

Thus says the lord. the Holy One of Israel. and the one who formed him: "Ask me of things to come: will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands? 1 made the earth and created man on it: it was my hands that stretched out the heavens. and I commanded all their host. I have stirred him up in righteourness. and I will make all his ways level; he shall build my city and set my exiles free. not for price or reward." says the lord of hosts.

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**ON** Sunday, October 3, 2021, (before heading in for the winter during the pandemic) Supper Club met outdoors in the community of Blatchford (front cover picture) to dream for our city by fellowshiping, worshipping, and praying together. After three years, we're continuing to break bread, give thanks, and do it again.

As Lead Pastor of Supper Club, I am excited to share how God has been teaching us what it means to be present with, grateful for, and trusting in Him. To that end, we did something we haven't done before... we stopped counting in order to listen better. This year, we stopped prioritizing our attention on how many people there were, how long worship should be or how short prayer could take, and in doing so we took even more notice of how God was speaking and moving in, amongst, and through us.

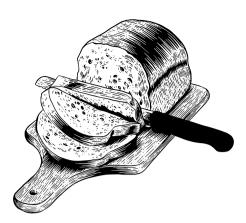
While this 2023 Annual Report does include numbers, in it you'll find stories about how God is calling people and how their response is making an impact in our community. We hope that this report will encourage you to see *multiplying supper clubs that demonstrate the love of Jesus in 10% of Edmonton neighbourhoods*, and invite you to further partnership in *equipping people to show and share the love of Jesus, starting with Blatchford, then to Edmonton and around the world; one meal at a time.* 

Listening together,

Tonyvic Tira

Pastor Tonyvic Tira

## BREAKING BREAD



MY favourite story from 2023, was one of the weekends this past summer in Central McDougal Community Park where we went to demonstrate the Good News by picking up trash and greeting community members with cold treats. Initially I did not want to go, but I was feeling a nudge (from God) to go.

When I got there, there was not a lot of people, but I felt the push to do more and greet the people who were there. Specifically, I wanted to comfort them (through the uncomfortable heat), so I offered them popsicles and did my best to clean the playground. I didn't think much of it at first, but seeing the reactions of the families and how grateful they were affirmed that Supper Club and I were meant to be there.

Praying about 2024, a Bible Study I joined this past year with two guys I game and build Gundams with comes to mind. This Bible Study and the park are a reminder of the joy and encouragement it is to 'go' share Jesus in community.





2

THIS year I've been experiencing God through spending time in community with my sisters in Christ. Reflecting on this year, I am very thankful for the women in Supper Club and their willingness to share, support and encourage one another. Whether it is during small group time after the sermon, the aunties cooking food, our meet-ups outside of Supper Club, or sharing our prayers through text messages... in all of these moments God is always working and moving beyond our control.

The past few years, God has placed in my heart the importance of studying His word and walking together with other women. Starting a Bible study, God continues to challenge me to let go of my agenda when it comes to preparing and to allow His Spirit to move. He reminds me that he is the one that can convict, challenge and move His people closer to him.

"As iron sharpen iron, so one person sharpens another." (NIV, Pro 27:17)

Recently, I've loved how God has given us the space to pray for one another, and share our burdens and struggles together. Every time we fellowship, God's Word always speaks to the different seasons that we are in. Some of us are entering in to motherhood or figuring out relationships, others are seeking new jobs or starting new careers, etc. It is powerful how God brings all of our different life stages together to point one another toward Jesus. I am drawn to his Spirit whenever we meet up because he reminds me of His faithfulness, especially when I hear how he answers our prayers in the trials we are going through.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (ESV, Col 3:16)

Looking ahead to 2024, I am reminded that our walks are not meant to be solitary; how important it is to be in community with one another: spending time in His Word, and praying for each other. My prayer and hope for the new year is that the Bible Study times would not end there, but that we would continue to fellowship with one another in reaching out to our neighbors around us, and serving our communities together. Encouraging each other to break bread, give thanks and do it again.

