

Oral History Cover Sheet

Interview Information	
Project Name:	Gateway City Church, St Louis and St Charles, Oral History Project
Narrator:	Cheryl Hammer
Interviewer:	Katie Sweet
Interview Date:	April 30, 2026
Interview Location:	St Charles, MO

Descriptive Information	
Narrator's Biographical Information:	
Interview Summary:	Cheryl shares her journey of faith, beginning with her upbringing in Nova Scotia, Canada, and the profound impact of losing her mother and grandmother at a young age. These losses led her to seek spiritual meaning, eventually resulting in her conversion to Christianity during college, influenced by friends and her involvement with the International Churches of Christ. Cheryl recounts her years in ministry, particularly her 31 years in Los Angeles, before moving to St. Charles, Missouri, to be closer to family and join a vibrant, growing church community. She describes the unique character of the St. Charles church, its blend of seasoned believers and young families, and the miraculous acquisition of their church building. Cheryl reflects on significant moments of faith, challenges like the 2003 Henry Kriete letter, and the importance of deep personal convictions rooted in scripture. Throughout, she emphasizes the value of community, openness, and trusting God through both victories and hardships. (Adobe AI Summary)
Interview Key Terms:	International Churches of Christ; Gateway City Church; St Charles, MO; Henry Kriete Letter; 2016 Reach; Midwest Transplant;

Technical Information	
Recording Format:	Audio
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Interview Quality and Recording Conditions:	Quiet of home with cat interruptions and AC kicking on
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Administrative Information

Workflow Process	Name	Date
Cover Sheet Completed By:	Katie Sweet	April 30, 2026
Index Completed By:	Kaite Sweet	April 30, 2026
Transcript Completed By:		

Narrator's Name: Cheryl Hammer
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Interview with Cheryl Hammer Transcript

Narrator's Name: Cheryl Hammer

Interviewer's Name: Katie Sweet

Date of Interview: April 30, 2026

Location of Interview: St Charles, MO

Transcript Completed By: Katie Sweet

Transcript Edited By:

Additional Notes: Recording prior to consent is deleted, as is chat regarding photos

KS: Today is April 30th, 2026. I am here with Cheryl Hammer. We are here in St. Charles and so do I have your consent to use your interview for my digital history project and eventually the ICOC.

CH: (01:46) Yes, you do.

KS: Excellent. So we can officially begin now. All right.

CH: Great to be here with you, Katie.

KS: Excellent. So my first question, it's a tough one, what's your testimony?

CH: My testimony?

KS: Yeah.

CH: Okay, give me a timeline. Give me, give me a time approximately you would like this to be within.

KS: Um, just like if you were someone, you were gonna give your testimony just in general. Mm-hmm. Just here for all of it.

CH: I just want to be sensitive to this [gestures to the digital voice recorders], I'll probably give you a condensed version.

KS: Okay.

CH: (02:18) If that's okay. I have a sensitivity to it. And then one day you can give me that. Well, I grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada. So I went to Dalhousie University for my degree in education. So I went there and my backdrop was kind of United Church of Canada, Protestant faith. My mom was Catholic, so I did go to mass once in a while with my grandparents. But I definitely went into college kind of looking, you know. I was in the dorms having a good time, but I'd go to church with a few friends, you know. If they were going to church, I'd say, sure, I'll come with you.

And so it was definitely, I'll say, gently seeking. And I lost my mom to cancer when I was 12. So I always had kind of a hole, I'll say, in my heart of grief and of loss. And that really formed so much of who I was. I also grew up in a farm where I was the oldest, so everyone pitched in and did their work. So I remember being in college, waking up on a Saturday morning feeling really, like, kind of bored. Like, shouldn't I be doing something? It was a really foreign feeling. So yeah, so I was living my Christian life, not Christian life, sorry, my life in the world. And then fast forward to my junior year of college, and I'm still in the dorms, living in the dorms, loving the dorms. And I was also playing college basketball for the university. And that was a big part of my identity. Yeah. And I got a phone call that was back when you had, you know, phones with the cord. And so I went and I answered it. It was my Aunt Doris, my granddad's sister-in-law. And she let me know that my mom's mom, my grandmother, had passed away suddenly from a heart attack. And that was devastating to me. It was, she was the closest female next to my mom in my life as far as trust. You know, would send a care package, give me some money, take care of me, give me my favorite soda or pop, you know. And so she just, from the time I was little, always felt very looked out for by her. Yeah. So that was a very, I share that because it was so significant. That loss was so significant to me seeking God. Yeah. So I went home, you know, a lot of tears, a lot of sadness. But I remember coming back and just reading my Bible. Like, a lot. If I had some free time, I would just get my Bible out and read it. And I read it growing up. Like, I'd start in Genesis. You know, halfway through Genesis, it would be back under my bed. But then it didn't, I didn't do that. It didn't go under my bed. I just kept reading and reading. I remember loving

Proverbs. It made so much sense to me and practical. And so, yeah. So I was reading my Bible a lot. There was a group called Navigators. It's kind of a disciple, discipling type group, not necessarily affiliated to any one church. But I would say I joined it, but I went to a bunch of other functions.

