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In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a vision for a new way to connect believers from around the globe was birthed in the heart of a rural Minnesota church pastor.

In the winter of 2020, Evangelical Free Church in Newfolden, Minnesota, located in a town with a population of just 438 people, decided to update its audio-visual equipment. Little did they know how important this equipment would become in the weeks ahead.

When Minnesota's Governor Walz issued an executive order that closed church doors, Pastor Gary Barrett was challenged to find a new way to conduct the church's Good Friday communion service. Thanks to the new audio-visual equipment, the Newfolden Evangelical Free Church was able to Livestream the service on Facebook and church members were able to participate from their homes, connecting to the service (and each other) through their smart phones or computers.

Following the service, Pastor Barrett had an epiphany. As he began to hear from people who had participated via technology—some from as far away as Florida—he realized that technology is an effective way to bring people together. Geography is no longer a barrier. In fact, the technology platform is so ubiquitous, that virtually everyone around the world has ready access to it.

A vision was birthed in Pastor Barrett's heart. He began to share the vision with a few others who quickly joined him in support of a new ministry called One Body One Blood.

The primary focus of the ministry is an event uniting believers from every nation around the Lord's Table. The one-hour event will take place on Good Friday, April 2, 2021 at 4:00 PM Jerusalem time.

"We decided to base the event on the Jerusalem time zone because, as the place where Christ was crucified and rose again, Jerusalem is ground-zero for the Christian," Barrett said.

This new ministry is calling Christians from all nations and across denominational lines to unite in commemoration of the greatest event of all time—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The goal is to connect 1 million believers, with participation from every continent. The ministry envisions Christ's Church as one growing fellowship of believers, sharing in His broken body and shed blood together and following Jesus' example by laying down their lives for others.

The one-hour event will include worship, testimonies, the Word, and sharing the elements of the Lord's Table together. Dr. Ramesh Richard, born in Delhi, India, an internationally recognized theologian-evangelist, philosopher-expositor, and educator-author, will be the main speaker for the event. Dr. Munir Kakish, President of RCO Ministries and the Council of Local Evangelical Churches in the Holy Land, will lead the communion portion of the service from Jerusalem. Josh Edwards, worship leader and songwriter, will lead believers in worship, helping to prepare hearts for the Lord's Table.

Registration is not required but is highly encouraged. To register, visit the organization's website: www.onebody-oneblood.org.

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