

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Looking back, God has faithfully led us through a challenging year, and his mission advanced. Looking ahead, God is calling us to make the most of the opportunities as a Hybrid Church.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:15-16; 2 Timothy 1:7

DISCUSSION

1. If you missed the *State of the Church* talk, you could watch it by going to communitychristian.info and exploring our on-demand viewing options.
2. The following bullet points may help describe each of the four expressions of COMMUNITY.

Physical locations. Our church buildings that we currently meet in with in-person small groups. We're most familiar with this expression of our church.

Community Online. Celebration Services and small group meeting online. In the last year, we had 51,739 different people participate, from all 50 states in the U.S. and 135 different countries – all that on Community Online.

Community Freedom. COMMUNITY's outreach prison ministry where we hold services and small groups. There are currently 2 million people incarcerated in the U.S. That would make our prisons the 5th largest city in the U.S. It was during the last year that we launched our third Community Freedom location!

3C Communities. These are microsites of COMMUNITY led by volunteers where they live, work, and play. This is how the church is rapidly reproducing in other parts of the world. This month we are launching our first BETA group of five 3C Communities: two in English, three in Spanish. Four of these will be in the Chicago area and one in Mexico City.

3. Statistics on COMMUNITY's fiscal year
 - a. So far, the giving in the first six months of our fiscal year (starting in October) has been about 85% of the budget.
 - b. We reduced our spending to about 80% of our budget.
 - c. We've saved money while we kept our facilities closed.
 - d. We received PPP loans to ensure all part-time and full-time staff remained employed.
 - e. Since "Breakthrough" was above and beyond our normal budget, those donations don't fit into the normal budget picture. They are set aside for special projects.
 - f. To keep doing Community Online and meet in person that will push our budget closer to 100% of our budget.
 - g. One-time gifts and automating giving will help us project and plan well for the remainder of 2021.
4. This is not an initiative with a commitment card; it's an update for everyone who loves COMMUNITY with an opportunity for us to step into the opportunity gap to help more people find their way back to God.