

Hi CAC Family!

I have so much spinning in my head and my mind and my heart: just got back from Sierra Leone which was an amazing life changing trip (I'll share more later), PEAK Team Session #4 which we did on 11/7/2023, pastoral staff and elder meetings.

For this Elder Newsletter, we will be focusing on what happened at our PEAK Team Meeting this week. This session dealt with identifying what is our "Critical Gospel Impact" and it will be divided into 2 parts so it is not finished yet.

As you recall, we decided on the following definitions for Leadership, Discipleship and Mission at our 10/24/2023 meeting:

LEADERSHIP: Leadership: Committed Godly servants who help and inspire others to pursue our mission.

DISCIPLESHIP: Discipleship is an authentic intentional connection for the purpose of passing on a growing relationship with Jesus.

MISSION: Mission is to advance God's kingdom in Canby by welcoming, connecting, loving and serving our neighbors in a relevant way to introduce them to Jesus Christ.

We were reminded again that the Compass Session and Critical Gospel Impact and Story may seem disjointed and disconnected but in subsequent sessions, our PEAK leaders will try to bring it all together and help it to make sense and become cohesive.

We started our session by discussing our Anchor Scripture for this session: I Corinthians 3: 4-9: **4** For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? **5** What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. **6** I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. **7** So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. **8** The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. **9** For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

Notice the different assignments Paul and Apollos had. Paul planted. Apollos watered. God made the growth happen. God has wired us differently so we have different assignments. Think of it this way: You are at CAC for a reason. What is the

assignment or calling that God has you here for? We identified some of these for some of our PEAK Team members: “see-er,” mentor-er, encourager, shepherd, interceder. I really think this is a great question for all of us to ponder as we go through this transitional time.

Question #1: If we were a church running on all 4 cylinders, what descriptors would you use to describe our church? What would you say makes or will make CAC a healthy church?

- Authenticity
- Welcoming
- Loving
- Caring
- Safe
- Generous
- Theologically sound
- Christ-centered, Biblical
- Unity or Unified (not uniformity)
- Hope-giving
- Spirit-filled
- Place of peace
- Creative
- Making a difference in the community and the world
- Impactful, relevant
- Responsive to the needs
- Reaching out, evangelistic
- Engaged worship
- Sensitive
- Strong Leadership
- Fully funded

Questions #2: What are the community needs? PEAK Team members were supposed to ask 3 strangers what they felt Canby needed:

- Roller skating rink
- Bowling alley
- YMCA
- Recreational things outside of the home for children and teens, and all ages
- Fix the roads and potholes
- Mental health care and resources

- Drug education
- Warming and cooling centers
- Blankets, keeping warm
- Homeless shelters, addressing the homeless situation
- After-school activities
- Help for single dads with children
- Community gardens with ability to sell what they grow
- Affordable housing
- Less selfishness
- More open-mindedness
- More street lights
- Food charts
- Safer schools in terms of what is being taught in our schools
- More police presence
- An exclusive Canby (only) local newspaper like before.
- Community connections
- Maintain small town feel (liveability, fewer houses, less traffic, people knowing each other and caring for one another
- Growth by getting smaller
- Radical love of Jesus
- Restoration of people who have been hurt or excluded
- Community center that provides all kinds of resources
- Helping people feel like they are a part of the community
- Progressive Pastor
- Something that addresses the disconnect between hispanic community and white community
- Compassion and patience

<u>General Church Ministry</u>	<u>Mission Critical</u>	<u>Current status</u>
Student ministry, middle-high school	5	Green
Worship Service	5	Yellow-green
Children's ministry	5	Yellow
Women's ministry	5	Green
Adult Sunday School	1	Green-yellow
Solo sisters	3	Green
Deacon/deaconess (caring ministry)	3	Yellow
Benevolent fund ministry	3	Green
Global outreach	3	Green

Building usage ministry	1	Red
Deliverance ministry	5	Yellow
Prayer ministry	5	Yellow

Mission Critical:

5 = We have to have it, mission control.

