

Mobilizing Your Commissioned for Mission (P.E.A.C.E.)

Rick Warren

(Review)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN OUR CORE FROM ALL OUR CAMPUS JOIN TOGETHER FOR S.A.L.T.?

- We reenergize our spirits through worship
- We renew our motivation through fellowship
- We receive encouragement for our ministries
- We raise our skills through training
- We refresh our vision for our church
- We reconnect all of our campuses (one church family in many locations)
- We recognize the heroes in our midst
- We rejoice over new lay ministers who've joined our team
- We reaffirm our values
- We recommit our lives to Jesus

"To train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's Body, the Church."

Ephesians 4:12 (Mes)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Leadership Lessons cover 4 key areas of leadership:

1. OUR VALUES: *WHY we do what we do*
2. OUR VISION: *WHAT we do*
3. LEADERSHIP SKILLS: *HOW we do it!*
4. LEADERSHIP CHARACTER: *The kind of people we must become*

THE FOUNDATIONAL VALUE BENEATH EVERYTHING WE DO

CHRIST'S CHURCH IS _____
10 REASONS WE KNOW THIS IS TRUE

1. _____
"Long ago, even before he made the world, GOD CHOSE US to be his very own through what Christ would do for us."
Ephesians 1:4a (LB)

"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure."
Ephesians 1:5

2. _____
"That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15b (NCV)

"God has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family." 1
Peter 1:3b

"Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why he ISN'T ASHAMED to call them his brothers and sisters!"
Hebrews 2:11 (CEV)

3.

"To Him will be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, FOR ALL TIME, THROUGH ENDLESS AGES, AND FOR EVER AND EVER!" Ephesians 3:21

"We who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And then we will be with the Lord together forever!" 1 Thessalonians 4:17

4.

"God's intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to all the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." Ephesians 3:10-11 (NIV)

5.

". . . Christ loved the church and gave himself for it . . . He died so that he could give the church to himself like a bride in all her beauty. He died so that the church could be pure and without fault . . ." Ephesians 5:25+27 (NCV)

6.

Jesus: ". . . I WILL build my church, and all the powers of hell WILL NOT conquer it!" Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

"This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours that very first day you heard and understood the truth about God's great kindness to sinners . . ." Colossians 1:6 (LB)

7.

"God has put ALL THINGS under the authority of Christ, and he gave Him this authority for the benefit of the church! And the church is His body! It is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence!" Ephesians 1:22-23

8.

"This gospel of the kingdom WILL be preached in the WHOLE world as a testimony to ALL nations, and then the end will come!" Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

9.

"Don't you realize that ALL OF YOU TOGETHER are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT)

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church." 1 Corinthians 12:7

10.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters . . . Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain!" 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

"If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live." Mark 8:35 (LB)

WHAT I'M MOST THANKFUL FOR ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILY

(A Thanksgiving Note From Your Pastor)

"I thank God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3 (NIV)

"My dear friends, God loves you, and we know he has chosen you to be his people. When we brought you the good news, it was with the power and assurance that come from the Holy Spirit . . . So, when you accepted the message, you followed our example and the example of the Lord . . . and then YOU became an example for all the Lord's followers in Greece (your nation). And because of you, the Lord's message has spread everywhere across the country, and now the news of your faith in God is known all over the world!" 1 Thessalonians 1:4-8 (CEV)

WHY HAS GOD'S FAVOR CONTINUED TO BLESS SADDLEBACK?

(You need to know this as a Leader)

1. BECAUSE _____

"The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, and that time is already here! You see, the Father is actively seeking people who will truly worship him." John 4:23

2. BECAUSE _____

"My dear friends, we always have good reason to thank God for you, because your faith in God and your love for each other keep growing all the time!" 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (CEV)

"We don't have to teach you about the need to love each other. God has taught you to do this!" 1 Thessalonians 4:9

"Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together." Colossians 3:14 (CEV)

3. BECAUSE _____

"You can't put new wine into old wineskins or they will burst. New wine must be put into new wineskins!" — Jesus Luke 5:37-38

"The Lord says, 'Forget what happened before, and don't dwell on the past. Look at the brand new thing I am going to do. It is already happening!" Isaiah 43:18-19

". . . Where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom!" 2 Corinthians 3:17 (TEV)

4. BECAUSE _____

"God will not forget all your hard work and the love that you have shown to Him as you have served his people and continue to minister to them." Hebrews 6:10

"Your faith makes you offer your lives as a sacrifice in serving God . . ." Philippians 2:17a (NCV)

"All the parts of Christ's body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love." Ephesians 4:16

5. BECAUSE _____
"They were extremely generous in their giving . . . giving even more than they could afford."
2 Corinthians 8:2-3

6. BECAUSE _____
"We always thank God for you all . . . for how you put your faith into practice . . ." 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
"I thank God for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world!"
Romans 1:8

7. BECAUSE _____
". . . You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"
Acts 1:8 (NIV)

God said, "It's not a big enough job for my servant just to recover the lost sheep of your tribe . . . I'm setting you up as a light for all nations so that my salvation becomes global!" Isaiah 49:6 (Mes)

"The Lord . . . is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wanting EVERYONE to come to repentance."
2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

"And they sang a song: 'You are worthy (Lord) . . . with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation . . .' In a loud voice they sang: 'Worthy is the Lamb! Who was slain — to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"
Revelation 5:12

NEXT SALT — SUNDAY, JAN 10, 4 to 6 pm (Usually the 2nd Sunday of each month)

Mobilizing Your Commissioned for Mission (P.E.A.C.E.)

Rick Warren

I want to start this month by asking the question, Why do we even do this? When you think about all of the money that is spent, all of the time that is invested, all of the energy that is expended to pull off Saddleback Church in sixteen locations it's tens of millions of dollars. It's hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteer time. Is it really the best use of our time and money to build a church?

I told you many times that when I was a young man I decided that I was not going to waste my life. I said you can spend your life, you can waste your life or you can invest it. And the best use of your life is to invest it in something that out lasts it. So I said I want to give my life to a cause greater than me.