And, you know, I was just seeking, really seeking God and truth. Summer came, went home. I got a boyfriend for the summer. Kind of lost track a little bit of my spiritual momentum. Wasn't really reading my Bible. Then went back to school that fall. And a friend of mine on the basketball team was just an international level player. She was on the Canadian national team. Anna Pendergast, a dear friend. And on the team was another classmate, Heidi Bauer, who was on an athletic scholarship at San Diego State. And the training for the 1984 Olympics was in Halifax for the women's national team. So my Anna's friend had to take a year off school and move to Halifax to train for the Olympics, you know, for 84. So Anna reached out and said, would you be willing to move out of the dorms? I was probably about a month into my junior year in the dorms. And she said, would you be willing, able to, and get an apartment with my friend? She needs a place to live. And I remember going, yeah, never matter. Didn't really know. I mean, I trusted Anna. And so Heidi rolls in and she was six feet, hilarious person, and a woman of great faith. And so we started spending time together looking for an apartment. And she invited me out to church. Well, she had gone to the Church of Christ in Poway, or in San Diego, and she was pretty young in the faith. So she asked Anna, look in the Yellow Pages. This is Yellow Pages days. See if you see a Church of Christ. And she found a Church of Christ. Okay, I'm coming. And so I went out, I went to church with her. And there was, it was a beautiful little church. Had their own building, and it was probably around, you know, 40, 50 members. Minister and his wife were wonderful. And I began going every Sunday with Heidi. And then she asked me if I'd look at some scriptures. And kind of tied into that, at that point, I had been on the women's basketball team. This is a significant moment in my conversion, because the coach had met with me the year before, at the end of the season, and talked about my role on the team, and how important it was. Now, I was not the best player. I was a benchwarmer. I came off the bench. But I was a unifier, and I was a, I worked hard. So when you have a benchwarmer working hard, it calls everybody up. So she basically talked to me about that role, and how I was basically guaranteed a spot for the next year. And I was also a coach, I was learning to coach. My long-term goal, I was going to be coaching, teaching high school, or teaching, teaching in a school setting, and coaching women's basketball, and would send players back to Dalhousie. So there was a long-term plan. She was going to help me find a job. So it was all part of a package. And so I come back, and I'm trying out, and I'm like, these two girls, they were called the Twin Towers of Canada. They were both 6'3", and just good. I just started doing the math, going, how is she going to put me on this team? Who, who was she cut? They're better than me. But anyway, but I hung on to the fact that she told me. Well, she had a meeting with me and Anna, and basically I was cut. I wept, and she wept. We all cried. It was devastating to me. And so in that time is when Heidi arrives, right? Beginning of the school year, I get cut from the team. One, you know, all the players are, you know, they're sad. One's taking me out for Chinese food. One's taking me to a movie. One's saying, let's go, you know, let's go get a beer. Let's go down to the pub and drown our sorrows. And, and then Heidi says, let's go have a coffee. And she doesn't try to do anything with me other than listen. And she started asking me, how you feeling? I didn't know what to do with that because I stuck most of my feelings from when I lost my mom. I kind of had a, I just wasn't very in touch with my feelings. And then I had lost my grandmother that previous spring. And so I was just in a lot of, yeah, pretty out of touch. So I was really like, when she asked how I was feeling about certain things, I did not, I didn't really know how to answer that. But I mean, and then when we finished our first time, she gave me a piece of paper. We weren't yet, we hadn't yet got our apartment. And she said, read this when you get home. So I was staying at a friend's place. And I opened it up. And it was a scripture, not all the runners run in a race. Only one gets the prize. And it talked about running, running in such a way to win the prize. And it brought athletics. Yeah, it tied in athletics concepts with spirituality. And I remember reading that over and over. And that was kind of the beginning of the real hands on where she would sit down, asked me to study the Bible and begin looking at scripture together. Yeah, it was it was quite a quite a moment. And so in many ways, the loss of my grandmother, then the loss of my role on the team, or being on the team, both humbled me and kind of broke me. Yeah. In my search for Christ and search for answers. So we began studying the Bible. And it's probably mid September, and then October 30, 1983, I got baptized into Christ. Yeah,

that's it. And the minister and his wife, he got with me, you know, the day before, whatever, did a little Bible study to make sure. Let's see what these, this lady's teaching you. Heidi was tied into San Diego where she was baptized. So the minister's wife there, we talked on the phone a little bit too. She was making sure, making sure I was solid in my doctrine and my faith. And yeah, so I got baptized. And what was crazy, okay, is that night, my coach said I need to drop by. The basketball coach, Carol Savoy. And she said, I need to talk to you. And she asked me to be back on the team.

There was a situation with one of the players, they had to let go. And at the time, it was like, oh my goodness, yes, I'll be on the team. But looking back on it, it was like, it's like God allowed one of my, I'll say lords in my life, one of my, I don't know, you want to call it an idol or Lord in my life, something that I valued heavenly, yeah, was taken away. But I made Jesus Lord, I got baptized. He was like, he gave it back. He goes, okay, you can have this back now, now that it's in the right order. Yeah, so that was significant. And yeah, so then I, you know, went to church, grew my faith. Heidi was a dear friend to me. And that next summer, I went and spent in San Diego, two months. I went to San Diego State and took, I think it was genetics and biology. No, organic, what was it? It was genetics and I forget, doesn't really matter, but anatomy or something. So I could be in the states, go to school and just grow and be around people my age, because the church was full of people my age. And so I learned a lot, went on Christian dates and just got to experience what Heidi had told me about. I know from, it's like, did you move back to Canada or did you stay there? And then I went back. I had one more year of college. So I went back, finished my fourth year at university at Dalhousie. Yeah, yeah. So that's my, that's a condensed version of my conversion story. That, so I know it skips a lot.

KS: (14:09) So moving forward, how did you get to St. Louis?

CH: (14:15) How did I get to St. Louis? We were living in Los Angeles. We'd been in the ministry there for 31 years. We went there in 19, fall of 1993. Then we went there for one year of training. So I said, oh, it took me 31 years to get one year of training. But with Ron being American, after about nine months, they asked us if we'd be willing to stay. L.A. was the training grounds for the Canadian work. So Mark and Connie Mancini were bringing people in. He was overseeing Canada, bringing in ministers, giving them some more training, then sending them back. We were supposed to go back and leave the church in Vancouver, British Columbia. So they ended up asking us to stay, and we said yes. We weren't necessarily committing to any length of time other than, yeah, okay, let's do it. And so, yeah, we stayed and built and stayed in the same region. We moved around within the region, but literally were in the same region for 31 years. Went there with two babies, two baby boys, and they grew up. And our oldest boy, Michael, son, got married and at that point had three little children. And he had been wanting to move to the Midwest for, well, maybe his whole life. But he, you know, even before he got married, 10 or 11 years before that, he had, Lindsey knew, like he really wanted to be in the Midwest. And of course, her whole, she was converted, not converted, but grew up in California, born and raised. So her family was in the state, so she wasn't looking at making that kind of a move. But yeah, after some time, 11 years, she came to him and said, I'm ready. I'll do it. So Michael sent us a text and we're like, why is he texting? You know, he just normally just drops by because he just lived around the corner. And he said, I want to talk. And he sat down and said, we're ready. We want to move to the Midwest and raise our children there. Would you be willing to come with us? Could we do this together? Yeah. And we were like, oh my goodness. Okay. We can quit our years, our job of 31 years and randomly moved and hope we get a job. Anyway. So we said yes. And in the backdrop, we were being reached out to by the minister here, Vince Hawkins, him and Rod had done their master's program together. And he had been reaching out to him, asking him and wanting him to come to the Midwest. And we had been saying, no, thank you for honor, but no. So Rod had reached back out to him and said, okay, well, actually we're interested. Yeah. So that was kind of the backdrop to what brought us. So really in some ways I'll say God brought us, but really used our son, Michael.

KS: (17:04) And if I remember correctly, so the Muldons were leading, like when did the St. Charles region start?

CH: (17:12) Yes. And I will throw this in. Rod, my husband is from Iowa. And so another blessing of this was that it brought us closer to his mom and his younger brother. His mom is about three and a half hours from here. So that was another drawing card. And we had often talked about ministering in the Midwest, but once you're in a place 10, 15, 20, 30 years, you have such deep friendships. You're just, you're part of the fabric of not just the

church, but the community. So we were just deeply immersed in the community in so many different ways that it just couldn't even imagine leaving it. So it was a big, big move for us. So your question on St. Charles ministry, obviously, in your talk with Linda Bull, you probably got a better picture of this than I can share with you.

