

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 18TH, 2024 // VISION

## RAPID GROWTH

### MASSIVE GROWTH AT ALL CAMPUSES

We experienced 35% growth in 2023, averaging 7,412. This campus has experienced **73% growth** since December, with our numbers last weekend being 360 people at this campus and about **9,100 across all campuses**.

- 12 people have been baptized in 2024 in the Ville and 391 across all campuses.

### WHY IS GOD BLESSING THIS CHURCH?

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

- We are simply using biblical principles to make disciples, baptize, and teach (Matthew 28).

### CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO HEAR THE GOSPEL

We have made changes (buildouts and new team positions) that allowed us to do more and prepare for growth. **We launched Encounter, Authentic Discipleship, Weekday Kids, and 5000.**

- We have done all we can to provide space for the gospel to be heard, but **space in the sanctuary and parking continues to be a problem.**

### IT'S A GOOD PROBLEM

The remedy for space in the sanctuary is Saturday services. We currently need 60–70 volunteers serving on Sunday, and to launch Saturday services **we will need to double that number.**

- We have maximized the use of the BCLA lot, but it is still unsafe to cross 41A. **We are actively working toward a solution** (crossing guard, lot behind offices, bus).

## MISSIONS

### OUR STATE AND NATION

- Murfreesboro (2009), Cannon County (2017), Shelbyville (2021), Tullahoma (2022), and M.I.T.
- We support 7 different missionaries and ministries domestically: Mosaico Church (Smyrna, TN), Hope Church (Seaford, DE), City Church (Albany, NY), Garden City Church (Beverly, MA), New Life Church (Leominster, MA) and Young Life (USA).

### OUR WORLD

- We support 11 different missionaries and ministries internationally: King's Castle (El Salvador); EEM (Eastern Europe); Grandi Nan Nou Home (Haiti–Shelby and Jameson Toyo); Light and Life Ministries (Haiti); First Priority (World); Impact Africa (Ashley); Instruments of Joy (World); Paracletes (Thailand–Dylan and Rachel).

### WE ARE ACTS 1:8 MISSIONAL

We have two trips so far this year (El Salvador and a Student VBS trip to Garden City Church in Beverly, MA).

- At the end of this month, we have another El Salvador trip, and in October we will have our pilot trip to Egypt. That makes **four trips this year with seven trips already planned for 2025.**

### GOING DEEPER

We are currently exploring opportunities in Guatemala and Costa Rica. We hope to explore opportunities in Europe and here in our nation.

- Though we are open and actively looking at these new areas, **our desire is not just to add more partners but to go deeper with the ones we have.**

### FINANCES: HOW WE STEWARD YOUR GIVING

#### IT ALL BELONGS TO GOD

A steward is someone who manages another's property or financial affairs, meaning we are managers of God's possessions.

- As good stewards, we remember that we do not own what we have. **We have been entrusted to manage God's property in this life, and one day we will answer for how we handled His property.**

### TOTALS FOR ALL CAMPUSES: 2024

- Budget: **\$13,000,000**; Expenses: **\$14,457,784**; Projected Income: **\$17,145,038**
- Outreach & Benevolence: **\$3,892,627** 30% of Budget compared to a 10% national average.
- Our team earns 34% of our budget compared to a 55% national average.
- Full and part-time salaries for all campuses: \$4,454,388 (34%); Taxes: \$233,000; Health Benefits: \$1,300,000; M.I.T.: \$152,000
- Outside CPA: \$17,314
- Police and Sheriff Dept.: \$91,786 (present during all services in Boro and for directing traffic on 41a here in the Ville)

### CAMPUS BUDGET BREAKDOWN PLUS NETWORK

- Murfreesboro: \$9,644,539 + \$324,385 = **\$9,968,924**
- Cannon County: \$781,064 + \$324,385 = **\$1,105,449**
- Shelbyville: \$426,475 + \$324,385 = **\$750,860**
- Tullahoma: \$825,801 + \$324,385 = **\$1,150,186**

