



IGNITE

Igniting a movement of authentic followers of Jesus, impacting the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Pastor's Letter	2
Ignite	3
Discipleship	15
Serve	23
Leadership	33
Master Campus Plan	39

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church Family,

We want to “ignite a movement of authentic followers of Jesus Christ.” Let’s be clear: we are completely dependent on God’s power and the truth of His gospel! This booklet is a roadmap to help us fulfill God’s vision and mission for WBC. Take time to become familiar with the goals and strategies for the next five years. Pray!! Embrace the vision and engage in the plan!

Jesus said, “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness” (John 12:46). In 1941, David Stirling founded the SAS of the British Army. The book “SAS Rogue Heroes” has a prologue entitled “Into the Dark,” which describes their first mission:

Storm driven sand and pelting rain completely obscured the flares on the ground that were laid down by the Royal Air Force to guide the planes to the drop zone... The pilots could not even make out the shape of the shoreline. German searchlights on the coast picked up the incoming planes, and flak began exploding around them in blinding flashes... The pilots indicated that the parachutists should prepare to jump although in truth they were flying blind, navigating by guesswork...

THEN, ONE BY ONE, THE MEN HURLED THEMSELVES INTO THE SEETHING DARKNESS!

Jesus commanded us, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Our IGNITE vision will encourage and help every member of WBC punch holes in the darkness! To do so, we must willingly hurl ourselves into the seething darkness with the light and truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Darryl

IGNITE

“to catch fire or cause to catch fire”
“to set a fire, to cause to burn”



Scan here to view
our Ignite video

MOVEMENTS

“Movements are informal groups and organizations pursuing a common cause”

- Steve Addison

Acts 1:8 (NASB95)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Acts 13:47 (ESV)

I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.



IGN

What are we doing?

We are providing a clear path for sustaining, growing, and expanding our church's ability to impact the world with the gospel!

Why are we doing this?

Because millions of people in the world have never heard the gospel! We have a burden that begins with the glory of God and is fueled by our compassion for the lost, the broken, and the hopeless. People in our community and the world need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

ITE

**IGNITING A MOVEMENT OF
AUTHENTIC FOLLOWERS OF JESUS,
IMPACTING THE WORLD WITH THE
GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!**

Why us?

God has greatly blessed Whitesburg's historical commitment to being on mission. As a result, we have been blessed greatly with people, resources, and opportunities. Believing Luke 12:48 "from everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more," we better understand Paul's statement in Romans 1:14, "I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish."

Why now?

God has given us a wonderful season of unity and clarity concerning our church's mission and vision. The challenges, needs, and desperation in our culture cry out for hope and answers. We are not deaf; we hear the cry, and we believe we have the answer in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION

People helping people
encounter Jesus and
experience life change!



VISION THAT IS BIRTHED
FROM AMBITION TENDS
TO BE MAN-CENTERED
AND SELFISH.

**VISION THAT IS
BIRTHED FROM
BURDEN IS
GOD-CENTERED.**

THE BURDEN THAT DRIVES US

LOSTNESS

BROKENNESS

HOPELESSNESS

HELPLESSNESS

Matthew 9:36-37 (NASB95)

Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

Romans 9:1-3 (NASB95)

I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

Our vision is to ignite a movement of authentic followers of Christ by reaching 1000 people with the gospel and releasing 200 equipped leaders from the next generation for Church leadership by 2028.

CORE STRATEGY



CONNECT

We are committed to helping people **connect** with Jesus Christ and His church through meaningful membership.



GROW

We are committed to helping people **grow** in their faith. We grow best in groups where we experience life together and are changed by the power of God's Word.



SERVE

We are committed to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and serving others. We **serve** God by using the gifts He has given us to serve in His Church, in the Community, and around the World.

CORE VALUES THAT GUIDE US:

- 1 A passion for loving, honoring, and glorifying Jesus
- 2 The sufficiency and authority of God's Word
- 3 Biblical community
- 4 Prayer
- 5 Reaching people with the gospel
- 6 Making disciples
- 7 Loving and serving others
- 8 Generous living

Our core values are rooted in our belief in the authority and sufficiency of God's Word, the Bible.

