

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

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

CHURCH. (ACTS 2:42-47)

When the word "church" is said out loud, what comes to mind?

- For many of us, it's a building, for some, it's a service/gathering, or for others, it's an institution.
- In this little section of Scripture in the book of Acts, we get to see God's original design for His Church and what it should really look like.

A COVENANTAL COMMITMENT

"...devoted themselves..."

- For any true church to exist, there must be Believers who are seriously committed, devoted, and involved.

A DEVOTION TO STUDY AND PRAYER

"...to the apostles' teaching...and to prayer."

- For a church to be healthy, God's Word must be at the center, and prayer must be a regular practice.

A RADICAL GENEROSITY

"...sold their possessions and property..."

- A healthy, biblical church is generous: its people give faithfully and provide for each others' needs.

CORPORATE WORSHIP AND INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP

"...meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house."

- In a biblical, healthy church, there's a commitment to gathering regularly and growing relationally.

AN ATTITUDE OF WORSHIP

"...joyful and sincere hearts..."

- A healthy, Spirit-filled group of Believers is known more by what they're for rather than by what they're against.

THEY HAD GOOD COMMUNITY STANDING.

"...enjoying the favor of all the people."

- Jesus wants His Church to be "salt and light": adding flavor and giving life to the community/city.

THEY GREW.

"...and the Lord added to their number..."

- A healthy, biblical church desires, prays for, and plans ways to welcome unsaved people into their gatherings and reach the community with the gospel.

PEOPLE WERE GETTING SAVED.

"...those who were being saved."

- Conversions and baptisms were regular occurrences!

This is what "CHURCH" was intended to look like.

- A community of Jesus-followers living life together on mission.
- Many people claim to want a church like this one, but many aren't willing for that level of commitment, sacrifice, and service. Therefore, too many of us are willing to settle for a cheap substitute for "church" that we made up.

CHEAP SUBSTITUTES.

1. A once-a-week service (we don't "go" to church; we ARE the church).
2. A clique, country club, or civic organization (the focus can never be just on us; we must be thinking of those outside these walls).
3. A place to circle the wagons, talk about how bad the unbelieving world is, and how we're the only ones doing it right (we must be GROWING spiritually).

THE VISION STATEMENT OF JESUS FOR HIS CHURCH

Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20 to go, make more disciples, baptize, and teach people to do all the things He commanded.

- This sounds exceptionally simple, but it takes the entire NT to show us how we're to accomplish these core objectives.
- One of the things we see is that everyone has a role to play (Romans 12:4).

A SIMPLE VISION...

The Experience Community creates authentic disciples of Jesus Christ through authentic worship, authentic community, and authentic community service.

WORSHIP

Corporate worship is an entry point in community and the process of discipleship (Acts 2:46a; Hebrews 10:25).

- This is so important! But it's not the final destination.

NEXT CLASS

Next Class happens on the second Monday of every month to help people find their next step in discipleship in our church family.

DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

- **Following Jesus** (101): The foundations of the Christian faith and how to be a disciple. Starts on Jan. 24.
- **Authentic Discipleship** (201): How to make disciples and live out the Great Commission (concepts, identity, and practices of a disciple-maker). Starts on Feb. 1.

COMMUNITY (LIFE GROUPS)

Life Groups meet throughout the week, but Life Group Central (6:30 pm on Wednesday) is a great place to start! Email Adam Pitts: adam@experiencececc.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Serving in our church: Hospitality, ECCO Kids, Nursery, Emerge (special needs ministry), EON, Encounter, Production, Worship, Security.

- Serving in our community: 5000 Ministry, community service events, nonprofit partners.
- Our biggest areas of need are our weekend serve teams: ECCO Kids Nursery, Emerge (special needs ministry), Hospitality, Security, and Production.

MISSIONS

OUR STATE

- Murfreesboro: February 2009, Cannon County: August 2017, Shelbyville: August 2021, Tullahoma: November 2022

- MIT Program: Our residential training program to launch more churches around the state.
- The Network: A team that supports all campuses.

