

DEEP & WIDE DAY

May 19, 2024



Letter from the Pastor

What a day today will be as we gather as one body of believers. We haven't had a moment like this since 2015. Thank you for coming today!

When God is at work in a place, there is evidence—there is an exuberance, a joy in the gathering, a tangible faith, and a unified spirit. We are nearing the end of our Deep & Wide Generosity Initiative, and today we are going to celebrate. We are going to hear testimonies of God's faithfulness, we are going to worship the Lord together in song, we are going to hear the Word proclaimed over our lives, and we are going to walk in victory!

As we deepen our roots to broaden our reach, we intentionally position ourselves to grow. These past two years have positioned us to grow our impact at our Bellaire campus with a complete remodel of our education building. One of these impacts is by opening a second location of A Children's Village Preschool, growing our capacity to minister to families, not just on Sundays, but Monday through Friday as well.

We are growing our capacity to also reach and serve people digitally. Through our app and new website, we are seeking to engage people wherever they are in the world. That includes many of you who travel but also others who have found us online while looking for significant ministry for their lives.

We are also growing our capacity in generosity. Today, you are going to hear how much money has been given over the past twenty-three months, and you are going to be encouraged to help us finish over the next few weeks. But our prayer is that our growth in generosity doesn't stop with Deep & Wide. No, we want it to be a catalyst for ongoing generosity throughout your life because you have discovered, or once again learned of, God's faithfulness to provide.

When we started this initiative, we looked at Jeremiah 17:7–8 which says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

May our journey to go deeper and reach wider result in lives that never cease to bear fruit!

Expecting Greater Things.

PASTOR ROGER





Deeper & Wider

LOOKING BACK THROUGH THE INITIATIVE: JUNE 2022 – MARCH 2024

start here!

June - August 2022

DEEPER *Spiritual* ROOTS

Our church family celebrated 45 baptisms in June, July, and August alone, bringing our year-to-date total of public professions of faith to 78 by the end of August 2022.



DEEPER *Structural* ROOTS

We prepared to break ground for the renovations at our Bellaire campus in Q1 of 2023. We engaged in a process to navigate inflation to stay within budget.



Wider Impact IN OUR CITY & WORLD

Through CityRise efforts during the summer of 2022, 670 people were ministered to spiritually and physically through our mission teams!



DEEPER
Spiritual **ROOTS**

We launched the Flourishing Life Journey series by focusing on Worship and Ministry. Daily devotional videos from our church family and small group studies complemented the teachings on Sunday mornings as we began the journey to true, flourishing faith.



DEEPER
Structural **ROOTS**

We continued prepping for a Q1 2023 groundbreaking for construction and renovations at Bellaire, eagerly looking forward to the start of a new era and updated look for the education building, classrooms for all ages, and office workspaces there.



Wider Impact **IN**
OUR CITY & WORLD

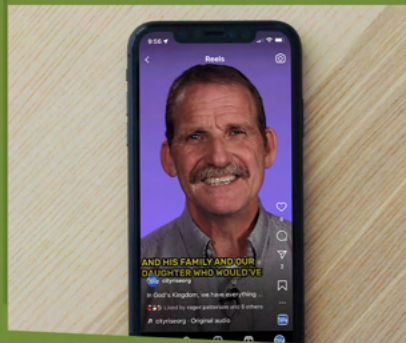
We hosted 150 local partners for the CityRise Network Conference. With powerful presentations from leaders in the non-profit, church, and business worlds, we were able to strengthen some of the men and women working the hardest to lift our city with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



September - November 2022

DEEPER
Spiritual **ROOTS**

We finalized the stages of the CityRise app for its upcoming launch. Additionally, we reached 112.7K unique users across Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



DEEPER
Structural **ROOTS**

Construction at our Bellaire campus began! Our adults, students, and children moved into temporary spaces to make room for the complete renovation of the three-story education space.



Wider Impact **IN**
OUR CITY & WORLD

We committed to a gift of \$300,000 to the Global Missions Offering, divided among the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the North American Mission Board, and the International Mission Board of the SBC.



