

VISION OF THE HOUSE 2020
Mount Zion Baptist Church Nashville, Tennessee
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ENVISION STRATEGIC CHANGE

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

This vision is the final phase of 3 parts presented 2 years ago. Connect, Commit and Change was a three-year vision designed with spiritual maturity and ministry manifestation in mind. Now that we have developed an intentional and robust infrastructure that assures sustainability and success regarding the first two phases, we can move aggressively into phase three. Change is ultimately the desired goal. Everything we do must produce a positive change in the lives of those who engage this ministry. If there is one thing that made the ministry of Jesus so effective, it was the change it produced in the individual lives of people as well the corporate change that occurred within the communities He impacted.

Change must be envisioned if it is manifest. When God spoke through the prophet the question is raised? Shall you not know it? Can you envision it? The Change that God is ushering into the Mount Zion Church will be a change in culture. It will require a shifting in the mindset and methods that have existed for years.

Change puts a demand upon our ability to be effective. It becomes the ultimate litmus test for all that we do. Change is about producing results. This vision creates an opportunity to reexamine our entire ministry and be willing to hold each ministry, program and person under the microscope of change in order to determine what needs to be done in order to assure there is fruitfulness that glorifies God. In order for this vision to manifest God has given me some specific things that require change. When we walk out this vision we will demonstrate three core manifestations of change. We will be Relational, Reliable and Relevant. We will be intentional about fostering a culture of being relational. We will be a ministry that people can rely on. We will also continue to be open to new ideas and unapologetic trendsetters to assure we remain relevant.

The word of the Lord in Isaiah is that God does not want us to be prisoners to old systems and methodologies, rather be open to the new thing that He is about to do in our lives. His promises and provisions are tied to the change He wants to bring in our lives. This change is not random change for the sake of change, rather it is strategic. God has given me a revelation on how this vision should manifest. This Vision is balanced between how we minister to those within as well as reach those on the outside.

Envision at the core of our ministry is the strong desire to become an oasis of hope within the Nashville community and the world. Envision impacting the lives of others in unprecedented ways. Envision the outreach impact of Mount Zion being so significant that people see the love of Jesus not only preached about but lived out in how we bless others. Envision taking Godly risk in order to move the needle of

change in the right direction. We are embarking upon a new decade as well as a new dispensation in the kingdom. Church is changing and we will continue to a viable, relevant, relational and impactful force for Jesus in this current culture climate. It's time to Envision strategic change.

Let's look at it acrostically.

COMMUNITY

HEALING

ACCOUNTABILITY

NETWORKING

GIVING

EXPANSION

Community is an essential part of this vision. In 2019, we learned during the C3 symposium the power of the village. Being in community with each other and with our brothers and sisters around the world is a must. In order to foster a culture of community we must change our mindsets and methodologies away focusing only on our individual pursuits, but rather see ourselves as part of whole. What affects one affects all. The strategic change in community is this.

1. Appoint an Overseer of Multi-Cultural Ministry. We will assure that we are intentional about assuring our ministry reflects the diversity of the kingdom. This includes but is not limited to, translations of sermons into different languages, cultural sensitivity training as well as cultural integration within the leadership.

2. Changing the scope of our outreach efforts to eliminate oversaturation. We will revisit all our community outreach programs and partnerships and revamp them to become more beneficial to the targeted demographic. Once we refine our efforts we will engage in large scale church wide outreach campaigns that provide maximum spiritual impact.
3. We will engage in a large city-wide service of unity in the community with Brentwood Baptist Church that includes an outreach component.
4. Full Gospel has partnered with Compassion International. We will join our efforts in world missions by becoming a leading church in sponsoring children in impoverished areas around the globe. We will deploy a mission team to go to with Compassion into these areas and provide resources and relief.
5. Developing creative and innovative programs to foster community within life of the ministry. We will establish a team specifically designed to develop these programs.

Healing is God's design for our bodies and our communities. The bible declares in Psalm 107:20, "He sent His word to heal them and deliver them from all their destructions." This vision of change will continue to embrace God's mandate for healing in the physical, emotional and communal spaces. This vision will be a game changer in how the church addresses issues of health disparities and will continue to provide awareness, resources and strategic partnerships that will combat these areas. Also with all the division we are witnessing in our world, the healing needed in our communities must be stewarded by God's people. The strategic change in healing is this.

1. Continue to bring awareness and programmatic resources to the issue of mental health
2. Provide support to our senior population regarding health resources, training around prescriptions usage and providing programs that keep seniors active.
3. HIV/STD education and screenings
4. Conduct a large-scale preventative health screenings targeting colon, breast, prostate and kidney disease.
5. Bishop Walker to co-host a pod-cast or radio program focused on healing within the community.

