

WHAT IF ????????

*What if God is using all the dynamics of everything that is happening around us to get us to think about who we are as the Church and how we respond?*

- **Promise, Purpose and People.**
  - Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." NLT
- **Mission, Message and the Means**
- **Church Marks:**
  1. function under the authority of Scripture.
  2. have biblical leadership.
  3. exercise biblical preaching and teaching.
  4. partake in the ordinances/sacraments
  5. be in covenant community.
  6. live/go on mission together

## 5 Pillars – Acts 2:42-47

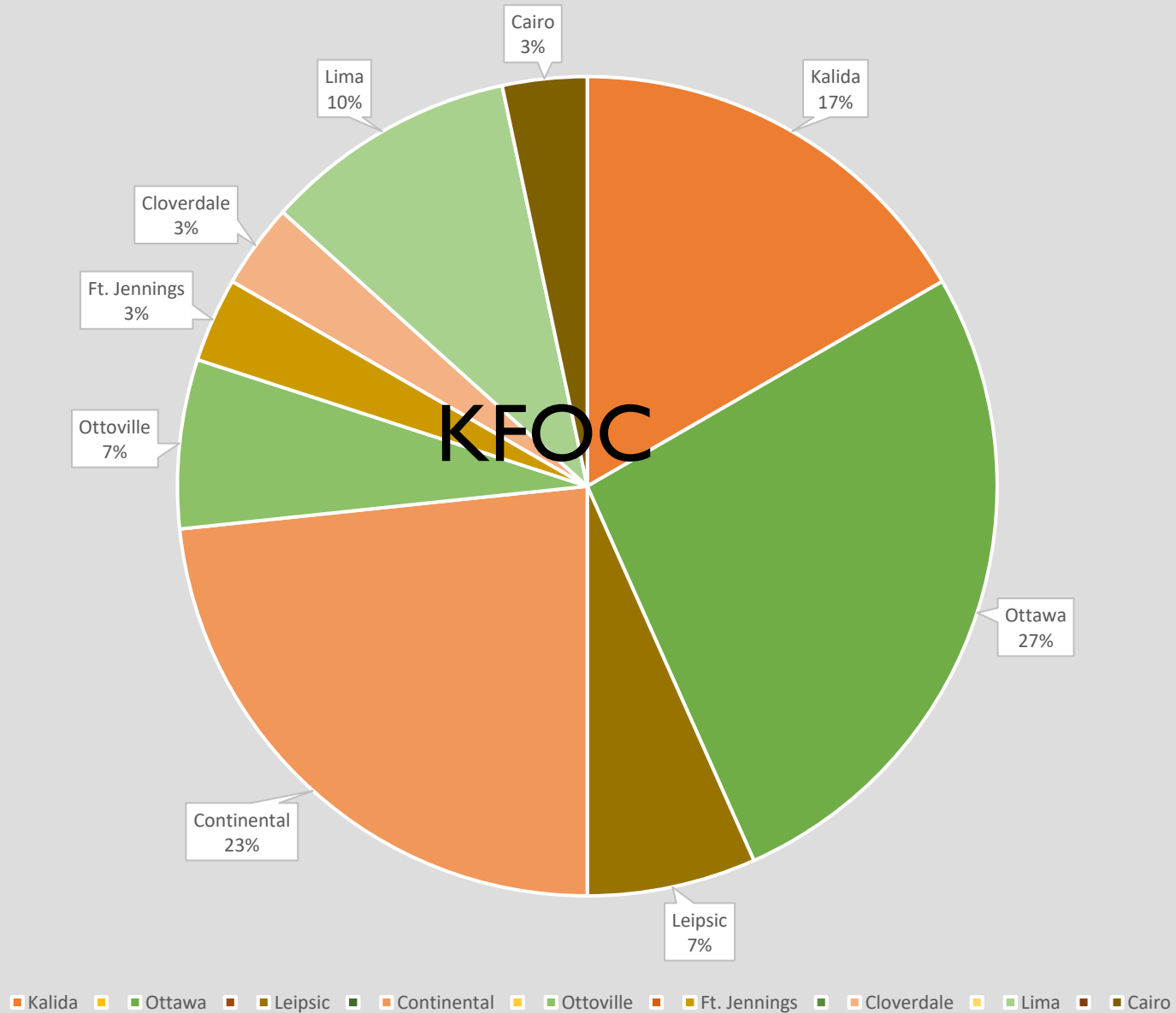
1. Teaching of the Word
2. Prayer
3. Communion and or the Sacraments
4. Power of the Holy Spirit
5. Fellowship

One could arguably say that devotion to all the above is in and of itself a pillar

- The Mission hasn't changed, The Message doesn't change, God still intends for the Church to be the Means!
- The Challenge is that the Means, The Church, has been struggling for quite sometime to fulfill the mission and not just communicate the message but live it in such a way that people are drawn to it!
- American futurist Alvin Toffler said, "The illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."
- The Chosen Clip - Get used to different
- Therefore, we can no longer afford to think about the future with the same mental models that worked in our past. Change needs to take place on multiple levels.
  - Leadership
  - Fellowships
  - Christians

- The Distributed Church

## Kalida Family Outreach Center



- Centralized or Distributed
  - Bread Truck Test
  - Canoeing the Mountains
- Churches committed to being distributed realize, like we've all felt in the time of "social distancing", the power and need for gathering together. **But they also realize that an approach that *only* involves a strategy for gathering together is anemic and ineffective in the new reality.**

# • Types of Gatherings

## Gathering for Celebration and encouragement

- Who plans and organizes?
- How or who determines success?
- What if there was no planning what would people do?

## • Gathering for relational connection and growth

- Who plans and organizes?
- How or who determines success?
- What if there was no planning what would people do?

## • Gathering for being discipled and making disciples

- Who plans and organizes?
- How or who determines success?
- What if there was no planning what would people do?

## • **Sitting or Sending**

- In Mark 5, in the dramatic story of the demoniac and the drowned pigs,
- vs. 18 we see the once-crazed man in his right mind asking Jesus if he can travel with him from the Eastern (Greek) side of the lake over to the Western (Jewish) side of the Sea of Galilee.
- Jesus denies the man's request – not because Jesus is being mean, but because he is being strategic.
- Jesus knew the man was already deeply rooted in his Greek *oikos* – his set of social norms and relational networks which included Greek language, customs, rituals, food, and values quite different from the Jewish context on the other side of the lake.
- Jesus told him, “Go back to your [*oikos*] and tell them all the things the Lord has done for you and the mercy he's had on you” (verse 19).



- Sociologists say that we live in five “neighborhoods:
  - *familial* (our extended blood relatives),
  - *geographic* (our literal neighbors in close proximity to where we live),
  - *relational* (our friends and acquaintances),
  - *digital* (our online relationships and social media friends and followers)
  - *psychographic* (those with whom we share similar interests, affinities, and passions – think of Mac users, runners, young moms or those who do CrossFit). Each one of us lives in five neighborhoods; these collective neighborhoods are each person’s *oikos*.
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- *Buckets and Pipes*
  - What flows into a bucket, of course, stays in a bucket; but what flows into a pipe flows out of a pipe.