KS: (18:02) Well, I got like this, when they started praying for it and like, she was like, this is never going to happen. And then it's like, okay, we're doing it. And then, oh, the hammers and her kind of going, the Muldons.

CH: (18:17) It had some false starts. So I'm told, not when I was here, but before we got here, it had, it was definitely the dream and vision of many people over many years. Pandemic, I think kind of put a stall that stalled it out. So yeah, at the Muldons, we arrived here June of 2024. That's when we came in. Father's Day. It was Father's Day service was our first official service. So I don't have the exact dates, but I think the Muldons, I think they'd kind of started like worshiping together regularly earlier that year.

KS: (18:53) Yeah. It sounded like it was the end of the previous year,

CH: (18:56) beginning of like right around when they got the 20, you know, the 80, 20, 80, 20 church building, whatever you want to call it office, more of an office space. Yeah. So we, we came in June. We interviewed probably April. I think came started in June. The Muldons had been here for really a short period of time, as far as with St. Charles specifically. Yeah. They got the job in Kansas city, and then Vince, this job opportunity opened up and Vince offered it to us. And we said, yes, we'd love to. That'd be wonderful. It's like,

KS: (19:29) what was that interview process like?

CH: (19:33) We came in for a weekend. They put us up in a Airbnb in St. Charles, north of the 70. And we met, I think the first night we met with some of the stakeholders in the church, elders and their wives over at the Tucker's home, Patrick and Linda Tucker's home, and just really got to know each other a lot. And just, you know, ask specific questions about our ministry, kind of things that we valued. And they shared some things about the church that were important and just sort of a relational connection. Yeah. And then on Saturday, then the next day, it was an open house. So anyone from, I'll say both sides of the river, of course, they wanted those that lived in the part of the St. Charles ministry to come by, but they let everybody know in the whole church. So people just came by and we just spent the afternoon getting to know people. And some of the ladies had put some food out and drinks for everybody. And yeah, it was a great time. And then we had met as well, talked on the phone some, but then I met with Vince and Robin as well and talked through just what it would look like and expectations. So it was kind of a three or four different dynamics, different size groups interacting, not just for them, just for both of us kind of get to know each other.

KS: (21:04) When you first got here, having that moment, did it feel like God is definitely bringing us here to St. Louis, St. Charles? How did it feel to be in this place? Kind of when we were interviewing that first weekend when we moved here. When you were first kind of getting to visit here. I'm just thinking about, so Michael and I, two years before we, I think it was two, Michael knows better. I think it was like 2022 that we were out here for a fountain pen show. And that as we were just, we were meeting up with a sister and as we were just waiting for her, I was like, you know what? It's like, I love our life in Phoenix. I love being there, but if we had to move, like this is totally our vibe. It's like, did you have that kind of moment?

CH: (21:52) I think it really made me feel like where I grew up. I grew up in a very rural, more rural than the suburbs of St. Louis, but the green, I guess the spirit of the people, everybody waved. You know, you drive by, you always give a wave. It definitely felt closer to where I grew up. So I love that. I think at the same time, we were also emotionally had just said goodbye and made a move from very many, many deep relationships. Not that they were ending, but the frequency of seeing each other and kind of mourning that. So we kind of had a mixed, because we didn't leave because we were unhappy. We left to be with our grandchildren and to be in the Midwest. So we weren't running from anything. We were running to new hearts. And I always like to say, what helps me is to go, I'm not replacing friendships, I'm adding. Yes. Very much so.

KS: (23:01) I guess that gets us to the, what makes St. Charles Church unique? Like what makes it St. Charles or St. Charles, St. Louis? We go with both. What makes it unique?

CH: (23:13) I'd say it's the church itself is full of so many very seasoned spiritual veterans. That's the way I would have worded it. It's just people that are just salt of the earth, very deep and strong in their faith. Yeah. But then you

also have this mixture of young couples with newborn babies. I think our sixth newborn comes a week from Friday, a week from tomorrow. But just this sense of newness and young and youth. Yeah. So I think the church itself, we've only been here two years in June, but we just deeply feel close to this church. It's just full of every heart. It's just so special. Yeah. St. Charles County, of course, is one of the fastest growing communities, counties in the U.S. through the 90s, through the 2000s. So it's just growing exponentially. Yeah. The whole county, now you got, what's out there? Wentzville? What's that? It's like the movie, The Grinch. You know all the names of the, like Cobbleville, Wentzville. It sounds like these little, like The Grinch's Stole Christmas, some of the names. So anyway, yeah. So Wentzville now is, I believe, one of the fastest, definitely the fastest growing community, I think, in Missouri and one of the fastest in the U.S. So it's just feels, as far as a church, I look at it not so much where are we at, but the vision for the future. Yeah. So it's just got not only so many, I'll say, St. Louis and Louisian people, I don't know what you want to call them, local locals, but then you have so many people either moving into the suburbs from the city or just people moving in from other parts of the state, maybe other countries, states. Like it's just got that feel of growth and opportunity. And so I love that when your church is in a community where it's not stagnant. It feels, yes, very deep-rooted. St. Louis, I can see the people from St. Louis are very deeply rooted, have a strong culture, very loyal, love their city, care for their city, a lot of great traditions that they hang on to, whether it's the cardinals or the all the different things. What is it that the ooey-goey butter cake? Pork, what is it? The pork, barbecued pork, when they do the grill on the grill.

KS: (25:56) The burnt ends?

CH: No, those are good too. Those are good too. But yeah, there's so many different things within the culture that are very strong. And I love that. I love that. But I would say it's also hard to be, like, I'm coming in new. And so I love, I grew up in a community where you knew your roots back to the 1700s. Oh, wow. You know, my ancestry on my mom's side, my dad's side. My dad's side and my grandfather's side, my mom's dad's side goes back to the late 1600s, 1700s in that part of the country. So I'm very rooted by nature in where I grew up. So that's been one of the things, I'll just say overall, my faith that I really had to rely on God being the new, you know. No, I wasn't born and raised in California. No, I wasn't born and raised in Missouri, but not putting identity into that and putting my security in Christ. Yeah. And learning about the culture that I'm in and welcoming it. But not losing my identity in Christ when I'm the newbie, you know, that's just a personal thing I have to always kind of be conscious of. I know for myself, there's been moments where, like, the Southwest comes out and it's a bit more Midwestern. And, like, Missouri is something Midwestern and, yeah, it's just... But St. Charles is a wonderful county and we have great vision for all that God's going to do. Yeah. And being able to get the church building was kind of a, it was a miracle.

KS: (27:34) Yeah, that's going to be one of, we'll make it the next question, like, how did we get the St. Charles building?