So I began to look around. I thought what is the greatest cause in the universe? Is it the United Way? Is it the United States of America? Is it the United Nations? What is the one thing that's going to last?

That's what I want us to look at this weekend. The foundational belief behind everything we do – every program we plan, every dollar we spend, every bit of energy and time that we expend is because of this one issue. Write this down.

We believe, the foundational belief is that Christ's church is the most important thing on earth.

You say, isn't the family the most important thing on earth? I'm sorry to tell you it's not. Because no family is going to last forever. Families are simply a temporary assignment on earth. Families grow up, they move away, some divorce, some die, some split up. There are a lot of reasons families don't last. There's only one thing on earth that's going to last. It's not the corporation. It's not a nation. It's not a business. It's the church.

In fact the Bible says that God created the entire universe just for the church.

Everybody look up here for just a minute. All the campuses. I want you to get this. A lot of people use the church but they don't love it. If you're going to be a leader I want you to love the church. I want you to love it like Jesus does. I want you to learn to love it like I do. I want you to realize that it's more important than anything else you'll ever do. It's more important than anything you'll ever be a part of. God created the universe because he wanted a family. Nothing matters more than the church.

So before I can teach you all the skills of leadership, I just need to go back and explain why in the world are we doing this? Why? You could have stayed home and watched TV tonight. But you didn't. Why? Because what we're going to talk about tonight is far more important than anything you'll ever watch on television. By far.

And if you will hook your life to the greatest cause in the world which is the kingdom of God, the church... there are no such things as great people. There are only ordinary people who commit themselves to great causes. And those great causes pull you out of yourself. There is nothing greater than the church of God.

So I don't want you to just *use* the church. I don't want you to *like* the church. I don't want you to just *serve* the church. I don't want you to just *enjoy* the church. I want you to *love* it the way God loves it.

So we're going to do two things tonight. Part one and part two.

Part one is about the church in general and part two is about the church specific, called Saddleback Church. I want to give you kind of a part one and part two and between those we're going to have a testimony.

So let me give you **ten reasons why we know that the church is the most important thing on earth**. And you as a leader certainly need to understand this. If you're giving your time in service you need to understand why it's so important.

1. Number one, we know the church is the most important thing on earth because God created the entire universe because he wanted a family.

If God had not wanted the church there would be no universe. We are the reason for the universe. The Bible says this. Ephesians 1:4 "*Long ago, even before he made the world, GOD CHOSE US ...*" Did you see that? God chose you to be a part of his family before he decided to create the planet earth. That's an amazing statement. "*Long ago before he made the world God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us.*"

The next verse Ephesians 1:5 "*His unchanging plan has always been [from beginning of time] to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.*" God wanted a family.

What is a family? Number two, Write this down.

2. God's family is the church.

It's the exact same thing. God's family in the Bible is called the flock. It's called the temple of God. It's called the people of God. It's called the church, the *ecclesia*. It's called many different things. But it is the family of God. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 3:15 "*That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.*" Circle "support and foundation." Circle those two words.

In California we're used to earthquakes so we know the value of a support and foundation. If you don't have a good support, if you don't have a good foundation, what happens when an earthquake occurs? It collapses. Without a good support, without a good foundation the building collapses when the crisis comes, when the earthquake comes.

You're going to have a lot of earthquakes in your life – moral earthquakes, financial earthquakes, physical, health earthquakes, relational earthquakes. And you will collapse unless you have the right foundation and support.

What is the support and foundation? It is the church. God says it right there. He said he created the church to be the support and foundation of the truth. 1 Peter 1:3 *“God has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family.”* It's a privilege to be a member of God's family. The Bible says in Hebrews 2:11 *“Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why he ISN'T ASHAMED to call them his brothers and sisters!”*

Can you imagine that? Can you imagine Jesus walking up to you and saying, Hey Sis! Hey Bro! You are my brother. You are a sister. You are a brother of Jesus Christ because God's family is the church.

3. Number three, the third reason why we know the church is the most important thing on earth. Because it's the only thing that will last forever.

The church is the only thing that will last forever. No hobby, no TV show, no nation, no empire, no business, no product, no career... nothing is going to last forever except the church. The Bible says in Ephesians 3:21 *“To Him will be glory in the church. [Circle that. How does God get glory? In the church. To him will be glory in the church...] and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, FOR ALL TIME, THROUGH ENDLESS AGES, AND FOR EVER AND EVER!”* That's redundant. God's saying the church is the only thing that's going to last.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 *“We who are still alive and are left [when Jesus Christ comes back] will be caught up together with them in the clouds [Who's that? The rest of the church in order..] to meet the Lord in the air. And then we will be with the Lord together forever!”* Wow! That's the only thing that's going to last.

4. Number four. God is using his church for a cosmic purpose.

The church does not simply exist for earth. Some of you have never ever heard this. But it's what the Bible says. God designed the church for a cosmic purpose. Ephesians 3:10-11, I wish I had time to get into this but... *“God's intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known [God's wisdom is made known through the church] to all the rulers [who's it made known to? To all the rulers ...] and authorities in the heavenly realms. [Hang on here! Who in the world are the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly realms? I don't know. But I do know this: the Bible says there are beings – we know there are angelic beings. There are good angels called angels; there are bad angels called demons. We know the Bible says that there are rulers and spiritual powers out in the universe. Not on earth. It says in the heavenly realms. God wants through the church to make the wisdom of God known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms...] according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

I don't know the full meaning behind this but I do know this: In time and eternity God is pointing to the church to all of the angelic beings and saying, That's what I had in mind.

There's a bigger purpose for the church than just, Let's get together and worship and fellowship. God has a cosmic purpose for his church.

5. Number five, the fifth reason why you need to give your life completely for the church is because Jesus died for the church.

