

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 14TH – 15TH, 2023 // VISION SERVICE

A SIMPLE VISION - "To lead people to Christ through **authentic worship, authentic community, and authentic community service.**"

The vision statement of God

As Jesus was ascending back to Heaven, He looked at His followers and shared His vision for the Church. Jesus tells us in Matt. 28:1–20 to go and **disciple, baptize, and teach** people to do all the things He told us to do. This is the main objective of the Church, so we must put effort into how we do this.

WORSHIP

A commitment to corporate worship

From the birth of the Church in Acts 2 through Revelation, the NT tells us to corporately worship together (Heb. 10:24–25; Mt. 16:18; 18:20; Col. 3:16; Eph. 4:11–13; Rom. 10:17).

- **Corporate worship brings us closer, activates joy, reassures us, and tunes us into focusing on God.**

A commitment to the Word of God

We will always have a strong commitment to expository teaching. **Studying verse-by-verse prohibits us from skipping the hard topics, and it puts the Bible in the proper context.**

- This method helps comprehension, creates a **love of the Word**, and **grows Christians much faster.**

Communion, prayer, and questions

Every service ends with **communion** in order to bring every lesson back to Christ. This is a great time to repent and reflect.

- We offer **prayer** for anyone who may need to confess or ask for spiritual help.
- We always invite new or non-Believers to **ask a pastor questions** and move forward.

NEXT

An easy and informative next step

On the 2nd Monday of every month, we invite anyone who is interested in learning more about The Experience to come and take a tour, hear my story, hear the church's story, and take their next step in the process.

- This is where I get to meet a lot of you, and you get to know more about this place.

DEVELOPMENT

Following Jesus (101)

- A 7-week intro to the Christian faith that covers **prayer and worship, the Bible, baptism and communion, the Holy Trinity, the church, how to share our faith, and discipleship.**

Authentic Discipleship (101)

- A 12-week group about practical and effective ways to make disciples that make disciples.

Discovery Bible Study

- A simple and effective tool to put disciple-making into practice through our app.

Experience Finance

- A free 5-week course on budgeting, debt, and how to handle money biblically.

Preparing for Marriage

- 8-week pre-marital class for engaged couples.

COMMUNITY

God is communal, and we should be too

The Trinity shows us that God is communal. So, we're to also be in community. The church has always met corporately on the weekend and in small groups during the week.

- **Life Groups foster accountability, deep discussion, friendships, intergenerational mentors, and support.**

We want to be intentional with groups

We encourage people to not only be in groups but to be in and lead groups that are intentional about **reaching people, discipling, and multiplying** into more groups.

- If you want to start or attend a group, email lifegroups@experiencecc.com so we can help with training and getting people involved.

SERVING

Consistent serving in our city:

- **5000** (homeless ministry at Journey Home), **Stepping Stones** (homeless women and children), **Embrace Grace** (unintended pregnancies), **BAR Ministry** (on the square), **Reclaimed** (jail ministry), **nonprofit partnerships**

Opportunities to serve the church body:

We do a lot outside of the church, but we also have a lot to do inside the church to serve each other and visitors.

- **Parking/shuttling, Hospitality, ECCO Kids, Nursery, Emerge, EON, Production, Medical Team, and there are many other great opportunities!**

MISSIONS

Our State:

- **Murfreesboro** (Feb 2009), **Cannon County** (Aug 2017), **Shelbyville** (Aug 2021), **Tullahoma** (Nov 2022), **MIT Program** (Our residential training program to launch more churches around the state.), **The Network** (A team that supports all campuses.)

Our Nation:

- **Hope Church** (Delmarva, DE), **City Church** (Albany, Brooklyn, & Staten Island, NY), **Redemption Church** (San Francisco, CA), **Sequoia Campus Church** (Eugene, OR), **Garden City Church** (Beverly, MA)

Our World:

- **El Salvador** (ministry to elementary-age kids), **Uganda** (Tara Henson working with street kids, teaching

FJ, and training pastors), **Southeast Asia** (Toffer and Becky King), **Eastern Europe** (EEM), **Haiti** (Jameson and Shelby Toyo), **Egypt** (First Priority-Brian and Maged)

THE BEST PROBLEM

God is really blessing our church

We're seeing rapid growth in all 4 campuses, but this campus is getting tight, and our greatest concern is that facilities or parking prohibit people from hearing the gospel.

