

We the Church – State of the Church
Week 1

Let me give a word of welcome to each of you in the room. We are so thankful you are here. If you're here for the first time, we are honored to have you.

I stand before you today in true amazement at all the Lord has done in these last 3 years. I am full of gratitude and joy. We saw over 40 people respond to the Gospel on Christmas eve.

People are hungry for truth and hope and people are searching for answers....and we have the answer, His name is Jesus! Come on Church!

I want to pause and give a word of gratitude to all of our leaders and volunteers...They are the real All-Stars of CHC.

I pray the new year is off to a great start for you...For those of you staying away from sugar...you got this! For those of you staying away from veggies...you're my people!!

Today, we are kicking off a new series called, **We the Church**.

Over the next few Sundays, we are going to do a deep dive on all things church. What does it mean? Why is it important? What is my role?

Today, we are starting with what I'm calling a State of the Church address. After 3 years of ministry, where are we now and where are we going?

Pray

As we confirmed with God his calling to start a new church, I had to know why. I had questions. God, it seems like we have churches all over the place...why plant a new one? What do we call it?

God led me to a few places to give me answers. My first place to turn was Gods Word...i went to Paul's letter to churches.

Ephesians 1.18-19 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the **hope** of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

Colossians 1.4-6 I ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints ⁵ because of the **hope** reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this **hope** in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. **It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world**, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace

Out of this, I felt City Hope was the name God was impressing on my soul for this new work.

Ok I got the name...but why? The answer to the question of why...came in a different way. I read these 2 quotes that just stuck.

“Jesus is the hope of the world, and the local church is the vehicle of expressing that hope to the world.” - Andy Stanley

“The world needs more Christians, and the world needs better Christians.” – James McDonald

These things combined gave us the calling and confidence to step out in faith and go all in.

With all of this in mind our mission statement was born...**To invite everyday people to experience the hope of Jesus in every way.**

We feel like this encompasses both angles of a Christians life...I want you to personally experience Jesus, and I want you to invite others to experience Jesus.

I whole-heartedly feel that if we are living by this...we are on mission for God.

Sidenote: Lots of Christians are good with the me experiencing Jesus part but forget about the inviting other's part. We'll talk more about that in the coming weeks.

So... **Where are we now?**

Average Attendance:

2022 – 157

2023 – 212

2024 - 270

Growth Trend:

2022 - 2023 | 35%,

2023 - 2024 | 27%

2024 - 2025 | 20% (340)

Total Baptisms:

56

Total Participants in Small Groups:

156 (57%) - There are several of you that need to get into a group!!!

Funds given to missions/church plants:

\$118,500

As I look at these 3 years...It's all God. He's moving and doing a great work. I couldn't be more excited about our future.

What's Coming?

(Show 4 slides of plans of coming communities)

People are coming.

So... let's put all of these factors together and answer the question: **Where are we going?**

The Big Vision

Some of you are visual learners, so let me show you. **(Show 6 slides of future building)**

I see a campus that is a daily ministry hub. (Counseling center, Child-care center, Pregnancy Crisis, life-skills center, sports ministry that includes fields and gymnasiums, etc.

When I start dreaming and thinking about this.... I get excited! I want it now! Let's go God.

With all of this in mind I've spent a lot of time praying and begging God to show us our next steps.

This past summer...He did. And it wasn't the answer I was expecting.

Disclaimer: I'm very cautious to play the God card. You can ask our team...I need God to double, and triple tell me something before I say, "God told me."

What do I need to do to make this vision happen? His answer...slow down.

Slow down????? Why? – There is no need to build a big building to get more people if you can't take care of the people, I've already given you.

What in the world does that mean?

- 1. Shepherd who I have given you**
- 2. Strengthen your foundation**

Then he directed me to what God told the prophet Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 2.2-4 | ²The Lord answered me: Write down this vision; clearly inscribe it on tablets so one may easily read it. ³For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it testifies about the end and will not lie. Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly come and not be late.

In other words, the vision is coming. Do your job to be ready for when it comes.

Our job...shepherd who I have given you and strengthen your foundation. That's exactly what we are going to do.

How? (3 areas we will focus on.)

- 1. Biblical Counseling (The Hope Center)**
- 2. Kids Ministry**
- 3. Student Ministry**

Why? (Show 7 slides with stats)

Next Steps:

- 1. (Show slides 46 and 47 from Canva)** Acquire a facility and hire a director/
Pastor
- 2. (Show slide 55 from Canva)** Hire a Kids Director/Pastor
- 3. (Show slide 56 from Canva)** Hire a Student Director/Pastor

In order to get here...it takes a financial investment. This is where **The Hope Project** kicks in.

The Hope Project is our campaign to raise the necessary funds to accomplish Gods mission for City Hope Church.

(Show Slide 59 from Canva) Our Pastoral team along with our finance team sat down and estimated this vision would take an investment of \$1.3 million dollars.

(Show Slide 60 from Canva) The breakdown of how we got to that total.

Some of you may be thinking...that's a lot of money. You're right, but I want to show you how big God is.

\$597,800 – Savings and pledges from leaders.

\$416,400 – Value of facility gift

\$1,014,200 – Total raised to date

\$285,800 - Remaining

What is your role?

(Show slides 65-70) | Amber, please change date on slide 70 to Feb 1, 2025

Walk through pledge card.

Close out:

As we close our time today...I pray that you are excited about what God is doing. I pray that you can sit and realize that you are a part of a true movement of God.

We the Church...We have the hope of the world...let's do our part in making sure everyone gets to experience that hope.

City Hope Church...The best is yet to come!