



1

**(Charles Atlas ads from 1952)**

**-- Is it hard to imagine ads like this one from 1952 . . . making fun of boys who were only a “bag of bones?”**

**-- Charles Atlas may not be today’s CrossFit, but even today most of us men want to be fit enough that others don’t pick on us.**

**TR: Atlas wanted the skinny boys to be built up into strong men. In one sense, the Lord wants us to be built up as well.**



EDIFY

2

**A word that has been used to translate some passages is EDIFY.  
-- An edifice is a building . . . so the picture is to build up a  
building . . . the building of our individual bodies and the  
corporate body, the very Temple of Holy Spirit.**

**TR: As we consider this, we must remember that here, at Trinity,  
some things never change.**

A green rectangular box with a thin black border. Inside the box, there is a faint, light green outline of the state of Michigan. Overlaid on the map is a green compass rose with four points. Centered over the map and compass rose is the text "TO REACH WEST CENTRAL MICHIGAN & BEYOND" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in five lines.

**TO REACH  
WEST CENTRAL  
MICHIGAN  
&  
BEYOND**

3

**Our target, the really big needs we are trying to meet, is still captured in the phrase, READ SLIDE**

**TR: Our mission stays the same . . .**

The logo is centered on a light green rectangular background. It features the words 'WIN' and 'GROW' in large, bold, dark green capital letters. A smaller ampersand (&amp;) is positioned between 'WIN' and 'GROW'. Below 'GROW' is the word 'DISCIPLES' in a smaller, dark green, all-caps font. Underneath 'DISCIPLES' is the phrase 'WHO SHOW ALLEGIANCE TO' in an even smaller, dark green, all-caps font. At the bottom of the logo is the word 'JESUS' in the largest, bold, dark green capital letters, with a slight drop shadow effect.

4

**To have an integrated ministry that wins and grows disciples who show allegiance to Jesus.**

**TR: We still define what such a disciple looks like using . . .**



5

**. . . the 6W's of our mascot, HEALTHY.**

**-- As we walk in step with the Spirit of God, we stand on the foundation of the Word,**

**-- we are firm in our relationships with God, through worship and a lifestyle of prayer,**

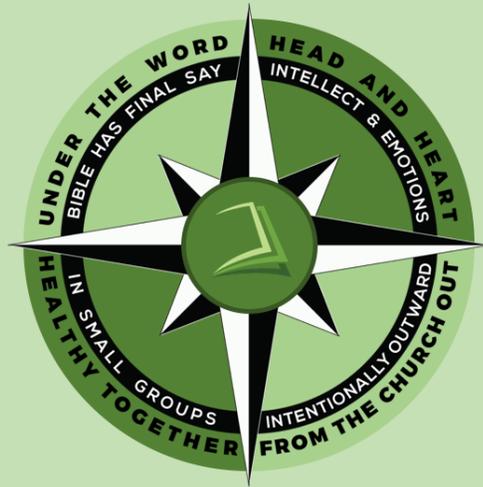
**-- and with each other in a warmth of authentic love.**

**-- We seek to serve each other through works of service, and serve our communities by being faithful witnesses of the Gospel**

**-- All the while seeking to honor Christ with wisdom, being good stewards of our time, money, and energy.**

**TR: To reach West Central Michigan and Beyond, by winning and growing disciples, who live out the 6W's, and**

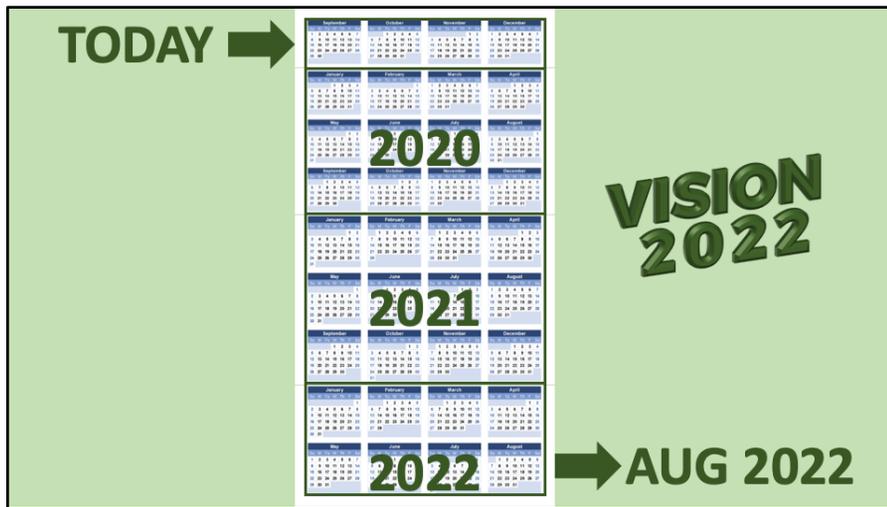
# FOUR CORE



6

**partner with each other in our four core values, that taken together set us apart from most of the other churches in our area.**

