RAISING THE STANDARD!

With Dr. Cynthia Hale
ELAH Pastoral Ministries
3.17.16

Isa. 59
A PEOPLE/CHURCH IN DECLINE

*Good Faith: Being A Christian When Society Thinks You Are Irrelevant And Extreme* by David Kinnaman & Gabe Lyons

**Nones** - Religiously unaffiliated - 23% - 2014 up from 16% in 2007

**Dones** - Leaving the church - 59% leave in their 20s

**Nomads** - Lost to the church not enough Jesus to be transformed but enough to be inoculated,

**Exiles** - Struggling between the church and worldly culture

**Prodigals** - 1/10 no faith.

**Churched** - *Actively Churched* (once a month) - 49%,

*Minimally Churched* - 8% (infrequently & unpredictably)

**Unchurched** - *De-churched* - (were once in church but no longer are 33%), *Purely unchurched* - 10%
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Prodigals - 1/10 no faith.
According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay,
Fury to His adversaries,
Recompense to His enemies;
The coastlands He will fully repay.
So shall they fear
The name of the Lord from the west,
And His glory from the rising of the sun;
When the enemy comes in like a flood,
The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.“The Redeemer will come to Zion,
And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,”
Says the Lord.  **Isaiah 59:18-20**

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**Eternal Salvation (Eschatological)**
&
**Earthly Salvation (Temporal)**
When the enemy comes in like a flood

The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.
THE STANDARD

- Banner - Hebrew terms translated “banner” refer either to an identification mark, such as an emblem or to the colors or standard around which soldiers rallied in battle.

- Exodus 17:15 - Jehovah Nissi - The Lord Our Banner

- An agreed level of quality or attainment. The Redeemer is the new standard.
RAISING THE STANDARD ABOVE THE FLOOD

IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD - ACTS 1 & 2
RAISING THE STANDARD OF LEADERSHIP
ACTS 1:15-26

- The Standard is established by the spirit of the Lord - Isaiah 59:19 - The Holy Spirit descends after Judas is replaced by Matthias.

- Qualifications: Available from baptism to ascension. 120 present - 2 qualified.

- Sticky Teams - Larry Osborne
RAISING THE STANDARD OF LEADERSHIP
ACTS 1:15-26

❖ The Law of the Lid - 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership - John Maxwell

❖ “But you, who do you say that I am?” Matthew 16:13-20

❖ “We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.” So death works in us, but life in you. 2 Corinthians 4:10, 12
RAISING THE STANDARD
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - ACTS 2:1-7

- A Better Way: Rediscovering the Drama of Christ-Centered Worship by Michael Horton

- Preaching Jesus - Acts 2 - Peter, Acts 3 - Peter & John, Acts 8 - Philip

- “We should not build the culture of the church based on attraction but on attachment; a sense of dependency & identity.” Bishop Walter Scott Thomas
RAISING THE STANDARD OF FELLOWSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP ACTS 2:42, 46

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. Acts 2:42, 46

“Having deprogrammed intentional fellowship opportunities, we created a generation for whom the notion of fellowship is non-existent.” Bishop Claude Alexander

Jesus Methodology - Alexander - Called into Fellowship - Mark 3:13-14; Assignments in Fellowship - Mark 6:7; Revelation of Resurrection in Fellowship - Mark 16:9-14; Commissioned in Fellowship - Matthew 28:16-20; Ascension Witnessed in Fellowship - Acts 1; Received the Holy Spirit in Fellowship - Acts 2:1-3

RAISING THE STANDARD OF EVANGELISM
ACTS 8:26-39

❖ Lott-Carey Foundation - 2% of Christians Evangelize.

❖ Ethiopian Eunich - v. 27-28 - Restricted Worshipper, Avid Reader

❖ Strategic Evangelism
RAISING THE STANDARD OF STEWARDSHIP
ACTS 2:44

Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

The Practice of Tithing - Genesis 18

Digital Giving - Online Giving
RAISING THE STANDARD OF SERVICE
ACTS 2:45

❖ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need.

❖ Salvation Army - William Booth
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BABY

"CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST"

Recorded "LIVE" in Conyers, Georgia
QUESTIONS FOR DIALOGUE

- Which component(s) of ministry is the most pressing area where you must work to raise the standards in the church you lead? Why?

- Einstein says, “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.” What strategic initiatives or plans are you considering to raise standards in these areas?

- What cultural barriers or relationships in your ministries are making church advancement difficult?