#### - Kanah -



**THERE** are over 100,000 students in Edmonton and each one precious to God and full of potential to also impact His Kingdom. So instead of me just "reporting", please enjoy God's promise as you read what he has been doing on campus this year.

"Look, **I am about to do something new;** even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19)

Perhaps the sweetest moments I've witnessed this year, have been seeing students organize and take initiative. One student-led initiative was by Alexa, who with a team has been leading intimate and powerful worship nights called "Set a Fire" on multiple occasions since July. At Set a Fire. Scripture is read, hearts are set on God, with praise and prayer the primary focus. The genuine, sincere, and humble experience of these worship nights have brought students and youth from over a dozen churches together to praise Jesus in our Supper Club building.

Tuesdays at 4:30pm have also become memorable for me in 2023 at MacEwan University. The Christian Students of MacEwan University Club began in the fall and are led by a passionate and faithful student team. They lead nights of worship, talk about faith and God, and even host outreach nights. Through this club, the Gospel is being preached, students are developing community, and because of the location of the rooms we meet in, our gatherings (with worship and talk of Jesus) are a witness to passerby's. Often students and faculty either stop to join in or remark at how surprised and pleased they are by what they are seeing and hearing. This year, many seeds were planted and are developing.

A final thing to remember and thank God for from 2023 is "Thankful Thursdays". A fun, food and friendship filled night for all students hosted at the University of Alberta. With the support of Supper Club, dozens of students enjoyed meals and genuine conversation on



campus. Thankful Thursdays has fostered gratitude and been a reminder of how we are called to be thankful in Scripture (1 Thess 5:16-18.) Thankful Thursdays started (in 2022) meeting the physical need of students for food and also their social need for friendship. **Through the genuine community formed here, spiritual needs are also being met.** During our last Thursday of 2023, several students shared their faith stories and how God has helped them. What a sweet blessing it has been to be part of that.

In summary, I want to thank the Lord for His work this year and Supper Club for how involved they have been. The prayerful and tangible support of Supper Club has been so valuable to what God has been doing on our campuses. I believe 2024 has much more in store and I am excited to continue partnering to reach every student for Christ!

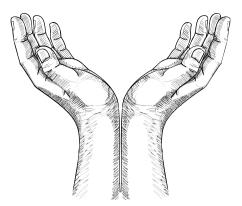
With joy and gratitude,

Toshna fmith

Joshua Smith Campus Minister







## GIVING THANKS

**I'VE** continued to experience God in 2023 through the aspect of community and walking with the (Supper Club) church family. This year, I decided to follow Jesus through the waters of baptism, practicing a lot more gratitude and just thanking him for providing such an amazing group to share and celebrate with.

I believe Jesus is telling me to share my experience and be open to conversation with various people of the community when I have the opportunity.

- Mike -



IN my time of need, when I didn't know I needed it, I was prayed for. During a service this past year, Pastor Tony asked the congregation to close their eyes and stand up if we needed prayer. Without understanding why, my body decided I should stand up. I thought, *"well why not? Prayer is always good, and it's anonymous anyways."* Little did I know it was not (anonymous), because seconds later everyone was told to open their eyes. Frozen with fear, I did not know whether I should sit back down or stay standing. Then I was asked to share why I stood up. It hit me: a wave of unforeseen and overwhelming emotion. I was struggling to speak without crying, and all I could manage to say was **"I've been and am being pulled** away from God. I need help." I didn't know why I stood up until I was asked. All I knew at that moment was that I needed prayer.

As soon as others started to pray for me the lump in my throat (that had formed from fighting not to cry) melted away. I no longer felt anxious being out in the open and I was at peace. At that moment, I realized how far I was drifting from God, bottling all of it up, and putting it away to be forgotten.

When I stood up, God showed me that instead of trying to run away from my problems, that in my time(s) of need he would send people willing of journeying with me on my walk with him. The church provided me with the support I didn't know I needed; a space to be open; and safety to talk about my faith and my struggles. I don't remember the words of their prayers, but what has continued to stay with me is the feeling of warmth and peace of being reintroduced to God's Spirit and His presence.

