

January 20th 2019

Recap what God has spoken for us, explain the church's vision, our mandate and some strategy we're tackling this year.

First of all: What He's spoken. He is going to make this town, once known for its poverty and issues, a blessing, a river of life that will not only bless this area but California. It is a spiritual blessing but also your will it's impact in the streets. This includes economics, education and general livelihood.

The vision I had about a tree cut down and a new stronger sapling growing in its place. It's where our logo came from.

## **Explain the three prophecies that confirmed this**

Scriptures to bring more light to the word:

### **Ezekiel 47**

1 Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar. 2 He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of the gate that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side.

3 When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water reaching the ankles. 4 Again he measured a

thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the loins. 5 Again he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be forded. 6 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river. 7 Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other. 8 Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. 9 It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. 10 And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. 11 But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. 12 By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

The trees are us individually and corporately. God sees us both individually and corporately, as one body; so we must look at this in both manners as we are in unity of heart and mind.

### Isaiah 61:1-4

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; 2 to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, 3 to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. 4 Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations; and they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

### Jeremiah 17:7, 8

7 " Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. 8 "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.

## Breaking down the word picture

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**The roots** are most important! Represent firmly trusting in God, being connected in relationship with the Father (John 15:5) and also speak of the generations of prayers & legacy of intercession.

### John 4:38

"...I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

We draw from and stand on covenants that were sown before us. In the same way that Isaac and Jacob and all of Israel are beneficiaries of the covenant and faith of Abraham, so we draw from the labor that has been sown before our time.

Doesn't mean it's all automatic but it does mean we're a part of something that has been going on long before we came to the scene. It's way bigger than us and its scope is larger than our reach.

Our part is the faith to step into that “larger” work. Proclaiming and declaring what God says, not what unbelief or the flesh says.

**The trunk** represents our unity is at the core. Without corporate commitment and unity the tree will not stand and the branches will fall.

**The branches** are our outreach, fruit and also ministry to the weary and heavy laden. People will come and lean on and enjoy our unity while finding refuge in the shade of our ministry.

The river is the flow of the Spirit out from both your own life and also our corporate life. There is such power in our unity and corporate ministry expression. Too many today seek a solo ministry, in this house we’re aiming at body ministry, where I’m just a part of what WE’RE doing. I am the “pastor” which means “overseer” but the correct expression of ministry here is a “many membered son of man” where “every joint supplies”

## Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs

to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

This body is not functioning properly if it's just a small group that does everything. If you are a believer, if you consider yourself, in any way, a mature saint, and you're not serving in some capacity, if there is not spiritual "outflow" from your life, something is wrong.

God didn't save you just so you could warm a pew for an hour. There is a river within you; and if that river isn't flowing it is not considered a river of life. As Matt has defined for me, in Hebrew culture it was the flowing river that they called a river of life.

Anyhow...

### **River of Life Church Vision**

"In community, raising up disciples  
to love God and be a blessing in every sphere."

Genesis 12:3 -Covenant to Abraham-

"...and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

## John 7:38

"38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

### **Our intentional aim**

1. To create a culture of worshippers and intercessors who function in the gifts of the Spirit.
2. To building up the body and it's fellowship in Love
  - Building up the family culture of love and Biblical values.
  - Building one another up in our true, Heavenly identities.
3. To be an influence at each "table of influence"
  - Family
  - Educational sphere
  - Political sphere
  - Business involvement

**To see heaven come and fill every are of our lives.**

### Practical applications:

1. Provide encouragement, fellowship, a place of growth, expression and education through our life groups.

2. Raising up and releasing Kingdom builders in every sphere, to see heaven realized in and through their lives.
3. Raising up the next generation, realizing their identities in Christ AS the future leaders and influencers through our youth programs and encounters.

In 2019, we will be:

1. Strengthening our leaders.
  - a. Launching ROLO Kingdom Seminars this year.
    - First one will be March 22 & 23<sup>rd</sup> with three more planned to follow throughout the year.
    - These will focus on education and training
    - MLT will be for those who
      1. **Lead** ministries in Rolo or the community
      2. Have expressed a call to ministry
      3. This is by invite right now.
    - Seminars will be open for all
  - This is to foster a more smoother and unified expression among our leadership.
2. As a church, we are officially looking to hire a youth pastor this year.
  - a. The youth are one of our most valuable parts and we must put resources and energy there.

➤ What this means:

- We need a body commitment for finances. If all our regular attendees would tithe, we could actually potentially hire two more pastors.
- We believe that 10% is supposed to go to the storehouse and offering is above that.
- That's a part of every joint supplying.

What happened with me waking up and getting direction from the Lord about the refinancing.

3. Launching a capital campaign this year to better steward and repair the facility that has been given to us by those who have faithfully served and built this building before us. We're dropping the ball if it falls apart while we call it our own.

a. Roof \$30K

b. A/C units \$30K

c. Driveway ~\$60K (5 year plan)

These things are falling apart. If we refinance to take care of them, we will not be able to hire a youth pastor because his/her salary would be eaten up by a mortgage payment.



You have sown in this church for ministry, intending tithe monies to go towards ministry. I believe it would be an error to sow ministry funds that should go to extending the ministry into maintaining a building.

- One route leads to ministered and changed lives.
- The other to a building.

I believe that God has given us an urgency to sow into these lives, and also I believe that parents who have kids here have a responsibility to bring their kids to a church where their kids will also be raised up. If we don't invest in raising them up, they are responsible to find somewhere that will.

Call to action:

This is a step of faith for us as a body. As a board, we know where we are financially and we do not have a ton of finances. We are responsible to you, to steward what you have entrusted in us, and also we are responsible to God to listen to His voice and believe His word, stepping out in faith when and as He calls us to.

I believe in this body. I would not direct us to step out if I did not believe in you. I do believe I have heard from God on this and the board is in unity about the time and direction.

Fragmented and half committed, we'll have minimal impact. United and committed and we'll complete the mandate God has given us. We will impact Oroville, we will impact California, we will impact the nations.

Will you stand with me? Will you join me? Let's rise and be a part of what God is calling us to do.