



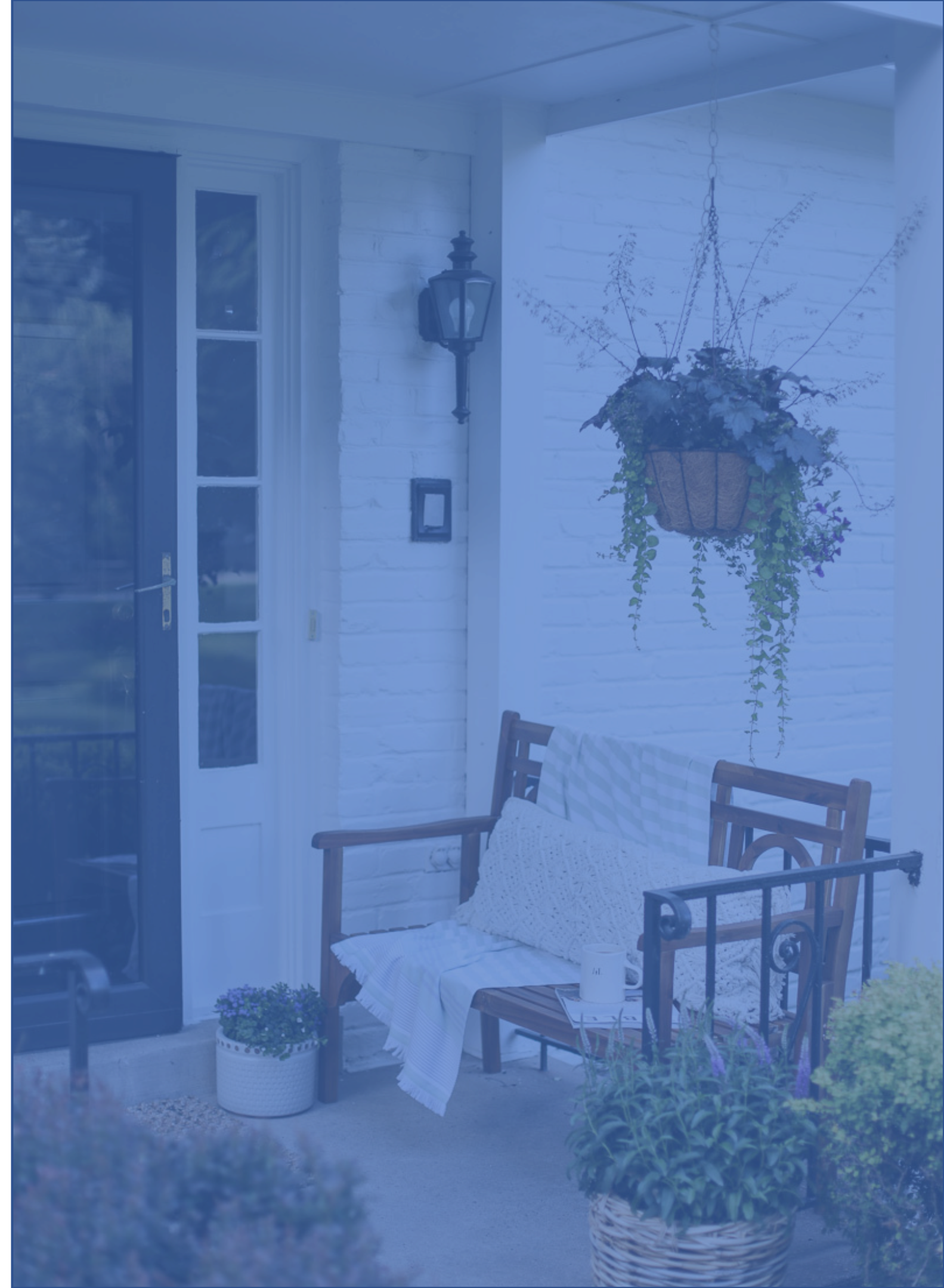
Returning to the Front Porch: Hospitable Community



Outline:
What are we going to learn?

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Millennials
3. Generation Z
4. American Culture
5. Evangelism
6. Why the porch?
7. Build your porch



Introduction

Mitchell Bruce

- Digital Media Specialist – Alabama
WMU
- A Millennial
- MSM – Marketing
- Masters of Divinity – NOBTS