**TR: Some things don't and shouldn't change. But other things do.**



7

**Like our 3-year vision.**

- The target, mission, and values don't change.**
- But the 3-year key results we go after do.**

**TR: We've noticed a pattern of God's leading as we've waited on Him for numerous 3-year visions. We can see the pattern by looking at Vision 2019 first.**



8

**Though we did not forget the importance of edification . . . we focused on evangelism through gospel fluency.**

**-- We've targeted through our biblical training to help us MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY.**

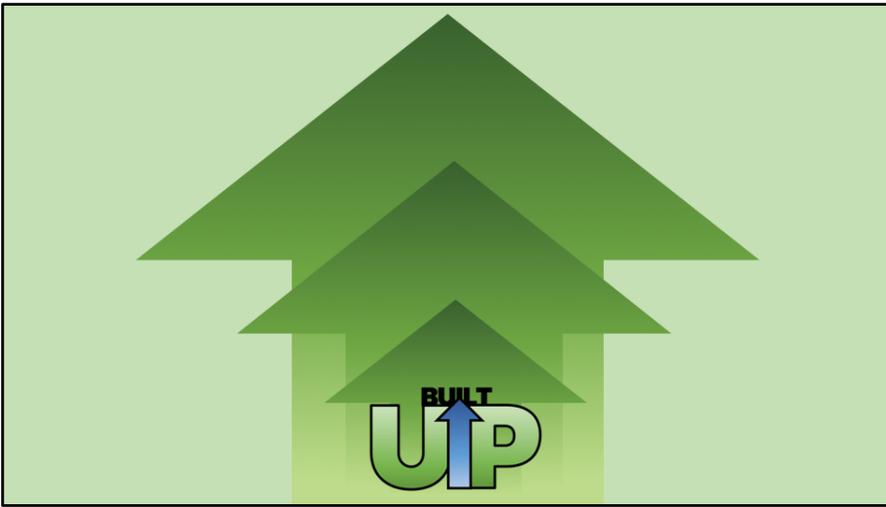
**TR: The pattern I mentioned can be seen in Vision 2022's summary statement . . .**



## **READ SLIDE**

- It seems God wants us to be built up . . . so that we can reach out.
- **NOT** Built up so that we can show off our bodies . . . but so that we can fulfill God's kingdom purposes for us.
- A local church ministry that is healthy over the decades seems to have a rhythm of exercising the arms of Healthy, emphasizing one arm and then the other.
- All the while staying true to the Word, and walking in step with the Spirit through worship and warmth.
- To put it another way . . . to **GROW** disciples . . . so we can **WIN** more disciples of Jesus.

**TR: Vision 2022 is asking God to help us be . . .**



10

**... built up**

**TR: first of all ...**



## **READ SLIDE**

- In Christ in a daily, vibrant walk**
- In Christ, knowing how to dig into His Word on our own AND with each other**
- In Christ, grounded in our new identity that can make us fearless**
- In Christ, with such courageous passion that we are willing to risk more than ever (knowing that to die to self and live in Christ is really no risk at all).**

**TR: Not forgetting that we are a body, a family, the bride of Christ as part of this local church . . . so we must be built up . . .**



### **READ SLIDE**

- Together, we a sense of anticipation and even delight in being with each other**
- Together, as a priority that we actively pursue.**

**TR: Even as Vision 2019 was balanced by including the key word “together” as one of the four tagline words, so Vision 2022 reminds us to not forget that we want to be built up . . .**