- We had over 6800 people between our campuses last week, but over 5500 of them were in Murfreesboro.

Maximizing every inch of our property

We have under 100,000 square feet for this campus, and we use virtually every inch every day of the week. We also have limited parking on site, so we use other areas.

- We've **expanded the sanctuary, added chairs**, asked people to **consider Sat. 7 pm**, and we're **fine-tuning our Parking Team**.

Planting more churches

- We have 3 other campuses (Cannon, Bedford, and Coffee counties) that one can attend. We are also praying about a 2nd Rutherford campus.
- Growth always seems to outpace our resources. **Please be patient with us as we train up leaders and save proper finances.**

FINANCES

How we steward your giving

- **Total for all campuses: 2022 Income (\$9,873,855), 2023 Budget (\$9,900,000)**
- **Administration** (\$3,273,315 – 33%) – Salaries and benefits
- **MIT Program** (\$278,732) – Salaries and benefits
- **Other Administration** (\$263,628) – Sheriff, police, CPA, maintenance, etc.
- **Ministry expenses** (\$634,244)
- **Operating costs** (\$422,900)
- **Saving** (\$1,000,000)
- **Repairing things at campuses** (\$) – This will come from savings if needed.
- **Cannon County Campus** (\$737,477)
- **Shelbyville Campus** (\$400,251)
- **Tullahoma Campus** (\$598,872)
- **Mortgage** (\$) – No Debt
- **Benevolence** (\$2,970,000 – **30% of budget**) – Extra \$400,000 given to monthly highlights

Financial hurdles

- **Creating more parking:** roughly \$100,000 to build out the Student Center side.
- **Creating more space:** We're running out of space here (2nd campus or surrounding land).
- **Planting more churches:** Since we refuse to take out a loan, we want to have the money in the bank to pay cash for space.

Financial commitment to the vision

- **I don't know who gives at this church.** Whether one believes tithing is an NT thing or not, it's impossible to argue that we shouldn't financially contribute to the mission of the church.
- **If we're going to advance the gospel, it will take not only time and effort but also a financial commitment.**

MAKING DISCIPLES

Prayer

- We want to make prayer more of an emphasis in our church through Life Groups, the Prayer Team, and prayer during services.

Worship Nights

- We are only doing two Worship Nights this year because of the size. We want to keep these excellent and God-honoring.

Baptisms and being Evangelists

We want to make sure that we're still diligently building relationships with non-Believers and introducing them to Jesus. **We pray that 50% of our growth results in baptisms in 2023.**

- **We don't want to become complacent and lose our passion for reaching all kinds of people!**

In a time when Christianity is declining...

...we want to **serve our city, help others serve their cities, see more people come to know Jesus, and grow current Believers deeper in their faith.**

- **We have no desire to make our church or anyone in it famous. Our desire is to help illuminate the truth to anyone seeking**

What now?

- **Commit to being at church, praying, listening to God, reading the Word, and obeying what the Bible says.**
- **Commit to the discipleship process. It works.**
- Please be patient with us as we do our best to navigate rapid growth and limited resources.

If we're to reach our city and beyond

- We need to be **praying** for our city and for the gospel to advance in it.
- This church needs your commitment to **attend, be present, find community, give, and serve**. There's no gimmick or trick to seeing lives changed; it is just **consistent dedication to a relationship with Christ**.

This is all for His Kingdom!

- The world is unstable, but we can have stability if we will trust Jesus and His Word!
- We must stay humble, diligent, focused, selfless, hungry, and expectant because **we are invited to be instrumental in God touching people's hearts and saving their souls, here and all over the world!**