

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 14TH, 2024 // VISION

MASSIVE GROWTH AT ALL CAMPUSES

At the end of 2022, we averaged 5,515 in all campuses. In 2023, we averaged 369 in Tullahoma and 7,412 in all campuses (35% growth). Last weekend we had **446 in Tullahoma** and 8,474 in all campuses.

- We baptized 32 in Tullahoma and 531 across all four campuses in 2023.

WHY IS GOD BLESSING THIS CHURCH?

We have seen rapid growth the last 14 years because we do **expository teaching, give a large part of our income away, are involved in the community and welcome all people, and we're simple and authentic.**

- We're simply using biblical tactics to make disciples, baptize, and teach (Matthew 28).

WORSHIP

A COMMITMENT TO CORPORATE WORSHIP

From the birth of the Church in Acts 2 through Revelation, the NT tells us to worship together corporately (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 solid commitment to expository teaching. **Studying verse-by-verse prohibits us from skipping complex topics and 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** 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 invite old, new, or non-believers to ask a pastor questions and move forward.

NEXT

AN EASY AND INFORMATIVE NEXT STEP

On the second Monday of every month, we invite anyone 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 many of you, and you get to know more about this place.

DEVELOPMENT

FOLLOWING JESUS (101)

- A seven-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 (201)

- A 12-week course about practical and effective ways to make disciples who make disciples.

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 weekends and in small groups during the week.

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

WE WANT TO BE INTENTIONAL WITH LIFE GROUPS

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

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

SERVING

CONSISTENT SERVICE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Life Choices, Blue Monarch, HorsePlay Inc., Shepherd's House, Storehouse Food Pantry, Come to the Table, The Attic Outlet, Be the Bush, Haven of Hope, Miriam House, FCA, Schools, We Care, Community Cleaning Day, Independence Day Celebration, and Fall Festival

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE CHURCH BODY

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

- Hospitality, ECCO Kids, Encounter, Emerge, EON, Worship/Production, Security/Medical, Prayer Team, Art Ministry, ECCO Kids Wednesdays!

MISSIONS

OUR STATE

- Murfreesboro: February 2009, Cannon County: August 2017, Shelbyville: August 2021, Tullahoma: November 2022, M.I.T. Program: Training Ministers for Growth, The Network: A team that supports all campuses.

OUR NATION

- Hope Church: Seaford, Delaware, City Church: Albany, New York, Garden City Church: Beverly, Massachusetts
- We plan on taking two trips in 2024

OUR WORLD

- El Salvador: ministry to elementary-age kids. Two trips in 2024.
- Guatemala: One trip in 2024.
- Eastern Europe: EEM, and we are trying to find churches to partner with in Europe.
- We also support missionaries in Haiti, Costa Rica, Thailand, South Africa, and Egypt.

FINANCES: HOW WE STEWARD YOUR GIVING

TOTAL FOR ALL CAMPUSES:

- 2023 – Budget: \$9,900,000, Expenses: \$10,900,000 (42% growth), Income: \$12,975,000
- 2024 – Budget: \$13,000,000 (based off last year's giving)

FULL AND PART TIME SALARIES ALL CAMPUSES:

- \$4,564,203 (35%), Average salary for full-time: \$54,760, Taxes: \$218,000, Health Benefits: \$883,200, M.I.T.: \$152,000, Police and Sheriff Dept.: \$79,000, Outside CPA: \$13,000

2024 CAMPUS BUDGET BREAKDOWN (ALL INCLUSIVE)

- Murfreesboro and Network: \$9,644,539, Cannon County: \$781,064, Shelbyville: \$426,475, Tullahoma: \$825,801
- Ministry expenses: \$2,176,524, Operating costs: \$1,353,108 (buildouts, maintenance, utilities, etc.), Outreach and Benevolence: \$3,892,627 (30%), Debt: \$0
- Our team earns 35% of our budget compared to 55% national average. We give away 30% compared to 10% national average.

- If you are giving and serving at this church, we thank you more than we can say! Your faithfulness is changing lives!

THE EXPERIENCE TULLAHOMA

- 2023 Budget: \$825,801, Salaries: \$261,129, Benevolence: \$128,209, Ministry Expenses: \$147,461, Operating Costs: \$233,360 (rent, general administration)

HOW IS OUR GIVING?

Compared to average giving in America, we don't fare well. **The average giving per person in 14,000 churches surveyed was \$2,340 annually. This campus averages \$1,737.**

- As a congregation, we're about \$222,500 below where our giving should be, but we're stewarding what is given very well.

WHERE WOULD IT GO?

If we had been average in 2023, that \$222,500 would NOT have been used for luxurious living or increased salaries, it would have gone into the ministries of this church.

- If we had been average in our giving last year, we would have met every need here and contributed to the ministries beyond our neighborhoods.

THE EXPERIENCE TULLAHOMA 2023

- Giving 2023: \$641,047, Expenses 2023: \$815,276, Difference: -\$174,229

THE NETWORK

Many of you only see the six of us here on staff at the Tullahoma campus. **There are 22 more people that work hard to create, plan, and implement so much of what happens here in Tullahoma...and we don't pay them out of our budget.**

BLESSING

Because we are part of a network of campuses, we have been blessed with support for our needs here in Tullahoma.

- God has provided, and soon it will be our time to bless others beyond our campus.

BURDEN

The thought of someone needing the truth and not having a place to hear the Word should bother us profusely.

- 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 ARE TRYING TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

We don't advertise or use gimmicks, waste money on production or meaningless comforts, 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 hear the gospel.

WHAT ARE TITHES AND OFFERINGS?

Tithing is the biblical action of giving a tenth of one's "first fruits" to the work of the ministry.

- Offerings are when we give to the church or benevolence beyond tithes.
- Giving to non-profits is an offering given above what we should be contributing to the church.

TITHING IN THE NT?

The command to give exactly 10% is not blatantly taught in the NT, though Jesus alludes to it in Mt. 23:23.

- The NT takes it up a notch and asks us to practice generosity because Christ has been generous to us. Personally, I think 10% is a good standard of generosity.
- 1 Corinthians 16:1–3 (CSB), 2 Corinthians 8:2–4 (CSB)

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE VISION

I do not know who gives at this church.

- Whether one believes tithing is a NT thing or not, it is clear that Christians should contribute financially to the church's mission.
- If we are going to advance the gospel, it will take not only time and effort but also a financial commitment.

SHARING

A HEALTHY CULTURE

- By depending heavily on the Word, authentic community, and serving the city, we are culturally in a good place to reach the lost and mature each other in our faith.
- When we are on the same page and growing in our faith, we are more equipped to reach the lost.

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 as we do our best with 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.
- Join us in the 40-Day Fast!
- Build your personal relationship with Jesus: pray, read, listen, obey. There's no gimmick or trick to seeing lives changed; it is just consistent dedication to a relationship with Christ.
- 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! We have a Volunteer Fair coming up!

THIS IS ALL FOR HIS KINGDOM!

- We must stay humble, focused, selfless, and hungry because God has included us in His plan to touch people and save them here and all over the world!
- The church must step up because people desperately need Christ, and we are to be His ambassadors.