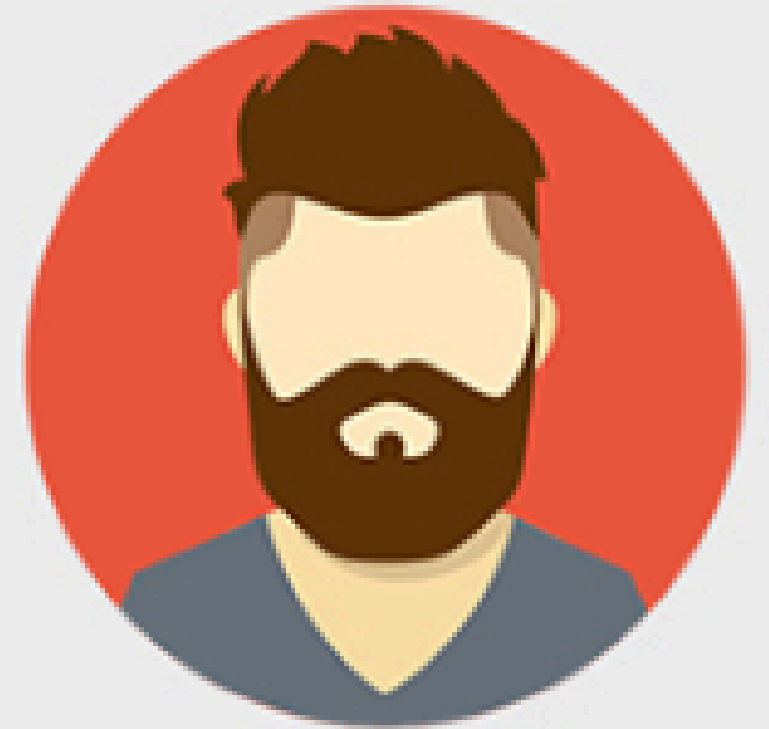
Generation Studies



Who are millennials?

Millennials

- Characteristics:
 - Ages 25-40
 - Career First
 - Socially Engaged
 - Large Income Separation
 - Idealistic
 - Why's
 - Technologically adept and diverse

