At 4:53 p.m. local time on January 12th ten years ago a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit Port au Prince, Haiti, killed 200,000 plus people and left 300,000 homeless. This month is the tenth anniversary of that devastating earthquake. And today there are still tent cities with more than 100,000 people in them the result of that quake. Then let’s add political corruption, graft on a monumental scale, incompetence, instability to the mix. Now let’s add the recent unrest, rioting, political turmoil, the main road in Haiti, route 1, blocked by thugs, and roaming gangs often sponsored by political factions killing and creating mayhem. There are estimates that as much as one-third of Haiti is in danger of starvation the result of the unrest. That’s 4.2 million people. It would seem the obstacles are huge and the problem almost impossible to address. It would be easy to feel overwhelmed by the situation. What can one church like The Church of the Covenant do? What can one mission committee or one person committed to the future of the people of Haiti do? But we believe that all things are possible with God. “Nothing is too hard for me.” Sayeth the Lord. We have an impossible God, who can do impossible things in impossible ways through regular, ordinary people, just like you and me. Every mountain in life which seems insurmountable and impossible to move is just a “God opportunity” for a Christian to say “mountain move” in Jesus’ name and watch what God can and will do. So what can just one person do?

I want you to repeat after me an equation that may not make entire sense at first. That equation is: ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE. Please repeat after me: ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE. For the mathematicians and accountants today this will seem annoying but hang in there with me, please.

Our scripture from 2 Corinthians reminds us that we are to “walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5: 7) As human beings we want it all laid out for us in a nice neat written plan so we know what to expect and what to do –we want to see it and then we will do it. But unfortunately that’s never the way God works in our lives. As human beings we want to “walk by sight” and see everything and know everything in advance. But to be a Christian is to “walk by faith”. It is to trust the Lord to lead us in life. He only shows us what is the very next step to take not the entire Google Maps edition of life. He says, “take this step”, “follow me”, “I will lead you in paths of righteousness for my name’s sake”. We want to know everything, but God only reveals the very next step. WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT. That’s what it means...And we walk by faith in this way. As the Apostle continues in this Bible passage he notes “the love of Christ controls us” v. 14 We who live, “no longer live for themselves but for HIM” v. 15 Walking by faith is being controlled by the love of Christ and living, no longer for ourselves, but living for Jesus. And how is this accomplished? “In Christ we are a new creation, the old has passed away, the new has come.” V. 17 Christ lives in us and we live for HIM. The Spirit nudges us what we are to do in life. The Living presence of Jesus living in our heart that makes us a new creation nudges us what next step we are to take. We are led and directed and guided by the Living presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in the steps we are to take in life. WE walk by faith, nudged by the Lord Jesus Himself, and not by sight.

So now repeat after me –ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE. One person PLUS One Lord equals One miracle in His name. We walk by faith and not by sight...

So its 1984 and Pastor Pierre has been led by God, one step at a time, to come to the poorest part of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Lacroix in the Artibonite region of Haiti. It is nothing but dry scrubgrass and
prickly bushes where there is so little rain it is all but impossible to grow anything at all. There were no churches, no schools, there were no medical clinics, no wells. The people live in mudbrick houses with dirt floors and no water or electricity. And Pastor Pierre is educated and has lived abroad and has no need of coming back to Haiti, let alone going to the poorest part of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. But the Lord nudges Pastor Pierre to do so. I have heard him tell this story before and even as he tells it today you can tell how incredulous Pastor Pierre is—“Are you absolutely sure, Lord, you want me to go there????” I love a picture I have seen and it is Pastor and Madame Pierre out in the middle of one of those dry and barren lifeless fields. And they are there with perhaps 15 children. And they are praying on their knees. And that was the beginning of the New Testament Mission. He asked: “This is where I’m called? Why do you want me here? I have no money.” And the Lord answered him and spoke and said: “I don’t want your money. I WANT YOU!!!!” So Pastor Pierre gave himself unreservedly to the Lord. I have nothing but you, Lord; but Lord, that is more than enough. He couldn’t see how it was going to work out. He didn’t have a plan nor any financial backing. He could only “walk by faith and not by sight”. ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE. One person Plus One Lord equals One miracle.

And today there is the New Testament Mission School with 3,800 students in multiple schools, way out even to the remote villages in the area. And there are medical clinics; and churches in every village; the death religion of voodoo is countered by the religion of new life in Christ. People have hope. People send their children to school with the hope that one day they can be teachers, or pastors or dentists. In 36 years that is what the Lord has done. Taken just one man, one man who was willing to walk by faith and caused the greening of Lacoix, has given people hope where there was no hope. Given people a Savior and made them new creations in Jesus. One life surrendered to God can do that. One life that chooses to live for Christ and not for itself can do that. What is impossible? What is too hard for the Lord to do through your life? No, ALL THINGS are possible through the Lord. ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE. One person surrendered to God plus One Lord leading, guiding and directing equals one totally amazing and miraculous miracle wrought through the love of God for people who the rest of the world ignore. Repeat after me—ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE...

That’s what ONE can do. That’s the power of ONE God alive in ONE LIFE. You know, and then sometimes we think, “Well, why don’t we see that kind of thing happening around us?” Does it only happen in Haiti? Does it only happen through Pastor Pierre and not through me? I think the answer is this. I think the Lord waits for us to fully come to HIM. I think He waits for us to surrender totally to His purposes in life. I think He won’t give us the miracle until He knows we are ready to receive it. He wants to pour out wonderful things through us but He waits for us to give HIM our full attention. He waits for us to be the NEW CREATIONS He has called us to be. He is waiting today. On this congregational meeting Sunday, He is waiting for The Church of the Covenant to walk by faith and not by sight. He is waiting for YOU! HE wants YOU! He wants your heart and not just part of it. He’s waiting for ALL of it! He wants YOU!

We see in Pastor Pierre the solution to all the problems in Haiti. We see what one can do. Perhaps you see a miracle in waiting somewhere in your life. Something that the Lord has been speaking into your heart. But you’ve put it off; impossible, you say. I can’t do that, you say. That’s not true. What is true is that ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE. One person plus One Lord equals One miracle in Jesus’ name. That’s what One can do. And may I conclude by saying, WHAT ONE CAN DO ONE MUST DO! Amen and Amen.

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IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!