



# FREEDOM CHURCH

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

**2 Corinthians 3:17**

**Service Time: Sundays at 10 am**

## April 2022 Special Dates

- April 3: Communion
- April 10: Palm Sunday
- April 15: Good Friday Service (6:00)
- April 16: Spring Family Fun Day (10:00 am—12:00 pm)
- April 17: Resurrection Sunday
- April 24: Core Team (3:00); Small Group Leaders (3:30)
- 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,

As I type these words, it has been exactly two years since that unforgettable week in 2020 when we all realized that something very bad was unfolding around the world, on a scale that had not been witnessed in a century. The global pandemic was upon us, and virtually everything was shutting down... including church gatherings.

In some ways, these past two years have seemed like an eternity. But at the same time, it's pretty amazing to see what has happened in Freedom Church over the course of those two years. When we went exclusively to online worship two years ago, Freedom Church existed in only one location. Our congregation was made up almost completely of Americans, and it was roughly 95% white. Now, two years later, Freedom Church operates daily in four locations on two continents. And approximately 90% of our congregation today is non-white and lives in Africa! Stop and let that sink in.

Between the years 2000 and 2020, churches in America lost one third of the people who had been members or attenders. In March of 2020, church gatherings ceased almost nationwide. Today only 60-70% of those people who were in church two years ago have returned to church. That means that today only about 40% of the people who attended church in America in 2000, are still attending a church! That should disturb us.

But consider what God has done among us over the past two years. The number of people attending a campus of Freedom Church has increased ten-fold! That is amazing in any season, but it is nearly unheard of these days. And many of these new people are new converts to Christianity. We are truly enjoying a season of God's favor as never before. And we should do everything in our power to keep reaching where God is adding new people.

And we must also confront the challenges facing the Church in America today. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, American churches became skilled in drawing crowds and putting on events. But we were not doing a great job of making disciples. And that is our mission. At Freedom Church International, we are sold out to making disciples and fostering community and relationships. But we need the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and enable us to truly make an impact in reaching and discipling lost people in our region. Would you join me in a season of prayer and fasting from now until Resurrection Sunday, asking God to show us how to move forward and inviting Him to pour out His Spirit in great power on us and on His Church across this land? God is not done with His Church or with this great country. I believe that the best is yet to come.

You Are Loved,  
Mark



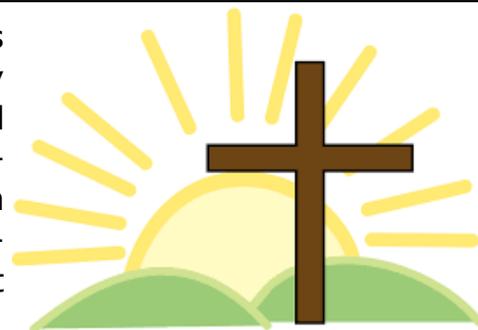
## Nigerian Campus Update

All three Nigerian campuses of Freedom Church International continue to grow and flourish. In Sapele, plans are being made to conduct a medical clinic outreach in April through Freedom Church. One of the newer Freedom members in Sapele is Dr. Ofuafo. He has volunteered to head this outreach effort, so please pray for him and the team as they minister there this month.

The Idah 2 ("Miracle") campus has been able to purchase the chairs, fans, keyboard and tent that they needed to accommodate the growing crowds, thanks to your generosity. And the new building at the Idah 1 campus is now 80% complete, with the only remaining elements being painting, electrical, a water well, and furniture. Work on the building is resuming since we were able to send an additional \$7,000 to them in late March. That means that we are only \$7,000 away from having the building finished! Please join us in praying and giving until the work is completed. We are only a few weeks away from the rainy season there, so this new building will be a wonderful shelter and home base for this ministry for many decades to come!

## Holy Week Services

Holy Week is almost upon us. This always presents us with a prime opportunity to invite friends and family members to church with us. We will have a special Good Friday Service at 6:00pm, on April 15<sup>th</sup>. And we will focus on the gospel message as we celebrate Resurrection Sunday at 10:00am. Let's all do our part to pray and invite others so that we can see a great harvest on that day!



## Preschool and Children's Ministry

The spring season is here! Be sure to come to our Spring Family Fun Day on April 16<sup>th</sup> at Freedom Church from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets! On Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be having child dedication day. Child dedication is a time that parents commit to raising their children to follow the Lord. If you are interested in this event, please go to our church website and sign up. If you have any questions, contact Sabrina or Lyn.

### Church-wide Bible Reading Plan

April 1-9:	Acts 2-10
April 10-16:	Acts 11-17
April 17-23:	Acts 18-24
April 24-30:	Acts 25-28; Colossians 1-3

### Freedom Giving Update (Jan. 1-March 21)

Budget Needs to Date:	\$113,275
Given to Date:	\$101,305