I am praying for those in a similar position that I was in, (whether they be Christians who need renewal or those who are seeking to know God) that they will have someone to be there and pray for them too. I'm praying that they have the chance to experience the Holy Spirit and are reminded (or come to know) that He's always there for them wherever they go and however far they may feel. If I happen to be that person who someone asks prayer from, I am praying for God's Word to speak through me as I pray for them so that they can receive what God has for them.

- Keith -



I had the privilege of joining a medical dental mission team in Quezon, Palawan on February 4, 2023. Sent (with others) by Supper Club, it was another joyful and heartwarming experience to see fellow brothers and sisters move to meet not only material needs but also the spiritual needs of my *kababayans* (Filipino countrymen).

Once again, I saw the Spirit of God move from the initial planning and preparation of the mission trip. For the first time, our team was not operating the mission but rather assisting two other churches (from the US and Palawan) on how to conduct a medical/dental mission. **Our global team of generous donors (of everything from SPAM to school supplies), cheerful workers, great church partners and dedicated prayer leaders were able to serve over 500 people!** 

We saw the thankfulness and gratitude of the people of Quezon, Palawan but what amazed me the most were the testimonies of fellow believers who attested how their hearts and lives were touched by joining God on mission. Just when one thinks that by doing missions, they can make an impact on other people's lives, I've experienced that it can be the other way around too -- God has an impact on our lives! We can never underestimate what God can do within and through us when we abide in His will.

#### - Mervil -





## COMMUNITY IMPACT

**AT** Supper Club, our desire is to facilitate genuine and integrated fellowship. We believe that our intentional and integrated response to "go therefore..." is the organic outflow of sincerely experiencing Jesus. While we gather regularly, we celebrate the opportunities we have to 'go' show and share Jesus in the community. While not (intended to be) a comprehensive list, please join us in giving thanks for the opportunities we have have had to engage our world in 2023.

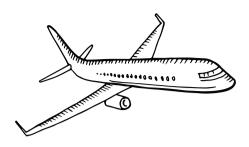


# REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

**2023** was a year of taking steps being able to step out beyond the walls of Supper Club and build relationships with our neighbours both in our city and beyond. We were so blessed and excited to send two teams on mission to the Philippines and Cuba, in addition to to sending out our own Pastor on mission (with TWR Canada)!

This year, my wife and I (along with two others) were blessed to be sent by Supper Club as one of those teams. Our trip to Cuba was something new for me in my own personal walk and in my role as an elder. The goal of the trip was to vision cast - essentially to discern "What is God's vision for Supper Club in relation to Cuba?" There, we met local congregations and pastors in Eastern Cuba, established relationships, and discerned possible partnerships between Supper Club and the Church in Cuba. In partnership, we are sending another team to Cuba in 2024.

Our team met with 14 churches over the span of 8 days throughout Eastern Cuba, with most of the churches being in remote and poor areas. We met their local pastors and listened as they shared the trials of being a pastor in these remote areas but also the blessing of being a pastor as they see many coming to know and have a relationship with Jesus.



Praying in Cuba, God lead Kanah and I to meet with a group of university students. Meeting this group of young people with a passion to worship and arow in their relationship with the Lord reminded us of Supper Club because of our own connection with students in Edmonton. Throughout Supper Club's (3 year) history, students have been on our heart to reach, minister to, and serve alongside; from student-led prayer walks around the different schools, to hosting worship nights and developing relationships with International Students.

As I enter into my third year with the Board, I am continuing to pray for more opportunities for us to expand our borders and build Kingdom relationships. I am excited for the next chapter(s) God has in store for Supper Club, our relationships and His partnerships. Let us continue to dream God-sized dreams and clear our hurdles toward the goal of having everyone (not necessarily coming to church) but going out as His Church.

To God be the Glory, great things He has done and is doing and will continue to do!

Sincerely, *Johoanne Gonzales* 

**Johoanne Ğonzales** Chair, Board of Elders

**EVERY** year I find myself saying that I've never felt busier. Admittedly I find it hard to remember what happened in 2023. The first half is a blur, summertime felt like I was away more than home, and the latter months felt like a period of catching up. Reflecting on the year that was, I ask myself *"where was God amidst all the busyness?"* and am encouraged to find that he was everywhere!

