



FREEDOM CHURCH

"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17

Service Time: Sundays at 10 am

January 2022 Special Dates

- Jan. 2-5: 242 Groups off week
- Jan. 9: Core Team (2:45); Small Group Leaders (3:30)
- Jan. 10: 242 Groups resume meeting
- Jan. 17: MLK Jr. Holiday
- Jan. 23: Communion
- Jan. 30: Connection Class (4:00)
- Freedom Prayer Group — Saturdays at 9:00 am
- Youth Group — Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
- Celebrate Recovery — Thursdays at 6:15 pm

Pastor Mark's Remarks

Hi Friends,

I don't know that the words, "Happy New Year" have ever meant as much to me as they do this year. A year ago, America was dealing with a terrible COVID-19 surge and wondering if we would ever return to anything resembling normal. Americans were divided over a disputed Presidential election. And within the first week of the 2021, our Capitol was overrun by frustrated and disillusioned citizens. It felt like anything but a "happy new year" last year.

But God has brought us a long way in the past 12 months. The pandemic continues, but life has returned to a much more normal place. Businesses are open, masks are off (most places), and travel has resumed. And thankfully, the political rhetoric of hate, fear, and desperation has been dialed back considerably as Americans return to a more stable and peaceful existence.

We have not suddenly arrived at a place of peaceful bliss in this country, but the Lord has brought us a great distance in the right direction in the past year. That is true for our nation, and it is true for our church. Over the past 12 months, I have watched Freedom Church become the most stable and healthy church that I have ever been a part of. A wonderful team of leaders and disciple-makers have risen to the surface this year. Two new Nigerian campuses have been added in the Idah region, with explosive growth taking place. And most importantly, the Spirit of God has been poured out on Freedom Church in 2021, with wonderful effects.

People are growing, connecting, learning, giving and reaching out as never before. A spirit of generosity has swept through our church. And God declared a new name for us in 2021...Freedom Church *International!* I believe that what we have witnessed in 2021, is the leading edge of a great outpouring from the Lord on our church and on the world. We have seen positive results at surprising levels in the past year. But in my heart, I am convinced that the best is still ahead.

As we begin a new year, let's all thank God for how far He has brought our nation and our church in the past 12 months. And let's believe and pray together for a sweeping move of revival in 2022! May His Kingdom come among us as we enter "the year of the Lord's favor"!

Happy New Year!

Mark



Freedom's Weekly Schedule

- Sundays: Adult Bible Study – 8:45am in the Grace Room
Worship & Kids' World – 10:00am
- Mondays: 242 Group Meeting – 6:00pm
Discovery Group Meeting – 7:00pm (Youth Building)
- Tuesdays: 242 Group Meeting – 6:00pm
- Wednesdays: Ladies' 242 Group – 10:00am
Youth Group – 6:00-8:00pm
242 Group Meetings – 6:00pm
- Thursdays: Celebrate Recovery – 6:15pm (Dinner); 7:00pm (Group Meeting)
- Saturdays: Prayer Team Intercession – 9:00am (Worship Room)

Church-wide Bible Reading Plan

Please be sure to pick up a copy of the new church-wide Bible reading plan for 2022 in the church foyer. We will read, one chapter per day, through the entire New Testament and through several of the key narrative sections of the Old Testament. Join us as we dig into God's Word together in 2022!

Jan. 1-8:	Matthew 1-8
Jan. 9-15:	Matthew 9-15
Jan. 16-22:	Matthew 16-22
Jan. 23-31:	Matthew 23-28; Romans 1-3



Freedom Church 2022 Budget Available

Do you ever wonder how your tithes and offerings are put to use when you give them through Freedom Church? If so, pick up a copy of the 2022 Freedom Budget Plan in the church foyer in January. As an added feature of the monthly newsletter, we will now include a current figure for budget needs to date and giving to date for the current year. As you will find in the 2022 budget plan, our monthly budget needs are now \$40,905 to operate all four campuses of Freedom Church International. Thank you for how you give to enable our church to be effective in reaching people and making a difference! (The reporting of these figures is in no way an attempt to put more emphasis on money or to pressure people to give. We simply want to be as transparent as possible about all financial matters at Freedom Church International.)



Update on Nigeria Campuses

The reports from the three Nigerian campuses of Freedom Church International are extremely encouraging. Every campus in Nigeria is growing and seeing people come to faith in Jesus. The church building in Sapele is filled to capacity with people overflowing to the tents outside. In Idah, the new tent is filling up with adults as children now occupy the rented building. And construction of the new church building in Idah is rapidly progressing. We still need roughly \$20,000 more to complete the building, furnish it and install a water well. Our hope is to have the building finished no later than May, so that people have a dry place to meet when the rainy season arrives. If you would like to make a donation toward completing this project, please mark your gift as "Nigeria Project."

Thank you for how you have given generously to enable us to plant three new campuses of Freedom Church in Nigeria in the past 20 months. In 2021 alone, we have together given \$123,200 to support our church-planting endeavors in Africa and to cover all monthly operating expenses there. And over the past 22 months, a total of more than \$215,000 has been given by our Fairhope congregation toward planting these three new campuses in Nigeria! That is an amazing figure at any time, but especially so in the midst of a pandemic! May God be praised!!

Preschool Ministry

We had such a fun time at our preschool Christmas party celebrating baby Jesus! The kids really enjoyed playing hide and seek and making their nativities. We hope you had a Merry Christmas! And on that note: HAPPY NEW YEAR! Can you believe 2021 has come and gone? Our preschool is growing and we need volunteers to help teach our preschoolers. We only ask you to commit to one Sunday every 6 weeks. I ask each of you to pray about serving in this ministry as it would be a great blessing for our church!



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. -Ephesians 2:20

RightNow Media

One free resource that we offer our Freedom family is RightNow Media. The resource offers numerous videos on Bible studies, devotions, marriage, parenting, youth, recovery, leadership, finances and much more. There are also over 2,000 wholesome and educational videos for children. To gain access and create a RightNow Media account through a text message, simply text Freedom's access code of **Rightnow FCA** (the space between the two key words is necessary) to 41411. You will receive a link to activate your RightNow Media account. It's that simple! We hope you will all take advantage of this wonderful resource.



Like us on Facebook!

Blessing Box



Standing in the **GAP**

In Matthew 25, Jesus pointed out that whenever we feed or care for any of "the least of these" (the people in need around us), we are doing those things directly to and for Him. One of the ways that we can answer this call to care for those in need is through our Blessing Box located in front of the Freedom Church building. Thank you for helping to keep the cabinet filled with non-perishable food items and toiletries so that we can ensure that any hungry person on the Eastern Shore has access to food and basic necessities every day. As you do your shopping at the Dollar Tree or the grocery store, please take a moment to pick up a few extra items to help keep the Blessing Box filled and hungry stomachs fed. Thanks for your faithful support of this vital ministry!

Elders

Mark Price
John Beck
Chris Perry
Carl Wade
Wayne Smith

Trustees

Mike Sappington
(treasurer)
Tony Maniscalco
Rick Miller
Randy Parkison
Ken Quattlebaum

Freedom Staff

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Student Ministers

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Children's Minister

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Preschool Minister

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Celebrate Recovery

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Mission Pastors

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