

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 21ST, 2022 // VISION SERVICE

DIVINE COMMUNICATION

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (KJV). This verse has been used erroneously to emphasize the importance of having a visionary leader to avoid people wondering aimlessly until death.

- Other translations offer clarity showing that without God's direct revelation (the Word), we are left to our own demise.

WE ARE RELIANT ON THE WORD

John 1:14 tells us, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." God proved His love for us by sending His Son to die for us (Rom. 5:8), and **we are reliant on His sacrifice.**

- Because of **our reliance on the Word** we are dedicated to expository teaching. This simply means we go verse-by-verse through books of the Bible.

THE VISION STATEMENT OF GOD

As Jesus ascended back to Heaven, He shared His vision for the Church. Jesus tells us in Matt. 28:19-20 to go and **disciple, baptize, and teach** people to do all the things Jesus has told us to do.

- This sounds simple, but it **takes the entire NT to show us how we're to accomplish these core objectives.**

A SIMPLE VISION

"To lead people to Christ through **authentic worship, authentic community, and authentic community service.**"

WORSHIP GATHERINGS

A COMMITMENT TO CORPORATE WORSHIP

From the birth of the Christian church in Acts 2 all the way through Revelation, the NT tells us to corporately worship as a church body (Heb. 10:24-25; Matt. 16:18; 18:20; Col. 3:16; Eph. 4:11-13; Rom. 10:17).

- **We have committed ourselves to create engaging and welcoming environments that point people to a life in Christ.**

A COMMITMENT TO THE WORD OF GOD

Our church 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

We end every service 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 people who may not believe yet to **ask a pastor questions** and possibly move forward.

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 to a Next Class.

- Casual night where you get to have a meal with the team, hear my story, hear the church's story, take a tour, and take your next steps in the process.

DEVELOPMENT

FOLLOWING JESUS

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.**

- **Next group starts on September 27th.** Sign up on the app or the website if you have never taken this course.

AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP (BORO)

A 12-week group that goes into practical and effective ways to make disciples that make more disciples.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

This is a personal, simple, and effective tool to put disciple-making into practice. Download the app and click on **Home-Development-DBS** to get started.

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- **Experience Finance:** Hosted at our Murfreesboro campus. This will focus on budgeting, paying off debt, and handling money biblically.
- **Preparing for Marriage:** For couples that are engaged and participate at The Experience. Sign up on the website or app, or email info@experiencecc.com.

COMMUNITY

GOD IS COMMUNAL, AND WE SHOULD BE TOO

The Trinity shows us that God is communal, and if we are made in His image, we are to also be in community. The church has always met corporately on the weekend and in small groups during the week.

- **Small groups foster accountability, deep discussion, friendships, intergenerational mentors, and support.**

THIS IS WHERE "CHURCH" REALLY HAPPENS

The weekend service isn't designed for intimate interaction and relationships, but small groups are.

- In any church of any size, it's easy for us to be overlooked and become spectators instead of active participants. That is why we must take the step to be in intentional relationships through groups.

THE CHALLENGE

We are committed to **becoming a church of Life Groups and not a church with Life Groups.**

- We only have 5 Life Groups that are meeting throughout the week, and 34% of our adults

are currently attending. The groups are already busting at the seams, and we are **aiming for 60% participation.**

THE COMMITMENT

As a team, we are committed to personally discipling a group of people that will be our next group of leaders to invite people into their homes. We want to make groups more accessible to you in the future.

- We have to be committed to multiplication. In all discipleship relationships, there must come a time of "sending."

SERVING

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

There are several opportunities to serve the church body and visitors, but we also want to encourage you to serve outside of the church.

- We have committed ourselves to fulfilling the mission and vision. This means we cannot be everything for the community, but **we can radically support our local nonprofits who serve our community.**

THERE'S A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE!

As we grow, we will launch more ministries, creating more opportunities to serve. However, growth is fueled by your willingness to serve now.

- Please visit our app or website to **sign up for ECCO, Production, Hospitality, Security, Art Ministry, or our Prayer Team!**

WE ARE GROWING

A COMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are careful not to allow attendance numbers to be our only metric to measure success. We want to grow with integrity through discipleship.

- When our Sunday services reach 80% capacity in the sanctuary, we will look to add block services (5pm and 7pm) on Saturday evening.

A COMMITMENT TO PLANTING MORE CAMPUSES

The Experience Community is a network of churches with campuses in Murfreesboro, Cannon County, and Shelbyville.

- We believe God has called us to **continue to plant churches throughout Middle Tennessee and our next location we are hoping to plant is in Manchester sometime in 2023.**

MISSIONS

OUR STATE

- **Murfreesboro:** February 2009. **Cannon County:** August 2017. **Shelbyville:** August 2021. **MIT Program:** Our residential training program to launch more churches around the state. **The Network:** A central hub that supports all campuses and future church plants.

OUR NATION

- **Church at the Well:** Burlington, Vermont. **Hope Church:** Delmarva, Delaware. **City Church:** Albany, New York (3-4 campuses now). These relationships have been hard during COVID, but we feel like aiding churches in the Northeast is something we are called to do.

OUR WORLD

- **El Salvador:** Kings Castle that focuses on sharing the gospel with elementary-age kids (500+). We also connect with local leaders. **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

FINANCES: HOW WE STEWARD YOUR GIVING

ECC NETWORK (ALL CAMPUSES)

2021 Predicted Budget: **\$8.2 Million**. 2021 Actual Budget: **\$8.3 Million**

- 2022 Budget: **\$8.3 Million**. 2022 Expected Income: **\$9.4 Million**. Overall Staffing: 32% of Total Budget. Overall Benevolence: **\$2.4 Million, 30% of Total Budget**

ECC NETWORK (NETWORK ONLY)

Budget: \$2,494,940. **Administration:** \$886,974 (Salaries and Benefits). **Creative:** \$54,000 (Graphics, Photo/Video, Art Ministry, Communication). **Operating Costs:** \$671,120 (Security, Networking/IT, Maintenance, Insurance). **MIT:** \$378,046

THE EXPERIENCE SHELBYVILLE

Budget: \$282,541*. **Administration:** \$149,514 (Salaries and Benefits). **Other Admin:** \$30,168 (Maintenance, Taxes, General Admin). **Benevolence:** \$55,959. **Ministry Expenses:** \$31,900.

Operating Cost: \$15,000 (Utilities, Printing, Building Repair). **Mortgage:** \$67,440 - *Not included in the budget. **Actual Giving 2021:** \$273,061. **Projected Giving 2022:** \$290,500. **Actual Budget (Inc. Mtg.):** \$349,981. Difference: **-\$59,481**

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE VISION

I do not know who gives at this church. Whether one believes tithing is an NT thing or not, it is impossible to argue that Christians should not 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.**

BE COMMITTED

COMMITMENT ISSUES

- It is obvious in our culture today that we have serious commitment issues. However, we must **commit ourselves to seeing lives changed.**
- **Commit yourselves to regular attendance** (Heb. 10:25).
- **Commit to the discipleship process.** Take your next step, whatever that looks like.

YOU'RE INVITED

- **Commit to a relationship with God** by reading the Word, applying the Word, praying, and listening to God.
- **Commit to being the Church.** There is no Plan B! We are called to be the agents of change. When we commit to Jesus Christ, our lives are changed, and we are able to facilitate change in others.