

live in a media-driven society. Every day we use Google, You Tube, or download something pertaining to our life and the questions or social situations in which we find ourselves. Making the good news of Jesus Christ accessible to everyone is a huge reason why we do what we do in the Media Ministry at FAC," explained Worship & Media Pastor Nick Simpson. "Our purpose is to provide people access to experience God. When we run video, mix audio, and display images, these are all produced out of a heart of worship and a desire to see people connect with God."





Ever since Nick was in high school, he always enjoyed working with computers and other technology. When he came to Christ during his high school years, he felt called into youth ministry. As Nick got older, he realized that he also needed to be savvy in audio and video production. He decided to learn as much as he could when it came to mixing audio, editing video, and creating multimedia presentations so he could connect with the teens in his ministry.

"Little did I know that God was using that experience as a training ground for the ministry He would call me to at FAC," added Nick. "It's exciting to see all the little touches that happened throughout my life that brought me to this place and to see now how God is using the gifts He gave me to serve Him."

Nick came to FAC in 2007, and today he oversees all of the weekend service production teams. He enjoys working with many volunteers, worship leaders, and pastors to weave together the weekend worship services. On Thursday nights, you can find Nick setting up the stage, preparing media, and rehearsing all the elements of the weekend services. Nick and all the media volunteers put a great deal of effort into working out any bugs or kinks. They all want to do all that they can to be sure they are ready to go at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday night and that all the services flow unhindered.

"We always say that we are doing our job best when no one notices us," shared Nick. "We want others to connect to God. The less they are distracted from audio hiccups or videos lagging, the better they can focus on what God is trying to tell them."

Chondra Babb, the service coordinator who sometimes fills in for Nick, added, "The sound, lighting, and video screen are constantly changing throughout the services. We want to make sure everything runs smoothly. Our goal is to create the best worship experience during the services. We want to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and sensitive to what the worship team and speakers need."

The Media Ministry also helps us connect to God beyond the walls of the Sanctuary. There's live video distribution of the services throughout the church building on TV monitors. In addition, the Media Ministry is responsible for recording each service for the production of DVDs, as well as creating the audio and video of the weekly sermon to be uploaded on our website.

One of the Media Ministry volunteers, Ron Richards, shared, "When I started attending FAC ten years ago, we had a single camera and one video tape recorder. Our mission was to point one camera and record the service. Today, our church has three HD, high level cameras plus a digital switching 'video mixer' that allows us to mix the different camera shots as well as add the same graphics that are projected onto the screens during each service. We also now output live to digital and DVD recording devices. We also send video into our in-house video distribution system for live viewing of the service throughout our building."

Ron Richards believes producing the service video is such a rewarding calling. He feels that working with others who faithfully serve behind the scenes is a spiritual blessing. "We don't know who's watching what we do, but God does," Ron explained. "Each of us is working quietly and humbly together as a team and putting our efforts into God's hands. We don't have every modern video production tool, but we are working hard to serve our great God."

Nick is thankful for every person working on the Media team. "I have such an amazing group! My ministry depends on the commitment and faithfulness of our volunteers. We have some of the best, in my opinion. I have never been a part of a ministry that has such responsible and diligent people. I can't thank them enough for all they do!"

The people in the Media Ministry are also thankful for Nick. Mari Lynne Snyder, who has been on the video team for a few years, shared, "Nick has a gift for making sure things happen like they are supposed to in the worship services. God gives him the strength and the gift of patience as he works with a lot of people on all the details. I'm thankful for how God uses him because he helps me with my job when he needs to."

Josh Street, an artist who specializes in graphic design, photography, videography, and graphic animation, is also grateful for Nick. Josh shared, "God urged me to offer



my creative gifts when Nick Simpson was brought in as the Worship & Media Pastor at FAC. Since then, we have collaborated on many projects, such as the Connect Series, the Move Together campaign, the Christmas Cantata videos, and the FAC website."

Josh has seen God use Nick in great ways. He added, "Nick is a humble man behind the scenes, pulling the proverbial strings to bring all forms of media smoothly together. I love how he has an understanding for true creativity, embraces new concepts, and never fails to make me feel appreciated while providing me with much needed encouragement."

Nick requests prayer for the Media Ministry. "When we build our new building, we will probably need to double or triple in size," said Nick. "We're going to need additional forms of technology, and we're going to need more team members."

## Some areas to be praying for include —

Camera Team: More volunteers are needed. In the new building, there will be a completely different system that will need to be learned.

Stage Crew: Currently, there's not a lot done with our stage, but there's a desire to have a team who will help with setup and changes. Strong leaders are needed to spearhead this.

Creative Team: This team would use their artistic background to help with stage design. They would also develop other creative ways to enhance the weekend services.

Audio Team: We will also develop a team of people who are comfortable doing studio mixing, which is a different style from the live mixing we currently use.

Lighting Team: There will be a new lighting system that will require training and creative vision.

Pastor Nick said, "There are so many other things we will be launching, but again our desire is to connect people to God. Pray that no matter how we grow or what ways we use media, that Jesus Christ will always be our focus."

## For More Information

If you have any questions or would like to serve in this exciting ministry, you may contact Pastor Nick Simpson, 609-953-7333, x110 or nick@myfac.org.

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