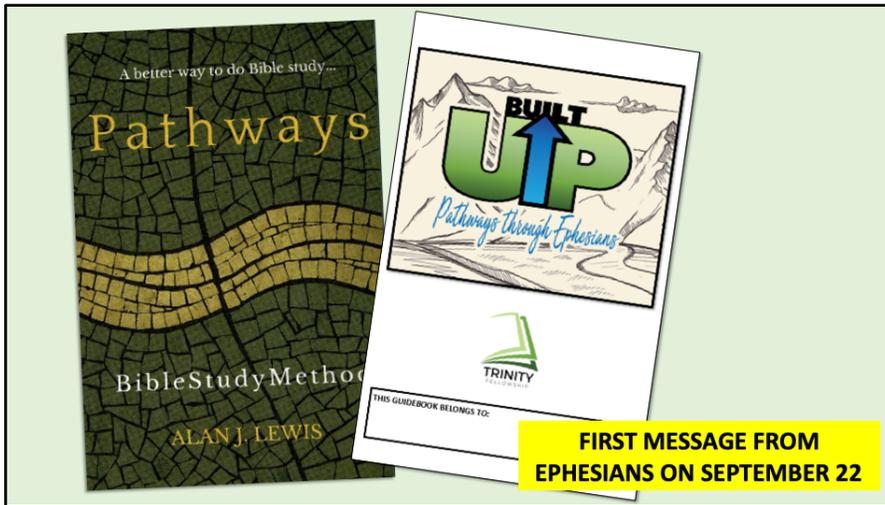


13

## **READ SLIDE**

- not body-building for show, but body-building for mission!**
- for more gospel fluency**
- for more effective use of our spiritual gifts**
- for more sharing of the resources God has given to us**
- for more of reaching West Central Michigan and beyond by winning disciples**
- For more, by being ready to launch another multi-site campus in the three-years of Vision 2025.**

**TR: This Fall we will be BUILT^UP by seeking that this Vision is rooted and grounded in the Word of God, specifically Ephesians.**



**You are encouraged to buy the Pathways book from Amazon for about \$10.**

**-- We'll make available the Built^UP Pathways through Ephesians journal free.**

**TR: As I seek to introduce you to Vision 2022, I today want to share another passage that captures so much of the vision.**

**Acts 9:31 pages 1016-17**

**So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.**

*ESV*

15

**Specifically, Acts 9:31 . . . READ SLIDE**

**-- What I thought was a very straight-forward passage, is a bit more challenging than I thought.**

**TR: Our goal is always to understand what the author, Luke, intended for his original readers to understand AND THEN seek to apply it.**

**Acts 9:31**

So/therefore . . .  
the church . . .  
↑ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria  
... had peace  
↑ being built up  
and going on/walking  
↑ in the fear of the Lord  
and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
it was multiplied.

16

**In your worship flier you'll see my translation of the text with some simple sentence diagramming.**

**-- REVIEW SLIDE**

**TR: Let me help you with some observations of the passage.**

**Acts 9:31**

So/therefore . . . *simple conjunction or causal?*  
the church . . .  
↑ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria  
↑ . . . had peace  
↑ being built up  
↑ and going on/walking  
↑ in the fear of the Lord  
↑ and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
it was multiplied.

17

The text begins with words that can be translated “so” or perhaps “meanwhile”,  
-- OR it could be causal, being translated, “therefore.” That is, what follows is the result of the cause of what went on before.

TR: The word “church” . . .

**Acts 9:31**

So/therefore . . . *simple conjunction or causal?*  
the church . . . *singular*  
↑ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria  
↑ . . . had peace  
↑ being built up  
↑ and going on/walking  
↑ in the fear of the Lord  
↑ and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
it was multiplied.

18

. . . is singular.

**TR: Even though it is described as being throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria.**

**Acts 9:31**

So/therefore . . . *simple conjunction or causal?*  
the church . . . *singular* *all of Palestine or more?*  
↑ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria  
↑ . . . had peace  
↑ being built up  
↑ and going on/walking  
↑ in the fear of the Lord  
↑ and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
it was multiplied.

19

**These three areas encompass all of Palestine and perhaps that is all that is intended.**

**-- But these three areas were not on good terms with each other.**

**-- Judea, home of Jerusalem, tended to look down on Galilee as the home of hayseeds, country bumpkins.**

**-- And both of those areas looked with disdain upon Samaria with its half-breed people and twisted theology (think of Jesus with the woman at the well in John 4).**

**TR: This singular church, perhaps reflecting the true unity of the one true church, had peace.**

**Acts 9:31**

So/therefore . . . *simple conjunction or causal?*  
the church . . . *singular* *all of Palestine or more?*  
↑ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria  
↑ . . . had peace *external? internal? both? Why?*  
↑ being built up  
↑ and going on/walking  
↑ in the fear of the Lord  
↑ and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
it was multiplied.