### THE EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY SHELBYVILLE

- Operating Costs: \$41,000 (utilities and maintenance); Benevolence: \$70,557; Ministry Expenses: \$70,748; Salaries: \$216,623; Benefits: \$66,300; Buildouts and Repairs: \$96,000; Mortgage (paid off this year): \$595,805
- **2024 Actual Budget/Expenses: \$1,157,033**

- **2024 Budget: \$750,861** (with shared Network Expenses)
- **2024 Projected Giving: \$602,577**
- Difference: **-\$148,284**
  - This amount is what it will take to not only meet the needs of one campus but also **share the load as one church.**

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

The average giving per person was \$2,340 for 14,000 churches surveyed in America. **Giving has increased by about \$500 per person this year with a campus average of \$1,995.53.**

- The congregation is giving better across all campuses, and we are only \$345 per person away from the average, so we must continue in obedience and trust.

### 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 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.**

### WE ARE TRYING TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

**We do not** advertise or use gimmicks to grow. **We will not** waste money on frivolous or meaningless comforts. **We will** strive to be as frugal as possible and to be the most benevolent church we know how to be.

- **We will continue to be transparent and honest to earn your trust, but it is up to you to be obedient.**

### BIBLICAL GIVING

#### 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 community beyond tithes.
- Giving financially to nonprofits is considered an offering above and beyond what we should be contributing to the church.
- Proverbs 3:9–10
- Malachi 3:8–10

#### TITHING IN THE NT?

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

- The NT takes it up a notch and asks us to practice generosity because Christ has been generous to us. Compared to Jesus, who gave us everything, 10% is a good standard of generosity.
- 2 Corinthians 8:2–4

#### WHERE IS OUR TREASURE?

Our lives are "like vapor" (James 4:14) compared to eternity, and we are to use our limited time to **store up treasures in heaven** (Matthew 6:19–24).

- The location of our treasures is key because **our heart follows our treasures** (Matthew 6:21). **If we are content storing up earthly treasures, then our hearts cannot be on heavenly things.**

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

#### IT'S ALL FOR HIS GLORY!

**We are making a real difference, and the evidence is all around us!**

- If you are regularly attending services, plugged into the Discipleship Process, giving, and serving, then you have actively been a part of authentically sharing Jesus with our community. **If we are obedient, God will continue to use us to transform lives!**

#### JUST A FEW TANGIBLE "WINS"

So far this year, **\$10,456** has gone into our schools and nonprofits supporting students and teachers.

- **1,692 items** were collected and donated to United Way's "Stuff the Bus" in July.
- We provided classroom needs for **10 different projects** through Donors Choose.
- We helped **26 children** through CarePortal.

#### WE CANNOT LET UP NOW!

- We have done nothing to manufacture the growth we see, so God must be making it happen. Since that is the case, **we must continue in what has gotten us to this point.**
- **Make church a priority, get involved in our Discipleship Process, and get plugged in to community** (Intro to LG at 1:00 pm)!
- **Invest in your personal relationship with Jesus** through praying, reading, listening, and obeying. This is not something we can do for you!
- There's **no gimmick or trick to seeing lives changed—it is just consistent dedication to a relationship with Christ.**
- **Prayerfully consider tithing.** The team will not financially benefit, our salary percentages will not go up, and we will not use your giving for foolish and decadent means. **It will be used to serve our city and advance the gospel.**
- **Serve.** It honors God and changes people! We have a **Volunteer Fair** on Aug. 19th!

#### IT IS ALL FOR HIS KINGDOM!

- We must stay humble, focused, selfless, and hungry because **we are invited to be instrumental in God touching people and saving them here in Shelbyville, Bedford County, and all over the world!**
- **We are the church and must step up because people desperately need Christ, and we are to be His ambassadors.**