The Bible says it very clearly. Jesus died for the church. Ephesians 5:25 and 27 “. . . *Christ loved the church* [remember I said I want you to learn to love the church the way Jesus does. Christ loved . . .] *the church and gave himself for it* [Let me just say this: This is a mark of spiritual maturity. Anytime you hear somebody saying, I Love Jesus. I just don't need the church. What does that mean? Incredibly immature. They don't have the slightest idea what they're talking about. Christ loved the church and died for the church. The church is the bride of Christ.

How about if I said to some of you guys: I like you but I can't stand your wife. You'd be offended. The church is called the body of Christ. How about if I said to you, I really like you but your body stinks! You'd be offended. Christ is offended when we say I don't love the church. It's his bride, it's his body. It's what he died for. That's how important the church is. So the person who says I can be a Christian and not be a part of the body of Christ is an idiot. He's an idiot. You cannot be connected to Christ and not connected to his body. It is impossible. Christ died for the church. That's how much he loves it. And that's how much we as leaders must love it. We must not let people get away with “I Love Jesus. I just don't like the church.” Then you don't know what you're talking about. You can't love Jesus and not love his body.

6. Number six. The church is the largest and most powerful force in the world.

It already is. The church is the largest and the most powerful force in the world. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 “. . . *I WILL build my church, and all the powers of hell WILL NOT conquer it!*”

I want to camp on this for a little bit because we're in a culture right now where it looks like culture is going the wrong way. Right? It looks like culture is going the wrong way. If you take any poll of Americans they'll say America is worse off not better off. And most other countries would say the same thing. They see the decline in values, the decay of morals, the coarsening of society, the lack of love, the lack of forgiveness, the lack of gratitude. Civilization is no longer civil. People are rude. And it looks like the world is getting worse and worse.

If you were to read the articles written by mainstream media they say, It's all over for the church. No. It's all over for *them*. They have no idea. They're going to be dead and gone long before the church is.

I'll never forget that a couple years ago *Newsweek* magazine put out a cover and it said, The end of Christian America. And it said, It's over for the church. A big black cover. I remember I wrote an article criticizing them for it. I said, *Newsweek* will be dead long before the church is

dead. By the way, the end of the next year they stopped printing. They went out of print. And by the way, on the last issue they did a hit job on me and the cover said, "Rick Warren rises again." And there was a picture of Genghis Khan on the cover. I framed it. I consider it badge of honor. I considered it a badge of honor because they don't know.

The church has survived every crumbling culture for two thousand years. Where's the Roman Empire? It's not here. Where is the Greek Empire? It's not here. Nation after nation has come and gone. Charlemagne, the British Empire, Nazism, fascism. Things come and go. Nations rise and decline. But the church is bigger than it's ever been in history.

Let me just put this in perspective. You read all these reports and it's like we're just this little cowering kitty cat in the corner while all the big bad people doing things. Put this in perspective.

There are six hundred million Buddhists in the world. There are eight hundred million Hindus in the world. There are 1.4 billion Muslims, maybe 1.5 billion Muslims in the world. There are 2.3 billion Christians. That means one out of every three people on this earth is a Christian.

Let me put this in perspective. The church of Jesus Christ is bigger than China. The church is bigger than India. The church is bigger than China and India put together. The church is bigger than the United Nations. We're in far more nations than the United Nations is. We speak hundreds more languages than the United Nations does. The church was global two hundred years before anybody started talking about globalization. We are truly the only global organization in the world.

I could take you to ten million villages around the world. The only thing in it is a church. We don't have to cower. The actual number of atheists in the world is quite small outside of Europe and Manhattan and a few colleges. Really. One out of every three people on the planet if you said, Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? Yes. Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God? Yes. Do you believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? The trinity. Yes. Do you believe Jesus Christ died on the cross? Yes. Do you believe he rose again? Yes. Do you believe he's coming back? Yes.

They're not all our brand of Christians but they're in the family. Does that make sense?

So we don't have to cower. We don't have to complain. We're bigger.

My prayer is that the United States will have a spiritual awakening. I want our nation to have a spiritual awakening. But if it doesn't the church will outlast America. My job is not to save America. My job is to save Americans. Jesus didn't die for any nation. That's why we have Saddleback Berlin. That's why we have Saddleback Buenos Aires. Because the church is bigger than any single nation.

You can't solve the world's problems by cutting out one third of the world. You can't do it. We're the best organized. We're in more locations. The millions and millions, the tens of millions of people who, like you, volunteer in their church every week are bigger than any army in the world. So stop cowering. Stop being afraid. Stop thinking that the church doesn't matter.

It's bigger, it's stronger than the United States or anything else. Because it was created by God. It's not only going to last...it's got enormous strength.

7. Number seven. The church is the answer to the world's problems.

The church is the answer to the world's problems. The Bible says, "*God has put ALL THINGS under the authority of Christ, and he gave Him this authority for the benefit of the church!* [He gave them this authority for the benefit of the church.] *And the church is His body! It is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence!*"

I have spoken at the world's leading congresses. I've spoken to the United Nations. I've spoken to the U.S. Congress. I've spoken to the Davos World Economic Forum. I've spoken to the Ted Conference three times. I've spoken to Aspen Idea Institute. And I've spoken to all these big think tanks around the world. And my message is always the same: You cannot solve any world problem without the church. We have the most volunteers. We have the widest distribution. We have the longest track record. We have the highest authority. We have the greatest motivation - love.

I remember one time Melinda Gates came to me, Bill Gates' wife. I'd just explained what we were doing in Rwanda. She said, "I get it Rick. The church could be the distributor for healthcare around the world." I said, Melinda it has been for two thousand years. Most people don't realize we invented the hospital. Not the government. Not business. The church invented the hospital. Why? Because the Bible says Jesus went into every village preaching, teaching and healing. One third of his ministry cared for the body. One third of his ministry was health care. So preaching, teaching, and healing. We believe in all three. Preaching - sharing the good news. Teaching - that's education. And healing - that's healthcare. God doesn't just care about our souls. He cares about our mind - teaching. And he cares about our body - healthcare. That make sense?

