

Road to a Billion Souls
by Pastor Tim Dilena

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SUMMIT:
Wishing You a
Merry Christmas
From Summit



Prayer Points

Globally

- 1 billion souls to come to Christ
- Peace of Jerusalem and a revival in the Middle East.
- The end of the Russian-Ukrainian war

Nationally

- The current and the next president and the transition
- A national awakening

Locally

- A revival in NYC—for a powerful outpouring of God to be felt in companies, schools, and on the streets

Individually

- Resistant family members to be touched by the Holy Spirit and return to Christ

Road to a Billion Souls

by Pastor Tim Dilena, *Senior Pastor*

More than a century ago, college football was revolutionized. The gridiron was characterized by running, kicking, and leather helmets. Then in 1906, the forward pass was legalized, making it possible to gain a lot of yards with the flick of the wrist.

However, during that season most teams stayed in their comfort zone and still ran the ball. They kept doing what they had always done, even though they had the capability of going further, faster. But St. Louis University (SLU) decided to break away from the pack. Their quarterback was the first to throw a forward pass. SLU switched almost entirely to the forward pass while every other college still ran the ball. It was an aerial assault. They went 11-0 and outscored their opponents 402-11.

While everyone else is running, Times Square Church is going to the air. It's time

to pass, and go further, faster. It's time to come out of our comfort zone!

In the Bible, the church at Antioch left their comfort zone. They did not look like other churches. They did not ask the people to be circumcised, yet people still came.

"So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began

**It's time to go further.
It's time to come out of
our comfort zone.**

Road to a Billion (continued)

speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord" (Acts 11:19–23, NASB)

Tough times create new venues for the Gospel. They were "scattered because of the persecution." But the persecution created something that would not have come into existence unless difficult times had come.

Some old-school people were "speaking the word to no one except Jews alone." But Antioch spoke to Greeks and a large number turned to the Lord as a result.

Barnabas could attest that souls saved is the true litmus test, not our comfortability: "Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all ... to remain true to the Lord."

Church, the way we know it to be is about to change for TSC. The hard times of the recent past will pale in comparison to what we're going to face. The pandemic was not the persecution of the church. The persecution that comes through the uncompromised preaching of truth of the Word is on its way. We will see persecution progress. Censorship on social media for those who preach the whole Gospel will

be termed as hate speech. Posts will be removed because "it doesn't align with community values." Some will have their 501(c)(3) tax-exemption status removed.. There will be fines for speaking out against sin and not marrying or hiring certain groups of people. The government will chain the doors of the church. I know this is coming. I know that TSC will have its doors chained by the sheriff because we will NOT compromise the Word of God.

Tough times create new venues for the Gospel.

I have carried this knowledge of future persecution in my heart for a while. I have been waiting on God for what comes with it, and my heart has been excited in anticipation. This is where the Road to a Billion Souls vision started. But when persecution came in the book of Acts, something else came with it:

"Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:46–47, NASB).

As the fury of the government rose, so did the favor of all the people. As opposition rose,

so did the favor of the population and daily salvations. Government opposition against the church is a signal for revival. This is where revival starts:

As the government says, "You can label yourself any gender you want," people will start turning to church and ask, "What does God call me?"

As the government says, "You can't pray," the people will say, "Pray for us."

As the government says "You can't teach this book," the people will say, "Teach us the Bible."

As the government says "You can't say anything about gender," the people will say, "Deliver us from bondage."

It's coming! We have to be ready for the church to explode outside of the church walls. How? Verse 47 says, "And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." Not weekly, not every Sunday, but day by day. Do you know why we invite people to be born-again every Sunday? It's not just so you can bring friends and family, but so you can hear it every week and know how to lead people to Christ daily! We are getting our nets ready. Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19, NASB).

There are two ways to fish: hook and net. You use a hook to catch a specific fish and a net to catch anything in the area. At TSC, we are net people.

Progression of the nets in the New Testament:

- 1. Mending** (Matt 4:20): Checking and repairing holes and rips so we don't lose fish. (Our new connect groups.)
- 2. Washing** (Luke 5:2): Constant removal of debris, junk, and dirt so it can glide through the water with ease.
- 3. Casting** (John 21:6): ABC's every week, moving to every day.
- 4. Drawing** (Matt 13:48): Keeping the fish. Working on new content and discipleship both online and in person.

Someone asked me to listen to a podcast a few weeks ago. The content did not inspire me, but some of the statistics did.



There are ...

- 600 million Buddhists
- 800 million Hindus
- 15 million Jews
- 1.5 billion Muslims
- 2.3 billion Christians (meaning that only 29% of the planet is Christian)

It not only inspired me, but it changed my life. I believe the Lord spoke to me, "Do this until

you die. Move the needle before you die. Believe Me for 1 billion souls!" To believe for an additional 1 billion souls moves the needle from 29% to 42% of the planet will be Christian.

Ways you can take part in the Road to a Billion Souls:

- Lead a connect group in your neighborhood, city, or country.

- Get trained at our Bible School next semester.
- Become a fisherman on your job, at your school, in your community, and wherever you go.

