



# ADVANCE

*the gospel church*



# WHERE *we have been*

## IN THE FALL OF 2007, THE GOSPEL CHURCH BEGAN.

Twenty people showed up to an evening worship gathering as a part of our pre-launch meetings at the Frothy Monkey in 12th South. In the beginning, the church was called Green Hills Church and had a vision to see people come back to God in Nashville and the nations. On February 10th, 2008, the church officially launched as a local community at John Overton High School. As the church continued to reach people, God brought a new, unorthodox location, Cabana Restaurant in Hillsboro Village.

College students from Belmont and Vanderbilt began filling the restaurant to capacity. Young couples began having kids and it became clear that the church had outgrown Cabana. God blessed the church through the generosity of Calvary Baptist Church who gifted us their church building at 101 Bowling Ave. At the new building, the congregation continued to grow and mature. A robust children's ministry blossomed and many new families joined the church.

Three years ago, the church launched an initiative titled Arise. The vision of Arise was to build up Green Hills Church so that it could reach the city and plant other churches locally and globally. The Elders asked the church to partner financially by raising 1 million dollars over two years to accomplish the mission.

Through God's grace, in the past three years our church was able to position itself to grow and reach the city. The church was able to hire new staff, give sacrificially to missions, and develop key ministries. On August 12th, 2018, the church made the strategic move to rebrand and rename itself The Gospel Church to better communicate the vision and identity of the church. At the same time, the church moved its worship services to West End Middle School to provide more seating for worship and parking to prepare for future growth.

It is hard to believe all that God has done over the past 11 years of ministry at The Gospel Church. From a small gathering of believers in a coffee shop, God has built a young, vibrant church that is positioned to be an influential church in Nashville. We are excited to see what God is going to do through this talented and passionate group of believers.



# WHERE *we are now*

Since the beginning, our church has desired to see people follow Jesus in their everyday life. We have been passionate about seeing people far from God experience Christ's grace and mercy. We have championed a vision of every church attendee or churchgoer seeing themselves as a missionary to their city. We have emphasized discipleship along with the preaching and teaching of God's word. We are committed to making disciples and planting churches. Our church is filled with people from every region of North America and nationalities from around the world. We are made up of people both young and old who are pursuing Jesus' fame and renown. We are seeing people who grew up in homes that never darkened the door of a church choose to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Over the past three years we have made critical decisions to prepare our church to reach our city. Because of these decisions, our church is now situated in one of the most influential locations in the city with our worship gathering at the junction of West End and 440, near Vanderbilt, Belmont, Music Row, and Nashville. The city is experiencing a historic boom as hundreds of people move to Nashville from around the world.

*"WE WANT TO BE A PLACE FOR THIS NEW WAVE OF PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE A NEW LIFE IN JESUS."*

God seems to have placed The Gospel Church in Nashville to be a robust, orthodox, Bible teaching, gospel preaching, disciple making community that will affect the destiny of many people in the city. It is our hope that The Gospel Church will be a place where people grow in their faith and live on mission in Nashville and the Nations. It seems that God is orchestrating a new season of opportunity for our church. This new season will require us to listen to God courageously, live our lives faithfully, and make commitments boldly.

*God is moving at our church but ...*

- 1 We need to add a youth and college ministry to effectively reach our community.
- 2 We need to add systems and processes to disciple our people and connect visitors to our church.
- 3 We have more vision than we have commitment or resources.
- 4 We are understaffed for all we are attempting to accomplish.
- 5 We need to lay the groundwork for a permanent location in the next three years.

# WHERE *we are going*

**THE GOSPEL CHURCH EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD BY MAKING DISCIPLES WHO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE.**

When Jesus left he told us to "go into all nations and make disciples." We believe that God is calling us to advance the gospel and our church's mission. We feel that God has placed us in a key part of our city where we can have a global impact. We see Nashville as our mission field. Only 20% of people attend church on a Sunday morning in Nashville, and we believe that God has provided The Gospel Church as a means to draw people to himself.

**TO THAT END,  
ADVANCE IS A 2 YEAR VISION INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL CHURCH TO...  
GROW DEEPER SPIRITUALLY...GROW WIDER NUMERICALLY...ALL TO HAVE**

*a greater gospel impact in Nashville.*

**WHERE WE PLAN TO ADVANCE...**

- 1 We want to create appealing and life changing ministry environments to gather and grow people as worshippers and mature disciples.
- 2 We want to develop the best team of staff and volunteers to make disciples in our city.
- 3 We want to partner with a church plant on every continent through financial investment and mission teams.
- 4 We want to create convenient and readily-accessible resources that teach and train our people to be mature, missional believers.
- 5 We want to create a culture of caring for children in our church, and a community that supports adoption and foster care.
- 6 We want to step into a future of faith where we see a movement of churches planting churches.

**We believe that the story of our church is just beginning. We believe that God is writing an adventure where we get to play a significant role. God is creating a masterpiece of redemption, and He is inviting each of us to get off the sidelines and into the game.**

# HOW *do we get there*

Advancing forward and being a part of God's mission is vital to our Christian walk. Our heart with Advance is to move forward the mission of The Gospel Church by developing our church deep and wide. The way we do that at The Gospel Church is by arranging our lives around four key rhythms.