1 Cor. 12 tells us that the body of Christ is not one member but many. Over the past year, God has used members of the body to minister to me. I've seen dozens of youth come together to praise His name; watched brothers start bible studies; heard new voices lead worship; cheered for those being baptized; watched the body prayer-walk as many neighborhoods as possible in one day, witnessed a friend take the risk of pursuing a career that had been weighing on their spirit; and heard a young friend say *"I can't wait to serve other people with the new skills I've learnt"*. Seeing the body step out into the uncomfortable and witnessing their reactions as God provides, has brought me so much joy.

Before Supper Club's inception I was dreaming of a space where people from all walks of life could come and simply be in God's presence. A place where anyone could rest, study, work, worship, play, converse, express, imagine – a space where we were all free to go and know that God would be present there. The Café that now occupies the west side of the building (was part of that dream). A vision that started as a prayer, I am learning that God answers prayers.

This year I responded to my calling to pray for a congregation and community that I deeply care for as a Board member. God has truly honored those prayers and more. As I look forward to the next year, my prayer is that we have bigger dreams, share more vision, and continue to make an impact on our city. I pray that we increase being receptive to the voice of God as he reveals to us (once) unimaginable dreams, and that we commune with him as he makes a way for it to happen. I cannot wait to see and be a part of how the body will move in 2024.

With joy. *ared Goodnoug*h

Jared Goodnough Vice-Chair, Board of Elders









### Doing it Again

**"WHEN** three of Job's friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him... When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words." (NLT, Job 2:11-13)

One of the ways I've been experiencing God with Supper Club this year is by learning the power of presence. Like Job's friends, **I've experienced that people didn't need words or me (verbally) telling them about Jesus in order for them to experience him... they just needed me to be present** and intentional -- sitting with them.

It has been peaceful to know that being there is enough, and to let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest. As I look ahead to how God is inviting me to pray, I am even more encouraged to simply set the table and sit.

- Vanessa -



MY wife (Angel) and I, have been experienced God after a challenging transition (especially in terms of ministry) process this year. Initially volunteering to lead worship as I always have, I was told not to lead but rather to simply come and worship. It was a very difficult process to adapt to not doing something, I felt suffocated in the process. But the corporate prayer (which has been a highlight for me) helped me and Angel a lot. We learned the beauty of sharing and praying with one another. Finding, it was a blessing to have others pray for us and a great joy when we were able to pray for others as well! God taught me, once again, the beauty of waiting and surrendering in this place, and we are very glad for the prayer-filled community and meaningful friendships we've experienced.

In early March, I started working at a new place. Before starting, I remember praying, *"God, if you have placed me at this place it is definitely for a reason. Help me be a light to shine your light to those around me through your love, kindness and gentleness."* After my prayer, my start was very difficult. Every day at the end of the day I felt defeated because of my co-workers. I had to really ask God for help to love them, *as confession and (asking for)* prayer every single night became a pattern during our family time.

Sharing and praying during our small group time at Supper Club, God started working in my life in a way beyond what words can express. At the end of the year, my co-worker came to me and said, *"I really loved working with* you. As I transition into another team and we wont be working anymore together, I just want to say I will miss working with you a lot and want you to know that I am talking to you now as a friend." This is Proverbs 16:7 come to life, and I am glad God gave me the strength to hold onto him, especially at a time when it did not make sense.

Our life is about sharing the Gospel! We are people of Hope! I pray that we would be able to show Jesus to the destitute and down-trodden this year. That we will be able to love our community more by serving and reaching out. I hope me and my wife would be good stewards of the talents entrusted to us to make a difference in the community. This year, we want to prayer walk and collaborate more with the body of Christ together.