To review our beliefs, visit



WhitesburgBaptist.org/MissionandBeliefs



DISCIPLESHIP



BIBLE READING PLANS

As a disciple-making church, one of our priorities is to give you resources to use along your journey. One mark of a disciple is spending time in God's Word. One of the best ways to do that is to develop the habit of being in God's Word on a daily basis. Our Bible reading plans run from January - December, but you can start at any time!

For our current Bible reading plan, please visit WhitesburgBaptist.org/CBR23.



Strategic Plan for Bible Reading

6-12 Months

- 800 individuals committing to a Bible reading plan by Fall 2024
- Partner with families to increase engagement in a Bible reading plan

2-5 Years

- 1,000 individuals committing to a Bible reading plan

5 Years

- 1,200 individuals committing to a Bible reading plan

How do I get involved?

Call or email our Discipleship Office at the information below:

David Loyed

Discipleship Pastor



256-704-5678, Ext. 220



david.loyed@whitesburgbaptist.org



WhitesburgBaptist.org/CBR23

LIFE GROUPS



What are they?

Life Groups are ongoing small groups that are open to everyone. Life Groups meet weekly on Sunday mornings for the purpose of finding biblical community, studying God's Word, and forging meaningful relationships.

Why Life Groups?

Discipleship happens best in relationships. Relationships grow best in small groups. At Whitesburg, the first step to getting connected is to attend a Life Group.

We have groups for all ages and stages of life. Within each group, you'll find a welcoming environment with others excited to connect and get to know you. Each class uses biblical curriculum to launch relevant discussions and formulate practical applications of God's Word.

Strategic Plan for Life Groups

5 Years

- Identify and train new Life Group Leaders
- Launch 10 new Life Groups per Year

How do I get involved?

You can connect to a Life Group in a number of different ways:

- 📱 Text “GROUP” to 256-344-0023 for a personalized Life Group recommendation
- 🌐 For a list of classes and locations, please visit WhitesburgBaptist.org/LifeGroups for our Life Group Locator and Main Campus Map
- 📍 Check in with our Guest Services team when you arrive on campus
- ☎️ Call the church office at 256-881-0952, ext. 220 and get a personalized recommendation from our Discipleship Pastor, David Loyed



DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (D-GROUPS)

What is a D-Group?

A D-Group is a gender-specific, closed group of 3-5 believers who meet weekly for 6-12 months for accelerated spiritual transformation. Each group meets for approximately one hour each week to pray together, read and study Scripture, and walk through accountability questions.

What is the commitment?

- Meet weekly for 6-12 months
- Give yourself fully to the Lord during this time as you anticipate a season of accelerated spiritual transformation
- Commit to the five weekly disciplines (Bible Reading, H.E.A.R. Journals, Scripture Memory, Accountability, and Prayer)
- Discuss your Bible Reading Journals and prayer requests
- Contribute to a group atmosphere of confidentiality, honesty, and transparency
- Pray weekly for fellow D-Group members and those in your life who don't know Jesus
- Pray and look for those in your life whom you could invite into your new D-Group once your current group multiplies

Why D-Groups?

Jesus' entire earthly ministry illustrates the importance and necessity of close fellowship with a small group of believers. While Jesus called 12 disciples, Scripture reveals that He specifically spent more time with three of them.

1. D-Groups are relational.

D-Groups are small, including no more than 4-5 individuals of the same gender. In this way, our D-Groups become a highly-focused and highly-relational huddle of spiritual growth.

2. D-Groups are replicable.

What Jesus modeled with the disciples led to the greatest spread of the gospel the world has ever known! Using Jesus' ministry as a template, D-Groups commit to go and do as Jesus commanded. At the conclusion of each D-Group semester, members gather more disciples and start again, thus becoming disciples making disciples.

Who are D-Groups for?

Believers who have made a profession of faith to follow Christ are encouraged to join a D-Group. Our recommendation is to connect in a Life Group and join a D-Group with those whom you get to know.

How do I get involved?

