



For Immediate Release

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Changing the Atmosphere

Urban Pastors Take Different Approach to Sunday Services

Harrisburg, PA – Urban Life Church continues to take bold steps with its new **What NOW teaching series** of lessons. As part of the weekly **Sunday Café**, this ministry is focusing on fundamentals to bring balance and understanding to today's generation of new and young believers; and to those who have been walking with God for many years, but are looking for more.

"There are a lot of teachings that have gone forth throughout church history," states Chris Green, lead instructor and author of the What NOW curriculum. "Most of the topics are highly controversial and while various denominations and organizations are battling over doctrine, there is a whole new generation that has come along and they don't know what we're talking about, much less what the debate is all about."

The What NOW series is offering eight lessons of wisdom, understanding and discussion for issues that are affecting every single person, regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, social status, or religious beliefs. It deals primarily with the wisdom that is necessary to help people who are walking through the maze; the seasons of transition, trials and change.

After an introductory session that provided a foundation for all of the following weeks, this past Sunday, the church family ventured into the first nugget of wisdom regarding: RESOURCES subtitled "Gotta make that money."

The entire series is built upon the wisdom embedded in Proverbs 1. The first nugget of wisdom involved changing our attitude from seeing money as our greatest resource, to looking at GOD as our source.

"You don't always need money," Chris Green declared to the Sunday café gathering "But you always need God. God can bring financial miracles that don't involve giving you money." Then he recalled the time when he and his wife had twin sons that led to a \$32,000 medical bill. At that time, the couple had no medical insurance. God did not meet the need by supplying cash. Instead, they were shown FAVOR, and the bill was reduced to \$300.

The urban pastor talked about the law of reciprocity and the measure in which we give. He carefully walked the group through the principles of sowing and reaping. He even addressed the doctrinal controversy regarding paying tithes versus free will giving, a battle that has gone on for hundreds of years and continues to divide the church even today.

"Now that we're dealing with a new generation, many of which come from harsh religious backgrounds," explains Pastor Chris, "We are presenting the issues and seeking to bring

balance so that they can see where both sides stand on the issues, how we got to this point, and thus have some degree of understanding on the steps that we are taking as a church and family."

"Quite a few people may become angry or adversarial with some of the things that we will discuss in these sessions," adds the pastor "Some people within the café and those watching on line are going to be surprised at the things that Carol and I will say as they learn where we stand on some issues. However our point is not to push our position. We just want this generation to have some balance and to hear all sides as they are seeking God in their journey with Him."

The couple stresses the point that in this generation, especially for those who are returning to church, that you cannot try to force doctrine and spiritual truths upon them. You must take your time, carefully read through the Bible, give historical perspective, try to keep definitions within the context of scripture passages, and most of all, let them discover truth. Let GOD speak to them because HE knows what it will take to get past every negative barrier that is hindering them.

"That's why we know that our ministry method and strategy is very uncomfortable for many typical church attendees, " says Pastor Chris "This is not a criticism, but many are accustomed to listening to sermons and engaging only in matters and topics in which they are already agreed. In the What NOW sessions, we bring up topics and issues that people, who are returning to church, want to talk about. We deal with the taboo subjects and the stuff that has no clear cut yes or no answer. However, that is the perfect environment for today's generation, and that's who we're trying to reach."

Many years ago, Chris had a dream in which he saw the sky over a city filled with a poisonous gas. It was a toxic cloud that was a thick dark green and grey mix. He looked closely, trying to see if it was coming from factories and industrial plants, but instead, he saw the smoke-like substance pouring out of the windows of homes.

He looked into the window of a home and the toxic fumes were pouring out of a television. He looked around the neighborhood and it was coming out of car radios. People were walking down the street holding the old CD player boom boxes and it was pouring out of those music devices. Every where he looked, the media was being used to spew out this poisonous cloud into the air.

That dreamed solidified a calling and command to change the atmosphere with the name of the Lord Jesus. The Urban Life Church and Fruitful Life Network desire to cleanse and fill the atmosphere with praise, worship, prayer and the Word of God.

"That's the reason why we're not trying to build a big ministry," concludes Pastor Chris Green. "We desire to build people and we're trusting God to assemble those who are called along side of us to fulfill this mission."

For more information visit www.urbanlife-church.org or www.fruitful-life.net

Prayer contact: 717-889-5700

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