

Hi Church Family,

I pray you are having a great week and preparing for a very cold upcoming week. I wanted to take a moment and introduce a new ministry happening at South Gate. As you know, South Gate is all about the Presence of God and equipping His people to express His love and power in our area of influence. As much as I am passionate about God's presence, I am passionate about influencing our culture and seeing it transform in the name of Jesus. The political world is one area we can make our voices heard and do our due diligence to vote and take action as Biblically as possible.

To aid in this, there is a new ministry that will bring great resources and information to help us at a local level and beyond to impact our community in the name of Jesus. There are several people in our congregation that have come together to begin this new ministry with my blessing and a sense that we all feel the Lord's hand is in this. The letter below will give more information. In the next few days you will notice a new section on our website that will host all the information and ways to get involved. This email serves to give you the background of this ministry and this Sunday I will have a formal announcement and sign-up sheet for those who would be interested in receiving information or potentially joining the team.

-Pastor Rudy

Dear Friend,

For some time now, the Lord has been prompting a few of us to begin a Community Impact Team (CIT) under the umbrella of South Gate Fellowship. This letter introduces the CIT membership and the purpose for its existence.

The CIT seeks to be salt and light for Christ locally and nationally by informing the body of Christ of current cultural issues that require prayer and civic action in order to promote and protect the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the freedoms established in the Constitution of these United States of America.

As believers in God and His Holy Word, we have many exhortations to be engaged in this world. Below are a few scriptures that support the purpose of the Community Impact Team (CIT):

Matthew 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden.... Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Ephesians 5:11 "...do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them."

Many people wander around in the dark seeking for truth, but they are being guided by false lights toward a guaranteed damnation. Others know the truth and have given their lives to Jesus but are not strong in their faith or the Word of God and are easily deceived into believing the lies of this world. We are given counsel in Exodus 18:20-21 that we should teach people "about the statutes and laws, and make them know the way they must walk, and what they must do. Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe...."

The CIT hopes to expose things that are done in the dark that could affect our freedom of speech, of religion, and of due process in the courts that may arise in local city hall meetings or from state and national government. We will also provide easy access to information on upcoming elections.

We will send out one letter every two weeks outlining the three issues of great importance that require prayer and possible action. This letter will also include one praise report of a godly outcome in our community/nation. Please feel free to share this letter with friends and family so that they too can sign up to receive these letters.

Salt & Light Shakers:

Cindy Stairs - Team Leader

Mark & Bonnie Lambert - Writing and Research

Michael Sikes - Mobilizer

Elaine Sikes - Media

Dan Stairs and Rebecca Crawford - Advice and Humor

Proverbs 28:12 "When the righteous triumph, there is great glory, but when the wicked rise, people hide themselves."