

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 15TH, 2023 // 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 wandering 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

### 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).

- **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.

## NEXT

### 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 April 11th.** If you have never taken this course, sign up on the app or the website.

### Authentic Discipleship

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:** 8-week pre-marital class for couples that are engaged and participate at The Experience.

## 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.

- **Life 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 **Life Groups** are.

- We believe Life Groups are the best way to grow in our faith. Life Groups are not just what we do but who we are. **We are striving to be a church of Life Groups and not a church with Life Groups.**

### 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 shelbyville@experiencecc.com so we can help with training and getting people involved.

## 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 to serve in ECCO Kids, EON, Emerge, Production, Hospitality, Security, Art Ministry, or our Prayer Team!**

## 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 Toy), **Egypt** (First Priority-Brian and Maged)

## FINANCES

### Across all Experience Campuses

- 2022 Giving Totals: **\$9,873,855**
- 2023 Budget: **\$9,900,000**
- Murfreesboro: **\$5,947,411**
- Cannon County: **\$681,799**
- Tullahoma: **\$457,316**
- Overall Staffing: **32% of Total Budget**
- Overall Benevolence: **30% of Total Budget; \$2,970,000**

### The Experience Shelbyville

- **Budget:** \$400,251
- **Administration:** \$170,671 (Salaries and Benefits)
- **Other Admin:** \$17,275 (Maintenance, Taxes, General Admin)
- **Operating Cost:** \$26,000 (Utilities and Maintenance)
- **Ministry Expenses:** \$61,389
- **Mortgage:** \$67,440
- **Benevolence:** \$57,476
- **Projected Giving 2023:** \$285,941
- **Budget:** \$400,251
- **Projected Giving:** \$285,941
- **Difference:** \$ -114,310

### 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.**

## ELDERS

### Spiritual Overseers

We are a pastor-led, elder-guarded church, but we did not want to rush into naming elders within the first year.

- We prayerfully invited Brandon Hathcock and Josh Weldon to come on as our elders. Both men meet the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3, and will serve the community well.

## MAKING DISCIPLES

### Prayer and Fasting

God is blessing our churches! Last week we had over 6,800 at our campuses. We have a heart to plant more churches but lack the resources necessary to fulfill our vision.

- **We must seek God through diligent and intentional times of prayer and fasting for the provision needed to do what He has called us to.**

### 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!** If you're not already doing so, consider joining us on the 40-day fast. **Commit to fulfilling the law of love by getting to know your neighbors!**

### 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 the 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!**