



DANCE AGAIN MINISTRIES

2020 Overview Newsletter

www.danceagainministries.org / Email: danceagainministries@gmail.com / Phone: (314) 540-5016

Dance Again Ministries is building a culture of freedom by teaching others how to live infilled with the power of Jesus in order to love Him and others.

2020: A Year of Waiting, Perseverance, and Transformation

As the coronavirus outbreak consumed the city of Wuhan, China, and new cases of the virus began to spread, the world was hit suddenly with a violent shaking that created great destruction and catastrophic fear. However, when the virus hit our community it became personal. Individuals were awakened. Leaders stepped into immediate action encouraging individuals, hoping to alleviate panic, stress, and apprehension that swarmed our neighborhoods. Amid the trauma that immediately shook our economy and mental health, some people clung to material things, some consumed a form of substance, some gravitated to other people, and others embraced some form of higher power. Dance Again Ministries clung to Jesus as our source of direction to navigate through the rubble that the impact left after the pandemic devastated our community.

Prior to March 2020, Dance Again Ministries was flourishing:

- We had our 7th annual Trivia Night booked and ready to launch at the end of March, with an expectation of 500 people attending.
- We successfully launched our first seminar, *Love Receives*, on February 14, 2020. We were approved to host the *Love Receives* seminar at the MECC in Pacific, MO, and had high hopes to take this seminar on the road.
- We were building a culture of Discipleship in Destiny Church, hosting small groups, life groups, and a teacher workshop.
- One on one sessions were multiplying by the day.
- Our 5th annual Spring Retreat was booked and filled.
- Berea Academy (our sister organization) was drawing close to the year's end of another successful year *preparing the youth of today for the challenges of tomorrow*.
- Both our School Age and Early Childhood editions of the Fishers of Men Discipleship Training workbook were published.
- We had been introduced to Eagle Sky of the Ozarks Youth Camp in Piedmont, MO, and were offered use of the facility for retreats as needed.

The immense growth was not possible to keep up with, but who was trying? There was no need to have to keep up with how many people's lives were changing, or how many people continued to help others through the Life/Power they had received. Discipleship multiplies.

Mid-March; crickets. Everything stopped:

- Our only means of income, our annual fundraiser, cancelled.
- Seminars were put on indefinite hold.
- Prison Ministry was put on indefinite hold.
- Destiny Church was only open for services so small groups, life groups, the teacher workshop, and one on one sessions all stopped.
- Spring Retreat cancelled.

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- Berea Academy was struggling with building relational community while social distancing.
- Berea had difficulty keeping a unified vision.
- Berea struggled with miscommunication in leadership due to different perspectives of reality.
- Berea dealt with switching as needed between in person classes, online learning, synchronous and asynchronous learning, and hybrid learning.
- Berea was/is navigating schedules and routine from constant change of COVID-19 regulations.

Waiting

Isaiah 40:31 “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Dance Again Ministries is made up of leaders, yet no one had answers as to what to do next. The only thing we could do was wait. During the waiting period, I joined a group of leaders at Destiny Church who were calling church members, checking on their wellbeing, offering prayer, and an encouraging word. I was calling our board members and other organization leaders inquiring about what they were doing. Within days, I learned about Zoom and asked my son to help me set up an account.

Perseverance

Revelation 2:7 “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the paradise of God.”

Dance Again Ministries responded to the COVID-19 pandemic through obedience and perseverance:

- Small Groups immediately went virtual via Zoom.
- Our Tuesday Teacher Workshop went virtual via Zoom.
- One on one sessions multiplied via phone calls.
- We booked our Fall Retreat and were determined to go to St. Augustine, FL, even if we were the only ones attending because we were in need ourselves of what we offered.
- Through a series of events, my husband and I were moved from Missouri to Nevada. With a knowing in my heart that one of the Lord’s purposes of the move was to break ground for Discipleship to flourish in the western region of the States like it had in the central region, we laced up our kingdom army boots and settled in. While still waiting, we are ready for a variety of missions over any kind of terrain.
- We had another board member and his wife move to Kansas City. They also had a knowing in their hearts that the Lord had a plan for them to expand the perimeter of their vision. The need is great.
- Berea implemented summer engagement with Dare to Read book discussion clubs and online town hall meetings.
- Berea has learned new ways to reach people and share information. They are considering many technological possibilities that they had not considered in the past.

Transformation

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Dance Again Ministries never stopped thriving. Through every opportunity the Lord provided prior to the pandemic, He has brought forth fruit for more opportunity.

- Since we started teaching via Zoom, we now have virtual small groups being taught in MO, IL, FL, NY, NJ, IN, TX. I have met a friend in NV who is interested but we have not yet started a class.
- I have been discipling an individual who has implemented his new way of thinking and living into the marketplace. This is an area the Lord had put on my heart several years ago.

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- Our Youth edition of the Fishers of Men Discipleship Training workbook is nearing completion. We will be launching a Youth Retreat soon.
- Our Fall Retreat was a great success. With only five people signing up, every one of us returned home with new vision. The five people who attended the retreat have become leaders in our ministry which concluded the search of forming the **Retreat Team**.
- A home in Waterloo, IL, was donated to the ministry. After renovations, Dance Again Ministries will be using the home for retreats, meetings, and as a short-term safe home for women and children in need.
- Uploading our teaching to YouTube is underway. We are in the process of learning procedures and purchasing software so we can master this project from our living rooms.
- One-on-one sessions continue to multiply as more people continue to pay their new found lifestyle forward.
- Berea Academy has new leadership rising and is taking their place with solid foundation in discipleship principles.
- With home schooling becoming more of a necessity in our communities, new families are entering the Berea community.
- With a lifestyle of discipleship growing more unified in Berea's leadership, they can better offer relational and love-based education with excellence.
- Berea now has a stronger dependence on God to supply all needs.

The Lord has made it clear to all of us at Dance Again Ministries that this vision is His heart, His will, His way, not our own. We are not building an organization; we are living a lifestyle submitted to Jesus and walking in obedience by simply saying, "Yes" to whomever He leads us to love. The Lord has opened a door through Dance Again Ministries that no man can close.

With Hope, Peace & Love,

Michele

May 2021 bring many blessings to your Families, Businesses, Communities, Cities, and our Nation.

At Dance Again Ministries, our hope is to live in the abundant Life that is made available to us. Together let's set the pace to live each day to the fullest by holding each other up through the challenges and rejoicing with one another in the victories.