Call or email our Discipleship Office at the information below:

David Loyed

Discipleship Pastor



256-704-5678, Ext. 220



david.loyed@whitesburgbaptist.org



WhitesburgBaptist.org/DGroup



SERVE



I SERVE

What is "I Serve"?

Our Mission Strategy is founded on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and is summarized in the following three statements: I SERVE, AS I GO, and GO TEAMS. We are committed to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, living on-mission, and serving others. The statement "I SERVE" means that every member is called to edify the church by using their God-given talents to build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). We are committed to helping people find the place that God is calling them to serve.

Where can I serve?

Whether you are gifted musically, have a desire to teach the Word of God in a group, have years of experience in corporate America, or have no idea where to serve at Whitesburg, we have a place where you can glorify God with your gifts.

Here are the areas of ministry where you can begin serving:

- Preschool Ministry (Nursery - Pre-K)
- Children's Ministry (K - 5th Grade)
- Student Ministry (6th - 12th Grade)
- WBC Buddies Ministry (Special Needs)
- College & Young Adult Ministry
- Adult Discipleship Ministry (Life Groups, Equip Groups, D-Groups)
- Music & Media Ministry
- First Impressions Ministry
- Missions Ministry (Recreation, Benevolence, Disaster Relief, Go Teams)
- Pastoral Care Ministry (Member Care, Biblical Counselling, Homebound)
- Other Ministries (Men's/Women's Ministry, Hospitality Team, Food Services, Security Team)

Strategic Plan for "I Serve"

6-12 Months

- Each Life Group designate a "Serve Coordinator" who will communicate ministry and Go Team opportunities to members of their Life Group and help people who have recently joined their Life Group find a place to serve within the ministries of the Church

2-3 Years

- Over 50% of every Life Group involved in serving in one of the ministries of the church

3-5 Years

- Over 75% of every Life Group involved in serving in the ministries of the church

How do I get involved?

I Serve Office



256-704-5678, Ext. 279



serve@whitesburgbaptist.org



WhitesburgBaptist.org/IServe

FIRST IMPRESSIONS



You have heard it said, “You never get a second chance to make a first impression.” With the number of new people moving into Huntsville, there has never been a better time to make a good first impression. With our goal to reach 1,000 people with the gospel, we want to prepare our church to welcome many first-time guests who come through our doors.



Parking Team

Our parking lot greeters show guests how excited we are to gather for worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings! They also help people find available parking spaces and the entrances to our Main Campus. This is the area of service with the greatest need for new volunteers.



Drivers

Our Golf Cart drivers provide convenient transportation from where people are parked to the entrance of our church. Shuttles run from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm and provide transportation to and from the South Campus, dropping people off at the North and South Lobbies.



Greeters

Our greeters help people feel welcome as they come into our church, escorting people to the Worship Center and to Life Groups. Our greeters express the culture of our church to newcomers and become the first opportunity for visitors to find friendship at WBC.



Ushers

We have a great need for leaders in the next generation to step into this vital role. Men (and their spouses) who serve as ushers help with greeting people as they enter the Worship Center, handing out information to people as they enter, taking attendance in worship, and helping guests find their seats. They also begin building relationships with the members and guests they are seated with.

6-12 Months

- Create a culture of consistent excellence in hospitality
- Recruit young adults in service
- Train next generation, passionate leaders in First Impressions

How do I get involved?

I Serve Office



256-704-5678, Ext. 279



serve@whitesburgbaptist.org



WhitesburgBaptist.org/IServe

AS I GO

We are a going people. Every day, Whitesburg members go to work, go to the gym, go to lunch, go to ballgames, go to practice, go to meetings, go to the hair salon, and on and on we go. What if our reason for going was actually for something greater than what we imagined? What if we lived like every place we go is an opportunity to share the grace and truth of the gospel with our world?

In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells His disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, they are to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Today, as we follow Christ, we are to be His witnesses in our neighborhoods, our city, our state, our country, and to the world. As we go, we are to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ!

At Whitesburg, we call this *As I Go*--church members engaging with those they encounter in their daily lives. Today, the gospel still spreads through relationships. We want each member of our church to be able to confidently talk about their faith and to invite others to know Christ at their schools, workplaces, and everywhere they go. God can do amazing things through people serious about reaching their world. Remember, Elijah built the altar, but God sent the fire. We are praying for more altars and for God to move in power!