- Doug -

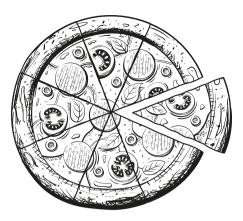


## REPORT OF THE LEAD PASTOR

#### ABIDE, Witness, Passion,

Rediscovering Jesus, Ekklessia, Seek, Friend, and Sent were the (chronological order of our) teaching themes for our congregation this year. In it, we challenged and encouraged one another to prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit a fundamental question to any who would dare follow Jesus - "what do you believe God is telling you?" In other words, "how (specifically) is he calling you to follow him today?" While an intense shift for many, our prayer is to see people move from a faith of doing (a religion) to being (in relationship). Being a church (plant), our first instinct can be to organize and instruct people what to do, it is with intentionality that we have empowered people to stop, be still, and take the active step of personally listening and speaking to God (directly). While deliberate and methodical, it has been my joy to see people take steps in confidence and ownership in their faith, wrestling with the profound truth that they can personally walk with Jesus.

This past year, in an effort "for Supper Club(s) to be integral, impactful, and sustainable in our community", we wanted "to empower people to see our neighbours and neighbourhoods as Jesus does." Whether it was sorting non-perishable items at the food bank; cleaning Central McDougall park; bringing coffee and donuts to people experiencing homelessness; preparing and serving spaghetti to



strangers; eating pizza with students; or providing medical and dental services in the Philippines: **100% of our members and regular adherents volunteered to serve their community on at least one occasion in 2023.** In addition, four people led Bible study for the very first time, two people were baptized, and we commissioned (and supported) nine people (including myself) to go on overseas missions. I am incredibly encouraged by the growth of Supper Club as indicated by the impact from their willingness to 'go'!

In all these activities, we felt a profound call to return to being a people of prayer. To prioritize prayer, our Board cut back on potlucks (to monthly from weekly) and designated the first and third Sundays (before service) for corporate prayer; we reduced online content (i.e. pausing the production of live and service recordings) to website and social media updates only; our book study this summer was Prayer Evangelism by Ed Silvoso; we newly prayer walked (and biked) in six Edmonton neighbourhoods; our building hosted a monthly prayer meeting for local pastors; and all of our ioint services focused on an invitation for the Church of Edmonton to unite in prayer. This was highlighted by a city-wide prayer walk on August 27, where Edmonton congregations and Christians committed to prayer walk in twenty-one different neighbourhoods together. In

another shift, we asked "why can't our Sunday service be a prayer meeting?" To this end, many of our Sundays were used to pray for one another, worldwide events and countries, and even confession. My favorite story in this regard, is how on one Sunday, we invited people to pray corporately through confession. As a pastor, (admittedly) you never know how these will go, but what followed was completely unplanned and awe-inspiring. Everyone voluntarily stayed over an hour after our service had ended to pray as a body. People were kneeling, crying, and one by one the congregation prayed and poured out their hearts to God publicly!

Goal-wise, in 2023 they were (completed in **bold italics**) to:

- Spring (1) submit CRA charitable status application; (2) deploy community prayer walking strategy; (3) complete second phase of construction.
- Summer (4) facilitate multichurch mission, worship, and prayer gathering(s).
- Fall (5) launch three neighborhood Supper Clubs (north, south, university); (6) official church launch.

While very thankful for our year, with our organizational value of multiplication, I believe the longterm sustainability of Supper Club will be determined by the ownership and united vision of the congregation. To that end, our focus continues to be on prayer and the health of our spiritual walk(s), pushing these administrative goals to 2024.

As Supper Club begins it's fourth year, it is important to note the partnerships of our congregation. James Law resigned from his position as Pastor for Worship and Creative Engagement in November to focus on Christian content creation, and continues to be a valued member of Supper Club (where he and Emily are part of the worship team). Our membership is eighteen (growth of two this year) and weekly attendance is steady at around thirty. With that, our partnership base is wider. We partner with two local Ethiopian church plants (who use the building weekly), regularly worship with other local congregations, and have seen volunteer partnerships develop across different congregations and missions. Additionally, our prayer and financial partners are not confined to our local congregation or city.

