

Victory Vignettes

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Interview by Nikki Shotz

Community to Unity

Serving the community as a framework for sharing the gospel

When you think about sharing the gospel, do you imagine Bible studies, going on mission trips, or sharing your story of how you came to Christ? Dr. Rod MacIlvaine, the Senior Pastor at Grace Community Church, a large non-denominational Bible-believing congregation in Bartlesville, OK, explains it can be much more than that!

About 25 years ago, Dr. MacIlvaine moved to Bartlesville with his wife and four children where they helped root Grace Community Church. Dr. MacIlvaine shares that “You need to look at the location where God has placed you and work with what he has given you. Then, you can identify the needs of that

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To serve his community where they needed the most assistance, he asked his church about their city’s most pressing needs.

The congregation agreed that the high school needed assistance, so one step at a time, the church developed a strategy for helping to meet the needs to improve that school. First, it was cutting the high school’s lawn; then it was painting classrooms. Because his church began by addressing the school’s most obvious physical needs, over the years they were given the opportunity to mentor students and bring them closer to God via discipleship.

Dr. MacIlvaine explains that discipleship is another important aspect to positively impact a church’s community. Discipleship is teaching someone about Christ, the gospel, and how to grow in faith.



Dr. Rod MacIlvaine preaching at Grace Community Church via livestream on July 12, 2020, from gccbartlesville.org.

“Discipleship is important because of vision casting” Dr. MacIlvaine reflects. He defines vision casting as the idea of communicating and creating a goal and mindset for the future.

Not surprisingly, Teleios has affirmed Dr. MacIlvaine’s discipleship strategy and shown that Christianity increases a person’s individual wellbeing (read research at <https://teleiosresearch.com/research/publications/>).

Dr. MacIlvaine, who was

influential in developing the beginnings of Teleios, adopts ministries with discipleship at its core. One of these is Celebrate Recovery, a preexisting Christian 12-step recovery program that assists “anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind.” This ministry casts a vision of recovering from an addiction through fostering the desire for and success of biblical discipleship and is just one example of how Grace Community Church ministers to their community.

Further, Dr. MacIlvaine encourages discipleship in his preaching. He even includes his own anecdotes in order to help the congregation fully understand the message.

For example, as the COVID-19 pandemic has played such a prominent role in everyone’s lives, whether physical or mental health, financial wellness, or any other reaction, there has been an abundance of uncertainty, so the church offered sermons to help deal with anxiety through

recounting some of Christ’s interactions described in the Gospel of John chapters 4, 5 and 6.

Dr. MacIlvaine sets a superb example of how Christians can serve their community as a means to share the gospel. By practical service to his community, he gains a platform from which he and his church can teach people God provided for our sin when He sent His son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. Therefore, by faith alone in Christ’s sacrifice for our sins and belief in His resurrection, man can gain eternal life.

The most impactful lessons are usually ones taught through action, based in the truth of God’s word. Follow Dr. MacIlvaine’s example! Continue to serve your community, and you may just be given an opportunity to share the gospel as well.

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About Teleios



Teleios teaches the Bible and the gospel, giving confidence to its truth.

Teleios is a non-profit foundation that seeks to demonstrate the truth of scripture and the Christian faith through scientific methods by providing evidence for the positive results of a biblically-based lifestyle and produces practical tools for scriptural understanding and confidence.

This series of interviews provides glimpses of believers actively engaged in sharing the good news of Christ.