OUR NATION

- **Redemption Church:** San Francisco; **Sequoia Campus Church:** Eugene, Oregon; **Hope Church:** Delmarva, Delaware; **City Church:** Albany, Brooklyn, Staten Island, New York; **Garden City Church:** Beverly, Massachusetts

OUR WORLD

- **El Salvador:** ministry to elementary-age kids, **Uganda:** Tara Henson working with street kids, teaching FJ, and training pastors, **Haiti:** Jameson and Shelby Toyo, **Southeast Asia:** Toffer and Becky King, **Israel:** Simeon's Cry (Sean Steckbeck), **Eastern Europe (EEM),** Egypt, and other various international missions

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

CHURCH TEAM

- **Josh Brooker** - Campus Pastor, **Adam Pitts** - Development Pastor, **Chad Christian** - Children's Pastor, **Gina Mitchell** - Office Manager, **Noah Briley** - Worship Leader, **Nicole Hudson** - Production Director, **Jalen Taylor** - Student Director

ELDERS

- **Joe Brown, Gary Rapier, Jonathan Sullivan, Bob Bowers, and David Beeton**

Everyone on our leadership team (staff and elders) is godly, trustworthy, wise, biblically sound, and Spirit-filled.

- Our church is growing, and as one pastor, I can't possibly be in all places at all times.
- Our staff and elders are here to lovingly lead and serve you as we seek to follow Jesus together: let them lead you, pray for you, and let them serve you.

CHURCH FINANCES & NUMBERS

WHY TALK ABOUT MONEY AND THE NUMBERS?

- "...it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." -1 Corinthians 4:2
- We (staff, elders, leadership) are accountable to YOU for how we invest the money that you give—we want to provide TOTAL financial transparency.

ACROSS ALL EXPERIENCE CAMPUSES

- **2022 Giving Totals:** \$9,873,855.00, **2023 Budget:** \$9,900,000.00, **Network:** \$2,105,218.00, **Cannon County:** \$737,477.00, **Murfreesboro:** \$5,947,411.00, **Shelbyville:** \$400,251.00, **Tullahoma:** \$598,872.00, **Overall staffing:** 42% of total budget, **Overall benevolence:** 30% of total budget

CANNON COUNTY

- **2022 Giving Totals:** \$681,790.00, **Annual Budget for 2023:** \$737,477.00
- **Administration:** \$432,646.00 (all staff salaries, benefits, payroll taxes, childcare, custodial crew, etc.)
- **Operations:** \$54,573.00 (utilities, maintenance, technology, office equipment/supplies, etc.)

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2023: \$737,477.00

- **Worship/Production:** \$16,166.00 (equipment, supplies, audio/video hardware and software)
- **Student Ministries:** \$40,300.00 (curriculum/supplies for ECCO Kids, supplies for nursery, supplies/ events for Encounter/EON)
- **Development:** \$52,635 (volunteer meals, Life Group resources, Hospitality supplies, Security Team, pastoral expenses).
- **Special Events:** \$23,340.00 (Fall Festival, Community Camp [VBS], Next Class, Volunteer Banquet, etc.)
- **Benevolence/Missions:** \$117,817.00 (20%)
- S2L, Lion's Club, WeCareCannon, Child Advocacy Center, S.A.V.E., Gideon's, Cannon County Food Bank, Church benevolence requests, Generations of Woodbury, Cannon County Rescue Squad, 5000 Ministry, CASA, Forgotten Initiative, international missions, church partnerships.

ATTENDANCE (CHILDREN AND ADULTS)

- Last quarter of 2022: 564 avg. a week in-person (adults, children), 698 subscribers on YouTube (33,900 views last year).

TOTAL NUMBER IN LIFE GROUPS

- 143 adults (32% of our church is involved in a Life Group, 40-50% is the goal).

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

- 180 adults (40% of our church volunteers regularly, 50% is the goal).

THE CHALLENGE.

1. BE DEVOTED.

- To studying God's Word and praying.
- To giving generously with a joyful and sincere heart.
- To being in church each week.
- To serving faithfully.
- To finding a community of Believers to do life with.
- For any true church to exist, there must be Believers who are seriously committed, devoted, and involved.

2. LOOK BEYOND JUST OURSELVES.

- It can be really easy to see "church" as a place that exists to meet our needs, likes, and preferences.
- There are roughly 14,500 people that live in our county: around 8,000 of them don't attend church on a regular basis.
- Addiction, domestic violence, and poverty are all major issues in our town and symptoms of a greater spiritual problem—as the people of God, do we care enough to do anything?

3. BE ON MISSION.

- The gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to every bit of the brokenness in our world.
- We should be the people who take this message of redemption, hope, restoration, and eternal life into the darkness.
- Invite your unchurched/unbelieving neighbors, coworkers, family members, and friends to church; if you don't know how, get discipled!

4. REJECT THE CHEAP SUBSTITUTES, AND LET'S TRY TO LIVE OUT THE REAL THING TOGETHER.

- We cannot become a once-a-week event, a country club, or a "known more by what we're against" group.
- We have a gospel to preach, a dying world to save, and a Commission from our King we must obey. It will cost us our life!
- Will you join us? Will you commit? Will you sacrifice?