Accountability is one of the most important aspects of this vision. The integrity of this vision depends upon the character and consistency of those who embrace it. When God asks Isaiah “do you not know it?” it is a critical question of accountability. When we are aware of the providential hand of God moving among us, it causes us to be held to a higher level of accountability so that we are in position to work alongside God in getting things done. From leadership throughout the entire membership, there must be systems in place to assure all of us are being held accountable to what we have been entrusted to represent. Every person in authority must be under authority in order for them to have credibility among those they lead. One of the most power expressions of accountability is seen in Edgar Guess’ famous poem “Sermon we See”.

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,

1. Engage in a massive voter registration campaign and make it a standard practice to provide opportunities for persons who join our ministry to register to vote as well.
2. Assign each person within the ministry an accountability partner that will encourage focus, faithfulness and fruitfulness.
3. Conduct quarterly assessments of leadership viability and compliance.
4. Establish clearly defined and measured expectations in every program and ministry event.

Networking is another essential component of this vision. Over the last few years we have intentionally shifted from hierarchical models of leadership to a collaborative model. This has allowed us to benefit from the creativity around the table. This ministry is filled with some extraordinary people doing amazing things. As our ministry continues to grow it is important that we remain intentional about connecting people who can learn from each other. Networking is also about pooling our resources together with others to get things done. Psalm 133 reminds us that “It is beautiful when brothers and sisters come together in unity.” We are better together and must more gets done when we network. The strategic change in networking is this.

1. Establish professional mentoring network and mentoring opportunities
2. Establish a directory of resources within the church by profession
3. Continue to support the Full Gospel International Conference by having a minimum 500 delegates to register and attend the Orlando Conference in July.

4. Create a portal that post job opportunities and provide training for those preparing for the job market
5. Partner with local universities in providing internship opportunities for students
6. We will develop a Village model that allows members to engage in small group conversation around topics of interest. These Villages will be broken down into several key categories and are open to anyone wanting to grow and be nurtured in small groups.

Giving is one of the truest manifestations of the heart of God. God demonstrates His love and commitment to us through giving. We committed ourselves to become a debt free ministry in 2019. When we are debt free it changes the scope of our ability to give. It frees up capital to support ongoing vision projects as well as increase our philanthropic efforts. Mount Zion has given so much to the community but this vision puts a demand upon us to increase our efforts to impact the communities we serve in unprecedented ways. Giving requires us to be selfless and deliberate in our time, talent and treasure. We can never become lethargic in the area of giving. God's word declares in Luke 12:48 "to who much is given much is required." When we change the way we give, God changes the volume of what He trust us with. The strategic change in giving is this.

1. Increase tithing and giving by 40%
2. Establish a scholarship endowment fund for the ministry
3. Support the local HBCU annually with a one-time gift from the ministry
4. Purchase and dispatch the Mount Zion Gives Mobile Unit which provides resources for the community

5. Establish operation MTZ Give Back Day, where the entire ministry is engaged in a day of service to the community

Expansion is a result of responding to growth. God continues to show favor to Mount Zion. We have consistently been a growing church in a time where many are facing decline. This is a special place and to accommodate the growing needs of those who connect with us, we must expand our efforts. God promises to make paths in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Expansion must occur in our faith. We must believe that whatever we set out to do is possible. Hebrews 11:6 reminds us, “without faith it is impossible to please God. Those who come to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. The strategic change in expansion is this.

1. New and exciting ministry programs
2. Ground breaking on the Dream Center
3. Expansion of Children’s and Youth facilities
4. Location Expansion
5. Expansion of our virtual, radio and television ministry

This vision is exciting because it gives us an opportunity to effect change not only within the life of our local church but within the community and world at large. Change is possible when effort is applied. Mount Zion has a rich history, but what we do now will carve out a rich legacy for generations to come. We have connected and committed ourselves to the will of God. Now change will become the manifestation of our work and service together. We must continue to be “All In”. This vision is not for a few, rather it is for us all. 2020 is often referred to in relationships

to great vision. In the year of 2020, we must make this vision not only clear, but we must make sure it manifests to the glory of God. In closing there is a powerful quote that I believe should ignite us all as we pursue all God has for us in the year of strategic change. It was spoken years ago by Mahatma Gandhi. “Be the change you wish to see in the world”. My prayer is that every day you wake up you will include in your prayer this faith confession. “If it’s to be, it’s up to me.” Amen!