

MOVING TO THE HEART OF THE STORY

by: ANDY SIKORA

As the heart of our story begins to unfold, our hope, our dream, and our vision for sevenoseven is that the poor, the oppressed, the blind, and the prisoner would be set free; and when they've been set free they would join in movement with us. What does that look like? It's hard to say, because the story is still being written. While I may not be able to share all the details, let me tell you a little of how I see this story unfolding. It's the dream that we have here at sevenoseven for the Heart of our Story. If we look back in ten, fifteen, or twenty years the story will be...

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{ A STORY OF HOPE }

A story where hundreds and thousands of young adults would encounter the redemptive power of Jesus Christ.

Where people who are lost can be found.

Where people who are blind receive their sight.

Where people who are slaves to all sorts of sin, slaves to addiction, slaves to fear and unhealthy expectations are set free.

This is a story of people who are abused breaking free from that abuse. Addicts having the shackles broken and walking away from their addiction.

It's a story of young men and young women who tried to fill their lives with damaging, selfish relationships and casual sex finally finding fulfillment in the only relationship that could ever complete them by being reconciled with their Heavenly Father.. and perhaps even finding each other!

It's a story of Hope!

{ A STORY OF COMMUNITY }

A story where many young adults who were disconnected and lonely, trying their best to make it through life on their own would find brothers and sisters in Christ to journey together with them

A story of a people who had such significant relationships with each other that when one was hurt, others would rally around them and carry them... when one was sick they would lift them up in prayer... when one was successful they would celebrate God's movement together.. and together they would Worship Everywhere!

A story of young men and women who care so deeply for each other and are so passionate for the lives God has called them into that they spur each other on to love and good deeds. They do not settle for anything less than the lives that Christ calls them to and desire to make Jesus famous through the ways they love one another.

It's a story of young adults finding deep, meaningful relationships with members of the older generation. Relationships of discipleship, of mentoring, of encouragement... of hope.

It's a story of Community & a story of Hope!

{ A STORY OF KINGDOM MOVEMENT }

It's a story of people from the MY generation that know there's more to following Jesus than the church you attend. They know that church is really Less of a Place and More of a People and that the church has got to move because the Kingdom was meant to come.

It's a story of people who instead of letting the cynicism that defines our generation take over their lives they stand up and refuse to let the poor stay poor, the blind stay blind, the prisoners stay locked up, and the dying die.

It's a story of people who step out and do something:

People who reach out and feed the hungry.

People who clothe the needy.

People who comfort the brokenhearted.

People who care for the sick.

It's a story of people who see pain, suffering, need, hurt; and they refuse to turn a blind eye.

A people who are extremely intelligent and deeply gifted... who have more than they need and decide to do something about it as ambassadors of Christ knowing that God is making His appeal through them.

This WILL BE a story of hope, community & of Kingdom movement. It's a story where in a few years people all over Northeast Ohio will know about 707, but it will be less for the amazing worship services we have here on Sunday nights and more for the way we're loving God, loving one another, and loving the world in our everyday lives.

Because it's a story full of artists and activists, teachers and students, business people & baristas who KNOW that God has changed them... and because of that they just have to build God's Kingdom.

**I don't know about you...
but this is the kind of story
I can devote my life to.**