3 = We could get away with not doing it.

1 = It really isn't needed.

Current status:

Red: Needs serious work

Green: Doing well

Yellow: Needs attention

So that was the content of our last session.

Something occurred to me as we had our pre PEAK team meeting with our PEAK leaders. I hope you can follow my line of thought and see how this kind of fits together with our Susu Partnership for 23 years.

When Sam and Josephine Sesay first moved from Freetown to Lungi, their goal was to reach the Susu people for Christ. In order to do that, the Sesays prayerfully asked the question, "What are the critical needs of our new mission field?" They identified 3 things: (1) The children were not getting adequate education; (2) People needed quality medical care; (3) They needed Christian churches. With that revelation from the Holy Spirit they did the following:

1. They started preschool and elementary schools. They wanted to show these young minds the love of Christ and the value of education. It was a need in the Lungi community. Today these schools are reaching 100s of children who are hearing about Jesus, being educated and being loved by the teachers and staff. The other remarkable thing is these children are getting some of the highest scores in the required testing by the government. There are so many families wanting to get their children into the Susu Gospel Mission Schools!
2. They started a medical clinic. They wanted to provide people with quality care but, more importantly, they wanted to show them the love of Christ and treat each patient with love, respect and dignity. The clinic has so little (compared to the clinics I am familiar with) but they help so many people regardless of their ability to pay. People will come from very far because they have a reputation of giving quality care and being treated with love and respect. I got to work one

morning with Bosco and Esther (physician assistant and nurse) and they are an incredible team who love these patients and provide them with quality care!

3. Lastly, Sam and Josephine started Christian Churches where curious Susu people (and people who already know Christ) can come and find out about Jesus and about the Susu Gospel Mission, the group that is responsible for the excellent schools educating their children and the clinic that provides quality, loving care. I was moved to tears when over a dozen Susu people raised their hands identifying themselves as part of the Susu people. The church was full of the local people worshipping God. Amazing!

This is what the PEAK process is doing! It is helping us to figure out who we are, what are the needs of our community and how we can meet those needs to get the most critical gospel impact.

Our Susu brothers and sisters have taught us how it is done. I hope we can all get on our knees and ask God to show us what are the needs of our community and how can we meet those needs and while doing that, build bridges underscored with love, all for the purpose of helping people to know the one true God.

I feel like God is wanting us to rediscover who we are and why we are here and He wants us to have a greater impact in our community.

I HOPE THIS EXCITES YOU! I know it excites your PEAK team members and many, many others in the church!

My invitation to you is to join in with us. Spend time with Jesus sitting at his feet. Spend time praying for God for a fresh start. Allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart and mind with new revelations and think about how we can build relationships with our neighbors to become more intentionally evangelistic.

Thanks for listening to my heart, mind and soul. I truly love all of you because you are my spiritual family!

Here are the remaining sessions:

December 5 – Impact Session part 2–What have we identified as our urgent community needs and Unique impact.

January 9 – Story Session–what do we need to know about our church so we can repeat what is good, redeem what needs to be accounted for and restore wounds we have inflicted or received.

February – Map Session–How will we know we are on track? MAP provides a framework to ensure we stay on track with our cardinal directions, CGI and what our story revealed to us.

March 5 – Remember Session–what do we need to remember from our PEAK journey?

Once again, I want to remind you of who is on the PEAK Team: Dennis Beatty, Brent Beck, Sandi Beck, Nick Charbonnier, Marilyn Greenleaf, Rachel Keen, Lindsey Lessley, Adam Mower, Marlin Myers, Nancy Pickett, Jeff Reister, Jenny Schuening, Joshua Stager, Jim Trigg, Mel Yamase. If at any time something comes to you as you read these newsletters, please feel free to reach out to any of the PEAK Team and let them know what you are thinking.

Your faithful servants,

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