CH: (27:40) Yeah, it was a miracle. I'll just say, we always say God kept throwing it back into our laps because we needed to find a place following 8020. They had come to us, actually, our first time sitting down with them. We were with the Moldons and us and them doing the transfer of people. And they're like, so Bill, how's it going with finding another place? But they'd only been there a few months. And he goes, well, it's been pretty busy, you know, with us moving. And what had happened is they had an evening Sunday service. We had the morning and they wanted to start a morning service. So they actually, even though we were in a one-year full contract, they had asked us kind of, I'll say, out of goodwill, if we'd be willing to kind of move out. But of course, they wouldn't force us out because we were in a contract. So we started looking right away, like schools, other churches, Seventh Day of Venice, because they worship on Saturday, went straight all the way to the board. They never rented out, but they were considering it. But then they said no. Yeah. We hit a lot of walls, a lot of no's. And we're like, I remember with the Seventh Day of Venice, Ron and I driving, I think we're on the 94 going, and I just remember going, Ron, there's God must have something better. But of course, when I said that, I had no idea what that was. Had we gotten that, we never would have been in our church building because we would have had full use of the building every Sunday. And it would have been a dream come true in our eyes, right? Children's ministry classes, et cetera. But they said no. So in the meantime, Ron had Johnny Grant, a real estate agent, basically put us on for any, to go out into more industrial, like anything that was for rent. At this point, we're like, is there a cement mix truck

company that we can stay in Sunday? No, I'm joking. But so he did that. Well, then this church popped on and then it went off. It went into escrow. Oh, okay. Came back on in the mid fall, mid late fall. And so Ron had Johnny just look into it. And that was the beginning of the journey. I don't know if you want this kind of detail, but they were asking 1.1 million there was land just down the road with nothing on it, similar size for 1.5 million.

It definitely seemed to be a fair, a fair price. We did not have 1.1 million. It went to the board, our church board, and they basically said the most we could ever pay. We don't want another, we don't want a mortgage and we could pay \$645,000. And so we were like, that is extremely generous, but of course no one's going to take your \$645,000 for your \$1.1 million building. And so ended up they, they were like, okay, we can come down a little. They came down a little, I forget the number, but a little, not anywhere close to 645,000. And so in the meantime, Brian Gross, our finance guy reached out to the current insurance company and just kind of more, how much would insurance be for if we got this building kind of doing some due diligence. And they said, oh, we know that building. That's uninsurable. That building is uninsurable. And so he brought that and we're like, oh, like what don't we know? So our real estate agent went back to theirs and he had no clue. So he did his research with the board of that church. And what came out is there had been two claims just happened to be the same insurance company that we currently use that they knew, but they can't disclose. So what happened, there've been two floods, two water damage, and one had been from the way that the ground was, it had flooded the walls of the sanctuary and the offices and potential mold damage. Et cetera. So I was like, oh, but they had never fixed the root problem. So they patched it up, but they did not fix the root. So the insurance company knew this and they were not sure. And then they went back and said, well, if we did buy it and we fixed the root, would you insure us? Nope. We don't want anything to do with that building.

So that put the other board, the church, the people representing that church, they were starting to get tired because they hadn't had a buyer. Now they have this insurance claim that's in the light and it's a big issue. And Johnny, meanwhile, and meanwhile, we're all praying. So we're praying for God to open doors if it's his will. Many moments we're like, we just need to rent a place. We're not trying to buy anything anyway. And, uh, but it just, like I said, it kept coming back in our lap and then, uh, and then the Johnny, meanwhile, was building a friendship with this other guy, the landlord of the church building. And he came back at one point and said, you know what, Johnny, I think just give us a number. I think, I think they just want to sell it. And they came back. Johnny said, okay. And he came back. He said, 645. And they came back. Yes. Oh, unbelievable. It's just shocking. And I'm leaving out some parts where they came down to eight something at one point and we said, no, you know, 200,000 over. So there was more to it than I'm giving you. Yeah. I'm trying to do Reader's Digest, even though it's a little longer than Reader's Digest. So then they said yes. Mm-hmm. And then they ended up paying for the mold remediation. Oh, wow. I think it was 13 and a half thousand dollars. They paid for that. Oh, fantastic. So it actually, we got it for 430 something. And, uh, we had to cover the repair work after. Uh, but it was just a miracle how we got that building. Yeah. And we prayed over, we would go over there and pray. Uh, at that point, it was looking like, wow, this could be exciting. But we really didn't, we really didn't feel like we needed it to get the gospel out in St. Charles County. Yeah. And I think God said, you do.

I want you to have it as part of your, your, uh, your outreach. Yeah. And, uh, it was, it's such a gift. Yeah. We haven't, you know, it's, it's wonderful also to not have a mortgage. We cover obviously utilities. Uh, we had to put a new roof on it. The church was very generous and gave some significant money to, we painted the whole thing. The whole church came together and we worked together and painted and cleaned and got rid of a lot of stuff that was in there. And it was just a very bonding members started giving, you know, significant chunks of money to, you know, redo both all three bathrooms. Um, people just came together and to make it our home. It's been a wonderful, wonderful new home for us.

KS: (34:57) What are some, like, I know you probably have a lot, but what are some of your favorite memories of these last two or almost two years that you've been here in St. Louis, St. Charles?

CH: (35:07) I think some of my favorite memories is, okay. One memory is we're in the building and just everyone painting, cleaning, scrubbing, just the teamwork. Yes. Uh, bonding and getting to know each other without even knowing that's what we were doing.

Sure. You know, it was just, um, tied into that was there was a, um, it was kind of a big wood diaper changing thing in the upstairs bathroom that was a bit ominous. Like you're sitting in the bathroom going, what is that? It was just this huge baby carved out of wood. Um, and just everyone's and just everyone's reaction to it was, it was very bonding. We all laughed about it and then going up and I was videotaping and taking pictures of some of these memories and I go in and there's Julie Schrader with the drill, taking the screws out of that thing and Jim Troutman and, and just watching them. And it was heavy. I think probably weighing, you know, 70 pounds, like just taking it off the wall and laughing and just, and we still have it. It's still back in the very back room, you know, waiting for some lucky buyer. I can't throw it away. It's too good of wood. Um, yeah, that's a memory. Um, you know, so many potlucks, we've had so many great meals together, shared meals. I think personally, um, when we got here, uh, the whole family group had us over for a taste of St. Louis. And it was wonderful. And they had all the different things, you know, foods that are special to here. And it was a wonderful time. Well, what happened is the Schrader group caught wind of this and they were like, oh, we've been outdone. And so the Troutmans had a huge taste of St. Louis at their house and they, they, they went above and beyond. You can tell they were like, okay, whatever happened over there at the bowl house, we are going to like multiply it. And you can tell it was, we laughed about it, you know, taste of St. Louis. I think, you know, seeing so many hearts, I mean, I won't go into all this, but we've just had so many hearts restored. Uh, we've begun baptizing, Kadisha getting baptized, you know, in the fall.