## *Four rhythms at The Gospel Church*

### GATHER

**Gather together to worship Christ and study the Bible.**

Choose to gather with us at our Sunday Worship Gathering every week. During this season of Advance from Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be entering a key season of prayer, Bible study, and a sermon series that will draw our hearts toward our vision and direction. We want you to prioritize being here so you don't miss what God is doing in our church during this season. To get the most of this time please choose to declare, **"I will prioritize Sunday worship."**

### GROW

**Grow deeper in our faith and community.**

Choose to be in a Life Group. Our life groups are the best way to be plugged into our church and to be discipled. Being in a group is crucial for the strength and health of our church. We want you to grow as a Christian, so we encourage you to choose to say, **"I will join a Life Group."**

### GIVE

**Give our time, talent, and treasure to the mission.**

We want you to serve and give financially. Serving is one of the best ways to display our hope in Jesus. Please choose to say, **"I will serve with The Gospel Church."** We know that many of you are giving faithfully to The Gospel Church. During this season, a greater commitment will be required from all of us to advance our mission. Your choice today may be saying, **"I will choose to move toward faithfully tithing or beyond."**

### GO

**Go to our community, workplace, and the world, making disciples and planting churches.**

God has called us to be missionaries to Nashville and the nations. We want you to see yourself as sent. God may call you to lead you to something new: a mission trip, starting a work Bible Study, inviting a friend to church, or serving at West End Middle. Our hearts cry is that you will say, **"I will go where God is calling me."**

God may call you into something beyond what we can anticipate. Our church believes that advancing the gospel is the calling for every believer. We hope to advance together as we engage our neighbors, our friends, and our world.

# A FEW

*of our immediate goals*

40

NEW PEOPLE GROWING IN GROUPS.

35

NEW VOLUNTEERS GIVING THEIR TIME AND TALENT ON SERVING TEAMS.

50

PEOPLE GO ON INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS.

3

WORKPLACE BIBLE STUDIES.

2

FAMILIES HELPED ADOPT OR FOSTER.

\$1.4 MILLION

RAISED FOR OUR 1 FUND ADVANCE INITIATIVE  
(ADVANCE GOALS +2 YEARS OPERATIONAL BUDGET)

# COMMITMENT *guide*

We all need to seek God's will and direction during this important time in our church's history. Ask God what He would have you do. Here are some natural and appropriate steps in this process:

## + BE PRESENT.

Quite frankly, we need your presence during this season, and we need you engaged in what's happening. Attend our Sunday Worship Gathering each week of the "Advance" series (Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>) and do whatever it takes to avoid missing "Commitment Sunday" on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Also, pay close attention to all our communications and read all provided information thoroughly.

## + BEGIN TO PRAY THROUGH THIS WITH GOD.

The most important thing you can do is pray. Pray about how God wants to use you to be a part of this historic season at The Gospel Church. There are two ways to approach your commitment, and we encourage you to use the second of these two approaches: **1. Based on reason:** In this approach, we determine what is reasonable to do based on our own logic. Reason asks, "What can I do?" rather than "What does God want me to do?" Living based on reason alone doesn't require much faith on our part. **2. Based on revelation:** This approach also requires reason, but ultimately it begs of us to ask in faith, "God, what do You want to do through me? What is Your will, God?"

## + IF YOU'RE MARRIED, BEGIN TO TALK THROUGH THIS WITH YOUR SPOUSE.

After each of you have prayed and talked to God about it, share with each other what you sense God is leading you to do. Seek His will together, and ask for a unified vision.

## + MAKE SACRIFICES SO WE CAN REACH MORE PEOPLE FOR CHRIST.

The goal is not that we all do the same things, but that we all make equal sacrifices. Thinking through creative ways to take steps of faith might allow you to do even more than you thought possible!

## + MAKE A FINAL COMMITMENT TO WHAT GOD IS LEADING YOU TOWARDS.

We understand that you may not have every question answered at this point, and you may be unsure of how everything will unfold. Regardless, take a step of obedience.

## + LET US HELP YOU.

As a church, we'll be here to walk alongside you in the days ahead. We would welcome the opportunity to personally discuss your journey and answer any questions you may have. Simply email [info@thegospelchurch.com](mailto:info@thegospelchurch.com), and we'll work hard to be of assistance.

# MARK *your calendar*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER

8<sup>TH</sup>

WE WILL TURN IN OUR COMMITMENT CARDS TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION OF GOD'S LEADING US THROUGH THIS JOURNEY. CARDS WILL BE RECEIVED THROUGH DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>.

ADVANCE  
*the gospel church*



COMMITMENT CARD  
SAMPLE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My 2 Year Generosity commitment is \$

My Advance Offering Kickoff gift is \$

Please check the appropriate box.

I will join a Life Group.

I will commit to serve my church and my community with The Gospel Church.

I will choose to move towards faithfully tithing and beyond.

I will go where God is calling me.

# HELPING *financially*

IF YOU WANT TO HELP US BY PARTNERING FINANCIALLY HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL WAYS TO INTENTIONALLY GIVE.

## + BRING AN EARLY GIFT.

We have a lot of our initiatives that we want to kick off in Quarter 1 of 2020.

In particular we want to move toward completing our ministry team. Giving a gift this Fall will allow us to hire the right people and have them ready to start at the beginning of the year. It is easier for families to make transitions in January rather than in the middle of a semester.

## + BEGIN FAITHFULLY GIVING IN 2019.

We ask that you already begin prayerfully considering and preparing to move towards tithing and beyond in the new year. This is absolutely critical in our efforts to accomplish all that God is leading us.





*let's*  
**ADVANCE**  
*the gospel together.*

MORE INFO ONLINE  
[thegospelchurch.com/advance](http://thegospelchurch.com/advance)