Good News Church

Exciting Ministry Update!

by Drue Warner

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We have some exciting news to share! For more than a year, our leadership team has been wrestling with the reality that we're quickly reaching—and sometimes exceeding—our seating and comfort capacity at Elixir Brew Co. We've been praying, exploring possibilities, and asking God to show us what's next for Good News Church. Before sharing the news, we'd like to give you a little background on how God has led us here.

FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD

From the very beginning, our commitment has been simple: **God's agenda is our agenda.** We only want to go where He leads. Initially, we believed God might be leading us to build our own brewery-style gathering space in Sugar Hill. We spent two years pursuing that possibility with the city and county, but eventually, it became clear that wasn't His plan. Although we had invested significant time, energy, and resources, we had peace knowing God was directing our steps.

Our vision has never changed: ***To experience and express LOVE from God to others.*** We especially want to reach people who are interested in God and faith but have become disillusioned with institutional church and organized religion.

Over these past five years, we've learned to operate less from a traditional business-plan mindset and more like the *Israelites in the wilderness* :) — simply following God wherever He leads, even when it doesn't make sense. We've often said, *"We're just following the breadcrumbs He places in front of us."*

And one idea has remained on my heart throughout this journey: What if we could take what God is doing at Elixir and establish other "Kingdom Outposts" in other breweries in our community (and beyond)? Places where lost and weary travelers can find rest, community, and experience the love of Christ—perhaps for the very first time.

THE STILLFIRE OPPORTUNITY

A little over a year ago, we explored launching a second location at StillFire Brewing in downtown Suwanee. We even held a worship service there last year on November 2, and it went wonderfully! Unfortunately, we lost several key people who were going to help launch the location, and we simply weren't ready from a volunteer and leadership standpoint.

Fast forward to this past April.

As our leadership team continued praying about our need for additional space, my longtime friend and fellow pastor, Dan Boot, reached out to grab lunch. Dan was beginning to sense God calling him back into full-time ministry after three years in the business world. Dan and his wife, Mischa, were also looking for a church home, so I invited them to come visit Good News Church. They loved it, started attending regularly, and eventually became Covenant Partners. At the same time, I reached

out and reconnected with StillFire, and they were encouraging and enthusiastic about the possibility of hosting Good News Church.

It quickly became clear that launching a second location would require another full-time pastor. As I prayed about that possibility, Dan's was the first and only name that came to mind. Having known him for more than five years and knowing his heart and experience, I couldn't imagine a better fit. It felt like God had brought all the pieces together.

SEEKING GOD'S DIRECTION

Over the past several months, our Good News Church Leadership Team (elders and spouses) has spent considerable time praying, discussing, and discerning whether StillFire and Dan were part of God's next chapter for Good News Church. We also invited our key volunteers, deacons, and ministry leaders to participate in two feedback sessions. We shared the opportunity and welcomed their questions, concerns, suggestions, and wisdom.

The feedback was invaluable. When we followed up with all 38 people who attended, every single person expressed support and enthusiasm for moving forward! That doesn't mean we have no fears or concerns. We certainly do. But we've learned that following God doesn't mean having all the answers. It means trusting Him enough to take the next step.

THE BIG NEWS!

Our vision remains the same, but our strategy is expanding! Rather than pursuing our own property and building, we're embracing the opportunity to establish *Kingdom Outposts* in brewery environments—reaching people who may be done with traditional church but aren't done with God.

Our next Kingdom Outpost will launch at StillFire Brewing on March 1, 2027! We're also bringing Dan Boot onto our staff full-time as Pastor of Ministry Development, working alongside Ray and me to provide leadership for both locations.

We'll officially become ONE CHURCH MEETING IN TWO LOCATIONS!

THREE AMAZING CONFIRMATIONS

When we previously explored worshipping regularly at StillFire, we identified three things that needed to be addressed:

1. A projector and screen for worship lyrics and slides.
2. Comfortable chairback seating instead of high-top bar stools.
3. New outdoor patio furniture for our elementary children's ministry.

About two months ago, StillFire shared a video highlighting several brewery upgrades. Wouldn't you know it? They had made all three of the exact improvements we had identified!

And the excitement isn't just coming from us. StillFire's owners have been incredibly welcoming and enthusiastic. They ask often, *"When are you guys starting the church here?"* At their recent seventh-anniversary celebration, the owner even invited me over to his table to introduce me to friends and share with them about Good News Church. His wife later told me, *"Drue, I hope you guys are able to do this. We've got a lot of regular customers here who I think would really like what you're doing!"*

Stories like these have continued to encourage us that God is opening this door.

WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE?
Here's the basic plan:

- StillFire Brewing: Sunday worship at 9:00 AM.
- Elixir Brew Co.: Sunday worship at 10:00 AM.
- Both locations will have worship, nursery, and children's ministry.
- Breakfast will be available at both locations, with lunch at Elixir.
- Drue, Ray, and Dan will share preaching and leadership responsibilities across both locations.
- Outside of Sunday mornings, all other church activities will still be combined.

Dan Boot will officially join our staff on January 3, 2027.

We're excited about what Dan will bring, not only to this expansion but to the overall health and growth of our church. His leadership will help strengthen discipleship, develop ministry leaders, expand missions, and provide greater strategic direction. We believe his addition will make a tremendous difference!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
We anticipate this expansion will require approximately $150,000 in startup expenses. Our plan is to initially fund the project from our existing savings while inviting our church family and supporters to help replenish those reserves.

We'll be communicating this as a special *Year-End Giving Opportunity* and asking everyone to prayerfully consider how they might participate financially in this next chapter of ministry.

Our hope is that, as God grows our church over the coming year, we'll be able to incorporate the additional expenses of a second location and full-time pastor into our regular operating budget.

We would be incredibly grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support!

WHAT IF...?
Here's something to think about:

What if God wants to start a movement of Kingdom Outposts in breweries—and what if He wants to use Good News Church to help make it happen?

Imagine being part of a movement that reimagines how we connect with people who want to know God but have walked away from traditional church. What if breweries could become places where people find community, experience God's love, and discover the Good News of Jesus?

We'll never know unless we're willing to take the first step!

I'm convinced that life is too short to play it safe. God has given us so many encouraging signs, opened so many doors, and brought so many pieces together that the only thing I can see holding us

back is fear. And when we're committed to walking by faith and following God, fear simply can't be the deciding factor.

We're excited about what's ahead, grateful for how God has led us, and expectant about what He might do next!

Let's go!