KS: (37:37) Was she the first person baptized?

CH: (37:39) I think some of my favorite memories is, okay. One memory is we're in the building and just everyone painting, cleaning, scrubbing, just the teamwork. Yes. Uh, bonding and getting to know each other without even knowing that's what we were doing.

Sure. You know, it was just, um, tied into that was there was a, um, it was kind of a big wood diaper changing thing in the upstairs bathroom that was a bit ominous. Like you're sitting in the bathroom going, what is that? It was just this huge baby carved out of wood. Um, and just everyone's and just everyone's reaction to it was, it was very bonding. We all laughed about it and then going up and I was videotaping and taking pictures of some of these memories and I go in and there's Julie Schrader with the drill, taking the screws out of that thing and Jim Troutman and, and just watching them. And it was heavy. I think probably weighing, you know, 70 pounds, like just taking it off the wall and laughing and just, and we still have it. It's still back in the very back room, you know, waiting for some lucky buyer. I can't throw it away. It's too good of wood. Um, yeah, that's a memory. Um, you know, so many potlucks, we've had so many great meals together, shared meals. I think personally, um, when we got here, uh, the whole family group had us over for a taste of St. Louis. And it was wonderful. And they had all the different things, you know, foods that are special to here. And it was a wonderful time. Well, what happened is the Schrader group caught wind of this and they were like, oh, we've been outdone. And so the Troutmans had a huge taste of St. Louis at their house and they, they, they went above and beyond. You can tell they were like, okay, whatever happened over there at the bowl house, we are going to like multiply it. And you can tell it was, we laughed about it, you know, taste of St. Louis. I think, you know, seeing so many hearts, I mean, I won't go into all this, but we've just had so many hearts restored. Uh, we've begun baptizing, Kadisha getting baptized, you know, in the fall.

KS: (39:57) We're, so in 2016, there was the REACH conference. Were you, yes. Did you attend?

CH: (40:05) Yes, we were here.

KS: (40:10) So what are your favorite memories from the REACH conference?

CH: (40:20) Well, I heard lots of great spiritual lessons, but I also went up in the, uh, arch. Michael did too. And that was a great memory. And we went to the Cardinals game, uh, lots of great lessons. I remember Jeff Mantle being up there at the end. He did a big play at the end and that was fun. And yeah, just being in St. Louis. Oh, what a cool city. This is a great city and, um, great memory. And then after a very special memory after, as we went down to a place that we had been before, but the current river, Jack's Fork record, a river in Southern Missouri and did a float trip. Oh, fantastic. Yes. And, um, you know, so we had a connection to Missouri through our friends and ministers, Mark and Connie Mancini. And, uh, they had brought us here many, many years before, uh, on float trips. So we've probably done seven or eight float trips, you know, over many years and it's just South of here. So that was

one of the things we actually going back to excitement about being here. That's one of the special things, uh, is getting down there and doing a float trip.

KS: (41:27) So, um, some of my other random questions, um, that what are your memories with the Henry Creed letter?

CH: (41:31) Oh, memories with Henry, 2003, that letter, the letter. Yep. Um, well, unique to me is I actually, uh, have been very close to Henry and Marilyn. Oh, okay. In fact, just messaged her a couple of weeks ago. So yeah, I lived with Henry and Marilyn, uh, in 1985, my first month in Toronto, but they were, uh, Mark and Connie Mancini, Henry and Marilyn Creed co-led the mission planting to Toronto in 1985. Okay. And, uh, I was on that mission team. So I moved, I graduated from Dalhousie university, you know, went back and did my last year there. And in the meantime, through council of San Diego, they're like, there's a, cause I'm Canadian. I can't live in the U S really. Uh, where am I going to grow in my faith? As wonderful as that little church was in Halifax. Yeah. Uh, yeah, I just, I knew spiritually I needed to be more challenged. I need to be in a, maybe a more dynamic growing type situation. And I wanted to learn. I was very, very hungry spiritually. I wanted training. And so just, I'll say God's timing. I know he didn't do it just for me, but I I'm thankful for the timing is that launching of that mission team to Toronto in 1985. I graduated April, 1985 from university. The planting was that summer. Oh, fantastic. So I was able to, I reached out to Marilyn. I gave her a call and just said, Hey, I'm Cheryl Smith. Hi Marilyn. You don't know me, but I, can I move there? You know, I want to go on this mission team. I'm Canadian, you know, cause a lot of them are Americans. So to find a Canadian was kind of a big deal. Uh, so again, come on down. So I lived with Henry and Marilyn in Boston for a month, lived with some single sisters for a month. And then we, I drove with Henry and Marilyn to Toronto from Boston. Uh, so I know them, I know them back in the early days and I just love them. Uh, I'll just say Henry, Henry is an amazing creature and just, um, very, um, descriptive and very, like he would take you and you talked about relationship with God and really help you visualize it in a way that very gifted. Yeah. So we were there with them in 1985. I was there. Sorry. Um, so, you know, we stayed connected, uh, cause I ended up, I was there.

Then I ended up, uh, going to Boston a couple of years later and going on a mission team to Mexico city, 1987. Uh, so Marilyn and I stayed connected. Henry and Marilyn were at one point, where were they? They were in Africa, I think. Yeah. Lagos, Nigeria. And he came back, he had a fever, was sick. Anyway, they stayed at our house. So I'm, I'm connected through years. Okay. So then fast forward 2003, this letter comes out. I have a relational connection. I know the way Henry thinks, I know the way he writes, the way he speaks. Um, very descriptive. And so the letter was, it was Henry as far as very descriptive, very big words. Everything's big. God is big, but everything's big. And so I got that when I, when I read it, uh, and seeing it through knowing him, you know? So I would say in LA, probably about two years prior to that, early two thousands, we were already making some significant changes. I'll say systemically as a church. Yeah. Um, so there was already a lot of, I'll say good changes, needed changes were going on. Um, so it wasn't to me, uh, it wasn't devastating to me. It's like, yeah, there's things we need to change and there's things that we are changing and there's more to change. Um, I would say for our ministry, we were leading. Um, it did great through it. Okay. Fantastic. Um, and I'll tell you later, we have our feelings on why, because there were parts of our church, as you're doing the history that were really devastated and really, um, lost a lot of members. There's just a lot of pain, a lot of hurt. Um, what helped us is we had moved there in 95 or sorry, 93 letter came out 10 years later. We were in the same area for that 10 years. And it was a very small ministry that we were leading when we got there that grew. So we were like 30, 40 people. So now you're 2003, it's, you know, 350, right? So we've got 350 members that you have studied the Bible with, had in your home for dinner, held their babies when they were born, had, you know, uh, been there and married them. Yeah. Um, counseled through Thompson and the, and vice versa them there for us through seeing our, being there, watching our babies grow up and, uh, family times. And so there was so much, not that we had lots of, um, we were far from perfect, but there was such a trust. Yeah. Um, so some of the stuff, the people that read it were like, well, okay, well, that's not good. If that's happening, but we don't feel that here. Yeah. So people, the local ministry actually grew that year financially in numerically, um, probably some of our biggest issues were stuff coming from outside of that and more like what's going on, you know, and having to manage that. Yeah. Um, so it kind of for us emotionally was, you know,