So we believe that the church is to be a preaching, teaching, healing ministry. So we believe in education. We believe in health care. And we believe in evangelism.

It is not by accident that in every country in the world the first school and the first hospital were started by the church. Not by governments, not by cults, but by the church. We've been doing this for two thousand years.

You need to love the church. Is it perfect? Of course not. Is it flawed? Yes. Are there a lot of goofballs I'd like to disavow? Absolutely. Are there people on TV who you go, That's the church? And you kind of hold your nose and go yeah, yeah.

But the bottom line is in all of its imperfects it's still Christ's body. It's still God's family. It's still the bride of Christ. And you need to learn to love it. Not just use it. But love it.

The church is the answer to all the world's problems.

8. Number eight. Here's a big one. The church wins in the end.

We may lose a few battles here and there but we win in the end. I've read the last chapter of the book in the Bible. We win. The church wins in the end.

The Bible says this in Matthew 24:14 *“This gospel of the kingdom [this is God talking] WILL be preached [not might be. Will be preached] in the WHOLE world as a testimony to ALL nations, and then the end will come!”*

This is the motivation behind our PEACE Plan. That the Gospel will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, then the end will come. We win in the end.

9. Number nine, the greatest privilege in life is to serve in the Body of Christ.

The greatest privilege in life is to serve in the body of Christ. First Corinthians 3:16. Everybody knows John 3:16. Do you know 1 Corinthians 3:16? It says this *“Don't you realize that ALL OF YOU TOGETHER are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?”* We are the temple of God together. And the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 12:7 *“A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.”*

This is why the PEACE Plan is different from every other humanitarian effort. When we talk about the five things in PEACE – planting churches and promoting reconciliation, equipping servant leaders, assisting the poor, caring for the sick, educating the next generation... there are a lot of organizations that do that. There are non-Christian organizations that assist the poor, that care for the sick, that educate the next generation. What makes the PEACE Plan different from every other humanitarian effort, NGO, para church organization and charity? What makes the difference?

It is done in the church, through the church, for the church, by the church, to the church, for the glory of Christ's church.

We don't just go out and do good works out there in the street. We do them through that local church so the glory goes to that church.

I tell young men who are getting ready to get married for the wedding, I'll say you'll have a happy wedding if you understand one thing: That in a wedding the star of the show is the bride. She's the star. The costar in a wedding is the mother of the bride. Everybody else is supporting cast. You may be the groom but it's not about you. It's about the bride and the mother of the bride. And in life the glory always goes to the bride.

Whenever I evaluate somebody's good work my first question is this: Who gets the glory? Is the glory going to a local church? Or is the glory going to your organization? Is the glory going to the local church that's going to be there long after you're gone? Or is the glory going to you personally?

We could all go do good things all around the world and we come back home feeling really good...“I did so great” and we make ourselves the hero. Oh, great American, you did such great

things for us. Our church never does anything for us. I say, No, no. We go to serve. I love what Steve Rutenbar says. He came up with this a long time ago: We're got here to solve; we're here to serve. We can't solve every problem in the world. But we can serve. And where do we serve? We serve in the church, through the church, to the church, by the church, in the local church. We're not out here starting stuff on our own. We're out here doing it through them, building that local church. We don't even want our church to get the credit. We want *that* church to get the credit. Does that make sense?

That's what makes PEACE so different. Because a lot of people say I'm doing PEACE. What are you doing? I care for the sick. What church are you working through? Who are you training in that church to do it? I'm just doing it on my own. Then you're not doing what the PEACE Plan is. The PEACE plan is through the body of Christ, giving honor to whom honor is due.

You know what I discovered a long time ago. People often ask, Rick, why are you so successful? I'll tell you one of the reasons. I determined long ago that I was going to honor the local church. And the more I honor the local church the more God blesses my life. Because Christ died for the church.

He didn't die for my organization. I could have gone out and started Rick Warren Ministries. He didn't die for Rick Warren Ministries. That's why I never started one. He died for his church. I want you to love the church, not just use it. A lot of times people say, we work with the church. What do you mean? We get their people to come do our thing. No, no. whose thing is it? Is it the church's thing or your thing? Does that make sense? It goes back to who gets the credit.

The credit should go to that church, Christ's bride. Because I'll tell you this: a thousand years from today, if Christ hasn't come back, there won't be a United States of America. No empire lasts forever. There won't be a Microsoft, Apple. There won't be a Kellogg's, Coca Cola – there might be Coke. But I will tell you this – nothing lasts. A thousand years from today if Jesus hasn't come there will still churches. Because Christ died for the church. He built the universe for the church and it's all in his plan.

So the church wins in the end, the greatest privilege in life is to serve the body of Christ using our gifts.

10. Then number ten: My ministry through my church will be rewarded for eternity.

My ministry through my church will be rewarded for eternity. The Bible says this *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters . . . Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain!”* And Jesus said, *“If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live.”*

I know who I'm preaching to right now. I'm preaching to the choir. You are the core of Saddleback. You've been through 101, 201, 301 maybe even 401. Many of you have been on PEACE trips. You're serving in ministry. I just want you never to forget why you do it. It's because we love Christ's body. We love his family. We love the church.

That's the church in general. I want to talk about our church in just a second. But before we do I want you to hear an amazing testimony of a guy who went from atheism to being involved in the core of Saddleback Church serving in ministry. He's a member at our campus Saddleback Anaheim, Jeremiah Goley, the pastor at Saddleback Anaheim is going to introduce him and we're going to hear his testimony.

Edward Brandt:

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Edward Brandt and I'm a part of Saddleback Anaheim. Before I came to Saddleback I was just an average guy trying to find my way through the world and make ends meet. I was working full time in the restaurant business making good money. I had a house, a car, most of the trimmings to go along with it. As a kid I believed in God but because my mom and dad didn't attend church my faith was not encouraged and it faded. By age twenty two both of my parents had passed away. So by that time as a young man my faith had vanished. My only faith was in myself. I developed a lone wolf persona which meant I lived only for myself without restraint. Even after I got married I continued to live for myself so that relationship ended in divorce.