When we pursue the right thing God adds the increase! ■

Harry's Story

My name is Harry, and I'm a native New Yorker. I grew up in Ridgewood, Queens, as the middle child of three siblings. My family wasn't saved, but our parents made sure we went to Sunday school each week at a local Protestant church. I received my first communion at age 14, and after that, I only returned to church for weddings and funerals.

I was a good kid, went to school, and had big dreams. But as a child of the '60s, I fell into the culture of the time and began drinking and experimenting with drugs. My first job was in a pharmacy—it was like being a kid in a candy store!

I married young to a woman with similar habits. She loved drinking and using drugs, and you can probably guess where that marriage ended up. By then, I was an established blackout drinker, so cocaine became my drug of choice. The blackouts scared me because I feared I might hurt someone while driving, so I stopped drinking and focused all my energy on cocaine. My addiction grew to the point of auditory and visual hallucinations, but I couldn't stop.

One day, while shaving, I heard a voice that was different from the usual voices in my head. It said, "You're committing suicide." I stared at the razor, shrugged, and continued shaving. Two more times, I heard, "You're committing suicide." I finished shaving and thought it might be divine intervention, prompting me to begin a 12-step program through Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). I was told that if I followed the steps in the Big Book, I'd recover. I read it, attended meetings, and recovered from drinking and drugs. Life was better, but something was missing.

One day, my martial arts teacher, knowing

my history, asked how I was doing. I told him I felt like I was missing some kind of spiritual connection. He smiled and said, "I've got just the thing for you." He invited me to church, where I began studying the Bible with him and other men. Soon after, I decided to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior and was water baptized.

By following the instructions in the Bible—God's Big Book—I received... salvation and eternal life."

Eventually, I started attending a different church and got involved in the children's ministry. There, I met a lovely woman, a believer. We'd go out to dinner and ride my motorcycle together. After a couple of years, I got the courage to propose. After much thought—and what felt like an eternity—she said yes. Now, 26 years later, Maria and I are still grateful for each other and for Jesus.

It was Maria who introduced me to Times Square Church. For a while, I spent Sunday mornings with the children at my church, then joined her for the 3 p.m. service at Times Square. Soon, I became a full-time member there.

When it came time for retirement, Maria and I prayed earnestly for God's guidance. We took a trip to Florida to visit friends and explore options. There, we met Lori, a believer, who invited us to her church. That Friday, we found

a house that checked all our boxes, but I told the realtor we needed to find a church first. He looked puzzled but accepted a deposit to hold the property for three days.

On Sunday, we attended Lori's church, and the pastor's message ended with an altar call—the ABCs: Admit, Believe, Confess. Maria and I looked at each other in amazement. Maria heard God say, "I have found you a church before I have found you a home." We signed the contract the next day.

I feel blessed to be part of this church. I belong to an incredible ministry, and I'm honored to serve alongside such a group of godly men and women. We're not just a team; we're family. Although I'll miss this church, I believe God has a purpose for us in Florida. Due to some medical issues Maria needs to address, our departure is delayed, but we trust it's all in God's hands.

One day, I decided to visit one of my old 12-step meetings. An old friend approached me and asked, "Oh, so you don't go to meetings anymore? Are you cured?" I replied, "You know that higher power you talk about, the one I call God? Well, His Son and I are best friends."

Because I followed the instructions in the Big Book of AA, I recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. But by following the instructions in the Bible—God's Big Book—I received not only all its promises but also salvation and eternal life. God has rescued me from the dominion of darkness and brought me into the kingdom of His beloved Son. Hallelujah.



A Community Transformed Through Faithful Giving

In the heart of Medellín, Colombia, Rebekah Slick and a team of volunteers from her local church, tirelessly work, offering warmth and support to women and children affected by Colombia's displacement crisis and Venezuelan migration. Through the steadfast generosity of Times Square Church, this program goes beyond providing meals. It creates a family space, or "living room," where vulnerable women—single mothers, migrants, and displaced individuals—find a sense of belonging and the comfort of shared faith.

Through weekly gatherings, Rebekah, through her program TIKVA not only meets the immediate need for food but also nurtures the spirit. These meetings offer worship, Bible study, children's activities, and encouragement that reminds each woman she is not alone. Every meal and moment shared in this community is a tangible expression of Jesus' love, made possible by the faithful supporters.

Street Outreach: Reaching Out with Compassion

TIKVA Sala also reaches out to the streets, connecting with women and girls who have turned to survival methods they never anticipated. Many are in high-risk areas where they sell themselves to support children or aging parents. Through gentle words, compassionate support, and the promise of a new path with Christ, our outreach brings light into some of Medellín's darkest corners. Times Square Church supporters have made it possible for us to reach these women, offering them hope and a future.

As our team visits these areas, we encounter low-income housing filled with Venezuelan families and children exposed to drugs and exploitation. We are praying for the means to create programs for these young people, showing them a brighter path and preventing damaging choices.

