

The Hope Project – Building Tomorrow Together

Good morning, Church! Thank you for being here with us today.

My name is Bobby, and I would love to connect with you after the service if we haven't yet.

Our teams work really hard to make this church feel like your church. If this is your first time, we don't want it to be the last.

Today is a special day...one that I have been looking forward to for a long time now.

We just finished up a sermon series called MY Why. We looked at living our lives with purpose and a vision from God. We as individuals have a calling from God, but collectively we are called The Church. We seek God for the vision and mission of CHC.

Before we jump into today, I want to back track just a bit.

In June of 2021, 6 families met in my living room and begin the process of planting this church.

I begin to seek God about what kind of church He was calling us to be.

I've known since HS that God has put this call on my life to help hurting people. I didn't always know how or where, but I knew what my mission was.

God gave great clarity that as we are starting with a blank slate that this church would only be successful if people experienced God and not just Bobby or the staff.

So, our mission statement is birthed out of this mindset...**CHC exists to invite everyday people to experience the hope of Jesus in every way.**

We officially launched in Jan of 2022. We have about two years of foundation laid. I get asked a lot, what kind of church are you guys? Most people mean what's your worship style when they ask that question.

But I love this question because I can answer with certainty because of what we have seen.

What kind of church are we?

- 1. We are the kind of church that sits on the window seal when we have too many people.**
- 2. We are the kind of church that fervently prayers for and with people.**

3. **We are the kind of church who stands out in the cold, rain, or brutal heat to wave at people and make sure they feel welcome.**
4. **We are the kind of church who drives hours and hours away to be with families going through crisis.**
5. **We are the kind of church that shows up early to set up and stays late to pack up.**
6. **We are the kind of church who gives generously and makes it possible to support local and global missions.**

(I asked some of our people who have been with us for a long time)

7. **We are the kind of church that is non-judgmental and family friendly.**
8. **We are a Jesus loving church that is welcoming, loving, and encouraging.**
9. **We are a comfortable place that isn't boujee. A place that is totally focused on Jesus and willing to walk through the weeds with people.**

Man, I love that! That's who we have been. That's who we are, but what about tomorrow? What's the vision for the future?

Proverbs 29.18 | Where there is no vision, the people perish:

Here is why this is so important...**When you get a vision it points to what is coming.**

This is true for you personally. Your family. Your business. Your career. Your future marriage.

Without vision, we are left to wander in the dark down a path that ultimately leads to destruction.

Vision is vital.

“Getting God’s vision for your life requires prayer, careful thought, and a continual effort to hear God’s voice. It’s the result of seeing things clearly, with eyes of faith rather than eyes of fear. When your faith guides your conscience, you’ll gain a clearer understanding of how to move forward with purpose.” - Rick Warren

Vision is an ability to “see” farther than the natural eyes can look. It’s holding a picture of what God wants for your life in your mind.

It's an image for your future that you can vividly see. It gives you a goal to pursue and encourages you to focus as you journey through life.

I asked our staff and ministry leaders to do a little project for me back before Christmas time. Let me encourage you to do this little exercise with your spouse or future spouse. Do this with your kids. Do this with your business.

Students, singles...all of us can do this. It's called...**What do I see?** (Dreams)

What do you want to see in every aspect of your life? I asked our teams to do this for CHC.

I see CHC partners giving generously and hearing about how God blesses their obedience.

I see CHC giving more to our community and mission partners.

I see a large room where kids can worship and learn together.

I see CHC loving the unchurched the way Jesus loves us.

I see CHC being the people that those in crisis turn to because they know they are safe from judgement.

I see a place where every person will know they are seen and truly believe they can come with any need.

I see 75% of regular attenders serving at least once a month.

I see small groups who serve the church, the community, and the world together.

I see CHC worshipping in our own building with people singing LOUD!

Bobby's List:

I see CHC partners being disciplined and discipling others.

I see a Hope Center that serves as a light house in our community for those hurting and in need.

I see fields of kids playing sports with parents and grandparents cheering them on.

I see a preschool and after-school program that serves local families.

I see a CHC campus being fully built out and providing hope for generations to come.

If you haven't noticed yet...this is a pretty big vision. Big vision takes big faith.

We can do our part, but for this to happen, we must rely on Him.

Psalm 127.1 | Unless the LORD builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain...

This verse reveals the key to success in any endeavor and God's absolute sovereignty over every person and event.

