

## EQUIP 2018



We had a great day with Dr. Scott Daniels, Lead Pastor of Nampa College Church in Nampa, Idaho.

Special thanks to our Valley Mission Church for hosting and for the twenty four workshop presenters



We even provided childcare!

Pastor Andrew DeKemper  
leading a workshop!

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ORLEANS?

Rev. Jerry (Sherry) Richardson and the people of the Orleans church are experiencing great days with new people, increased attendance and finances. This past Sunday their church board extended a four year renewal as together they look forward to even better days ahead!





# JESUS LOVES THE CHURCH AND HE WILL BUILD IT!

In Matthew 16:13-20 Jesus asks the disciples: "Who do people say that I am?" They proceed to give some of the popular thoughts of the day concerning the identity of Jesus and yet Jesus persists in His question; "but who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter responds "You are the Christ the Son of the Living God." Jesus answers: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it..." Today, the word "church" has numerous meanings. People use the word to refer to a building, a denomination, or perhaps a specific group of religious leaders. Is Jesus simply into buildings, facilities, or formalized religion? What is Jesus referring to when He talks about building His church?

The actual word Matthew uses here is ekklesia - - which refers to the summons or call for an army to assemble. It refers to a gathering of people for a certain purpose. The Apostle Paul uses this term for "church" many times throughout the New Testament as the early Church grows and expands. Here in the New Testament, we see the early Church, not as a building, or a denomination, but as a body of believers. A living, breathing, moving community devoted to the truth of Jesus Christ as Messiah, devoted to one another and to the apostles teaching (Acts 2:46). Our question concerning the church is not a matter of "what", but rather of "who." When we understand Jesus is building a Church comprised of brothers and sisters in the faith, we can then begin to reposition any hurt, frustration, or situational disappointments in light of our love for Jesus. When we receive His forgiveness and respond to His grace we are then empowered by His Holy Spirit to extend that same grace and mercy to the rest of His Body. We are the Church. We are a glorious Church washed in the blood of the Lamb.

**NYI Lock-In**  
**@ Rose Hulman**  
**Nov 16, 11:00 PM**  
**Nov 17, 6:00 AM**

**THANKSGIVING**  
**OFFERING**  
**November 18th**

**SWID PASTOR &**  
**STAFF FAMILY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**PARTY**  
**December 1**  
**Valley Mission**

When we position the circumstances of our pain and disappointment under the microscope of Christ's redemptive work on Calvary, we begin to see past the situation and into the heart of an eternal God who has prepared for Himself a Body; an "ekklesia" brought together in Christ Jesus for a specific purpose. I love Jesus, and I love His Church. "For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many." (I Corinthians 12:12-14. Let us choose to love Jesus and love His Church.

## SWID MARRIAGE RETREAT

We will be having a SWID Marriage Retreat September 13-15, 2019 for pastors, staff and lay people. Dr. Gustavo & Rachel Crocker will be our speakers for this event. More details will be coming in the days ahead!

### Prayer & Updates

Please remember **Rev. Don Walker**, our **Georgetown** pastor who is undergoing knee replacement surgery on November 13, 2018.

**Rev. Dennis King (Newburgh)** is at home recovering from the installation of a pacemaker and **Rev. George Johnson (Washington)** is home recovering from a recent surgery!



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