

CHURCH

Pat Swanson - Community Ministries Pastor

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. John 17:20-21 (NIV)

The Church has left a wake of blessing in...

1) _____

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2 (ESV)

2) _____

3) _____

So God created mankind in his own image... Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

"O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."
John 17:25-26 (NLT)

When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They came out of the tombs and were so violent that no one could go through that area. They began screaming at him, "Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before God's appointed time?" There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding in the distance. So the demons begged, "If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs." "All right, go!" Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. The herdsmen fled to the nearby town, telling everyone what happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the entire town came out to meet Jesus, but they begged him to go away and leave them alone. Matthew 8:28-34 (NLT)

A challenge for the Church:

Be more _____!

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:35 NIV

Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”

John 20:21 NLT

BOOKS //

“The Rise of Christianity” – Rodney Stark

“What’s So Great About Christianity” – Dinesh D’Souza

“The Irresistible Revolution” – Shane Claiborne

“Who is this Man?” – John Ortberg

QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS //

- *Is there a part of the Church’s history that’s bothers you most?*
- *Is there a part of the Church’s history you are most proud of?*
- *What will it take for the Church be to be known for how we LOVE?*
- *Who are people in our community that are being deprived of human dignity? What could we do to change that?*
- *Read John 20:21. What’s does it mean for Jesus to be “sending you?”*
- *What can you do to be the Church that Jesus intended?*