

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 17TH-18TH, 2024 // 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, and **communion**.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- In September 2023, we averaged 7,412 in all campuses. Last weekend we had **9,050 in all campuses (23%)**. We have baptized 391 so far and project over **600** by end of year.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- We just need everyone to be consistent in coming to church (Hebrews 10:25).

NEXT

AN EASY NEXT STEP IN THE PROCESS

On the 2nd Monday of every month, we invite anyone who is interested in learning more about The Experience to come and 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.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- We average around 171 people a month at Next Class, which is a great response.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- If you haven't been, please come out and see if this church is a good fit for you. This is an important step in getting plugged into The Experience.

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 one-day free study on the biblical approach to debt and money.
- Preparing for Marriage: An 8-week premarital class/group for engaged couples.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- 872 signed up for F.J., 315 for A.D., 40 couples for PFM, and 77 people for Experience Finance.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- For people to go through the process. We expect all volunteers to at least go through F.J. to make sure we are on the same page.

COMMUNITY

INTENTIONALLY BUILDING COMMUNITY

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 so we can help with training and getting people involved.

DOING THIS ON ALL LEVELS

We've created space for community for everyone in our church from large group/small group format in ECCO and Student Ministries, to our network of Life Groups for young adults (Evident), to our adult Life Groups.

- **If we don't intentionally get in community we will get lost in the shuffle.**

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- Currently we have 179 adult groups (Boro) with a plan for 21 more by the end of the year.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- Attend Intro to Life Groups Aug. 24th at 2:30 pm or Aug. 25th at noon, September launch on app (11 new groups), and existing groups to multiply so we can plug more people in.

SERVE

IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH

We have many serving opportunities in (**Nursery, ECCO, Students, Hospitality, Parking**, etc.) and through the church (**5000, Reclaimed, BAR, Embrace Grace, Stepping Stones**, and **90+ nonprofits** we support).

- Different serving opportunities have different levels of commitment.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- 38% of our adults serve in some capacity. Though this is good, we would love to get more people serving others.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- **Come to the Volunteer Fair Monday! We're called to serve, and with our growing church and city there are many opportunities!**

MISSIONS

OUR CITY AND STATE

- Currently in 4 counties with plans to expand.

OUR NATION

- Churches in Beverly, Mass., Albany, NY, and Seaford, DE, and 7 other domestic partnerships.

OUR WORLD

- El Salvador, Egypt, Guatemala, Costa Rica, EEM, and 12 other international partnerships.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- This year, we will have sent teams to El Salvador, Egypt, Massachusetts, and New York.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- We need to communicate missions better and create more opportunities to send people. We are working very hard on this.

FINANCES

WHY DO WE SHOW FINANCES?

We are transparent about finances because we want to **live above reproach** (1 Timothy 3:2), **be good stewards** (1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 25:29), and **honor your sacrifice** (1 Corinthians 4:2). We're not doing this to guilt or manipulate you.

- **We're frugal, benevolent, and conscious about how we use your giving!**

TOTAL FOR ALL CAMPUSES:

- 2024 Budget: **\$13,000,000**; Estimated expenses (11% over because church has grown 23%): **\$14,457,784**; Projected income: **\$17,145,038**
- Giving per person: Boro: **\$2,221 (up from \$1,611!)**, All campuses average: **\$1,864**, National average: **\$2,262**
- Full and part time salaries for all campuses: **\$4,454,388 (34% of budget)** – The national average is 50-55%; Employee Taxes: \$233,000; Health Benefits: \$1,300,000
- M.I.T.: \$152,000; Police and Sheriff Dept.: \$91,978; Outside CPA: \$17,314
- Ministry Expenses: \$2,546,382 – All expenses to serve nursery through adult ministries (supplies, gear, printing, other materials, subscriptions, etc.).
- Operating costs: \$1,666,176 – Utilities, rent for Tullahoma, cleaning services
- Construction costs: \$436,890 – Flood repair, more rooms, carpet, etc.
- Outreach and Benevolence: **\$3,892,627 (30%)** – Individuals needing help, schools, missionary needs and ministries, nonprofits, church planting needs if necessary, etc.
- The national average is 10% for churches.
- Debt: \$0. We own 3 of our 4 buildings and rent our Tullahoma campus as we save up to buy it in cash.

COMMITMENT TO THE VISION

I don't know who gives at this church. Whether one believes tithing is a 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.**

EXCITING THINGS

SOME THINGS TO CELEBRATE

- Largest Worship Nights; Largest Prayer Nights – This one is special! **We need to be praying!**; Most projected baptisms – Maybe the greatest measure of success; Growth in every campus; Most money saved and given away.

SOME GOOD THINGS IN THE WORKS

Pastoral ministry (new)

- We have hired a team of seasoned men and women solely to help meet pastoral needs.

Student Ministries

- We're putting extra emphasis on connecting with schools and making our middle and high school ministries extraordinary.

Getting Mayday space in December

- This will give us an additional 11,000 sq. ft. of space that will benefit ECCO on the weekends and Encounter during the week.
- Though this helps with some space issues, **we are still figuring out how to better accommodate everyone.**

CHALLENGES

SOME OBSTACLES WE ARE WORKING ON

Interior Space

- We have 91,000 sq. ft. with Mayday. The average 800-person church has 29,600 sq. ft. That means we technically need over 300,000 to accommodate our current attendance.
- We're aggressively saving money and looking for options (mall and SF).

Parking

- We have 475 actual spaces and park between 700-1000 cars per service. We have tried purchasing 4 properties around us to no avail.
- **Thank you so much for being patient with us!** Also, please consider joining the parking or bus ministry!

Preserving our culture and integrity

- As we grow, we must maintain a **culture of excellence, teaching the Word, sacrifice**, and **being a place that welcomes all people without compromising biblical truths.**
- **We will always be evolving, but we cannot sacrifice these values!**

GOD HAS BLESSED US FOR A REASON

- We have never used gimmicks to grow. **God is providing for us because of our commitment to the Word and the sacrifice for the communities we are in.**
- There is still much work to be done here, throughout Tennessee, America, and the world and **we must accept the call.**

WE HAVE TO LEAN HEAVILY ON JESUS!

- We have to be **praying, ingesting the Word, obeying** the Word and the Spirit's conviction, and in **strong community.**
- **We must also fall deeper in love with God and ALL people!** This will become increasingly more difficult, but also increasingly more vital!

NOT GROWING WEARY (GALATIANS 6:9)

- In essence, we must keep the Great Commission the focus (disciple, baptize, teach) without compromise or burnout.
- **Now more than ever, people need the hope, wisdom, grace, and love Jesus has to offer, and we are His conduits for His light and the good news to touch hearts.**