Strategic Plan for "As I Go"

6 Months

- This fall, Life Groups churchwide will dedicate at least one Sunday to learning how to turn everyday conversations into gospel conversations

12 Months

- Create opportunities for church members to share their faith through Go Teams and specific outreach events

5 Years

- Reach 1,000 people with the gospel

GO TEAMS

What are Go Teams?

Go Teams are short-term mission opportunities for our church members. These teams are committed to sharing the gospel, praying for the work, encouraging mission partners, and serving. While Go Teams are short (typically a week or less), they bring enthusiasm, energy, encouragement, and create opportunities for gospel impact.

Why Go Teams?

In Mark 6:34, Jesus looked out on the crowds and felt compassion for them. Jesus said they were “like sheep without a shepherd.” Two thousand years later, the crowds have gotten bigger, but the burden is the same. Over 50% of the world’s population lives amongst unreached peoples, and our goal is to reach as many people as we can with the gospel of Christ.

Who can participate in Go Teams?

Every person in our church can have a role on a Go Team! We recognize that college students have been an integral part of missions for many years. Their impact on missions is vital, and the impact missions has on college students is equally powerful.



SERVE

Strategic Plan for Missions

12 Months

- Have 50% of Life Group members serve on a Go Team

2-5 Years

- Have 75% of Life Groups Serving on a Go Team
- Send out 2 long-term missionaries
- Send out 25 college students to serve as short-term missionaries by establishing meaningful partnerships in each of the 5 regions of the U.S. and each inhabited continent
- Establishing meaningful partnerships in each of the 5 regions of the U.S. and on each inhabited continent

5 Years

- Work with strategic partners to help plant 5 churches in strategic areas of the US

How do I get involved?

If you're interested in serving on a Go Team or long-term opportunity, please see the information below.

Ben Jernigan

Missions Pastor



256-704-5678, Ext. 226



ben.jernigan@whitesburgbaptist.org



WhitesburgBaptist.org/GoTeams



LEADERSHIP



LEADERSHIP PIPELINE

Exploring Service and Servant Leadership at Whitesburg

What is it?

Our church is comprised of many people who have vast experience in various fields and who desire to use their abilities for ministry and service in the church. The purpose of the Leadership Pipeline is to provide opportunities for the Pastoral staff and church leaders to meet new members and identify the next generation of leaders at Whitesburg. Our desire is to cultivate deeper relationships and broaden the disciple-making process by introducing them to service and servant leadership principles. These principles will help participants lead themselves, lead their families, and lead others in ministry.

Why a Leadership Pipeline?

The church functions best when members use their God-given gifts for His service in the church. Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 12:12, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” He goes on to say in Ephesians 4:11-16, “And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” From this we can see that Jesus’ desire is that people would lead in the church from a wide background of experience.

Whitesburg has enjoyed the blessing of being served by many committed, faithful people from its inception. But as the church has aged, the enlistment and training of next generation leaders has not kept pace with the ministry needs of the church.

Who is the Leadership Pipeline for?

The criteria for those interested in participating in the Leadership Pipeline are:

- A participant must have a clear testimony of saving faith in Jesus
- A participant must be engaged in the life of Whitesburg through active participation in a Life Group
- A participant must be serving some place in the church (we can help participants find that place of service)



How do I get involved?

Leadership Pipeline participants:

Interested people will complete a brief application, available at WhitesburgBaptist.org/Leadership.

- Applicants will be contacted for a personal interview
- The interview will give greater clarity to the following ministry criteria:
 1. Candidate's personal testimony of saving faith and baptism
 2. Candidate's involvement in Life Group/D-Group
 3. Discover areas where the candidate is serving
 4. Spiritual gifts assessment

After the interview, the candidate will be assigned to a leadership mentor.

- The leadership mentor and participant will meet regularly for accountability, review assignments, and to discuss the lessons until the curriculum is complete.
- Every person who contacts us will be assigned a place of service/ministry within their areas of interest and ability.