20

**But what kind of peace? Was it external? Internal? Both?  
-- Was it because Paul the persecutor was converted? Was it that he left, being lowered in a basket from Damascus' city wall?  
-- Was it because the Roman Ruler was putting on all sorts of pressures and the Jews didn't want to fight on two fronts?**

**TR: What is clear is that the church in all of Palestine had peace . . .  
. and that peace was further described as . . .**

Acts 9:31

So/therefore . . . *simple conjunction or causal?*  
the church . . . *singular* *all of Palestine or more?*  
↑ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria  
↑ . . . had peace *external? internal? both? Why?*  
↑ being built up *Participle of Result? Adverbial?*  
↑ and going on/walking  
↑ in the fear of the Lord  
↑ and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
it was multiplied.

21

. . . being built up.

- Even here the scholars struggle . . . is this a participle of result (they had peace with the result being that they were built up?)
- OR is a adverbial, further describing the attendant circumstances of the peace (they had peace in the midst of which they were being built up?)

TR: The second participle (ing word) is translated walking in the ESV.

**Acts 9:31**

So/therefore . . . *simple conjunction or causal?*  
 the church . . . *singular* *all of Palestine or more?*  
 ↑ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria  
 . . . had peace *external? internal? both? Why?*  
 ↑ being built up *Participle of Result? Adverbial?*  
 and going on/walking  
 ↑ in the fear of the Lord  
 and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
 it was multiplied. *comfort, encouragement*  
*cf. paraclete in John 14-16*

Literally it is “going on”, though some would translate it “experiencing . . .”

- This “going on” is described as being “in the fear of the Lord.”
- Like the fear of the Lord that is the being of wisdom in the book of Proverbs.
- The deep reverence for God that stimulates respect and holiness.
- But this “going on” is also “in the comfort of the Holy Spirit”
- This could be translated comfort or encouragement
- It is related to the word “paraclete” found in John 14-16.
- To come alongside . . . to walk alongside as a counselor, advocate, comforter.

TR: These two yellow areas then express more information about the “had peace” key verb.

**Acts 9:31**

So/therefore . . . *simple conjunction or causal?*  
 the church . . . *singular* *all of Palestine or more?*  
 ↑ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria  
 . . . had peace *external? internal? both? Why?*  
 ↑ being built up *Participle of Result? Adverbial?*  
 and going on/walking  
 ↑ in the fear of the Lord  
 and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
 it was multiplied *passive* *comfort, encouragement*  
*cf. paraclete in John 14-16*

And the verse then ends with another key verb, translated in the ESV as “it multiplied.”

-- I think the Luke chose the verb to be passive to show that it wasn't just the church multiplying itself (or more properly “herself”)

-- Rather, it was God who was multiplying the church's impact.

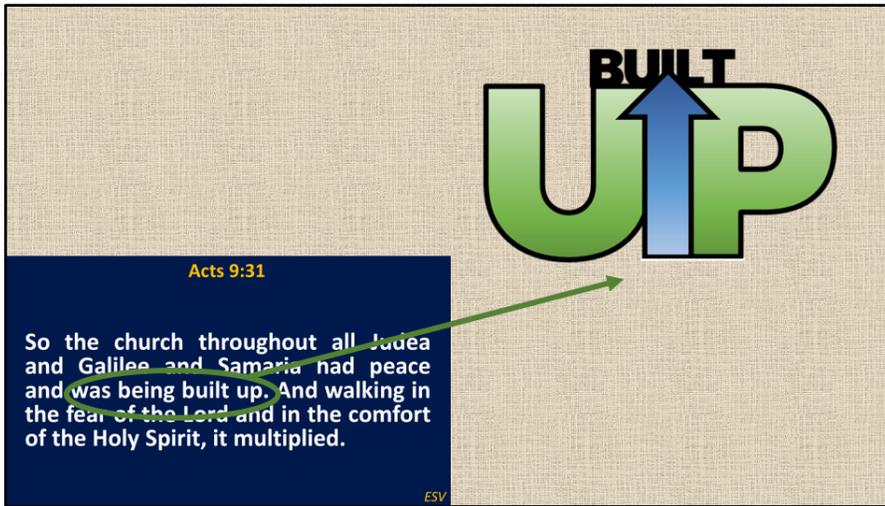
TR: With those bits of observation in mind . . .



