

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 17TH–18TH, 2024 // VISION

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? (1 CORINTHIANS 3) WHAT IS THE "CHURCH"?

When we get this question wrong, we confuse the goals, vision, and mission of the Church.

- Church is a living, breathing, active group of people that God describes as His body (1 Corinthians 12:27).
- Church is about Jesus—not us!
- We don't go to Church...we ARE the Church!

FOUR PICTURES OF THE CHURCH: CHURCH IS...

- God's family, so the call is for us to grow in maturity within this family (vs. 1–4).
- God's field, so the call is for us to work together to see fruit produced for God's glory (vs. 5–10).
- God's building, so the call is for us to build it with integrity and faithfulness (vs. 10–15).
- God's temple, so the call is to worship Him when we gather and not make it about ourselves (vs. 16–17).

OUR VISION A SIMPLE VISION...

The Experience Community creates authentic disciples of Jesus Christ through Authentic Worship, Authentic Community, and Authentic Community Service.

WE MAKE DISCIPLES THROUGH...

- Authenticity and Simplicity—we strive to be sincere, honest, and real, and keep things uncomplicated.
- A commitment to authentic worship, community, and community service.
- Pushing people out of their comfort zones in a biblical way—if you never want to serve, give, or grow, you're not going to be happy here.
- Expository Bible teaching—verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter, whole books of the Bible.
- A culture of intentional disciple-making (development classes, Life Groups, serving, and giving).
- Being community and outreach minded—we serve in various outreaches and support local nonprofits, schools, police/fire department/first responders (Matthew 5:16).

REACHING OUTSIDE THESE WALLS

OUR COMMUNITY

- We raised \$23,240 to purchase supplies for We Care Cannon, had nearly 50 volunteers hand out supplies, give tours and haircuts, and sorted and packed \$4,000 worth of underwear.
- We have given away almost 1,000 food boxes through our 5000 Ministry.
- We've provided care packages to community workers and organizations on a weekly basis.
- We had a Life Group in McMinnville help clean up and paint buildings with HOME—Homeless of McMinnville Effort.
- This upcoming school year, we're going to be focusing on reaching our middle and high school students here in Cannon County (providing monthly care packages for nominated students and faculty).

OUR STATE

- We raised \$50,000 for AncoraTN to help stop human trafficking.
- We helped FCA provide 1,000 Bibles to students in schools in Middle Tennessee.
- We provided meals for hundreds of children in need through 2nd Harvest Backpack program.
- 40 families attended the foster care interest meeting we hosted with Monroe Harding.

OUR NATION

- We financially support churches in the New England/Northeast region of the U.S.: Hope Church (Seaford, DE), City Church (Albany, NY), and Garden City Church (Beverly, MA).
- In July, we sent a team of students to Garden City Church in Beverly, Massachusetts to help lead a kid's camp for their community.

OUR WORLD

- In March, we sent a team to El Salvador (we have another one going in August).
- Earlier this year, we sent a scouting trip to Egypt (we have our first team going to minister there in October).
- We have scouting trips to Guatemala and Costa Rica coming up, and we're looking at mission opportunities in Europe.

CHURCH METRICS & NUMBERS

ACROSS ALL EXPERIENCE CAMPUSES

- 2024 Budget: \$12,975,423.63 – **Murfreesboro**: \$9,644,539.69; **Cannon**: \$781,064.41; **Tullahoma**: \$825,801.21; **Shelbyville**: \$426,475.84
- Network (shared by all four campuses): \$1,297,542.48
- Overall staffing: 34% of total budget
- Overall benevolence: 30% of the total budget (\$3,892,627.44)
- We're debt-free at all four campuses!

TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR OUR CAMPUS

- \$781,064.41: C.C. Campus Budget
- \$324,385.62: Network expenses (staffing and costs for graphics/videos/creative, ministry team resources, facilities, HR/accounting, curriculum, subscriptions, etc.)
- \$1,105,450.03: Total annual Cost (campus & network costs)

CANNON COUNTY CAMPUS BUDGET

- Annual Budget for 2024: \$781,064.41
- Administration: \$407,668.20 (all staff salaries, benefits, payroll taxes, childcare, custodial crew, etc.)
- Operations: \$81,387.36 (utilities, maintenance, technology, office equipment/supplies, etc.)