probably the hardest part of it. I'm trying to think back here to the timing, but, um, Mark and Connie Mancini who led our region were overseeing Canada. Um, and they remember they were on the co-led the team with Henry Merrill back in 85. So here we are in 2003, they were still overseeing all the Canadian work, geographical sector leaders, but that whole level of leadership was gone through that just like overnight gone. Yeah. Um, which was really hard because they had such a deep love for Canada and it really, given the last, um, you know, 20 years, almost 18 years to the work of Canada. So that, you know, it was hard to watch that. Um, but they ended up through a number of things, ended up stepping out of the ministry. And so that was really, really hard. Yeah. Yeah. Um, now they're back in the ministry, you know, fast forward, they're back in, they've been moving the church in Dallas doing a great job and they're retiring like tomorrow, you know, the next, in the next few months here, uh, and, and, and much deserved, uh, retirement, but, uh, yeah, so that was hard. Yeah. Uh, watching other people we love dearly affected.

Yeah. Um, because see the way it was set up, whatever geographical world that you led, they all also helped finance your salary. Yeah. So part, not all of it typically, but some of your salary was covered by the area you took care of. So now that's gone, it was just gone overnight. Um, so, you know, Ron and I were like our ministry, you know, you can come just be with us for now. And, you know, we were physically probably quite a ways away, same region, but about 45 minutes away as far as driving every service. But anyway, they stepped out and they, you know, they did well through that time and love the Lord and very faithful and helped build his church, um, you know, during those years. So we're very inspired and proud of them. Yeah. You know, still they're very, very dear friends and they're the ones that got us down the Missouri river. Um, yeah. Any other questions on that? I don't know.

KS: (49:26) Yeah, no, it's just, uh, talking with Michael, it was kind of funny. I feel like I've been asking people about the letter and my whole disciple walk. Yeah. I really have about this because I was baptized six months before the letter came out. And, um, so, and I was in campus ministry, so we're very insulated from a lot of stuff. Um, and so it's one of those, since then I have been asking, yeah, like, what was your experience? What I'm not actually read the letter. Right. Um, I'm just kind of more curious about the reactions and people's experiences and the feelings and kind of like, why was this such a thing? Um, and so it's just been very interesting to hear different perspectives.

CH: (50:03) Well, I think one of the challenges was anytime a group is growing fast and the bigger a group gets, I'll say the lead person or couple is more removed from more people. Yeah. So trust is more tested. It's more given versus I'll say relationally earned. Yeah. And, um, and the ministries I saw affected the most, like in a negative way, as far as if you want to just say we're, we're two, one, one was where there'd been a lot of transitions. Yeah. Um, like there were some ministries in LA that had had a lot of changes in leadership. So the, I'll say that Christians had had so many changes that probably there was already a culture of a lack of trust. Yeah. So someone over here, you never met, write a letter and some of the things said ring true to you. Yeah. It feeds into that. Yeah. Um, and then, and then the ministries also, they did what were called, uh, open forms where they just would have these meetings and people would just start sharing their negative feelings. And it was like a firestorm. Yeah. Those really hurt people's faith. Yeah. Not to say I'm not here to judge someone's opinion, but it wasn't, I would say that the most spiritual way to resolve feelings,

KS: (51:36) It sounded like, like the intention was good, but the actual reality was, yeah, it actually, yeah. It hurt people. It hurt.

CH: (51:41) Yeah. It hurt people's faith. And maybe you weren't feeling something, but someone else's all worked up. So, um, yeah, I'm going to join them. And it kind of put thoughts and feelings into people that maybe weren't even always there. And, uh, and then a lot of leaders, you know, because of the intensity and at times sinfulness of the approach, it ended up, you had staff people just going, I'm out. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I'm not, I'm not dealing with this. Um, and so you lost, you know, staff, full-time staff through it. Yeah. Um, the irony, this is kind of a personal thing that's kind of funny to me. I don't know if it's funny, but, you know, being in the ministry, one of the complaints was, oh, the staff's making too much money, you know, all that. And so, um, so they did following the letter, do a full analysis and evaluation and just compared price, uh, your salary compared to a teacher, you know, the teacher, the world of a teacher within the educational world. And so they, and then they come up with, it was called the Hay Model, which is a professional model inside of the church. So they did all this and they discovered

after outside consultation, no one in the church hiring someone to do this, that the church staff was underpaid compared to other churches. And in this role, so I think everyone got a pay rate. Those that were still left. Um, and we always had two weeks vacation. You can be in a ministry 50 years, you got two weeks and one had to be Christmas.

Right. Um, so we, if you were in a ministry full-time 10 years or more, you got four weeks. So something that many people just see the negative and negative, but it actually was a time of evaluation. Yeah. Not only of some things, yeah, we needed to change in a particular leadership being more gentle and kind. Um, uh, there were situations where people were not being taught to in a way that was appropriate. So, you know, stuff like that was coming out. Yeah. And so that needed to be repented of. I have to say that the church's overall response for me, like coming at like being six months old was it was affirmation. I was in the right place. Right. Cause I had grown up in a church where you didn't like try to correct the pastor. Right. And so to see leadership go, Whoa, yeah, let's go back to the drawing board. Let's like fully evaluation of this. Uh, it was confirmation. So it was faith building, willing to admit wrong. Yeah. Let's do it different. And I think that's the reason why that question about the letter is something I always kind of asked because, um, right after seeing other people react very negatively, I heard it was like, why isn't this encouraging your faith? So it's a good point. Yeah. And it's, it's, uh, I think it all depends on the individual, because if you feel like either were or feel like you were, uh, treated wrongly. Yeah. And you feel like it's an isolated or a few, but then you go, Oh, this is beyond me. Yeah. You got several things to do with it. One is you, you forgive, uh, which can lead to the, you know, to healing or you join in with the, say vitriol, you know, attacking mode and try to, you know, bring hurt and, you know, hurt people, hurt people. Yeah. Uh, so when you feel hurt by nature, not spiritually, uh, from the source of God, but spiritually, um, sorry, when you hurt, when you're hurt, you want to hurt someone else. That's human nature. Not saying it's right. Yeah.