24

... let's try to see if this text could and should apply to our Vision 2022 theme of ... READ SLIDE

TR: Obviously, the Built^UP idea is there ...



**We see that in the first participle that in our worship flier we translated “being built up”**

**TR: But what about the in Christ, together, for more?**



## Walking . . .

➡ in the fear of the Lord

26

**Let's consider the Built^UP in Christ dynamic.**

**-- This summary verse, one of numerous ones Luke uses throughout Acts, gives us a great picture of “going on” or “walking with Christ.”**

**-- Being Built^UP means walking in the fear of the Lord**

**TR: But this is wonderfully balanced by the second statement describing this “going on” . . .**



## Walking . . .

- ➡ in the fear of the Lord
- ➡ in the comfort/encouragement  
of the Holy Spirit

27

**We are to walk . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: Many Christians seem to be lopsided in their walks . . . but when someone has truly experienced “amazing grace” we find**



28

Grace ➡ taught my heart to fear  
Grace ➡ my fears relieved

**. . . that grace teaches our hearts to fear . . . and then grace our fears relieve.**

**-- If we are overwhelmed by our sinfulness, that is the grace of God . . . because if we don't see our need, we will never truly come to Christ.**

**TR: Last week Trevor mentioned how one pastor asked people what they thought of when he said, "Guilt." The first word that came to many of their minds was "Church."**



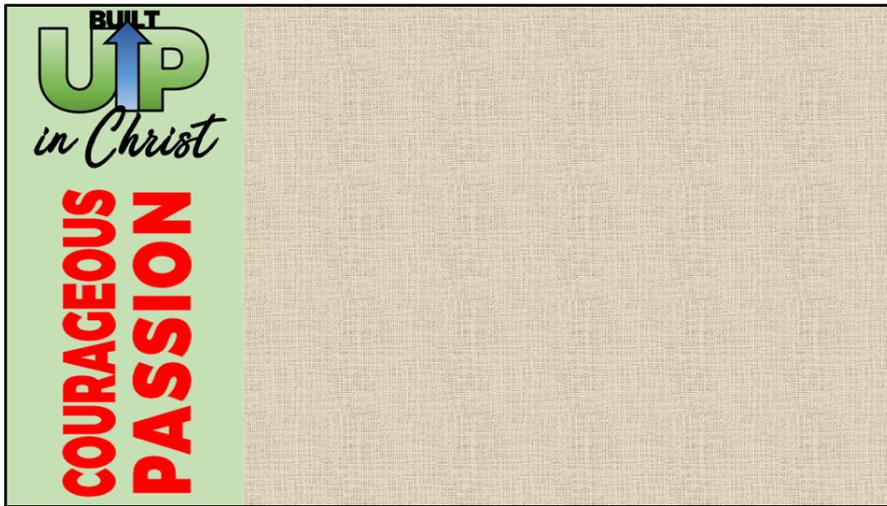
29

Grace ➡ taught my heart to fear  
Grace ➡ my fears relieved

“Church” ➡ guilt  
“Church” ➡ my guilt removed

**But the truth is, that while church may make us feel our guilt . . .  
it is also the church’s fluent declaration of the Gospel that  
removes our guilt.**

**TR: Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the  
comfort/encouragement of the Holy Spirit . . .**



30

**. . . we are praying that we can be Built^UP in Christ with the key result that we are marked by a courageous passion for Him and His Kingdom.**

**TR: Our desired outcome is that . . .**



**BUILT**  
**UP**  
*in Christ*

**COURAGEOUS  
PASSION**

**Our confident grip  
on things of first importance  
gives us  
the foundational assurance  
to freely, completely, and  
courageously  
surrender to Jesus.**

31

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: We believe God wants us Built^UP in our daily walks with Jesus as seen in . . .**



**BUILT**  
**UP**  
*in Christ*

**COURAGEOUS  
PASSION**

Our joyful self-discipline  
in the dynamic, daily  
relationship-disciplines,  
gives us  
the ever-renewed  
first-love passion for Jesus  
that has the courage  
to take up our cross daily  
and follow Him.