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2024: \$781,064.41

- Ministry Expenses: \$97,926.23 (equipment, supplies, audio/video hardware & software, volunteer meals, Life Group resources, hospitality supplies, security team, pastoral expenses, ECCO, student ministry, etc.)
- Benevolence/Missions: \$194,082.62 (20%)
- Local nonprofits, community outreach, church benevolence requests, and missionaries/mission projects

GIVING

- Year to Date: \$709,371.57
- On track in 2024: \$1,188,200.00
- Total annual costs: \$1,105,450.03
- This is our chance to give back and contribute to other campuses in our Network who supported us for quite a while!
- 2 Corinthians 8:7

WHY GIVE?

An important spiritual discipline is regularly giving to God through supporting the ministry of the local church through tithes (10% of our income) and offerings (anything beyond 10%).

- Regularly giving reflects a grateful heart that wants to give back to God a portion of what He has given us—in reality, what is already His. Giving regularly is our opportunity to trust God with our finances.

WHY SERVE?

Jesus came to serve (Luke 22:24–27), Jesus modeled serving, and Jesus commanded us to serve (John 13).

- Greatness in the Kingdom of God looks like putting others' needs ahead of our own, dying to ourselves, and giving our lives for Jesus' mission.
- We all have different gifts, and we all are in different seasons, but we all can serve (Volunteer Fair).

GOALS

SOME VERY PRACTICAL GOALS...

1. Evangelism: a culture of engaging our communities with the gospel, inviting people to church, having spiritual conversations with neighbors. I'd like to see our baptism to attendance ratio be 20:1 (700–750 in attendance, 35–37 baptisms for the year, currently at 14 baptisms).
2. Discipleship: everyone a disciplemaker! A church made up of Life Groups. Grow from 17 to 20–25 LG's.
3. Serving: we need volunteers in security, parking, and ECCO. We need folks at the 10 am service to serve at the 12 pm, and as we grow, we'll need people from the 10 am service to be willing to move to other services.
4. Giving: the national average for annual church giving per person is \$2,272–\$2,848 (we're still at \$1,697). I'd like to see us at least reach the national average.

1. IF WE ARE GOD'S FAMILY, WE NEED TO BE IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND MATURE SPIRITUALLY.

- Sitting in a church service one hour a week is not the same thing as living life within Christian community (59 "one another" commands).
- If this is your church home, you need to take the Following Jesus class and get in a Life Group.
- Following Jesus (starts October 1st), Intro to Life Groups (August 19th, Monday night).

2. IF WE ARE COWORKERS IN GOD'S FIELD, WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO REACH PEOPLE FOR JESUS.

- When was the last time you shared Christ with someone outside the walls of this church?
- Put your non-Christian neighbor, coworker, or family member on your prayer list and look for opportunities to share Christ (invite them to church).
- If you're not serving, why? Come out to our Volunteer Fair (Monday night, August 19th).

3. IF WE ARE GOD'S BUILDING, WE NEED TO LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY, HOLINESS, AND FAITHFULNESS.

- More than ever before, the world needs the Church to be an accurate representation of the character, love, and truth of Jesus.
- Do not let the turmoil of this election season hijack your Christian witness.
- If you are playing with secret or hidden sin, it's time to bring it into the light and let Jesus heal you.

4. IF WE ARE GOD'S TEMPLE, WE MUST COMMIT TO WORSHIP, PRAY, AND LISTEN TO GOD WHEN WE GATHER.

- Why are you here? I hope we're all here to worship, pray, and listen to God's Word.
- We need to get over the fear of others judging us—if we need prayer, we should be humble enough to come receive prayer.
- We need to be careful to treat God's bride, body, and temple with reverence and honor.
- Ephesians 2:8–10