How do I get involved?

Call or email our Pastoral Office at the information below:

Philip Slusher

Senior Associate Pastor



256-704-5678, Ext. 241



philip.slusher@whitesburgbaptist.org



WhitesburgBaptist.org/Leadership



Strategic Plan for the Leadership Pipeline

6-12 Months

- Develop structure
- Identify and train Leadership Pipeline leaders
- Begin Leadership Pipeline enlistment process
- Begin first Leadership Pipeline D-Groups

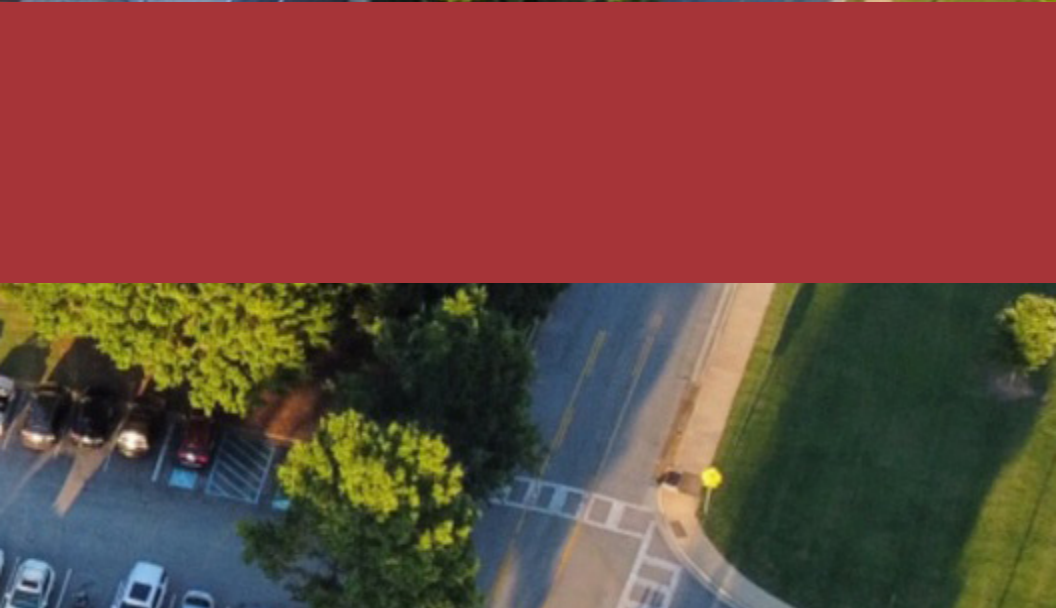
5 Years

- Equip and release 200 next generation leaders by 2028



MASTER CAMPUS PLAN





MAIN CAMPUS



6806 WHITESBURG DRIVE

Primary Goals:

- Improve campus flow and facility layout for future generations, while completing renovations of the oldest parts of the campus
- Improve access/egress and Life Group location for Senior Adults
- Create ministry appropriate space for a growing Student Ministry
- Maximize parking
- Improve and create adequate office space for the ministry team

SOUTH CAMPUS



7300 WHITESBURG DRIVE


Primary Goals:

- Improve lighting, sound, and maintenance in the Chapel located at the ROC

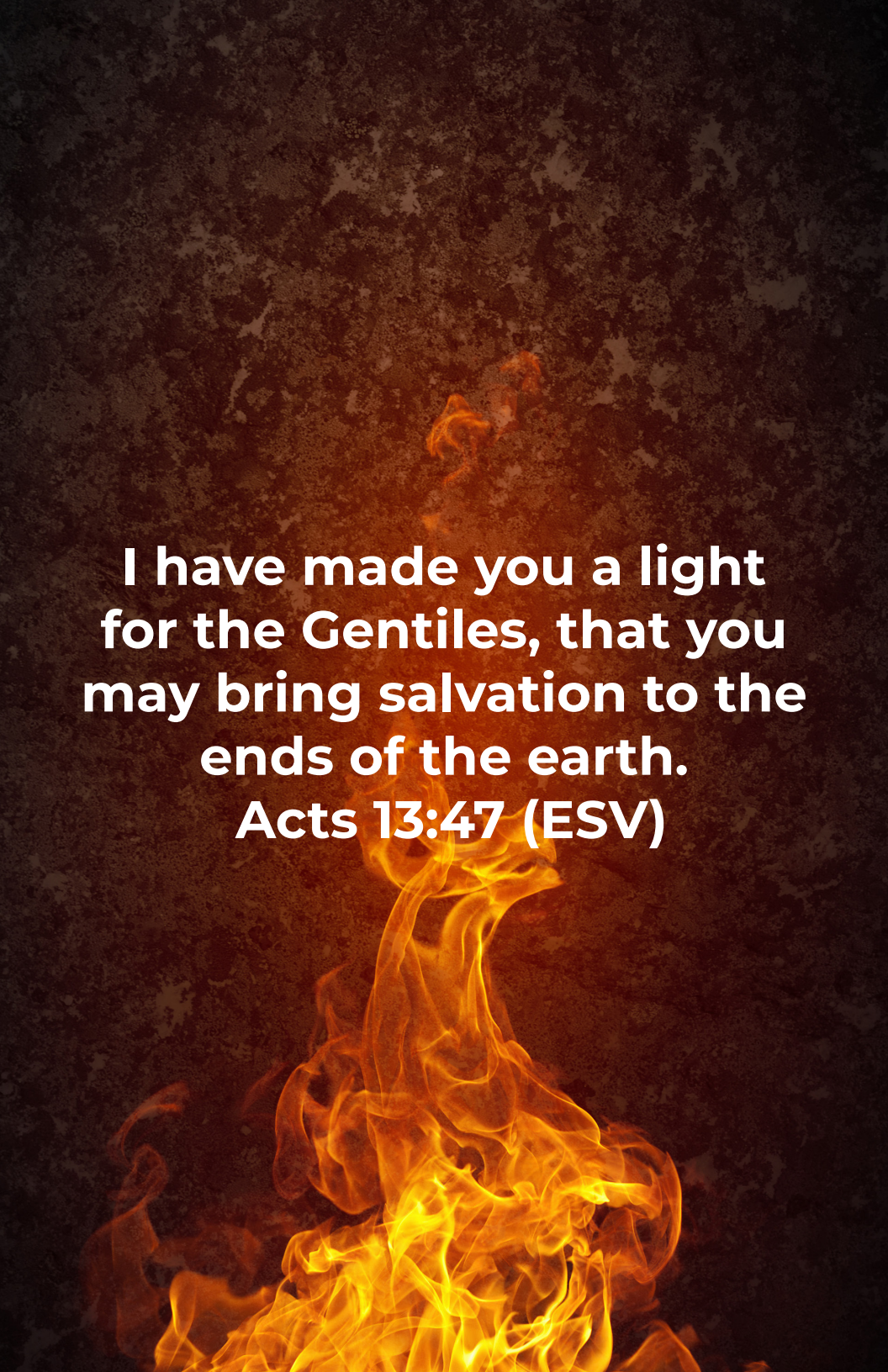
Note: The gym project on our South Campus is a part of our Master Campus Plan. However, the project is being funded by donations from Academy families and funds through the Academy budget.



Scan here to stay up to date
with our Master Campus Plan



**Let your light shine
before men in such a way
that they may see your
good works and glorify
your Father who is
in heaven.
Matthew 5:16**

The background is a dark, mottled brown with a grainy, textured appearance. A bright, glowing flame rises from the bottom center, with colors ranging from deep orange to bright yellow and white at the tips. The flame has a wispy, ethereal quality, with some smaller, faint flames visible in the upper part of the image.

**I have made you a light
for the Gentiles, that you
may bring salvation to the
ends of the earth.**

Acts 13:47 (ESV)

The background of the entire page is a close-up, high-contrast image of fire. The flames are bright orange and yellow, with a dark, almost black center. Numerous small, glowing sparks or embers are scattered throughout the scene, creating a sense of intense heat and movement. The overall effect is dramatic and powerful.

WHITESBURG

BAPTIST CHURCH

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