KS: (55:20) That was actually the exact phrase. I, when I was talking with Michael last night after interviewing Matt and just like all the different stories I've heard. And, um, yeah, just seeing how hurt people hurt people, um, especially in those more open forums.

CH: (55:35) Yeah. And then relationally, you know, in our church, as you know, we're so relational. Yeah. So if you go to a fellowship, it's not very relational. You actually decrease the chance of hurt. Yeah. Because it's hard to hurt someone you don't know. Yeah. And even if you do do something wrong, you don't care as much because you don't know that person. You just move on with your day. Whereas when you build family, just like in our physical families, so much pain in physical families when we hurt one another. Why? Because you're my family. Yeah. So same thing in the church family. Uh, it is the challenge of building family and doing it in a way that's godly, spiritual, healthy, healthy boundaries.

KS: (56:17) You know, it's, I've been very grateful, um, for the openness where, um, that I grew up in a family where my mom, um, was in kind of an emotionally, verbally, sort of like with her, like you didn't show weakness. And my dad who raised me was very much a similar situation. So there wasn't that lesson of how you like deal with conflict. Yeah. It was like you avoided at all costs and then it explodes and then we're just going to pretend it's okay. We're just like, everything's okay now. Yeah. And, um, I didn't realize, um, how like the pattern set up with disciples. Like I was so used to it that if I'm like being a stupid head, someone's like, whoa, whoa, whoa, here's the Bible. You're being a stupid head. Um, it was right before my wedding, like two months before where like my sister was feeling things, but she didn't want to say it to me. All of a sudden it exploded. And I'm just left like, what just happened? And my mom's like, well, you don't know how, um, Oh, what did she say? Like, um, like just like how mean you have been. And I'm like, why didn't you tell me? Like, I'm just so, I just assume people are going to tell me like, Hey, you've been very selfish here. You need to like re-evaluate. And it was just, I didn't realize I'd gone so used to it with disciples. We didn't practice it in my family and it just made me appreciate our culture of openness. And that I just, so just in case you're like, I, if I'm being a stupid head, yeah. Let me know.

CH: (57:43) Um, and vice versa for me too.

KS: (57:46) I am dependent on y'all cause I just like go by faith. Um, okay. So, um, close to at least the, before we talk about pictures, um, so in the old Testament, you know, when there was a great victory or great defeat, God's like, okay, Israelites build this, I call it like a pillar or sometimes pile of stone so that the future generations will be

able to ask and you can tell the story. So, um, in your walk, what are some of those pillars or piles of stones that tell great victories, great defeats?

CH: (58:18) How do I demonstrate them? Or what are, like, what would you consider?

KS: (58:20) Like, if you're like this pile over here, let's talk about it. Like, what are those kinds of moments?

CH: (58:30) Um, what would you like? Couple?

KS: (58:31) Yeah, just a couple

CH: (58:33) I would say a huge victory memory for me was, uh, being on the mission to New Mexico city and tell me if this is what the context you're looking for. But that, that for me was very life-changing because there's 13 of us, six of us did not speak Spanish. So now you have about seven that do. And, um, but a city of 20 million, you're going into evangelize and spread the gospel. So that was a very growing time for me because very humbling, right? Because I rely a lot on my community, my communication skills. Uh, I didn't realize it till I was there, how much I relied on that, being able to converse and just share feelings and thoughts and listen to feelings of thought, understand someone else and to be there and to be, you know, reading children's books and learning, you know, I was in class every morning, Monday to Friday in Spanish school, learning the language on the streets every afternoon, finding people to help me. Um, it was just a very life transforming time. Yeah. And then to see heart after heart, become Christians, get baptized. I went back for the year anniversary, went back to the 10 year and literally to be in a, this conference center, thousands of disciples, praises to God, mission teams that have gone out all over Latin America.

Oh wow. It's just one of those personally. Yeah. Again, what can I take credit for? I showed up. Yeah. I prayed. Yeah. Is it my eloquent speech? No. Was it, I know I found someone who was bilingual and would teach her the Bible study and then she would teach it in Spanish to someone we brought out. Like it was, you got creative, but you can take no credit. It was God. Um, and so I learned a lot of just being present, that being present and having faith. Yeah. Uh, and the more you feel inept, the greater chance of God doing something great. Yeah. Yeah. That's a big one for me. Yeah. As far as changing me, transforming me. Yeah. Um, so many, uh, so many, I mean, is that what you're looking for? Well, yeah, it's something that, yeah, perfect. Just that idea. Or are you looking for, what are things I've done to create that pile of rocks? Well, that, so this goes to like the ICSU project we're going to work on and that kind of does it for that next generation to be having these stories. Um, like I was thinking about when we came into the St. Charles building and one of the reasons I was hoping that the first lesson was somewhere because Ron was talking about the previous church and they're telling these stories and just thinking about like, they've had these great victories and these great defeats that like teach the next generation and help them be more faithful. And, um, so in this project wanting to have that for the next generation coming up so they could go like, okay, here is a moment of either great defeat or God, like was showing like exactly what you were talking about, the, like the transformation and just. Yeah. And on that note with that Mexico, the biggest lesson to me is not feeling, you got to have all your ducks in a row for God to work.

Like allowing yourself to be vulnerable as an individual or as a church. And yeah, just not waiting for everything to be perfect. Yeah. Stepping out on faith and, and again, sharing your faith in broken Spanish, but God will bring the open hearts. Yeah. You know, that's, that to me was a lesson I learned there on the mission team in Toronto as well, was, um, just being in a, for me, I grew up in a farm. So now I'm, and I've been in Halifax, which is a city of what, you know, 300,000 at a time. So now I'm in a city of millions living downtown Toronto, you know, very culturally so foreign and yet just getting the gospel out, sharing our faith and watching heart after heart be transformed. And so many of those faithful today, you know, friends for life. Yeah. So many, um, you know, I remember another milestone along that same line is when we first moved, uh, to Santa Clarita 19 years into our time in Los Angeles, uh, suburb, little suburb in town city and had a two-year college and they had no campus ministry. And we're like, oh, yeah, a lot of, a lot of, uh, middle-aged people here, kids, but we need a campus. And we kind of looked around, anybody wanted to like lead a campus, volunteer, and, you know, it's pretty quiet crickets. And, uh, so finally we're like, well, we don't feel like we have time to do that, but we'll open up our home. So every, every, uh, Tuesday night, we're going to have a Bible talk in our home for anyone who's like 18 to, you know, mid twenties. And literally within about three months, uh, our living room was packed and the stairwell all the way up the stairs

where people sit. Oh, wow. And it was just one of those miraculous stories of, you know, you show up, you put a mission out there and we didn't have, I had people who were starting to do Bible studies, uh, wanting to be restored. And I would go, okay, can you do a seeking God study with this person that came? Like I was having people not even coming to full faith helping other people because I didn't have helpers and everybody just helped everybody, you know, figure it out. And it's, it's a miraculous story of that. It began a campus ministry that, you know, was, you know, ministered to a lot of other churches in the Los Angeles church. You know, people would graduate and go into UCLA, Cumberdine and, and, uh, and UCSB, et cetera. So, but that was a milestone for my personal faith of watching God again, in that we don't have the people, we don't have the workers for this mission. Yeah. And just saying, God, we don't have the time. We don't. And just opening up our home, putting up some good snacks and God blew it out of the water. Just heart after heart, many, many, you know, over the years, hundreds of hearts became Christians through that time.

