



## **Pastor Jason Carter - Sept. 11, 2022**

This week we are introducing our Vision Statement!

We have put much thought, prayer, and work into developing this new statement as a clear, comprehensive purpose as to why we exist as a church, and even as individuals.

We believe transformation has been part of the history of this church. **Our desire is to honor 80+ years of history as we enter into the direction and next chapter of Good News.**

- Our hope is the vision statement encapsulates the heartbeat of our church, that we give our lives for the same things Jesus did, for the people he died for and for his mission.
- We believe everything we say and do must align with this statement

A vision statement is our north star. We want to establish clarity, both individually and corporately, for this as our way of life.

Below we will walk through our Vision statement and carefully consider each of the words and the meaning behind them, as each one was chosen prayerfully and intentionally.

First, let's consider Jesus' own mission. Have you ever recognized how focused He was on his mission?

Look for the threads in these verses.

- Luke 2:49 <sup>49</sup> "and he said to them, "why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?"
- John 10:10 Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
- 1 John 3:8 "The son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."
- Luke 19:10 <sup>10</sup> "For the son of man came to seek and to save the lost."
- Mark 1:38 (Jesus) said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for."
- John 6:38 <sup>38</sup> "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."
- Matthew 20:28 <sup>28</sup> "Just as the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
- With the cross looming: John 12:27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

There are all these expressions of love, ministry, compassion Jesus exhibited. **The driving characteristic among all these things is that he gave his life for others to live and to be transformed.**

Just as Jesus had focus for his time here, we as a church must have a clear focus as well.

## Our Vision Statement

**WE LIVE TO SEE LIVES TRANSFORMED THROUGH JESUS**

We believe that if we commit to this statement as a daily prayer, a framework, a reminder, and a lifestyle, we will see transformation through Jesus Christ, in our own lives as well as the people we serve.

**WE** live to see...

We = together.

- This body, this church. Every person, every individual has a place, a role, and a responsibility.
- 'We' is such a powerful word because there is power in unity, being on mission together
- We are family. Even though we are all different and have a different story, we have one thing in common and that is the person of Jesus Christ
- We are in this together, on mission together
- Our church gathers, and then it scatters every Sunday. And whether we are here worshipping together, whether we are all over the Omaha metro, or even called globally to unreached people, **we are living to see lives transformed through Jesus.**

We are a *family*,  
on mission  
together, and  
that *mission* is to  
see lives  
*transformed*  
through Jesus.

We **LIVE** to see...

- Paul said to live is Christ and to die is gain - live for Him or be with Him
- To live is a decision. It is not going through the motions. It is a conscious decision to say "God, I am all-in."
- This is why we do what we do
- This is why. This is why we give. This is why we sacrifice. This is why we pray. This is why we send global workers. This is why we invest all we have in others. This is why we pray for people at the altar
- This is why we care about our community
- This is why we endure, this is why we suffer, this is why we pour ourselves out
- We live for this
- We are actively engaged in living out our faith

We live **TO SEE**...

Faith is a conviction that God is at work in every situation and that He is able. It is an expectation that we will see, but with an open hand.

PHIL. 2:12B-13 "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

This is why we never give up on people. It is why we pray for the 100<sup>th</sup> time for sickness.

"We align ourselves with Your word, we align ourselves with Your character, and we live to see what You will do, God."

Faith is a conviction that *God is at work* in every situation and that *He is able*.

...**LIVES TRANSFORMED** through Jesus

Jesus came in obedience to the Father to the earth for people.

Genesis 1:26-27 - People may be separated from God, but they were made in the image of God: *Imago Dei*

John 3:16 <sup>16</sup>for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

- We are called to people
- We are called to our community
- People who are lost and do not know Jesus
- People who have addictions
- People looking for hope
- People who have grown cold in their faith.
- People who are skeptics and people who have been hurt in life and by the church
- We are called to people because Jesus was sent for people

We are called to people because *Jesus* was sent for people.

When we speak of transformation, it means to be changed.

Examples in scripture:

- John 12:46 - Darkness to light
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Old to new
- Ephesians 2:5 - Spiritually dead to living
- Romans 8:29 - Not discarded or abandoned, but chosen and conformed to Jesus
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 <sup>8</sup>and we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,<sup>[a]</sup>are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.<sup>[b]</sup> for this comes from the Lord who is the spirit.

**One degree at a time.** At all times, God is in the process of making us more and more like Jesus. And, utilizing us to serve, minister, share faith and plant seeds so transformation can happen in others.

- Example: Pastor Al Fadi, our speaker last week...it took 10 years of witnessing for him to come to faith.

Maybe your own life is still needing transformation - our vision statement means we will walk

with you to see your life transformed through Jesus. It's why we live to be a part of your transformation.

...Lives transformed **THROUGH JESUS**

This is everything. Anything and everything we do is for one reason - for Jesus.

Matthew 16:24 <sup>24</sup> "Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

We bring people to the cross of Christ, and we willingly carry our own cross.

Eph. 1:18 - People are His inheritance.

In John 17:4 Jesus prayed, "I glorified you on the earth, having accomplished the work which you have given me to do." And now He invites us into His work as well.

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### **ONE DECISION & ONE DEGREE**

Every day, we make **one decision** to be fully committed, and God brings transformation **one degree** at a time.

#### Reflection Questions:

- What is your own transformation story, through Jesus?
- How many of you have witnessed someone else be transformed because of Jesus and had the privilege of playing a role in it?
- Who was the last person you shared the gospel or had a spiritual conversation with?
- Will you commit to pray daily: "Father, will you help me live in such a way that lives are transformed through you?"