In any activity, we need God's blessing. All that we accomplish in life will be for naught if the Lord is not in it. We can "build," and we can "watch," but it is the Lord who gives success.

The clause *unless the Lord builds the house* does not imply that the Lord has a hammer and nails and actually performs construction work. Rather, it speaks metaphorically of the Lord's direct involvement in our lives.

The Hebrew word here for "house" appears nearly a thousand times in the Bible. It is used literally to refer to temples, palaces, and homes, and figuratively to refer to households and families—all of which are important structures in a person's life.

The word represents not only a primary dwelling place but also one's sense of self-identity, security, and place in this world.

We cannot reasonably hope to have a fulfilling, truly successful life without our heavenly Father's help, guidance, and protection over our "house."

No matter how skilled or diligent the workers are, "the work of the builders is wasted" (NLT) unless the Lord builds the house.

He is the master carpenter of our lives. He is the source of wisdom, which is the most valuable building material:

I believe now is the time we ask God to use us in making this dream a reality.

Today we are launching...**The Hope Project (show graphic)**

THP is an ambitious faith journey of City Hope Church (CHC) to secure land and construct or remodel a new CHC home along the Hwy 170 corridor between Okatie and Beaufort, SC, where the hope of Jesus thrives, and lives are transformed.

The mission for THP is clear: To follow Gods leading to raise the necessary funds to acquire land and construct or remodel a building that will house CHC and The Hope

Center, which will serve as a beacon of hope and a hub for community engagement, making our vision, “what we see,” a living reality.
The goal of THP is raise at least \$5 million.

I am excited to announce that as we launch this campaign today, we start with \$345k. (almost at 10% of our goal...7%)

This endeavor will not be easy...but that’s why we believe now is the time.

Here is what I am asking you to do...prayerfully consider how you can partner with us in this journey.

Every single person matters. Every single prayer matters. Ask God, God you have a plan, what’s my part?

Practically and logistically – This might be a one-time gift or a recurring giving...however you feel the Lord is leading you to give we are able to handle it.

This is over and above your regular tithe. Meaning if you tithe \$10 per week to CHC, we are asking that you pray and ask God how much over that \$10 should you give to THP.

Why is that a big deal?? The ministries of CHC will still go on. We still have people to love and serve. That’s not going to stop.

You can go to our website and there is a Hope Project page that will give you tons of info. This is the place you can go and sign up.

I want to pause here for a second. I know some here are like me and when you are met with something like this there is instant skepticism.

It’s like getting those sales calls on the phone about your car warranty or your student loan. I have so much fun with those.

I ran across these this week...(Show pic of #5, and then #12)
(<https://www.boredpanda.com/funny-scam-messages/>)

I get it. If that’s you, sit back and pray until God gives you the green light. Probably not the best sales pitch, right?

I’m not like you pros in here.... some of ya’ll could sell a glass of water to a drowning man.

I’m not selling anything, but I do want you to know how this can affect your life.

We've talked about what THP is. We've talked about how we are going to go about it. We've even talked about why we believe this is God's vision. But I believe the "who" behind THP is the most important.

Who is The Hope Project for?

Single parents who need resources and support.

Marriages that are broken, so they can find support and Biblical counsel.

Senior Adults to have a Godly community and a place to leave a legacy.

Kids to come and have fun learning about Jesus.

Students to have Godly influences, whom they can connect with and pour into their lives.

Disciples of Jesus to have a place to grow their knowledge and teach others.

Families to come worship Jesus together.

Addicts to have a safe space to hear that there is hope and they are deeply loved.

The lost to hear of and experience the goodness of Jesus.

Men to be challenged to become better husbands and fathers where a Godly brotherhood can be established.

Women to find authentic friendships.

Military families to find support, encouragement, and a consistent community.

Young Adults to find Godly friendships while seeking God's guidance.

Do you know anyone that fits in there? That's how THP directly affects you. It may be you! It may be someone you love!

THP is not for the purpose of building buildings, but for the purpose of building people.

Through the hope project many people will encounter Him!

Conclusion:

I believe that...**Our impact will be measured by how we reach the next generation and how we love our community.**

People have asked me...man that's a big vision, are you nervous.

I'm not nervous because God's got a purpose. I'm here to glorify God. I'm here to obey God. This is His church. This is His vision. This is His business.

I can stand before you today in a state of confidence and bold assurance that these dreams and visions will become a reality. Why? Because they are inspired by God!

The takeaway for today...How can I be involved?

Starts with a relationship with Christ.

Moment of prayer.