KS: (01:04:54) Fantastic. Um, so the next one, which you were ready for, what are your favorite verses that have really kind of helped you in your walk with God?

CH: (01:05:01) Um, okay. I would say, well, so many, I mean, yeah, it's, uh, so many amazing scriptures. It's like those ones where it's like, when you're in the thick of it and you're like this scripture, like it helps repel you. Okay. So well, there's a lot, but yeah. Hebrews. I mean, I'm literally going to three scriptures at once right now. I would say this is, this is the one that really gets me. Um, Hebrews 10, 35 to 39. Now, do you want me to read it? If you want to just get it to you, you can read it. Yeah.

So do not throw away your confidence. It will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised for just a very little while. He was coming, will come and will not delay, but my righteous one will live by faith. And if she shrinks back, I will not be pleased with her, but we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. I love that when always kind of, when I would, I would read this when I was, you know, shrinking back. Okay. Stop shrinking back. It was just very inspiring to me. I love that. I love that. I love that. I love that. I love that. Inspiring and don't throw away my confidence that I had through God. So that's one of my favorites. Yes. Um, then, uh, so many again with, uh, Ephesians. Um, so many Ephesians I keep quoting.

Yeah. Ephesians, the whole book, I'll take the whole book. Um, but Ephesians, uh, one, uh, I'm not going to read the whole thing just because it's really long, but 15 through 22. And I love, I'll just dive into like a part of it when he says, I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which you were called the riches of his glorious inheritance of the saints and his incomparably great power for us who believe that power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him in his right hand. And just knowing that that power, that we were given a baptism, that Holy Spirit power is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. That's like, Oh my goodness, that's an audit power. Yeah. Help me not to squelch it. Um, Psalm 62 is a classic Psalm 62, 63. Oh, the kitty has something to say. You want to be interviewed? Um, and then, um, let me go over to my Psalms and I have so many in the, uh, the old town. I'll tell you another one. It's one of my favorites. It's a very, it's a very sobering, serious scripture, but it's Jeremiah eight, the whole chapter. I'll read a couple of verses from it. It says, uh, it's talking about God's people. When they wandered, it says they cling to deceit. They refuse to return. I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. No one repents of his wickedness saying, what have I done? Each pursues his own course, like a horse charging into battle. And it goes on for seven, but my people do not know the requirements of the Lord. It's just, it's just powerful. And then you go over to the next end of it. And it just says, they prophets and priests all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. Peace, peace, they say where there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all. They do not even know how to blush. Then he goes on and says, I will take away their harvest, blah, blah, blah. So that one, our, our kitty here wants to be part of the interview. She's, Oh no, she's a good jumper. So I love this one, even though it's so sweet. Yeah. You coming to see us? He's going to join us. Um, it's always ministered to me because as a spiritual leader, I don't want to be that. Yeah. Yeah. And, uh, so I read it and I go backwards. Okay. They dress the wound of my people as though we're not serious. Okay. If someone has or myself, we have, uh, you know, if you're in a car

accident and you break your leg and you got a compound fracture, yeah. You don't go, Hey, I'll see you tomorrow. I'll hope it goes well. No, you get them in the ambulance, you take into the hospital, you probably need surgery.

Yeah. You deal with the wound. Yeah. So same thing in our spiritual lives. Um, the spiritual wounds, um, in my minimizing, starting with myself or others. Yeah. You're so sweet. Uh, those wounds and, and not saying peace, peace where there is no peace. In other words, living in kind of a pretending it's going to be okay, but it's not not. Yeah. Um, that makes sense. So that one always, always got me that I need to always dress the wound. Um, and again, starting with myself, um, and really taking sin serious. Yeah. Yeah. And anytime you choose not to that, um, that what'll happen, the results is, uh, you lose that, um, no shame. Like you get hardened. You don't even know how to blush. And then, then God says, I will take away their harvest. They'll just be the blessings, right? Um, God's going to, he will discipline us. Yeah. I don't love, care when needed. So yeah, it's, there's some great stuff in Jeremiah and Isaiah that have ministered to me over the years either corrected my course or kept me from taking a bad course. Yeah. That is, yeah. I've needed both. Yeah. And will in the future too. Yeah. Like many stories come to mind, like, yes, that is true. The times where God's like, here comes out the spiritual two by four and like got that path.

KS: This wasn't on the list, but what would be advice that you would give like a baby disciple?

CH: (01:11:32) What would be advice I would give a baby disciple? I would say, uh, develop. Okay. When you have a hunger for the word, yeah. You know, eat of the word, but when you don't feel that hunger, read it anyway. Like, so good old Jan Park. Uh, that so much of what happens in your spiritual life is you develop your, your, your, your walk and so much ministering with other people. If someone hurts your feelings or someone sins against you, um, whether it's a member of the church who's new to the church or someone, maybe a spiritual leader in the church that so much of your faith can't be yeah. Controlled or based on how people are with you. Now we are relational and we need to build family. Yeah. But to me being rooted in the word and your convictions, that your convictions are not based on how good the sermon was that Sunday. Yeah. Or did someone encourage you that week? Yeah. But those are all great things. It's wonderful to have a good sermon and it's wonderful to be encouraged. Yeah. But to really have, um, from the very early spiritual beginnings to really develop deep personal convictions on God's word. Yeah. I mean, there's so many other things, but that's yeah. Yeah. So many other things come out of that.

[01:13:07 Following discussion was about photographs]

KS: (01:25:32) Um, and so just to like wrap us all up is, is there anything else you'd like to add or did we like cover all the ground that.

CH: (01:25:39) Well, you had great questions. Um, let me think. I will interview you again in the future. Yes. Um, I would just say we, you know, we are very excited to be here in St. Louis and, uh, have great vision for the city. Yeah. It's, uh, just a wonderful, wonderful city. So I'm excited for, it's got a rich history. The church had the rich history of, uh, you know, just so many great victories over the years. Yeah. So we're, we're honored to be a part of that. Yeah. That, uh, that, what do you call it? Like a quilt. We're, we're happy to be a part of the big picture, you know, in the history of the St. Louis church gateway city.