

VISION 2010

I want to thank the hard working staff, elders and deacons who have worked with me in the process of bringing you this vision today. Without their help this would not have been possible.

I have become more convinced that the Christian/Believer/Disciple has two primary objectives – The Great Commandment and the Great Commission. I feel that it is impossible to do the first well without doing the second one well. Notice what Matthew wrote:

“But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. **35** And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. **36** ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ **37** And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38** This is the great and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **40** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:34-40

He states we are to:

- Love God
- Love Others
- Love Self
- This is the Great Commandment

The second call on the Christians life is the Great Commission.

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:16-20

The Problem - The Church is not reaching its desired effectiveness.

- This statement is true for most churches existing today. We are not actively loving and reaching our communities.
- Church attendance is declining across America.
- Deep relationships are evaporating from our society.
- The church is considered by many as people who teach one message and live a different one.

- Growing disciples is becoming more uncommon.
- Being the church is not more difficult than ever but for some reason our impact is falling short.
- It could be that we have privatized our Love for God and others.
- As Nehemiah received the following message concerning Jerusalem, I believe the same can be said of the church today.
- And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.” Neh 1:3

The Solution

- We cannot change every church but we can make needed adjustments to this church.
- We need to reFOCUS on what is important.
 - Those who are walking with Christ
 - Those who are not walking with Christ.
- This reFOCUSing can be achieved in some strategic moves.
- Church (Yellow) and the Family (Red).
- We seek to create an Orange mentality. Family and Church working together as partners to achieve the desired goal of God to Love Him, Love Others, Reach Others and Teach Others.
- Here is the strategic plan that the leadership believes that this faith family needs to implement for us to align ourselves to optimize the time to achieve the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

RELAUNCH 2010

First, reWORD our purpose. For the past 16 years it has been, “Seeing souls saved and lives changed through the power of God’s Word and Christians committed to His way”. That needs refining and simplification. It is not portable. It does not stick with you. Through much prayer, discussion and refining the leadership believes that, “**Creating and enabling faithful followers of Christ**” achieves this goal. **Creating and enabling faithful followers of Christ** is what we are to do about.

Second, reDEFINE Our Core Values. This would be carried out through our core values, which have held much ambiguity. The core values would be simple and focused. Core values keep you focused on what we should do. Here are the refined core values.

Core Values

- Creating attitudes, environments and opportunities for people to fall deeply in love with God.

- Enabling people to demonstrate their love for God in opportunities to love others.
- Following Christ in all areas of life.

So what we would want every person who is part of this faith family is to CREATE – ENABLE – FOLLOW.

Third, reFINE Our Name. one major change would be in how we identify ourselves. The following change is not for anyone who is currently part of this faith family. This is for people who are not here yet. The name of the church has long been distinct and different. This has been good and bad. It has set us apart in many ways. It has served us well for over 16 years. We are a Baptist church with many distinctions. I am strongly Baptist because of the doctrinal stance on many issues and beliefs. However, I am Christian first. The name Baptist has become a stumbling block for many people in our society. In an effort to knock down some barriers in reaching this community for Christ we believe we should change the name of the church. We would not cease to be Baptist or part of the Southern Baptist Convention. The name would change to:

HC

Harvest Church

So, we would be Harvest Church – Creating and Enabling Faithful Followers of Christ.

- Creating attitudes, environments and opportunities for people to fall deeply in love with God.
- Enabling people to demonstrate their love for God in opportunities to love others.
- Following Christ in all areas of life.

Fourth, in fulfilling our purpose and core values we would also **reSTRUCTURE our approach** to ministry. A great lesson I learned recently was how Jesus approached ministry and people. He preached to the thousands (5000), He sent 70, He disciplined 12, and mentored 3. What we see develop is a progressive depth in relationships. Christianity is built on relationships. First, our relationship with Christ and then our relationship with others. This would be accomplished by providing corporate worship (thousands), Small Groups (70), Life Groups (12) and 2Tim22 (3). Let us look at these in more depth.

- Corporate Worship (5000)

- o Corporate worship would continue to be our primary avenue to reach the thousands. This element would be Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Wednesday nights would be WOW (wide open worship).
- Small Group Ministry (70) - we have done a good job of academically teaching the Bible and need to continue to have academic settings. We need to begin to expand this to experiential learning. Taking the knowledge of loving God and loving others into the streets.
 - o Sunday School (70). Sunday School would continue to be our primary avenue to biblical education. We would use this avenue as one of our tools for outreach.
 - o Life Groups (12)

Life Groups would be an addition to our ministry model. It would meet in homes and be relationship focused. It would take the place of our Sunday night Harvest U and evening worship. This would be our major area for outreach to our neighbors and neighborhoods. A devotion will be available that coincides with the morning sermon.

This would be the most dramatic change. This would give us opportunities to move into the neighborhoods. We would be able to invite people into our home to grow in grace and truth. Lifegroups would work on the semester basis. We would have groups set up to meet Winter/Spring and Fall/Winter. There would possibly be some Summer groups.

- o 222 Groups (3)

222 Groups are mentor groups. This ministry is based on Paul's challenge to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2. One area we have been missing in personal discipleship. We have failed to have the 3's. These are groups that meet weekly at various times in diverse locations.

- o Hobby Groups

These would be groups that meet at various times in diverse locations in efforts to build relationships through common interest. Such groups might be biking, motor cycling, exercise, etc.

- o In The Streets

This would be ministry and mission opportunities that would be done throughout the year.

Weekly Schedule

- Sunday School – Bible Study (Sunday 9am)
- Corporate Worship - Praise, Worship, Bible Study (Sunday 10:30am)
- Life Groups – Relationships (Sunday Evening, could meet anytime)
- Children’s Program - (Wednesday 6-7:15)
- WOW - Wide Open Worship (Wed 6-7:15)
- 222 Groups – weekly in groups 2-5
- Hobby Groups – various times and locations.

Monthly Schedule

- One Wednesday a month M&M night. Ministry and Mission Meetings (Women’s, Men’s, missions trips, deacon’s, Operation Christmas Child, Benevolence, cycling, weight loss, bikers, singers, exercise, areas of commonality meet to see how they can be innovative in reaching people through their area of interest).
- Fifth Sundays a community mission project.

WHY NOW? WHY HERE?

Tonight we will look at how this will work practically.

I want to thank each of you for being here today. This day and this month could be the most important day since August 15, 1993 and then most important month since August 1993. This message is from the staff and elder leadership of Lord of the Harvest Baptist Church. The information I am going to share with you today has been discussed

for over a year in different parts and prayed over diligently. Questions have been asked, studied and answered. You will be given a copy of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) at the conclusion of the service. The elders will begin today meeting with people who have questions concerning the information I have shared. You can sign up for Q/A times that will meet this afternoon at 3:30 and 4:30. These Q/A groups will be limited to 25 people per group. We will also have Q/A meeting on the 24th at 3:30, and 4:30. We will have more Q/A meeting on the 31st if needed. We will have our quarterly business meeting on Jan 31 at 6pm to vote on the items brought before you today without discussion.