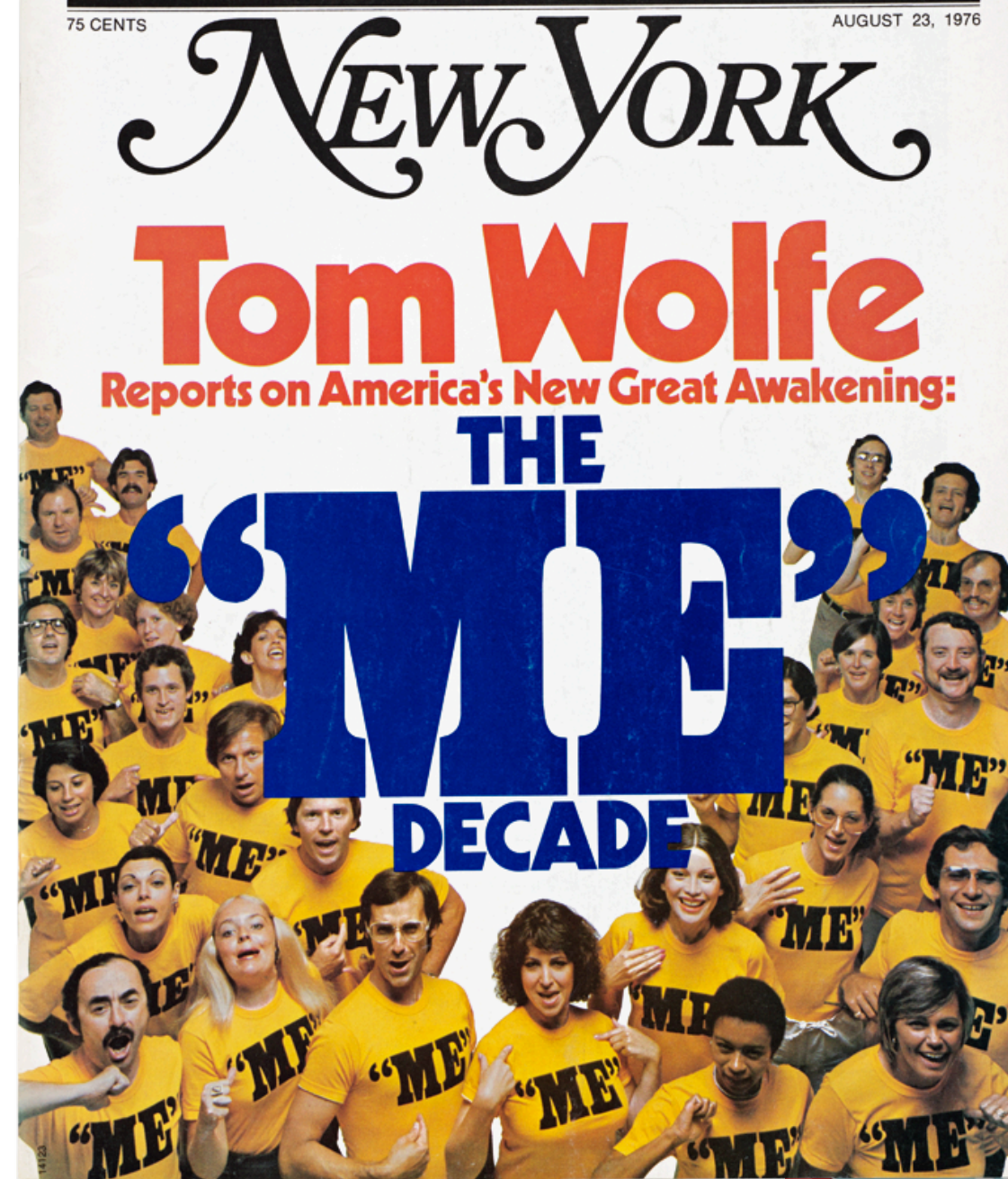


Millennial

Born Between
1980 - 1994

Millennials

- Myths:
 - Narcissistic
 - No Work Ethic/Lazy
 - Unprepared
 - Poor Family Relationships





Who is Gen Z?

Generation Z

- Characteristics:
 - Ages 4-24
 - Increasingly Less Religious
 - Increasingly Diverse
 - Entrepreneurial, but Risk Averse
 - Pragmatic
 - Value Authenticity
 - Short Attention



Gen Z

Born Between
1995 - 2015

Generation Y & Z

- Recession effect
- Impact of 9/11, the War on Terror
- Increasing income inequality/poverty
- Separation/Gen Z - loneliness





American Culture

(reaching everyone else)

American Culture

- Individualistic
 - American Dream – raise yourself from poverty
- Uncertainty Avoidance
 - Relative Truth
- Short-Term
 - Unwilling to make long term sacrifices



Evangelism

Evangelism

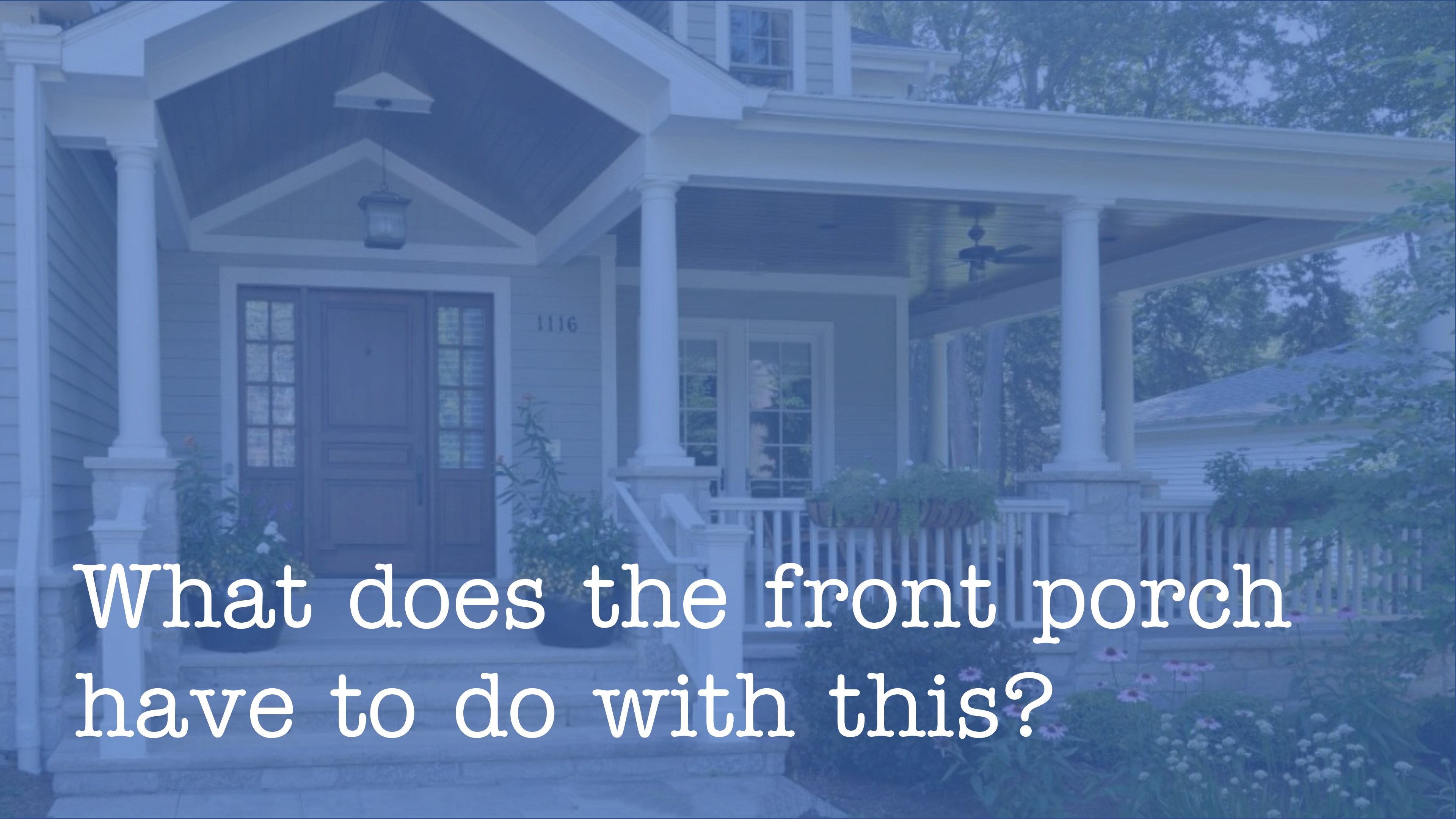
What is it?