December 2022 - February 2023

March – May 2023

DEEPER *Spiritual* ROOTS

After launching in the spring of 2023, our CityRise app had over 1,200 downloads by June. Watching livestreams, viewing the digital bulletin, watching podcasts and devotional content, and following along with sermon notes are some of the many things our app offers.



DEEPER *Structural* ROOTS

The Loft space above the gym at the Bellaire campus was nearing completion, and walls across the three floors of the education building began going up, all adding new and valuable spaces for groups, our Kids ministry, and our CityRise staff.



Wider Impact IN OUR CITY & WORLD

This summer provided significant opportunities to send men, women, students, and children around the world to serve. We prepared teams to travel to countries such as Honduras, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Ireland, and Poland later that summer.



June – August 2023

DEEPER *Spiritual* ROOTS

826 children and 277 students attended summer activities like VBS, VBX, day camps, and camps on and off site. 149 also went on mission to places such as Guatemala, Ecuador, Kenya, Belize, Ireland, and Krakow.



DEEPER *Structural* ROOTS

We learned that the Bellaire campus Worship Center needed some work too. To accommodate this work, services moved to the gym, and Students and some Community Groups met in the newly available Loft space.



Wider Impact IN OUR CITY & WORLD

10 CityRise members brought the gospel to Roscrea, Ireland over the summer. 60 children from four churches in that community were treated with a week of VBS, and 19 gave their lives to Jesus!



DEEPER
Spiritual ROOTS

We continued our Flourishing Life Journey series with Flourishing Family. It was a blast to produce and present to you, and it has some great guides, videos, and testimonies. Visit cityrise.org/flourishing for access to Flourishing Family and other Flourishing Life Journey content.



DEEPER
Structural ROOTS

Construction moved right along at our Bellaire campus! It was exciting to see the future taking shape and to think of the new experiences awaiting those who will walk through the newly renovated corridors, rooms, and ministry areas—especially our children’s spaces!



Wider Impact IN
OUR CITY & WORLD

The Houston weather played nice in October, which helped make our CityRise Kids Fall Festival and CityRise Missouri City Fall Carnival such big hits! Hundreds of people from our church and community showed up for games, inflatables, music, face painting, food, and even a chili cookoff!



DEEPER
Spiritual ROOTS

Annually, Easter is our highest attended weekend. In 2024, we had 2,804 attend across 10 services, 398 online, 25 Easter baptisms, and around 3,350 come to outreach events (including egg hunts)!



DEEPER
Structural ROOTS

We’re getting closer to completion with the construction at our Bellaire campus! We were excited to have the new grand entrance, lobby space, and coffee bar ready to welcome the crowds we had for Easter Sunday.



Wider Impact IN
OUR CITY & WORLD

16 high school seniors (along with staff and a few parents) chose to spend their Spring Break in Guatemala, washing feet, giving the gospel through salvation bracelets, and helping residents in a senior living facility.



September – October 2023

November 2023 – March 2024



THE BANGILAN FAMILY
FRANK, KAREN, AND KAEDEN

PERSONAL & FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

for The Kingdom

BY JUSTIN KELLOUGH

In January of 2020, Frank and Karen Bangilan, along with their son, Kaeden, began attending our West U Baptist campus and quickly knew they had found a church home for their entire family. “My wife and I really wanted a place for our son to grow up in a Christian environment,” shares Frank. “We would drop [Kaeden] off for KidRally, and then we would go to the service.”

Not long after first getting plugged in, Kids Director Jennifer Dennis invited Frank and Karen to her Community Group. “We found some very nice people there, and we started to make it a regular thing until March of 2020.”

That spring, the pandemic disrupted many things, including the physical gathering of our church family. But our leadership worked together to create opportunities for our CityRise family to connect digitally, and we continued to do so until everyone felt confident about gathering in-person again.

“We decided to come back and resume in-person [worship] on Easter Sunday of 2022,” remembers Frank. “And that’s when we heard Pastor Roger starting the Deep & Wide campaign.”

Frank and Karen were suddenly faced with an exciting vision for CityRise. However, like every Christ follower, the Bangilans had their own journey to take toward emulating the extravagant generosity displayed by the God we serve. They began to give toward Deep & Wide, but Frank remembers working through a few big questions about God and His plan for generosity.

