

We believe that the Church is not the building, but a church is the people of God on a mission together. We desire to be a part of a community of people who will place a major emphasis on equipping and training people for ministry as the Bible teaches.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. -
- **Ephesians 4:11-12**

We will be a church that will place a high value upon community. In fact, without community we would cease to be a church. The word used for "church" in the New Testament literally means a "*called out assembly*." The very word "church" when defined means a community of people called by God, called from the world, and called to reach the world. The Scriptures teach that the church is not a building or location, but rather the church is the people of God on a mission. We believe the people of God are those who profess faith in Jesus the Messiah and seek to demonstrate their beliefs in daily life. We believe the mission of God is to represent the ways, words, and life of Jesus in the world He loves. As followers of Jesus, we define our community by our relationship to Jesus and our attempts to live out his teachings. Therefore, as a church body, we are not just a community, but specifically a Christian community on a mission.

We desire all people would experience all the benefits and challenges of Christian community. Things like acceptance, accountability, belonging, care, vulnerability, connection, commitment, challenge, friendships, prayer, learning, support and growth all occur in the context of community. It is very difficult to participate in a real community without being stretched. Relationships serve as mirrors into our own lives and challenge us to grow. *We believe Christian community is the primary means by which God transforms our lives.*

My wife and I desire to be a part of an authentic New Testament community of believers. Our goal is to help Calvary Temple develop a church model that will be effective in reaching "un-churched" people with the life changing message and love of Jesus Christ. We also hope to be a part of a Church that reproduces to multiple churches in the Northeast and beyond. We hope to see Calvary Temple become a ministry training center which will help to coach and mentor others who also feel called into ministry. We understand the importance of "*Sharing in the work of the ministry*". **Relationships** are vital in reaching people with the message of Christ. Another term we will focus on in this ministry is "*connection*". The foundation to helping people encounter Christ's Love is to *connect* with other people who Love God.

We believe that we will Love more people into the Kingdom than we will Preach into the Kingdom!

We believe that God desires an intimate relationship with every person on the face of the earth. God deeply loves people and cares about each person as an individual. He sent his only son Jesus Christ to demonstrate His love for you. He did this by giving Himself as a sacrifice by dying on the cross to pay in full the penalty that our sins demand. If you will accept His free gift of salvation, by your faith and not by your works, you can enter into that relationship and have the assurance of living with God forever in heaven. Not only will you have assurance for your future, you will receive HOPE for today. God is real and living and desires to be an intricate part of your daily life to help you through every situation and circumstance that comes your way.

We hold onto these truths through the teaching of God's Word, the Bible. Our desire is that we would see the people in this community, and even beyond, know the truth of the Gospel, and the historic and authentic claims of Christ. We believe we are called to know Him and place our faith in Him and His unending love. To do this, we aim to present God in a creative/relevant yet accurate and uncompromising fashion. We would like to see Christ and the reality of His Word transform us, this community, and radically impact our view of life.

We believe that God has a very specific plan purpose and destiny for this specific church body. We fully understand that unless God builds the house we labor in vain that build. Therefore we subject all of our goals, plans, and dreams to the Lord for alteration. The scripture says there is ONE thing that God will build, and that is HIS CHURCH. We are honored that He has allowed us to partner with Him and be a part of an eternal mission. We believe that the Lord desires to do a new work in the Northeast. We believe that His church will look very different than the typical traditional church we are accustomed to. We will never stray from the message of the Gospel truth of Jesus Christ. However, we believe that the methods by which we will connect with and meet the needs of people in this new millennium will be very different than what the church at large is currently doing to reach lost people.

We believe that there is only ONE power that has the ability to change the human heart, and that is the power of Jesus Christ through the working of the Holy Spirit. We believe that through RELATIONSHIPS, we will become the highway over which the Holy Spirit will travel to change lives. As we align ourselves with the divine purpose and plan of God, He will use us as a catalyst to ignite an enduring spiritual revolution in the Northeast and beyond. We truly believe the foundation of this all is LOVE; the **Love of God is extravagant and will be the drawing force that brings life change/ (TRANSFORMATION) to a needy and hurting people.**