I comforted myself with drinking regularly with the excuse that I just did it to relax before bed. And after years of being on my own I considered myself to be an atheist. I wasn't one of those militant atheists that is angry at anyone who has faith. I was just a non believer who could not be convinced that God existed. I've always been a science guy, looking at theories and comparing them with facts to prove or disprove them.

Then in 2010 our company built a new restaurant. I was working with a guy named Brian who was in charge of the construction and he also happened to be a member of Saddleback Church. As we got to know each other Brian shared his testimony with me in detail and invited me to come to Saddleback. He was very clear about why it was so important to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. But he did it without going overboard which would have pushed me away. He just naturally shared his faith as we worked together. I told Brian that I did not believe there was a God. Rather than being shocked or judgmental Brian said that Saddleback was a good place to ask my questions. He said that no one there would pressure me to believe anything or try to change me. They would just encourage me to check it out and decide for myself. I ended up going to a Lake Forest campus service and liked it. Then Brian invited me to a men's retreat. I also started attending a small group every week where several of the group members attended the Saddleback Orange campus which was much closer to my home. So I started attending there. It was at this campus where I prayed that *little* prayer after one of the services "Jesus, come into my life and help me to know what you want me to know about you."

After I prayed that simple prayer it took me many months to really understand that God had been doing a lot in my life. But I came to realize that this decision, whether to believe in Jesus or not, was not something that just happened here and now. I realized that God had been pursuing me for decades. I just didn't see it. I realized that God had many factors prepared for me. My childhood faith, my encouragement of relatives, Brian's testimony,

being welcomed and accepted by this church family and praying a simple prayer to invite Jesus into my life had all played a part over time in my journey from atheism to saying yes to God calling me.

This is when I really started to hear God and what he had been trying to tell me all along. After my baptism in November 2011 Pastor Jeremiah announced we were moving to the Grove in Anaheim and that he would need a lot of help to make the move. God spoke to me *at that moment* so I volunteered to help. That simple step turned out to be a much bigger involvement than I could have imagined. I had left the restaurant business earlier that year and started working for Brian in the land development and construction business. So I was able to help build the children's classrooms for our children's ministry at Saddleback Anaheim at the Grove.

Watching God work through the volunteers was amazing. I'll never forget that moment just before the sun came up on Easter morning, when we were completing the final welding for the classrooms just as our campus would hold its first service at that location. The more I learned about Jesus the more I wanted to invest my life in service. In May 2012 I became involved with the men's ministry and eventually became part of that leadership core. Then in the fall of 2012 Pastor Jeremiah asked me to become the volunteer leader of the Saddleback Anaheim security ministry which I still lead today.

For some time I had been praying to God about my drinking and in February 2014 I stopped drinking and have not had a drop since. It was not a decision I felt pressured by others to make. But instead it was motivated by my deepening relationship with God that made it so powerful. Early last year when we started work on our new building for Saddleback Anaheim I knew that God had a purpose for me. It was my intention to work my regular job and volunteer some of my flexible time during the week to help with the project. This worked well for a while but as the building neared completion there was just too much to do on a part time basis. I knew that this was my time to practice putting the kingdom of God first like Pastor Rick already talked about.

The church is the only thing that is going to last forever and anything we do in service through our church will last far longer than anything else we do with our lives. So for three months I stopped working my job. Instead I put all of my efforts into helping build the new Saddleback Anaheim building. My Daring Faith commitment was to give up my income and put literally everything that I had into building this meeting place for our church family in Anaheim. It's great to feel a part of something that is changing lives for God's purpose. As we moved into the new Anaheim campus we needed many more people for our security team. Our team exploded from seven to twenty one volunteers in just a few months. It is now my privilege to lead this awesome team of men and women. Back at the first small group I attended I remember our group leader saying to really feel connected in this church family you need to do three things: Attend large group worship; join a small group fellowship; and volunteer to serve in some ministry. I cannot overstate how right she was. I continue to be amazed at what an impact these three things have had in transforming my life. They have given me deeper connections than I ever thought possible. And now I see everything in the world through the lens of Christ. And all of my relationships with friends,

with family and even with strangers have been forever changed. I'm so thankful to God for my church, for my small groups, for my ministry, and now I'm thankful for SALT.

In closing I want to thank everyone who God used in my part of my journey from atheism to Christ. You never know the difference you'll make in someone's life just by inviting them to a service or inviting them to a small group or inviting them to volunteer and serve in your ministry. So look around this week. There may be somebody who is just like me whose life will be completely transformed by a simple invitation from you. Thank you and may God bless all of our Saddleback Church family and campuses.

Wow! Wow! Wasn't that cool hearing that live from Anaheim? I can't wait until we have the technology that hooks up all sixteen of our campuses and we can have people sharing at SALT from all over, including internationally, which will be really, really cool. So thank you Saddleback Anaheim, thank you Edward for that incredible testimony.

I want to end this teaching with kind of a little fireside chat. You know it's Thanksgiving weekend and I am so grateful for you. The fact is you showed up on the weekend that the mad rush to shopping starts. I realize that there are people who decided to go shopping and just get it out of the way. Get those black Friday, Saturday, Sunday deals. But you didn't. And I honor you for that. At all of our campuses I honor you. You're the cream of the crop. You're the thing that makes Saddleback work. You are, one day in heaven going to be considered one of the founders of this church, one of the pioneers that made a ministry, built a platform that could last for generations past us.

So really what I want to do is close with a little thank you about you. If you'll look on that next page it says, What I'm most thankful for about our church family. It's a Thanksgiving note from your pastor. I wrote down there Philippians 1:3 "*I thank God every time I remember you.*"

The verse that really makes me think of you is 1 Thessalonians 1:4-8 and it says this: "*My dear friends, God loves you, and we know he has chosen you to be his people. When we brought you the good news, it was with the power and assurance that come from the Holy Spirit . . . So, when you accepted the message, you followed our example and the example of the Lord . . . and then YOU became an example for all the Lord's followers in Greece [That's the nation they lived in] (your nation). And because of you, the Lord's message has spread everywhere across the country, and now the news of your faith in God is known all over the world!*"

Friends, that's not just true of first Thessalonians, the Thessalonica church. It's true of you. The news of your faith in God is known all over the world.