32

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Built^UP in Christ prays that all of us will say with boldness  
and courage . . .**

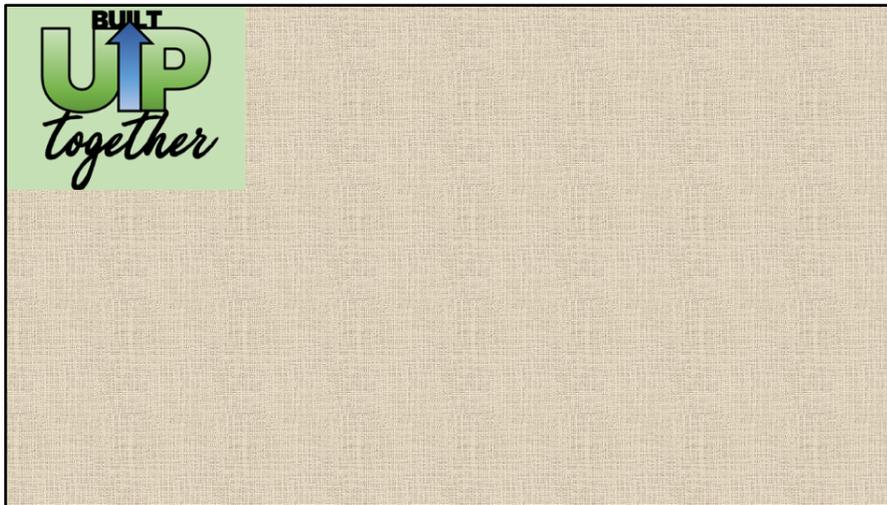


33

**READ SLIDE**

-- Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit . . . we will be Built^UP

**TR: How about the second part of the Vision?**



34

**What about being Built^UP together?**

**TR: I think this part of the vision is also found in this verse.**



## **The Church . . . had peace**

35

**The idea of TOGETHER to me always includes PEACE.**

**-- whether peace from without because the chief persecutor has now come to faith, or that same converted persecutor has now left the area . . .**

**-- . . . or the historical circumstances had changed and the angry, hard-hearted Jews had other problems to deal with . . .**

**-- OR whether the peace was internal, certainly suggested by the connection to “being built up” . . .**

**-- THE one, singular Church, had peace.**

**TR: Even the description . . .**



## The Church . . . had peace

- ➡ throughout all Judea  
and Galilee  
and Samaria

36

. . . that the singular Church in all of Palestine had peace, even though it covered sub-cultures that were antagonistic to each other, suggests that this peace was more like SHALOM.

-- Not just absence of conflict but the presence of wholeness and harmony.

-- As Jesus said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand”, something that Abraham Lincoln keyed into during the Civil War days.

-- Yet it is so easy to be like the rest of America and treat church like you would a store or restaurant . . . as a consumer.

-- I don't think the church can only be Built^UP when there is external peace from persecution, and I don't think Dr. Luke thinks so either.

-- I think the internal shalom in the greater church was marked by a building up and a going on in a daily walk.

-- When people in the church do not work out their conflicts . . . the opposite of Built^UP happens . . . it is tear down, bite, destroy.

-- When our marriages and families are fighting, and when our church family fights and divides . . . what doesn't happen is kingdom impact.

TR: Vision 2022 prays that we will be Built^UP together so that . . .



**Our faith in Jesus' working,  
through our brothers and  
sisters in Christ,  
causes us  
to expectantly pursue  
and prioritize  
authentic  
life-on-life relationships.**

37

## **READ SLIDE**

**-- For this to happen we will need to be Built^UP in Christ – as one older pastor told a younger one, the cross on which we die to self is most often made of PEOPLE.**

**-- It is always easier to leave, but that is an expression of a tottering faith in Jesus and in His work preparing His bride for glory.**

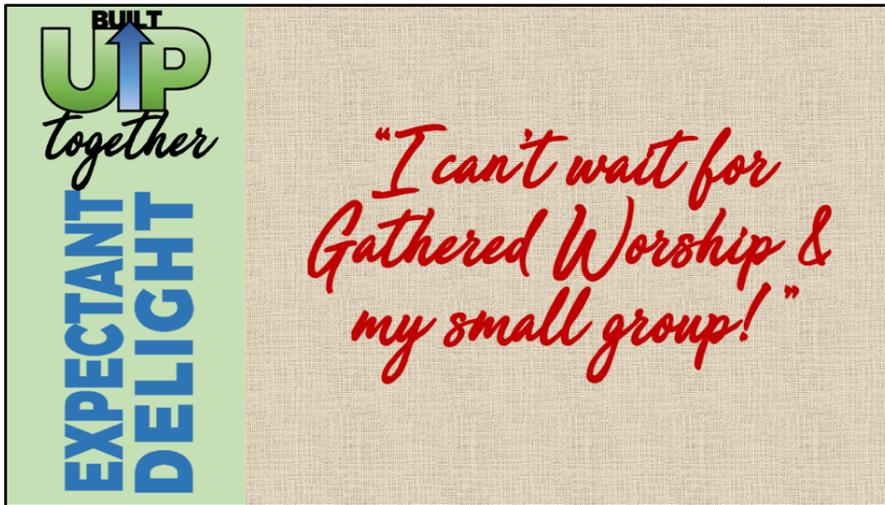
**TR: This expectant delight we have means we will . . .**