Lastly, with partnership development in mind, (in 2023) we also partnered with PALM Ministry, invited OM's Stephen Hawkins to lead a seminar on emotional health, and sent mission teams to Cuba and the Philippines. In prayer, Supper Club also commissioned me to serve bivocationally with TWR Canada. 'Sharing the (pizza) pie together', Supper Club is truly an example of Kingdom collaboration.

Thank you for your prayerful support in equipping the local and global Church to break bread, give thanks, and do it again!

Submitted by:

Tonyvic [ira

Tonyvic Tira Lead Pastor

## FINANGIAL REPORT

**"HE** who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God." (2 Cor 9:10-12)

In 2023, Supper Club faithfully approved resources designed to "[provide] a clear pathway to empower and equip disciplemakers to grow as leaders". To this end, with Kingdom partners we were able to surpass our goal of giving \$33k to

Administration (\$131,088):

- Bookkeeping (\$6,692)
- Facilities (\$63,764)
- Fees and Licenses (\$197)
- Marketing (\$982)
- Office Expenses (\$5,035)
- Staffing (\$51,710)
- Supplies (\$1,589)
- Travel (\$65)
- Utilities (\$1,054)



missions and outreach this year (an increase of over \$9,000 from 2022).

This year, we also saw completion of phase 3 (and final stage) of our initial building renovations. The community cafe is designed to invite people from outside to inside (the church), and God-willing from the cafe into the sanctuary. One of our first uses of this space was when we provided a meal for our northern neighbours (whom we had never met) displaced by wildfires. We thank the Lord for how every dollar was sown in 2023:

#### Capital Project (\$33,037):

- Furniture (\$4,984)
- Renovations (\$28,053)

#### Discipleship and Training (\$5,898):

- Honorarium/Love Gifts (\$3,616)
- Hospitality (\$674)
- Leadership Development (\$1,608)

#### Missions and Outreach (\$34,001):

- Charitable Giving (\$20,654)
- Outreach (\$13,347)

20 cents from every dollar went to multiplication and discipleship initiatives in 2023.



## PRAYING FOR 2024

**"BUT** you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?" (ESV, Acts 1:8-11)

In 2024, people are clearly experiencing Jesus and confidently hearing His voice. They are freely 'ascending' the mountain to be in His presence and initiating worship.

We see the Church of Edmonton coming together to wait on the Holy Spirit. Through invitational rhythms of corporate prayer, worship, and communion, local congregations are uniting in posture, passion, and peacemaking in our city.

Furthermore, disciples are not only being intentional with their faith

but dreaming big by living out their faith! Encouraging and affirming their calling, Supper Club is further availing practical resources and vision-casting opportunities to those wanting to explore where God is calling them to be His witnesses.

#### Spring

- Send a missions team to Cuba
- Prayer Seminar
- Small Group Training

#### Summer

• Supper Club Small Group Launch

#### Fall

- Official church launch and community cafe
- Send a missions team to India
- Start Supper w. Students Clubs
- Submit CRA charitable status application

This year, will you join us in praying for individual and organizational partners? It is our hope to have the entirety of Supper Club and it's partners working together to faithfully share: "\_\_\_\_\_\_ is how I am going and responding to God's call."

Photos by row (left to right): Feb 12 - Open Door Community Church: Nov 25 - Edmonton's Food Bank; Jul 23 - Summerside; Dec 17 - Christmas Party Aug 1 - ANC Summer Festival; Jul 16 - Sunday Worship; Nov 17 - Thankful Thursday Hot Pot; Jul 8 - Prayer Biking Sep 14 - Thankful Thursday; Feb 11 - Serving People Experiencing Homelessness; Jan 29 - Commissioning Sunday

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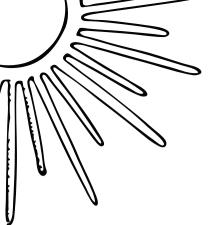
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HOW CAN SUPPER CLUB EQUIP YOU TO 'GO' SHOW AND SHARE JESUS WITH THOSE WHOM HE IS SENDING YOU TO?



But rise and stand upon your feet. for 1 have appeared to you for this purpose. To appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles-to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. That they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

ESV, Acts 26:16-18