This last month for the fifth time Saddleback Church was named the most influential American church. It had been named in the past by ABC News, by *Christianity Today*, by *Time* magazine and by *USA Today*. And now this last month it was named by *Newsmax* magazine as the most influential American church.

Why is that? We're just normal people. We're just ordinary people. You look around. We're just normal, ordinary people. Why has God's favor continued to bless Saddleback year after year after year in new campus after new campus? Why has God chosen to bless this particular church?

You need to know this as a leader. And I want to just close by giving you – I could give you a long list but I'm just going to give you seven or eight things that I know God blesses. And because these things are present in your life and these things are present in our church family God's favor is on Saddleback Church.

We talked about church as a whole – God loves this whole church but God uses people who chose to be useable. We're not better than anybody else. We're not more important than anybody else. We're not smarter than any other church. We're not more talented than any other church.

But there is one thing that we do have a choice over. And that is we get to choose how much we believe God. And that's our choice. And God looked down and he saw a group of people called Saddleback Church who chose to believe him for just a little bit more than a lot of other churches had chosen to believe him. That's our choice. Anybody could do it. But God blesses those who get blessable.

Why has God continued to bless Saddleback with his favor? Let me give you some reasons. And these are the things I love about you.

1. Number one. Because of your passionate worship.

I watch your faces. Because of your passionate worship. Worship is not music by the way. Worship is just expressing love to God. And the Bible says, John 4:23 *"The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, [In other words with emotion, with authenticity and with correctness. It must be devotional and doctrinal. In spirit and in truth.] and that time is already here! You see, the Father is actively seeking people who will truly worship him."*

Here's the point. As long as we love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength God will keep blessing. The moment we love anything else more than God, the blessing and hand of favor is taken off.

I love Jesus with all my heart. If he never did anything else for me I will serve him my life. Not out of guilt, not out of grief, not out of grudging, but out of gratitude. And I know you do that too. And God has found a group of people who are passionate worshipers.

2. Number two, God's favor has blessed Saddleback because of your love for each other.

There are a lot of things that God will overlook. He will overlook a lack of buildings. We didn't have one of those for fifteen years. Some our campuses still don't have their own building. God can overlook a lack of programming, a lack of money, a lack of talent. One thing that God will not overlook is a lack of love.

Ten times in the first five chapters of Acts it says they were of one accord, they loved each other, they were in harmony, they were in unity. When the church is *one*, the world will be *won*. It is love that reaches people for Christ. Not judgmentalism. Not even correct doctrine. It is love that reaches people for Christ.

And because of your love for each other this verse explains you: *“My dear friends, we always have good reason to thank God for you, because your faith in God and your love for each other keeps growing all the time!”* 2 Thessalonians 1:3

This is an incredibly loving church. You can feel it when you walk into a service. It’s not just Lake Forest. It’s any campus you walk in. You go *Holy guacamole!*

You know what I love about our church? Nobody’s there out of guilt. Everybody’s there because they want to be there. And it shows. And there’s fellowship.

There’s a myth that large churches are impersonal and small churches are personal. That’s actually not true. You don’t grow large by being impersonal. The reason churches grow large is because they’re very personal. I’ve been in a lot of little churches that were incredibly impersonal. And if you weren’t part of the in crowd it’s like, who are you? Get out of here. You don’t speak our language, you don’t look like us or whatever.

I know it seems corny when Socrates or any of our worship leaders on all of our campuses say, Turn around and shake hands with three people. But as I’ve told you before, I’ve had people tell me, That’s the only physical affection I get every week. Hug people. I release you to the ministry of hugging.

Everywhere Jesus went he gave them a look, a word and a touch. A look, a word and a touch. He looked people in the eye, he gave them a word of encouragement, and he gave them a physical touch. Our skin was actually made to be touched. Babies that don’t get touched have failure to thrive. With the increasing population of single adults in our world we need to be showing love not just saying love.

I want people to leave here going, that’s the coolest church. I don’t want them saying, that’s the biggest church. I don’t want them saying, that’s the best music. I want them saying, you feel loved there. You feel loved there? Because of your love for each other.

Every year we baptize a couple thousand new believers. Why is that? Because when God has a bunch of new babies he wants to bring into the world, into his family, he looks for the warmest incubator he can find. And he’s found Saddleback to be a warm incubator.

One of the results of why Saddleback’s grown is that in thirty five years we’ve never had a church fight. We’ve never had a church split. A lot of churches, they get mad at each other. They’re not fighting the devil; they’re fighting each other. We don’t do that. Why? Because we love each other. And I love you for that.

God's favor is on our church because we are passionate in worship and because you love each other.

The Bible says 1 Thessalonians 4:9 *"We don't have to teach you about the need to love each other. God has taught you to do this!"* That's true!

Colossians 3:14 *"Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together."*

3. Number three. The third reason God's favor continues to bless Saddleback is because of your willingness to change and grow.

Your willingness to change and grow. I don't honestly know any church that's more flexible than Saddleback Church, that's put up with more change. Jesus said, *"You can't put new wine into old wineskins or they will burst. New wine must be put into new wineskins!"* Luke 5:37-38

That means the organization has to keep growing and the church has to keep changing. We still have about fifty members from the first year of Saddleback Church a part of our family. From 1980. Do you realize how much culture shock they've been through? They should be given the Nobel Peace Prize for culture shock. I remember the first year people would say, Hey Rick you want to come over for dinner? Sure. Why not? Nothing else to do, because it wasn't a very big complicated church with sixty people in it. I was in everybody's home practically every week. I knew every cat, every dog, all the kids. Now I'm lucky to see some of those original members maybe once in a month. Just lucky to see them. Wave to them and that's it. Some of them I don't get to see at all because they're serving at one of our campuses.

