

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 26TH-27TH, 2023 // VISION

## WORSHIP

### SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE CORPORATE WORSHIP

We always have **worship, verse-by-verse teaching from the Bible**, and **time to respond regardless of what stage of faith one is in** via a pastor available to answer **questions**, a **Prayer Team** for anyone who needs prayer, **communion**, and an **opportunity to give**.

## NEXT

### AN EASY AND INFORMATIVE NEXT STEP

On the second Monday of every month, we invite anyone who is interested in learning more about The Experience to come 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): 7-week overview of Christianity and our church culture.
- Authentic Discipleship (201): 12-week group about how to be an effective disciple-maker.
- Experience Finance: A free study on the biblical approach to debt and money.
- Preparing for Marriage: A premarital class/group for engaged couples.

## COMMUNITY

### 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](mailto:lifegroups@experiencecc.com) so we can help train and get people involved.

### WE'VE PLACED AN EMPHASIS ON LIFE GROUPS

170 LGs at the moment, and we launch 65 a year. **We need people to take their next steps and go through the process to be LG leaders.**

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY

We are further incorporating CR into our process and would encourage more people to try it out Thursdays at 7 pm.

## 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 (we support 90+)**

### 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 (2009), Cannon County (2017), Shelbyville (2021), Tullahoma (2022)
- M.I.T., finances, and organization

### OUR NATION

- Hope Church (Seaford, DE), City Church (Albany, NY), Garden City (Beverly, MA)
- We plan on taking two trips in 2024.

### OUR WORLD

- **El Salvador:** ministry to elementary-age kids. **Two trips in 2024.**
- **Uganda:** Working with street kids, teaching FJ, and training pastors. **Four trips in 2024.**
- **Guatemala:** **One trip in 2024.**
- **Eastern Europe:** EEM
- **Haiti:** Jameson and Shelby Toyo

## GOOD PROBLEMS

### MASSIVE GROWTH AT ALL CAMPUSES

In August 2022, we averaged 4,732 in Boro and 5,515 in all campuses.

- In August 2023, we averaged **6,430 in Boro** and **7,835 in all campuses (42% growth)**.
- **God is doing something miraculous here. Thank you for your patience, service, and willingness to be uncomfortable!**

### THE GROWTH IS A BLESSING AND AN OBSTACLE

- **Space:** ECCO Kids is averaging almost **1,600 kids** just in Boro. We need to be creative and make more use of our limited space. Students are also growing and using every inch of their space.
- **Parking:** We're trying to use our surroundings efficiently and transport people comfortably.

## VOLUNTEERS/SERVING

- Though we have an amazing volunteer base, the rapid growth has outpaced people serving in the church (**Volunteer Interest Meeting!**).

## GIVING

- It usually takes about six months for someone to commit to giving. Because of growth, our giving is less than what it should be.

## FINANCES

### TOTAL FOR ALL CAMPUSES:

- 2023 budget: **\$9,800,000**
- Estimated expenses (because our church has grown 42%): **\$10,400,000**
- Projected income: **\$12,100,000**

### CAMPUS BUDGET BREAKDOWN

- Murfreesboro: \$5,947,411
- Cannon County: \$737,477
- Shelbyville: \$400,251
- Tullahoma: \$616,872
- Network (needs for all campuses): \$2,105,218
- Ministry expenses: \$634,244
- Operating costs: \$422,900
- Full and part time salaries for all campuses: **\$3,422,552 (34%)**
- Average salary for full-time: \$51,510
- Taxes: \$370,498
- Health Benefits: \$573,588
- M.I.T.: \$278,000
- Police and Sheriff Dept.: \$95,000
- Outside CPA: \$11,696
- Outreach and Benevolence: **\$2,970,000 (30%)**

Individuals needing help, schools, missionary needs and ministries, non-profits, and church planting needs if necessary, etc.

- Buildouts for growth: \$1,050,000

Because of growth, we are constantly having to build rooms, tear out walls, etc.

- Debt: **\$0**

### HOW IS OUR GIVING?

Compared to average giving in churches in America, we actually don't fare too well. **The average giving per person in 14,000 churches surveyed was \$2262 annually. This campus averages \$1611.**

- Our growth or demographics may affect this, but it could also be we're not doing our part.

### 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.**

### WE ARE TRYING TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

We don't advertise or use gimmicks, waste money on production or meaningless comforts, we exist very frugally, and we are the most benevolent church we know how to be.

- **We need your help financially to provide space and resources for people to be able to hear the Gospel.**

## ETERNITY

### WHAT KEEPS ME UP AT NIGHT

The thought of someone in need of the truth not having the space to hear the Word should bother us profusely.

- We are not doing anything to manufacture the growth God is giving us. **We all need to make sure the gospel is at the forefront of everything we do!**

### 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. We desire to help illuminate the truth to anyone seeking.**

### SHARING THE BURDEN

- We have a great church, but we all need to dig in because there is much to be done.
- **Since we're not manufacturing the growth, it must be God making it happen.** If that is the case, **we need to step up and do all we can to facilitate what God wants to do.**

### HOW TO SHARE THE BURDEN NOW

- **Please be patient with us** as we do our best to navigate rapid growth and limited resources.
- Be present and **make church a priority.**
- Don't just come; **get involved in our discipleship process** because it helps grow and connect people.
- **Build your personal relationship with Jesus** through prayer, the Word, and obedience. There's no gimmick or trick to seeing lives changed; it is just **consistent dedication to a relationship with Christ.**
- **Pray for this church and our city (pic from app).** Prayer has to be the bedrock!
- **Prayerfully consider tithing.** I will not personally benefit, and we will not use your giving for foolish or decadent means. It will go to serving our city and advancing the gospel.
- **Serve.** It honors God and changes people!
- Step up and **become a disciple-maker.**

### THIS IS ALL FOR HIS KINGDOM!

- 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!**
- **Now more than ever, people need the church to be the light!**