out to the mission field: “*When He saw the throngs, He was moved with pity and sympathy for them, because they were bewildered (harassed and distressed and dejected and helpless), like sheep without a shep-*

herd.” (9:36). We, as His disciples, will never be effective or successful in fulfilling the Great Commission... unless we have compassion and our heart breaks for those who are lost and separated from God.

Third, based on his observation of the hurting masses... Jesus acted. He did not go to the synagogue and create a committee. He did not gather the Pharisees and give them a conference about their membership's condition. He acted! He did three things: 1) He told them that there is much work to do, however there are very few willing to do it. 2) He told them what to do...Pray. He told them to ask God to send workers to the mission field. 3) He sends His disciples out with authority and power to function as His representative amongst those who are hurting.

As I look back at all that God did on this mission trip, I hold up the litmus paper of God's Word and smile - because as I read the great commission in *The Message* (28:18-20) I realize that I have taken Jesus' charge not as a suggestion... but as a command. Listen to what Eugene Peterson writes: “*Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and*

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THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR

The Pastoral Search Committee is actively working on the search. Thank you for your prayers. The Committee has updated COR's Mission Statement to align with the principles and beliefs of the PCA. The updated statement reads: “We are called by God to glorify and enjoy Him in all we do and say. We seek to serve Christ by ministering to the people of Northern Arizona, introducing them to our Savior Jesus Christ in fulfillment of the Great Commission.”

The Congregation Survey has been e-mailed and handed out to the communing congregation on Sundays 6/23, and 6/30. Thank you for returning the Survey. If you haven't returned it, please drop it in the box outside the office by Sunday 7/7. The tabulated results from the Congregation Survey will allow the committee to find what the Congregation's future vision of COR is. Also, it helps us formulate COR's Vision Statement, and Church Profile, to explain what Church of the Resurrection is and does.

We will have future updates on our process. Remember, the Pastoral Search Committee finds the new pastor, the Members of COR will vote on him.

Chuck Thomsen, Deacon & Vice Chair,
Pastoral Search Committee



FaithWorks “Faith that Works” Mission Statement

To unite the Christian community in mission ministry through providing opportunities for education, information and practical mission experiences locally nationally and internationally.

For more information about upcoming Mission trips, contact the Trip Coordinator Amy Casali at (928) 699-8138 or via email at

Tony_Amy@
FaithWorks4us.org

Meet Your Staff

COR will be blessed with guest pastors, until we have identified the Pastor who God has already chosen for us.



Liz Skowronski
**Worship Team
Leader**
623-810-7233



Greg Reiff
**Director of
Youth Ministry**
928-600-9395



Brigitte Bradley
**Administrative
Assistant**
928-699-2715

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Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

Jesus revolutionized the world with just a handful. I wonder what would happen in our homes, our churches, our country and the world if God's children, Jesus' disciples, would hear his call and Go... to the Least, the Last, and the Lost. He is calling...are you listening?

-Eli Reyes

(Founder) Oasis of Hope Ministries
Church of The Resurrection - Ruling Elder

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR JULY

At press time of this newsletter, Ruling Elder Elias Reyes was still on a mission trip to Costa Rica. He will be preaching a two part series (title to be determined) the first 2 Sundays in July. After his return, he'll be contacting more PCA Pastors who have expressed a willingness to preach at COR on the upcoming Sundays.

WHO ARE WE AT CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION?

In this newsletter edition, the church office continues to tell you a bit more about the current leadership of our church: volunteers who - supported by their dedicated wives - donate their time, money and efforts to Church of the Resurrection for the glory of God.

Third up (continued from last month's newsletter):

Ruling Elder Hal Givens & His Wife Pam

Always even tempered and looking for balance in adverse circumstances, Hal is "the professor" and Bible scholar of our group of Session members. He was ordained as a Ruling Elder of COR on October 2nd, 2016.

Hal was born and raised in Pennsylvania, went to college at Cairn University in Philadelphia

and seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School near Chicago. Hal married Pam in 1977. They have three sons and four grandchildren.

Pam and Hal currently serve on the staff of Indian Bible College in Flagstaff. They moved to Flagstaff in 2014 from Alaska where Hal was an instructor at Alaska Bible College. Hal served as an assistant pastor in Nebraska and with *Youth for Christ* in Indiana. He has also been a janitor, a forklift operator and a construction worker. Hal enjoys baseball, hiking and table games.

