



KINGDOM COME: ENGAGING IN GOD'S MISSION

BY PASTOR DARYL LARGIS

Developing strategic partnerships locally, regionally, nationally, and globally . . .



Kingdom Come is the "engine" that enables The Chapel to resource, facilitate and catalyze the vision of ensuring that every man, woman, and child has opportunities to hear, see, and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ at home and around the globe. (Left: A. Belmar, Presidir.net; Right: D. Largis, The Chapel)

Given we just rolled over into another year that is full of new expectations, hopes, dreams, opportunities, and challenges, it's a great opportunity to explain a few things related to Kingdom Come. Although this might be a reminder for some, for others it's likely to be fresh information if you are new to The Chapel or to Kingdom Come.

Basically, each and every year we ask the people who call The Chapel home to prayerfully consider what God would have them to do in the upcoming year as it relates to financially partnering with The Chapel, and in particular, Kingdom Come. This partnership is by faith; a Faith Promise meaning, if God gives it, you will in turn give it to Kingdom Come, and if He doesn't, you are under no obligation to do so. The Chapel

then takes all of the faith commitments and adds them together as the basis for the planning for the upcoming year. This step was just completed for 2014 based upon the faith of those who responded. Each and every year it is such an encouragement to see God's people respond by faith and then to actually live like it is so. We continually hear and see evidence of this in the lives of many. They, and perhaps you, can attest to the fact that God is faithful and active in your midst.

Before we go further and discuss some exciting opportunities on the horizon, please allow me to briefly explain the purpose of Kingdom Come. It is the engine, if you will, that enables The Chapel to resource, facilitate, and catalyze our vision to see every man,

woman and child hearing and seeing the gospel of Jesus Christ come to fruition locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. We accomplish this through partnerships with other ministries and organizations of like mind and heart as well as through direct initiatives led by The Chapel. While this is at its core a spirit-led journey, it requires diligence and leadership to effectively facilitate to ensure we as a ministry are holding true to the invitation God has extended to us to join Him on His mission—the *Missio Dei*—which is to redeem all of creation through Christ.

Simply stated, Kingdom Come allows us as a ministry to engage in God's mission as His Spirit leads and allows us, be that locally, regionally, nationally or globally. As a result we are active in each of these

domains passionately pursuing this vision with others. God has allowed The Chapel through Kingdom Come to help establish numerous new expressions of the gospel all over the world in addition to enabling us and others to demonstrate the reality of gospel in many places so that those there experience the gospel in tangible ways. While space does not allow me to expound in detail upon this activity, you can find more information in our annual publication, *On Mission*. In addition, I write a blog which highlights some of these activities which can be accessed on our Kingdom Come web page, thechapel.com/kc, along with other information regarding Kingdom Come.

So, as it relates to 2014, we are in for some exciting times! God's people have again affirmed that they by faith will participate in Kingdom Come. This is awesome and will allow us to fuel the mission with existing partners and initiate new activity. This new activity will predominantly, but not exclusively, involve supporting new church plants in Western New York. As you may have heard recently, there are more than a handful of church plants planned for this region in the next one to two years. The Chapel has the privilege and the opportunity to not only partner with these new expressions but also to prayerfully consider expanding its own reach directly. Exciting times indeed! Please note that Kingdom Come is not all about planting new churches. We do partner with many other ministries to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel. However, planting new churches that result from evangelization is a very effective way to fulfill the mission.

There does exist a methodology to determine the breadth and depth of our partnerships with other ministries and organizations. Although assuredly not perfect, this methodology allows us to assess certain aspects of a proposed

partnership while still allowing for the leadership of God's Spirit. This methodology also allows us to reevaluate existing partnerships. In simplistic terms, the partnership opportunity is evaluated for:

1. the overall missional fit with that of The Chapel's
2. the leadership capacity and capability of the potential partner
3. The Chapel's ability to influence future outcomes (not to control them but to influence them)
4. The uniqueness of the opportunity
5. The overall ability and stability of the partner in question.

Each of these areas are explored in varying degrees to determine the strategic potential. This potential is then woven into what resources we already have committed for that year and what resources we believe God is going to provide through His people. As a result, a comprehensive plan is generated for each calendar year denoting all partners and expectations as appropriate.

In closing, I ask that you continue to pray for wisdom as well as provision as it relates to 2014. Prioritizing and then allocating the resources God gives through His people in relation to Kingdom Come is a daunting task and one that needs much prayer. May we as a local expression of His Church be found faithful in how we live, in how we lead and in how we engage with God in His mission.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

~Acts 1:8



– NEWS BRIEF –
SonRays Ministries

For SonRays Ministries, the opportunities to help single moms and their children have increased greatly. Through the single moms' fellowships, we're caring spiritually for nearly twice as many women as last year. If they desire it, moms also receive a weekly call from a SonRays personal prayer partner.

There were no empty spaces below the women's and children's Christmas trees this year thanks to The Chapel's Operation Blessing and Angel Trees at two other churches. The international student friends of SonRays Ministries hear God's messages in many different ways. SonRays coworkers shared the gospel with moms, dads, kids, grandmas, and grandpas during a Christmas luncheon, where we shared the true meaning of Christmas with families in need. Through the generous donation of a coworker and Chapel member, we were able to bring an international couple and a single mom and two children to experience *The Story of Christmas*. All were blessed, and the husband said that God spoke to him there.

We're rejoicing today because one woman who had an appointment for an abortion chose to carry her baby full-term. Our many weeks of prayers and words influenced her greatly.

The New Year brings excitement for increased opportunities to impact the lives of individuals and families facing unplanned pregnancies, single moms, international student couples, and children with the life-saving message of the love of Christ. Plans are underway for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in February. SonRays is also awaiting God's choice for a new female senior citizen to complete the family at our intergenerational Faith Home in Amherst. We, as an arm of the Church and a local mission, in partnership with the Body of Christ, look forward to reaching every man, woman, and child He brings our way with the gospel and His hope for life.

– UPCOMING EVENTS –

**FEBRUARY 22, 7PM
CASTING CROWNS**

Thrive Tour: Casting Crowns will be joined by Laura Story and For King & Country for a very special evening here at The Chapel. This will be a great event to share with family and friends! For details and ticket information please call 1.800.461.4485 or log on to kingdombound.org.

**MARCH 21-22
REVIVE CONFERENCE**

Ladies, enjoy this two-day conference beginning with guest speaker Sarah Sumner at The Chapel on March 21, and then join us for Enrich on March 22, at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church. Details and registration are available online at thrivewomen.com/revive-conference.

The Mission of Kingdom Come is specifically focused on helping to ensure that every man, woman and child has repeated opportunities to hear, see and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, nationally and globally where The Chapel has influence.