“Three things challenged us for Deep & Wide,” Frank says. “Number one, do we believe in the message of Christ, that Christ really came down to earth? And if we do, then an investment is small compared to the ultimate price that someone else paid for us.

“Number two, do we really believe the message that Pastor Roger was saying in terms of what the church would do with this investment of ours?” Frank and his family wondered if the financial contributions they would make would go to a generic need or to something specific where progress could be measured and celebrated. Would the financial sacrifice they planned to make result in meaningful growth and ministry for God both here in the city and around the world?

“The answer is yes,” Frank concludes. “When you hear about all of the outreach and ministry, both inwardly to the church family and outwardly to the community that the church does, yes, we believe that investment happened.”

But they still had one challenging question to work through to rest assured that what they did as part of Deep & Wide was worthwhile. “Number three, and this was really hard for us, was do we believe that giving this is a financial investment, or is it a financial risk?” So, which choice did they ultimately believe it would be? “We did take a leap of faith. And I think that’s the way to describe it because you can’t measure risk on a worldly scale when there are supernatural things happening.”

From way back in 2020 when they first started attending CityRise, to Easter Sunday 2022 and hearing about Deep & Wide, to present day, it’s obvious that the Bangilans’ journey toward generosity has been a meaningful part of their growth as Christ followers and active church members at CityRise. “Investing in Deep & Wide has led us to invest more of ourselves in the church. This is truly our home church now and hopefully for many years to come.”

YOU CAN'T MEASURE RISK ON A WORLDLY SCALE

when there are super-natural things happening.

Faithfully Following . . . and Waiting

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS

Every once in a while, life hands us a dilemma where the solution isn't clear. Even after extensive prayer and Bible reading, the answer still may not be obvious. We find ourselves envious of Moses and Daniel, wishing God would send a burning bush or handwriting on the wall — a message impossible to miss. But for Joyce Toombs, it was a simple email that contained an answer she was seeking from the Lord.



As a schoolteacher for forty-seven years, Joyce enjoyed her job teaching 5th graders where there was never a dull moment. “My job has never been boring!” she says. “Every day is new and fresh, and only God knows what experiences are waiting.” Joyce taught thirty years in Fort Bend ISD, retired for a few years, and then accepted a job at River Oaks Baptist School as a reading teacher. “Over the years, I have taught many subject areas, but I absolutely love teaching reading. Getting kids excited about reading is my goal.”

However, in the fall of 2021, Joyce believed it was time to retire. “There was no denying that I had passed the age for retirement, and all of my contemporaries have retired,” Joyce explains. So, she told her principal that she planned to retire after May 2022.

Around that time was when we launched the Deep & Wide Generosity Initiative. “Lord, this is bad timing on my part,” she prayed. “I’m about to drastically cut my income, and the church has all these needs. Let me know if I’m making the right decision. And Lord, you know I’m not a very observant person, so maybe handwriting on the wall, four- or five-inch letters, bold print — maybe even flashing — would be helpful. I really want to make the right decision.”

The school year progressed, and Joyce checked things off, thinking, “This is the last time for this task” with each check. The school interviewed candidates for her position, and she thought, “Okay, I haven’t seen any handwriting on the wall. I must be heading in the right direction.” But it still bothered her that she would have to reduce the amount she could give to the church.

Right before Easter 2022, Joyce got the message she was looking for in an email. “It was from my principal, and she wrote, ‘I would like to speak with you at your earliest convenience.’ It was nicely said, but all I saw was giant, bold print that said, ‘Report to the principal’s office!’ which is rarely a good message, no matter your age. What did I do wrong? What did I say? What did I do that I shouldn’t have?”

But it was all good news. The school wanted Joyce back for another year. “After some negotiating, I found myself in a better position when I eventually do retire, allowing me to increase the amount I could give to the church, not decrease. Handwriting on the wall? No. But it was an email that I couldn’t ignore, and the Lord knew that. He got my attention in a way that He knew would work. God is good, all the time.”



SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS & STUDENTS

*VBS, camps, hangouts,
missions, and more!*

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PROVERBS 11:10
***WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS PROSPER,
THE CITY REJOICES.***

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ONLINE**



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