It takes incredibly mature people to grow a church. They're still here in spite of all that change, all the flexibility. You've been willing to adapt. You've put up with the inconveniences. You've rolled with the punches. You've put up with changes that would kill most churches. Shoot! We started SALT two weeks after we announced it. When we started it back up again. It wasn't like a one year planning problem. Oh! We've got Sunday night open again. Let's start SALT! And we did that. You've been willing to adapt.

I could give you so many stories of your flexibility. But I would say, the Bible says this in Isaiah 43:18-19 *"The Lord says, 'Forget what happened before, and don't dwell on the past. Look at the brand new thing I am going to do. It is already happening!'"* God is a God of tomorrow.

We just celebrated our thirty fifth anniversary. And for our anniversary we did do some looking at the past. But that's it! It's going to be 2016. We're not talking about the past. Now we've got to go on because our best days are all ahead of us. The greatest things for this church are what's going to happen next. God says don't dwell on the past. Look at the new thing I'm going to do. It's already happening.

People always ask me, Rick what are we going to be doing in five years? I always quote the great line from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Remember that movie? Indiana Jones says, What are we doing next? He says, How do I know? I'm making it up as we go along.

I'm not that smart, you guys! The reason why I can't even do long range planning. Why? Because nobody knows the future. Nobody could have predicted 911 on 910 and how it would change... we don't know what's going to happen next year.

So what do we do? We're just flexible. Vision is not the ability to see into the future. Vision is the ability to see the opportunity right here in front of you and jump on it. And to have the flexibility to turn on a dime and say, that's a wave! Let's go. We just look for God's waves and jump on them. You've been flexible and God's favor has been on this church.

4. Number four. God continues to bless this church and I'm so thankful to you because of your unselfish service.

The secret of Saddleback Church is the people listening to me right now. It's not the crowd that shows up on Sunday morning. It's the core that shows up at SALT. And this church has over five hundred fifty different ministries, over twenty thousand people involved in ministry, tens of thousands of hours volunteered every single week. Saddleback people are serving people.

When Kay used to teach 101 Class. Yes, she used to teach it. She used to say, When you come to Christ you put on an apron. In other words, Get ready to serve. When you give your life to Christ you are saved to serve. And you've been that way.

When I think of all the people who clean sixteen campuses every week, who set up Saddleback Kids programs in rooms all over Orange County and around the world, who set up retreats and Bible studies and who plan for small groups and who come early to prepare for this or that. And musicians who set up and take down and practice. We are a serving church. And Saddleback is genuinely filled with great people because Jesus said if you want to be great become a servant of all.

Hebrews 6:10 says this *"God will not forget all your hard work and the love that you have shown to Him as you have served his people and continue to minister to them."* That's you. God's not going to forget what you've done. What is the motive for all of this? All of the people who are at SALT tonight at all of our campuses, what is the motive for our service? Next verse Philippians 2:17, *"Your faith makes you offer your lives as a sacrifice in serving God . . ."* Ephesians 4:16 *"All the parts of Christ's body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love."* I do my part. You do your part. Everybody does their part. Makes the body grow.

5. Number five. The fifth reason God continues to bless this church, has the hand of favor, is because of your sacrificial generosity.

Because of your sacrificial generosity. I have said it many times without fear of contradiction, Saddleback Church is the most generous church in the world. There is no church that is more generous than Saddleback Church.

What's amazing... George Gallup once did a survey and he discovered that Orange County is the *least* generous county in America. Did you know that? Orange County is the least generous county in America. Last year the average gift was four tenths of one percent to charity. And yet in this sea of self-centeredness – the good life – God planted an oasis of generosity. People go, I could buy a plasma screen but I'm going to help build that campus. I could go on an extended vacation but I'm going to help build that campus. And we're going to sponsor the PEACE trips and we're going to do this, we're going to do the PEACE centers and we're going to give to the poor and we're going to build and we're going to pray. It's your generosity.

2 Corinthians 8:2 and 3 is true of you. *"They were extremely generous in their giving . . . giving even more than they could afford."* I loved Edward's testimony: My daring faith gift – I gave three months. I stopped working and gave. Are you kidding me? That's sacrifice to make Saddleback Anaheim a reality. You have done this in every campaign.

I wish you could read the letters I get to read. When people send their Daring Faith pledge in the letters and the notes bring me to tears. Thank you Pastor Rick for the privilege of giving. Thank you for the privilege of being a part of Daring Faith. It's just... I can't explain it. I can't explain it.

And not only do you finance, sacrifice financially, you sacrifice your comfort. It's not easy being a part of a rapidly growing church. Change of service times, locations and everything else all the time. And you have been flexible. Your sacrificial generosity.

6. Number six. God blesses this church, God has his hand on this church, this church has influence because of your daring faith.

Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 *"We always thank God for you all . . . for how you put your faith into practice . . ."* That is so true in this church. Name me a church that sent twenty five thousand people overseas. You couldn't name one. You couldn't name one that sent five thousand overseas. There's no church like Saddleback on planet earth in two thousand years to send twenty five thousand people to a hundred ninety seven countries. That's Daring faith.

How many of you were scared to death to go on a PEACE trip? But you did it anyway. You did it anyway. You expected God to act. You believed the impossible.

How many of you think this church is going to fail? That's what I thought!

It's not. A lot of churches today, let's just be honest, have a reputation for being negative. They're known for what they're against. I'm tired of that. I want us to change that. I want the church to be known for what it's for not what it's against. I don't want people to be going, Christians? They're against this, this and this.

Of course there are some things we're against. But that's not what Jesus wants us to be known for. He says, They will know you by your love. Not by your bumper sticker. Not by your voting record. Not by your placard. Not by what you're against. They will know you by your love.

And because of your daring faith we've done all kinds of stuff. We bought a hundred twenty acres in Lake Forest. And now we bought sites for other campuses. And now we're starting around the world. That's Daring Faith. And I honor you. And I honor your faith.

