

VISION & MISSION

'We are called to be a unique expression of church, centered around the presence of Jesus through night & day worship & prayer for the purpose of seeing families, neighborhoods, and nations transformed as we prepare for His return.'

CORE VALUES

Prayer & Worship

As a unique expression of church, our primary pursuit is to minister to God through personal intimacy w/ Jesus, extravagant devotional worship, corporate intercession, as well encouraging the Church in our city to pursue the same (Is. 56:7; Acts 15:16-17).

Discipleship

As Jesus instructed His Church to make disciples in all nations, we believe our primary focus is to do so through our Forerunner Discipleship School, through internships, bible studies, conferences, Sunday School classes, etc. as we prepare for the unique dynamics prior to Jesus' return (Mt. 5,6,7; Mt. 28:18-20).

Fasting

We believe that one of the most valuable gifts from God is the secret practice of fasting, combined with prayer. Jesus taught that His absence would create longing in the human heart. We encourage all followers of Jesus to participate in routine personal & corporate weekly fasts, Global Bridegroom Fasts, etc. (Mt. 9:15).

Family

We value and celebrate God's heart expressed most clearly as a Father to His family, both in heaven and on earth. We celebrate the church as God's family in community gatherings, small group gatherings, while also celebrating each individual who God has placed in our family community (Is. 56:7; Jn. 13:34-35; Jn. 17:21).

Justice

We believe that every prayer that God answers is an act of His justice over every circumstance that is outside of His sovereign will and plan. This includes evangelism, serving the poor, praying for the sick, fighting for the widow and the orphan, while working directly with justice ministries who labor in our city (Is. 58:6-8).

Spiritual Gifts

We desire to pursue and walk in all that God has made available to His church, including spiritual gifts. This is our desire, as Paul instructs us to do so. We believe that the New Testament model for followers of Jesus is to walk with Holy Spirit, talk with the Holy Spirit, and to love by the Holy Spirit as we pursue a spirit of unity (1 Cor. 12:1; 1 Cor. 14:1,5; Eph. 4:13-14).

WE VALUE PRAYER & WORSHIP

As a unique expression of church, our primary pursuit is to minister to God through personal intimacy w/ Jesus, extravagant devotional worship, corporate intercession, as well encouraging the Church in our city to pursue the same (Is. 56:7; Acts 15:16-17).

Isaiah 56:7 *I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations. (NLT)*

Acts 15:16-17 *'After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; ¹⁷ So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things.'*

- God has given us all individually the ministry of loving and ministering to Him in first place, above everything else. God has also invited and assigned us to this as a spiritual family.
- God ignited a divine fire from Heaven to us on **March 9, 2008**. By His grace, we are maintaining and tending the divine flame as *Keepers of the Flame*. This is a real calling and assignment. It looks like the ministry around the throne of Jesus. It is valuable to Him.
- **Ezekiel 44:15-16, 23** *"But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood," says the Lord God. ¹⁶ "They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to Me, and they shall keep My charge. And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."*

WE VALUE BIBLICAL FAMILY

We value and celebrate God's heart expressed most clearly as a Father to His family, both in heaven and on earth. We celebrate the church as God's family in community gatherings, small group gatherings, while also celebrating each individual who God has placed in our family community (Is. 56:7; Jn. 13:34-35; Jn. 17:21).

In light of what is happening in IHOP-KC with Mike Bickle, this is a wound and pain on the whole family of the Father. This is not affecting just one ministry or one denomination, or one ministry stream, or one city-church, but the entire Body of Jesus. We are one family. God only has one Family, one Body, one Spirit, one Lord, one God, one Faith, Hope, & Baptism. God our Father is healing His Body in this hour. In part, this is why He is exposing the hidden sins and compromise in His House.

Isaiah 56:7 *"Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."*

- **Holy Mountain Dream-** I looked for my mountain but was required to take out a map to look more broadly.

- As the Church of Jesus is in the midst of a global re-formation, we must follow the Lamb and King of Glory wherever He leads and however He leads in order to encounter Him in the days ahead. This is also a requirement for building His Church with “*In the beginning God...*” We are being called back to the beginning where God is our all in all.

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples (student/follower), if you have love for one another.”*

John 17:(20)21 *Jesus prays...“that they (future generation of followers) all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”*

GOD’S FIRST CREATED FAMILY

- A. **Genesis 2:18-24** *And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” ¹⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. ²¹ And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³ And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*
- B. Family is God’s idea. It is natural, creational, universal, and eternal. Family companionship and marriage union specifically is a natural part of the created order.
- C. “*The Bible opens with a solitary individual, but he isn’t allowed to stay that way long. “It is not good that the man should be alone”. God then brings every animal to the man in order to be judged and named, and the result is that “there was not found a helper fit for him”. We have need of lasting and loving companionship.” (Desiring God- S. Wedgeworth)*

GOD’S EQUIPPED, EDIFIED, & UNIFIED FAMILY

- A. **Ephesians 5:11-16** *And Jesus Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*
- B. Paul speaks to the family leadership structure of the Church of Jesus with Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and then Pastors/Teachers. This leadership structure is set in place for the purpose of parenting

sons and daughters into the maturity of Christ Jesus. (*Equipping-Edifying-Unifying-Maturing into the Fulness of Christ...Eph. 4:11-16*).

- C. These 5 leadership functions (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors/teachers) set in place by Jesus are temporary until the whole Body/Family of God functions and flows in her full identity and function, as laid out by Christ Himself.
- D. There are a few commands that have been given by Jesus to His Family which include: loving Him in first place, loving our neighbors as Christ does, making disciples from the context of family, and then desiring and preparing for His return to set up His Kingdom on Earth.

GOD'S ETERNAL FAMILY

- A. **Ephesians 5:22-27** *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*
- B. If we fail to follow God's order and structure for delegated authority, we will always be in lack of power, authority, victory, and resources. God has set in place temporary leadership structures that are to serve as shadows of the lasting and the eternal. This is true in our natural family structures and in our spiritual church structures.
- D. **Psalms 68:5-6** *A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation.⁶ God sets the solitary in families;*
- E. **1 Corinthians 4:14-16** *I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, imitate me.*

Two Family Opportunities:

1. IHOP-Miami has the privilege to welcome a new friendship ministry into our space for the purpose of providing an opportunity for youth and young adults to worship Jesus, be discipled, and be sent out as blazing torches of witness to the world. ALIVE I AM will be meeting in our building weekly on Saturday evenings; ages 15 to 25 years old. We will be collaborating with them in future outreach events and family gatherings. This is a Family Approach to do ministry together. **(Starting March 2)**
2. **On February 20**, we will be hosting about 15 Y.W.A.M. young adults for worship and prayer and provide dinner for them. They are also leading some outreaches around the city. We need your help as a family to welcome, host, and join them as they hit the streets.