38

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: By August 2022, our hope and prayer is that we all will be able to say from the core of our being . . .**



39

## READ SLIDE

- Being earlier will be the new normal.
- Being committed will be the standard.

**TR: Having life-on-life relationships with others who are being Built^UP will be fulcrum to do even more for Kingdom.**



40

**Built^UP in Christ, together, for more!**

**TR: It is not hard to find the “for more” theme in our passage today.**



**It (she) was multiplied!**

41

**The church was multiplied.**

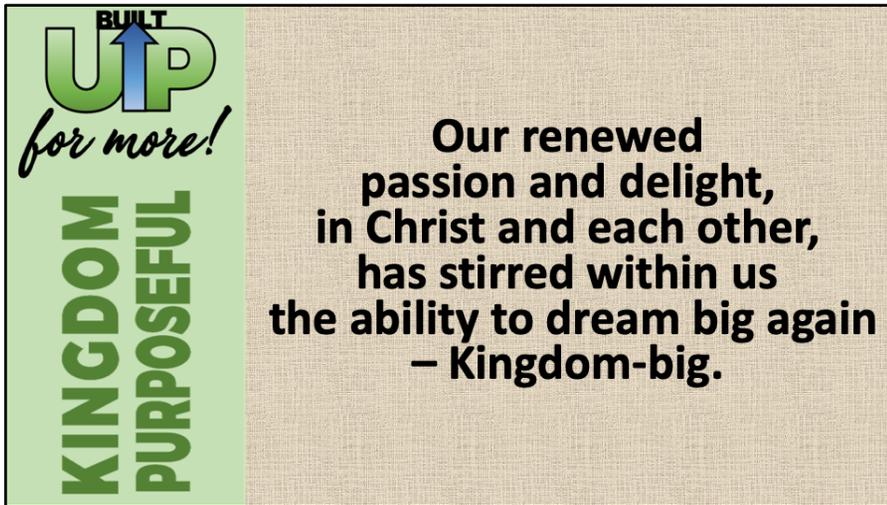
**-- Vision 2022 is not about us trying to work ourselves up into some frenzy, but rather about seeking God for His Spirit's comfort and encouragement . . .**

**-- . . . so that we will be multiplied.**

**-- Multiplied individually . . . each with a deeper sense of kingdom purposefulness.**

**-- Multiplied together . . . ready to launch a new multi-site AND to make a greater difference throughout the world via our missionaries.**

**TR: We are praying that God so uses Vision 2022 to move us all, so that . . .**



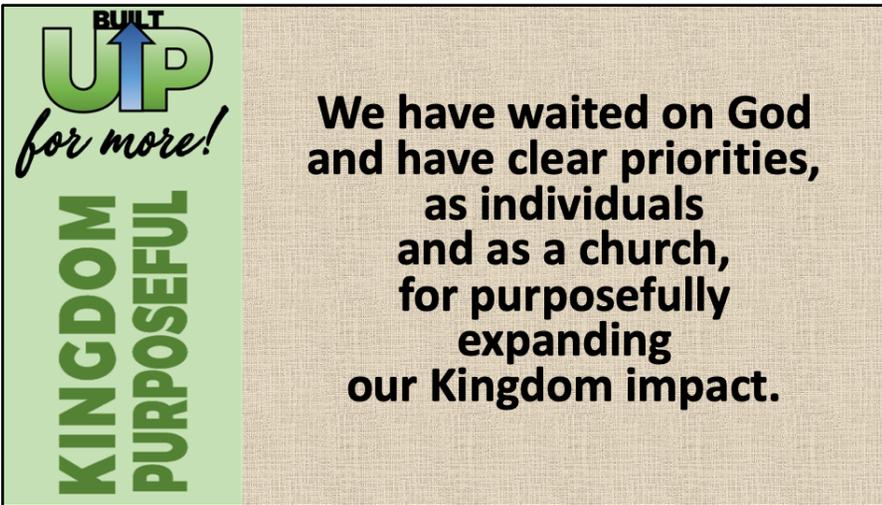
42

## **READ SLIDE**

**-- As I shared at the congregational meeting . . . I am praying that I would have a Caleb-spirit . . . like the 85 year-old who said, “Give me the hill country”**

