<u>www.lifeinhisname.net</u> April 2021

Sharing the good news of Jesus and His Kingdom and equipping the church to do the same.

# IN HIS NAME Greg West Evangelist

### Greg's Schedule

# April 11: Preaching at Saint Mark's UMC

- In Person Worship: 9:00a.m. and 10:30a.m.
- Worship is also streamed online.

# **April 12: United Methodist Men's Meeting**

• 6:30p.m: Miles Memorial UMC

### **April 25: First UMC Fox Hill**

- In Person Worship: 10:00a.m.
- Worship is also streamed online.

### May 2: New Town UMC

- Williamsburg location.
- In Person Worship: 11:30a.m.-12:30a.m

### May 16: Preaching at Thalia UMC

- Virtual worship:
- Traditional: 8:30a.m.
- Contemporary: 9:45a.m.

### May 30: Preaching at Lynnhaven UMC

- In Person Worship: 11:00am
- Worship is also streamed online

# June 20: Preaching at Virginia Beach Christian Church

- Parking Lot Praise: 10:00a.m.
- Worship is also streamed online

### June 27: Preaching at Virginia Beach Christian Church

- Parking Lot Praise: 10:00a.m.
- Worship is also streamed online.

## **Update: Online Book Study**

We have 17 people participating in our two online groups, including three pastors! It has been insightful and fun to meet with people who have a desire to grow in their love for Christ and be equipped to share the Good News. We are four weeks in and have all been challenged by Dr. Robert Coleman's presentation. I've referred to him as the "Mr. Miyagi" of evangelism (an old reference to the Karate Kid movie).

At first, we didn't talk much about evangelism, but laid a foundation to be better equipped for the long haul! The book is rooted in scripture with multiple biblical references on every page. The chapter titles give significant insight into Coleman's Christ-centered approach: Selection, Association, Consecration, Impartation, Demonstration, Delegation, Supervision and Reproduction.

I highly recommend the book. A number of people have asked me if I'm going to do another study in the future. The answer is "yes." However, no dates have been set. If you'd like to be informed of a future group, let me know.

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It would have been wonderful if the disciples had cellphones to film Jesus' life and teaching, His miracles and even His death and resurrection. Of course, they did not. What they did have were their voices and ink and paper; and they are shouting to us across the centuries, 'He died for us, but He is risen from the dead forevermore!'

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Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the father has sent me, even so I am sending you. 'And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

JOHN 20:21-22

# GREG WEST greg@lifeinhisname.net

As followers of Christ, we are a sent people! We are a significant part of God's plan to reach the planet with His Good News. Friends, it is so challenging to have Christ front and center in our lives! Busyness, selfishness and laziness are just some of the things that get in our way. However, when we have those times of seeing clearly that our lives have been purchased by Christ's death and resurrection. when we are tuned in to His teachings and understand the call and the privilege He has given us, when we sense His presence in our spirits as He leads, it is the most wonderful experience in life!

In the Bible passage above, Jesus is risen from the dead as He appears among His disciples! I am quite sure they were in shock. Jesus speaks peace to them and then declares these amazing words, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 3 years of training, 3 years growing to comprehend the Kingdom of God and 3 years of seeing his power to heal, to deliver and to multiply all build to this moment! Jesus had empowered them to preach and teach, to heal and drive out evil spirits. However, what the disciples experienced after His death was new. Crucifixion and resurrection had happened!

It is no small question to ask, "How did the Father send Jesus?"

The book I am using for my online evangelism training does a good job answering this question. The book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman, is an in-depth study of Jesus's life. The more we understand Jesus, His message and His mission, His identity, His love, His saving power and His authority, the more we'll understand ourselves.

Jesus breathes on them and speaks, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Here is a simple, yet unfathomable reality. Jesus empowers his disciples with the indwelling Spirit of the Living God! Here again in the rush and traditions of church life, we can miss what God is offering. The Apostle Paul writing to the church in Corinth, tries to awaken them to this phenomenal new happening that the prophets had foretold;

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." 1 Cor. 6:19-20.

Friends, I encourage you with all that I am, pursue the teachings and commands of Christ and open yourselves to the filling of the Holy Spirit. The life we are called to live is a supernatural one. In our own strength, we are not able to live out the teachings of Christ. We need to be "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Jesus told us clearly to ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13); and we see the disciples in the book of Acts filled with the Holy Spirit multiple times

With the warmer weather coming and more and more vaccines being administered, I am confident that you and I be connecting with our churches, family and friends more and that more opportunities for outreach will surely open up. Jesus sends us out to make him known by the way we live, love and serve!

# Online Growth Opportunities



Fresh Expressions is a ministry geared towards reaching those who are not yet connected with a church. It is an organization dedicated to speaking into our post-Christian society and helps local churches with outreach.



Renovaré is dedicated to helping church cultivate communities the resemble the early church and promote Christlikeness. They offer a plethora of retreats, books, articles, messages, and podcasts.

### **New Video**

Are You Yoked with Jesus?



https://youtu.be/sK4wmv UEqxU