Empowering Women Through Skills Training

Thanks to the consistent support from Times Square Church, we are launching a skills training program, equipping women in TIKVA Sala with income-generating skills. Most of these women lack legal status in Colombia, which limits their work options and makes survival precarious. Our training, focused on sewing and artisanal crafts, will offer these women a way to earn income, stay safe, and provide for their families, helping them avoid returning to the streets.

Partnering Locally and Globally

This ministry thrives through collaboration with Iglesia Transformación Global in Medellín and our home churches, Times Square Church and New Hope Community Church. With each generous gift, you help bring God's love to the most vulnerable and make transformative impact in their lives.

Thank you for your faithful support. You are an essential part of TIKVA Sala, bringing light, love, and lasting change to families in need.

Christmas—A Time to Worship

by Ricardo Sanchez

Times Square Church Music Department is pleased to announce the release of **“Christmas—A Time to Worship,”** a 5-song musical journey that unites voices, cultures, and hearts in the shared celebration of our Savior and the beauty, hope, and wonder of the Christmas story.

From the first note to the last, this project offers more than just a collection of familiar Christmas carols. It is a musical journey designed to deepen our connection to the true meaning of Christmas through worship, reflection, and celebration. Featuring timeless classics like “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” and “Joy to the World”, reimagined with fresh arrangements and powerful vocals, these beloved songs resonate in new and inspiring ways. Every track invites listeners into a sacred space of joy, reverence, and awe, reflecting the very essence of the season.

The unique collaboration between Executive Producer Ricardo Sanchez, Producer Jules Bartholomew, and the talented team of musicians and vocalists from the TSC Music Department has blended the richness of traditional hymns with modern worship elements, creating a sound that is both timeless and transformative. While Ricardo and Jules bring their deep expertise in contemporary worship and gospel music, the Times Square Church Music Department adds passion and dedication to each note, creating both a celebration and a reminder of the central theme of Christmas—the birth of Jesus.

At the core of this project is the collaboration between Ricardo and Jules, both highly acclaimed musicians and worship leaders in their



own right. The partnership, which began a decade ago while working on Hezekiah Walker’s **“Souled Out”** album, has blossomed into a shared vision that continues to inspire and shape Christian music at large, blending both Gospel and CCM visions into an international sound for all.

“Christmas—A Time to Worship” will be featured live at Times Square Church for the theatrical presentation of “Christmas on Broadway” from December 13th–15th and is available on digital music platforms worldwide.

CHRISTMAS
— ON BROADWAY —
DECEMBER 13, 14, & 15 • ALL SEATS FREE
JOIN US IN PERSON OR STREAM ONLINE AT TSC.NYC



Wishing you a Merry Christmas from Summit

As the fall semester draws to a close, we pause to reflect on all that God has done. It's been a season filled with growth, laughter, learning, and, above all, God's goodness. Together, we've encountered His truth in new ways, been shaped by His Word, and walked through moments that drew us closer to Him.

This Christmas season, we celebrate the One who came into our world to save and restore us. Isaiah foretold this beautiful promise: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). This miracle was the beginning of God's promise to bring salvation to all, and we rejoice in this incredible Christmas story!

This year, our students and staff have seen firsthand how Christ meets us individually, wherever we are, with His unfailing love. The gospel is not just something we study; it's the reality we live by and the truth we cling to. Our students have grown not only in knowledge but also in the transforming love of Christ, learning what it means to serve and to be equipped with light for the world around us.

We thank each of you—our TSC family, friends, and supporters—for walking alongside us in prayer and encouragement. Your partnership makes our work possible, and we look forward with anticipation to all that God will continue in the year ahead.

From all of us here at Summit, we wish you a very Merry Christmas! May the joy of Christ be with each of you in a special way, and we look forward to being with you in 2025.



TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

CONTACT

212.541.6300
info@tsc.nyc

CHURCH LOCATION

237 West 51st Street
Between Broadway & 8th Avenue

OUR SERVICES

Sunday | 10AM & 1PM
In Person and Online

Tuesdays | 7PM
In Person

Wednesday | 7 pm
Worldwide Prayer Meeting
at TSC Summit Campus
In Person and Online

tsc.nyc



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Attn: Finance
1657 Broadway, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10019





Looking Back, Moving Forward

*As we look back on stories of
God moving through our lives,
we can move forward with
encouragement and anticipation
of what He will do next.*

by Anna Ivanishchuk

JUDITH'S STORY

Judith is one of our online congregants. She came to know the Lord in 1993 at a Catholic Church in Mexico and moved to New York in 1995. In 2005, when Judith's mother passed away, she left the church and turned to alcohol for comfort. After a pregnancy loss in 2011, she found her way back to the Lord and sought His forgiveness. A friend invited her to a Christian church, where she surrendered her life to God and was recently baptized! She reflects, "It was a long journey, but the Lord had mercy on me."

In 2022, Judith married a Christian man, and together they serve in their local church. Judith writes, "God is great and real! And this is my testimony!" She also gets to visit Times Square Church in person occasionally and loves experiencing the presence of God here.

To read more stories like Judith's or to submit your own testimony, check out **tsc.nyc/stories**.

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AT TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

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