- Sharing God's glory – demonstrated in the Gospel
- Declaring God's impact – how God's glory changes you
- Living Discipleship - helping and encouraging people to glorify God

Evangelism

Core elements for successful Evangelism:

- Differentiation from the World
 - An aroma – 2 Corinthians 2:15-16
 - Unity and Holiness – Hebrews 12:14
 - Salt and Light – Matthew 5:13-16
- Serving
 - Real Faith – James 2:14
 - Serving in Love – Luke 10:27
 - Jesus as our Example – Matthew 20:24-28



What does the front porch
have to do with this?



Who here spent/spends time
on the front porch? Describe.

Why the Porch?

What is a Porch?

A place of reprieve

Public

Community Gathering

What happened to it?

Why the Porch?

The porch is an analogy for effective evangelism in today's time:

Open home = Community

Outside the home = Truth

Your life on display (Public) = Authenticity

Evangelism

Going back to the porch mentality is going opposite of the culture:

American Culture vs The Front Porch

- Individual vs Community– open your home/give time
- Silence vs Truth– create opportunity to speak truth
- Church Life vs Authenticity – live in light of eternity

Evangelism

Why Y and Z will respond to a Front Porch

Approach:

Lonely – church community

Need – serving the younger generations

Authenticity – see your personal life

Safety – churches as safe places

Purpose – the missions of the Gospel

Evangelism

The Front Porch Mentality

= Gospel Opportunity



Build a Porch! (figuratively)

Evangelism – Front Porch Style

Acts 2:42-47

42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 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, 47 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.

Evangelism – Front Porch Style

Koinonia (fellowship)

- “association, communion, fellowship, close relationship”
- Appears only here in this way of all Luke-Acts
- Coming together to eat, pray, and join together under the lordship of God

Building a front porch lifestyle

How can we do this in our personal lives?

Downgrading Hobbies/Interests

Morning/Afternoon Discipleship Time

Community Meals/Group Meals

Conversation Bridge

Open events (planning to have others with you)

- ALSBOM and WMU Events

Building a front porch

(at your church)

Building a front porch church

How can we do this in our churches?

“Becoming a Welcoming Church – Thom Rainer”

Guest Procedures

Signage

Greeters

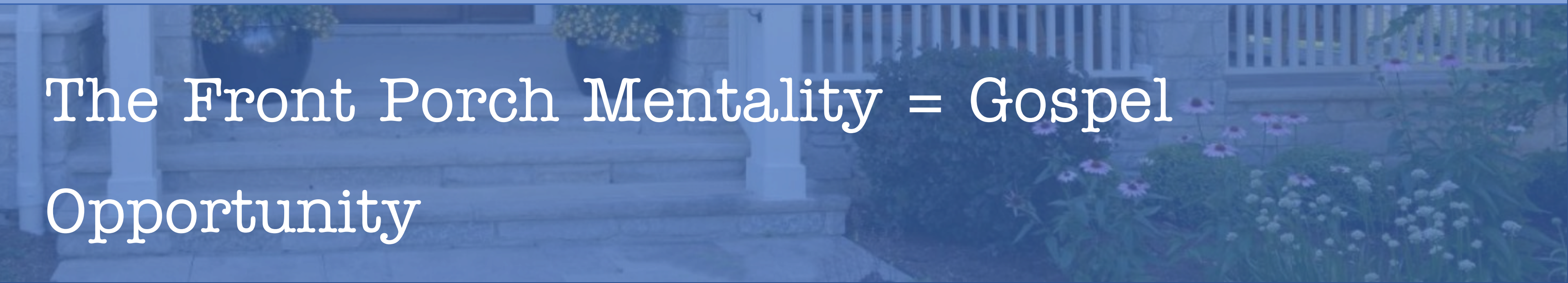
Website/Other Information

Application Summary

- 1) Live like you always on your front porch
- 2) Open up your life to opportunities to build community/discipleship
- 3) Be Vulnerable and Humble



Revisit the Past to Impact the Future



The Front Porch Mentality = Gospel
Opportunity



Questions? Comments?