



2023 Annual Report

To Sozo Church,

We are excited to share with you all that the Lord accomplished in 2023 at Sozo Church, and what we have in store for 2024!

Our theme for 2023 was Transformation, and it was a powerful year for our members, their families, and the community around us. Led by the teaching of Pastor Marlando Jordan, the church received several sermon series that offered practical ways to apply God's word to bring transformation into every area of your life. The theme of transformation inspired each men's and women's connect group and special event at Sozo Church.

Sozo Church is much more than a name; it represents who we are and what we believe. The word "Sozo" is the Greek word for saved, delivered, healed, and restored. It informs all our core values at the church, which are:



451 new people visited Sozo Church in 2023, and we saw 115 salvations! Through our Next Steps class, many graduates were equipped and empowered to step into one of the many ministries here at Sozo Church and begin a journey of serving God and their community!

We continued serving our congregation and community with many initiatives and ministries in 2023 and look forward to doing so in 2024. Here is a highlight of some of those offerings in 2023 that will continue into the new year:

Destiny Bible Training Center (DBTC) - Our Bible Training Center was launched at Sozo in 2022. An emphasis on destiny, in-Christ messages, and identity is a major focus of DBTC. DBTC had a large graduating class for the pre-requisite course, Freedom in Christ near the end of 2023. DBTC will be starting strong again in 2024!

Sozo Grow - Through this platform, you can watch encouraging messages and grow spiritually. With an ever-growing catalog of content, catch up and stay tuned for more encouragement in 2024.

Sozo Young Adults - Sozo Young Adults is for **ages 18-30**. Creating a stable Christlike family community amid a crazy world. The heart is for young adults to become followers of Christ through a strong emphasis on the **kingdom of God** and how to reach those around them.

Sozo Youth - We are the Change - Sozo Youth's vision is to create **Kingdom Ambassadors**. For 2024, Sozo Youth will continue to bring Jesus Christ to everyone in their families, expanding into area schools and the community. Join Sozo Youth on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM and Sundays at 11 AM!

Sozo Kidz - Proverbs 22:6, Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it. We Are SOZO KIDZ MINISTRY! At Sozo Kidz, it is our desire to reach kids with the message of Jesus and to partner with families to guide kids to a lifelong relationship with Him. Every child, from Nursery to Elementary, experiences the love of Jesus and Biblical-based teaching when they attend Sozo Kidz Children's Ministry. No child is too small to learn from the Word of God. In 2023, we handed out dozens of Bibles to guide kids in their relationship with Jesus. We continued to utilize our Sunday curriculum and take-home materials to connect and create opportunities for at-home discipleship for families. Our team grew as well as we welcomed and trained over a dozen new lead teachers and teacher assistants.

In 2024, we will continue our emphasis on growing and strengthening both our team and our Sozo families. We desire healthy families to attend and serve in our ministry. We want to see growth, physically, mentally, spiritually, and relationally within Sozo Kidz. We also look forward to handing out more Bibles so that kids can be encouraged to cultivate their relationship with God, through His Word. 2024 will be a great year for Sozo Kidz Ministry!

Sozo Church's Heritage Preschool and Kindergarten -

Heritage, led by Jesse Curtis, and Heritage's valuable team was able to continue providing quality education to its students in 2023. Education is more than ABCs and 123s at Heritage. We go beyond the basics and teach children who they are in Christ and the wonderful Sozo Life the Lord has for them. We would be excited to enroll your child in our program or have you join our wonderful staff. Employment opportunities are available. Please reach us at the email address provided. Heritage@sozochurch.com.

Sozo Food Bank - Sozo Food Bank is about reaching people practically and is supported entirely by donations. Because of the faithful and generous givers at Sozo Church, we were able to continue to serve food to those in the BIPOC community, refugees, veterans, the homeless, and those suffering from food insecurity. In 2023, Sozo Food Bank was able to serve 36,235 individuals and give out 798,811 pounds of food!

Here are a few of the powerful events that Sozo Church hosted in 2023:

- Easter Eggstravaganza
- Women's Tea
- Alice and Wonderland Women's Conference
- Men's Retreat
- Youth Camp
- Christmas Eve Service
- New Year's Eve Service

We were honored to host the following guest speakers:

- Prophet Ruckins McKinley
- Dr. Bill Winston
- Dr. Joe Hernandez

Sozo Church is blessed to financially partner with worldwide missions and other ministries and organizations throughout the U.S. In 2023, we made a global impact by supporting our international missionaries Dr. Prince Parker, Dr. Joe Hernandez, and Butch and Kathy Espe. Here in the United States, we partnered monthly with Bill Winston Ministries, Sam Segundo Ministries, and New Breed Worship Center. We look forward to deepening these connections and continuing our support in 2024!

All of this is made possible through the dedicated partnership and financial support of our congregation at Sozo Church. We want to thank you for your generous financial support to continue making a difference in our community and blessing other ministries. *Note: Sozo Church is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization; contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.*

Sozo Church diligently utilizes social media as a tool to further our reach for the Gospel and provide uplifting, powerful content for our many weekly visitors around the nation and the world! This year we were able to reach an additional:

2600 Facebook Followers

1300 Instagram followers

2210 App Downloads

Over 31,000 views on YouTube and 2200 subscribers

To stay connected to our church online, you can visit our website at www.sozochurch.com. For tools to assist you and grow you in your walk with Jesus, visit www.sozogrow.com. To catch up on the many powerful sermon series by Pastor Marlando, other Pastors at Sozo church, and our guest speakers, visit our YouTube Channel or download the Sozo Church app (available on the Apple Store and Google Play.)

Our theme for 2024 at Sozo Church is **Engagement**. Our primary goal is to empower our members to **engage with God** and **engage within the church**.

We will encourage and accomplish Engagement with God and with the church through:

- Sermon series that emphasize engaging with God and within the church
- Consecrating the year with a 21-Day Daniel fast. This allows people to set aside the first 21 days of the year for ***prayer, fasting, reflection, and repentance***
- Through Discipleship within our small groups
- Giving our members practical tools, such as Bible reading plans, to engage with God
- Moving our members from spectator mode to participating in our church's mission
- Developing a new **assimilation process** that will help our people find their place within Sozo Church and fully **engage** with the mission of our church