Pam facilitates COR's Sunday School for kids from Kindergarten to 5th grade and has been our VBS Director the second year in a row. Pam also heads the bread baking ministry to welcome newcomers and guests.

If you would like to support Hal and Pam for their mission trip with Kidz at Heart to Belarus in September, please contact Pam at (602) 899-6631.

Thank you, Hal and Pam, for your dedication to our Lord Jesus and COR!

Our youngest Ruling Elder:

Ruling Elder Elias Reyes & His Wife Jennifer

Passion by any other name would definitely be "Elias Reyes"! No one known to the COR church office is as "fired up" about being a disciple to our Lord Jesus as Elias. His enthusiasm is catching and engaging - as is his quirky sense of humor. But Elias wouldn't be Elias if this side of him wouldn't be paired with unrivaled compassion and empathy. His latest mission trip to Costa Rica is just one example.

Here more details about Jennifer and Elias in Elias' own words:

I have been blessed in life to have Jennifer Reyes as my wife. We are a blended family and together we have 5 children ranging from 14-27. I served my country in the United States Army for 16 years. Due to injuries sustained in Iraq, I was medically retired in 2009 and Honorably Discharged.

Jennifer and I are the Founders of Oasis of Hope Ministries. This ministry has taken us across denominational boundaries and allowed us to disciple, evangelize and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ not only in Flagstaff but in other states in the continental U.S. and for the last two years to Costa Rica.

Jennifer and I have been active members at COR for almost four years. Last year (2018), I was invited to serve as a Ruling Elder, and very recently as a member of the Pastoral Search Committee. I am currently a full-time student at Northern Arizona University pursuing a double major - Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Bachelor of Science in Photography.

"There is no greater joy than to see the least, the last, and the lost come to Jesus. It is truly a great joy and honor to preach the Gospel. Once people's hearts are flooded with God's love...the transformation is unbelievably amazing."

- E. R. Reyes



THE STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE of the Presbyterian Church in America

by Mike Bradley, Ruling Elder

We are a unique bunch here at COR. Most of us were not members of a PCA church before coming to COR. We came to COR as former Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, etc. I, for instance, spent 30 years in the Catholic Church and five years as a Methodist before coming to COR. As a result, many of us do not really understand the structure and governance of the PCA. Let me give a short explanation.

There are three different levels of governance within the PCA: *the Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly*. These levels within the structure are known as Courts.

The **Session** is made up of leadership at the local church level. It consists of Teaching Elders

(Pastors) and Ruling Elders. As a Session we are responsible for all church functions. This includes: the liturgy, the programs, the Bible Studies, overseeing staff, visiting the sick or homebound, discipline, the budget and the facilities. Most decisions regarding our church are made at this level. All Elders are trained, examined, serve internships, are elected by the congregation, and take vows before God and the congregation.

The **Presbytery** is a regional collection of all the Sessions, in our case Arizona. We have several churches and missions who meet three times a year to discuss the business of the Presbytery. This includes the training, examination and ordination of new Teaching Elders. It also deals with new church plants within the Presbytery, the progress of our missions, discipline, training, the budget and administrative review of the work of the Sessions.

The **General Assembly** is the highest court of the Church and consists of representatives of all the Presbyteries. The GA has several committees which deal with things like our college and seminary programs, our Mission to North America, our Mission to the World, Reformed University Ministries, etc. One can see that the PCA is missional by nature. The GA is responsible for reviewing suggested changes or amendments to our church constitution (The Westminster Confession of Faith and the Book of Church Order).

We are unique in another way... **funding**. Many denominations receive partial funding from their Conferences, the Diocese, or their parent organizations. It is just the opposite in the PCA. We receive no funding from the higher courts. In fact, we pay a substantial amount to the Presbytery and General Assembly to fund new church plants and our missions. Our only source of income for COR is the offerings or tithes made by the congregation. That is why you will sometimes hear a sermon on the church's need for the congregation's generosity.

OK... that is PCA 101. If you have a question, please grab one of our Ruling Elders and we can discuss this in more detail.

MAY HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU,

Mike