**-- This won't be everyone doing what's right in their own eyes, because we will bring our Kingdom-big dreams before each other and TOGETHER we will ask God how He wants to work them together.**

**TR: But make no mistake, Vision 2022 is not just for “Trinity Fellowship” as a whole, it is about each of us as individual followers of Jesus.**



43

**My prayer is that you OWN the vision, and don't just RENT it.**

**-- Our hope is that . . . READ SLIDE**

**-- That each of us has sought God and asked Him for a picture of what He wants us to look like by August 2022.**

**-- How does He want to Built^UP our personal walks, our family walks, our impact as salt and light in our communities, our touching the needs of our communities with gospel fluency and fervency.**

**TR: As we seek to be Built^UP in Christ, together, for more, we urge you to make the growth rings in your tree be large ones this year.**

## “Seasons of Growth”

### Small Group Campaigns

September							October							November							December						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	5									1	2					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
<b>Pathways through Ephesians</b>																											
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
January							February							March							April						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1	2	3	4			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
<b>Pathways through 2 Corinthians</b> <b>My Personal Vision 2022</b>																											
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31															
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31												

44

**We have already done lots of work on the first two “seasons of growth.”**

**-- This Fall we will all learn together the Pathways method as we go through Ephesians.**

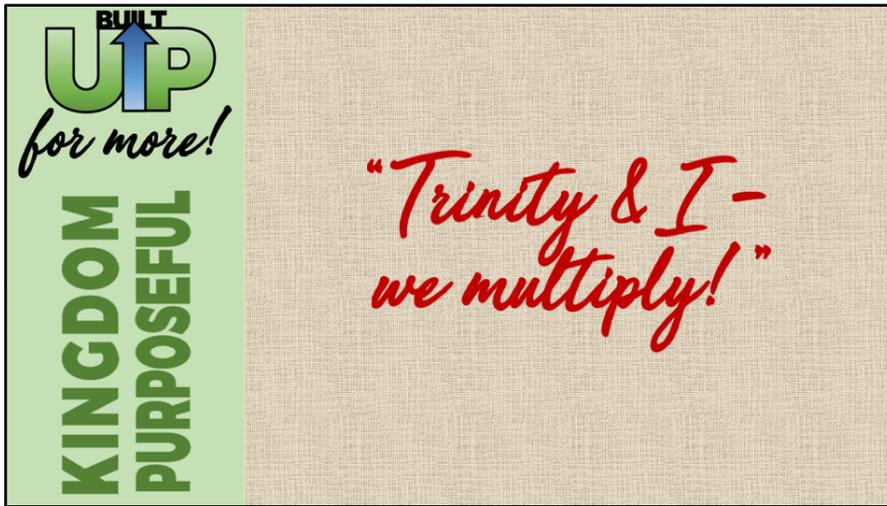
**-- Then, in January, we will consider how God wants us to be Built<sup>^</sup>UP through Suffering.**

**-- We will again use the Pathways method and add some tools and experiences to help us all gain a Personal Vision 2022.**

**-- If in your mind, Vision 2022 is only what “TF” does, then you’ve only RENTED the vision . . . perhaps shed a few tears and felt a beginning stirring, like watching a good movie.**

**-- BUT, if Vision 2022 becomes what God first does for you, then us, then the world around us . . . then you’ve OWNED the vision.**

**TR: It is then that you will resonate with saying . . .**



45

## READ SLIDE

**TR: The early church had her share of difficulties, but what Luke wants to convey in Acts is the truth of what Jesus said, “The gates of hell will not prevail against her.”**

Acts 9:31

So/therefore . . .  
the church . . .

**Trinity Fellowship**

↑ throughout all Judea and Samaria and Galilee  
↑ . . . had peace  
↑ being built up  
↑ and going on/walking  
↑ in the fear of the Lord  
↑ and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
it was multiplied.

46

**Built^UP in Christ, together, for more!**

**-- READ SLIDE**

**EX: Thriving over the decades (speaking to Christian Camping Conference) . . . Seasons of growth, adventures of faith, challenges of consequence,**