

A Plan for Growing Together in Love – 2008-2013

Presented to the Evangelical Free Church of Libertyville by Steve Mathewson (May 4, 2008)

Our Mission *(Why do we exist?)*:

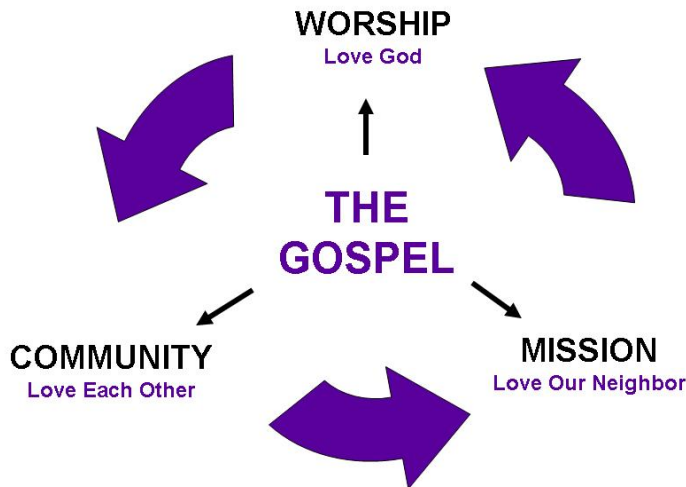
To build a loving community of Christ-followers to reach a culture in need of God's presence.

Our Dream *(What do we want to see God do?)*

We want to see God's Spirit shape us into a more loving church which doubles in size from 500 (400 Anglo/100 Hispanic) to 1000 as part of our District's vision to double in size and impact.

A Process *(What will it take to accomplish our mission and realize our dream?)*

In order to accomplish our mission, we must become a church which produces Christ-followers who are committed to *worship, community, and mission*. At the heart of this process is the gospel of Jesus Christ.¹



The Commitment

Worship
Community
Mission

The Intended Outcome

Love God
Love each other
Love our neighbor

Key Connection Point

Corporate worship
Small groups
Local & Global Service

¹ The gospel leads us to a loving relationship with God (1 Peter 3:18), shapes us into a loving community (2 Corinthians 9:12-13; Ephesians 3:6), and compels us to share Christ's love with the world (Romans 1:14-17, 15:19-20; 1 Corinthians 9:23)

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Our Commitments *(What are the practices in which we will engage?)*

Below you will see the three commitments we are making in order to accomplish our mission. Each commitment includes a description of the kind of church we desire to become. Then, the list of items under each commitment describes the practices in which we must engage to turn the dream into a reality.

1. WORSHIP: *To grow in our love for God. We desire to live Christ-centered, Spirit-filled lives which are full of God's presence, which reflect His amazing glory, and which bring us the satisfaction He wants us to experience.*

- 1.1 Offer worship services that lead believers/non-believers to experience & respond to God's glory
- 1.2 Equip people for a lifestyle of worship through Bible-based Adult, Youth, Children's ministries
- 1.3 Provide a warm welcome for all who enter & an assimilation process for connecting newcomers
- 1.4 Turn our facility into a warmer, inviting, functional space based on Wildesign's master-plan
- 1.5 Add new worship services as necessary to accommodate growth
- 1.6 Pray faithfully for the advance of the gospel through our church

2. COMMUNITY: *To grow in our love for each other. We desire to share 'life together' in Christ-centered relationships in which we feel safe, cared for, and valued as we struggle well together to live out the gospel.*

- 2.1 Reach and maintain 80% participation in LIFE groups (current participation level is 50%)
- 2.2 Offer constant relationship-building opportunities (friendship dinners, dessert at pastor's home)
- 2.3 Strengthen and preserve the bond between our Anglo and Hispanic congregations
- 2.4 Walk together through life's crises, challenges, victories, and passages
- 2.5 Incorporate a growing number of students from Trinity International University into our family
- 2.6 Develop leaders and servants in our church so that everyone is effectively engaged in ministry

3. MISSION: *To grow in our love for our neighbors locally and globally. We desire to contribute to the good of our local communities, meeting the needs of the poor and marginalized, and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to bring people to God.*

- 3.1 Work together and partner with *Catalyst* to serve our local communities and the poor/need
- 3.2 Offer regular events and programs designed to build relationships with north shore neighbors
- 3.3 Share our facility with local groups and civic organizations
- 3.4 Develop relationships with non-believers, pray for them, and share the gospel with them
- 3.5 Contribute to the spread of the gospel and growth of the church on every continent
- 3.6 Plant a church in our region