I just wanted this Thanksgiving weekend to tell you how proud I am of you and how thankful I am, because the faith of the leadership in this church is like none other.

I remember one time here at the Lake Forest campus, we had to buy an additional forty acres out front. It was the key to our starting the growth. We needed two more entrances. I stood up on a Sunday and said, Folks, we need to buy this forty more acres of land. In our church when we buy land we actually vote by ballot. We said we're going to have a vote but I said, I can't tell you how much it costs or what the terms are. Because I said, this is a public piece of property and there are six other developers who want it. And if I publicly announce what we are offering for it we'll certainly be overbid and we'll lose the property. So trust me.

I remember when the ballots were all counted, nobody was under pressure. People could vote no if they wanted to. People had voted unanimously to buy thirteen million dollars' worth of land. And we paid it down to nine million. That piece is easily worth thirty million, forty million now. But it was the key.

It was a matter of daring faith. And I love you for that.

I just want to tell you this. 2016, 2017 are going to be our biggest years. Our biggest goals, our widest expansions, our most white knuckled faith kind of things we're going to do. I can't even tell you or I'd have to kill you right now. But I'm not worried about it. Because your attitude has always been, Let's go for it Rick! Why not? If I said, let's charge hell with squirt guns you'd be loading right now.

Paul says *"I thank God for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world!"* That is true of you. Hundreds of thousands of churches have been influenced by Saddleback Church. Hundreds of thousands of churches. It's because of your daring faith. And it's all around the world.

That leads me to number seven.

7. God's hand is on this church and will continue to be on this church because of your global vision.

If you want to explain to people why God blesses Saddleback Church those are the seven reasons right there.

You don't just care about our little part of the world. A lot of churches just want to be a little community church. Us four and no more and the rest can go to hell! But you've always been beyond yourself. You've always been willing to put up with discomfort to reach more people.

Of all of the headlines in thirty five years that have been written about this church... Mark Carver is actually doing an enormous historical study on this. I think I told you that one thousand six hundred PhD doctrinal dissertations have been written on this church. But all the thousands and tens of thousands of articles, my favorite headline was run in the *LA Times* many years ago. It came out and it said "Church's vision is too big." I loved that. Many things we don't have control over, but as I said, we do get to choose how much we believe God. And we've just chosen to believe God for just a little bit more. And we are a church that's said, We're not just going to do Jerusalem. We're going to do Judea and Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world. That's the history of Saddleback.

At Saddleback, the eighties were our local decade. We pretty much said, let's just build a church that's a model for Orange County. That was our local decade. And we grew from just Kay and I to about six thousand people.

In the nineties we said that's our national decade. We began to train other churches. And in the 1990s over ninety thousand other pastors took Purpose Driven Church training. Ninety thousand.

So 101 Class is taught in a lot of other churches. Forty Days of Purpose is taught in a lot of other churches. Campaigns in a lot of churches. Small groups.

In the year 2000 we said now we're going global. And since then we've been focusing on the least, the last and the lost, the unengaged, the unreached. And that's the global vision. Jesus said, You will be my witnesses.

I want to just close with a couple last verses. Isaiah 49:6 *God said [to Isaiah and he says to us], "It's not a big enough job for my servant just to recover the lost sheep of your tribe . . . I'm setting you up as a light for all nations so that my salvation becomes global!"*

That is God's Word for Saddleback Church. It's not enough to just care about Orange County. It's not enough to just care about California. It's not enough to just care about the nation of the United States. We must care about the whole world so that salvation goes global.

One of the stats that haunts me is that in America every year four point one million babies are born. That's about eight a minute in America. But at the same time 2.2 million people will die each year in America. That's about four a minute. Most of them go into eternity without Christ. I can hardly live with that. As long as one person doesn't know Christ we will keep reaching out. Because Jesus on the cross said I love you this much. I love you so much it hurts. Every drop of blood was saying I love you, I love you, I love you. We do this because people need the Lord. And "*The Lord . . . is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wanting EVERYONE to come to repentance.*" 2 Peter 3:9

I say all that to say this. I'm grateful for you. Thanksgiving weekend, I am grateful for you. But I believe that our church is standing on the edge of greatness. He's not brought us this far just to say, Ok all the good things are in the past.

He's not brought you to this church, at this point in time to say, You just get to watch what happens. No. He's got bigger and better things. And actually God let Saint John see in advance the result of all our efforts. It's in the book called the book of the Revelation. By the way, it's not called revelations. It's the book of the Revelation. Singular. There's no revelations book in the Bible. It's the book of the Revelation. Single. And God let John see in advance the result of all our labor and the labor of every other Christian who's serving God.

And it says this. Look up here on the screen. Revelation 5:12 *“And they sang a song: ‘You are worthy (Lord) . . . with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and [every] language and [every] people and [every] nation. . .’ In a loud voice they sang: ‘Worthy is the Lamb! Who was slain — to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’”*

Dear Jesus Christ, we are very aware that we are standing at this moment in history at a pivotal time when our nation and our world and all around us could go one way or another way. But we know that we are standing on holy ground. You have brought us this far for this time, for this purpose and we sense that you are about to do something absolutely incredible in and through our church family. And we stand in awe of you. I thank you for the love of these people, for the faith of these people, for the flexibility of these people, for the generosity of these people, for the willingness to grow, for the unselfish service, all of the things that we've looked at that I have seen in the lives of these people over months and even over years. We dedicate ourselves to you as we face a new year. We want to commit all we have to not just using the church, to enjoying the church, but to loving the church as your bride, as your body, as your family, as the only thing that's going to last. Use us for your cosmic purpose. Lord, there is nothing greater than your kingdom. So we surrender, we submit and we thank you for the privilege of serving you in your church, something that's going to outlast everything else we do. And we say to you, you are worthy. You're worthy to receive power and honor and wealth and wisdom and strength and glory and praise. Worthy is that Lamb. And we pray this in Jesus' name. And all of our people at every campus said, Amen!!