

# VISION 2023

(Psalm 127)

Camping/hunting. Realize our in the field ... I forgot something critical. Sleeping bags. Or matches. Or ammunition. (Old adage: "If you fail to plan, plan to fail")

## What is your plan for 2023?

Not just for exercise, or saving money, or being a better parent to your dog ...but what is your spiritual plan for this year?? HOW will you grow into Christlikeness this year? (by accident?)  
**There is NO cruise control for the Christian life. "Be killing sin or it will be killing you"**  
**Rom 8:13** "if you are living in according with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

The Bible reminds us that *what we give our hearts to* - what we invest in- what we love, desire, and spend ourselves on, this is what will determine our spiritual health (it can bankrupt us, imbibing on counterfeit, hollow pleasures **OR** life-giving, soul refreshing, spiritually maturing faith) **\*\* READ Psalm 127**

"Unless the Lord builds a house, They who build it labor in vain; Unless the Lord guards a city, The watchman stays awake in vain. It is futile for you to rise up early, To stay up late, To eat the bread of painful labor; This is how He gives to His beloved sleep. Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate."

=Short Psalm. But packed full of useful & helpful reminders on how to plan for your spiritual growth in 2023: What does this Psalm from Solomon (the wisest man to have ever live) teach?

**Vs. 1:** "Unless the Lord builds the house, They who build it labor in vain;

**1. The Lord is Sovereign** (God alone is in control of *all* things, including your life/future)  
-God alone will build His church. Jesus states in Mt. 16:18 "I will build MY Church and the gates of Hades/hell will not overpower it" (*This church, the WELL, is the Lord's Church* - not mine, not the elders, not the staff's) AND *if* He builds it, **it WILL last**- satan, hell, govt can't touch it)

-God alone will build our lives. (Who has done the heavy lifting of your life -You or the Lord?)

\*have you yielded your life/hopes/children/job/future to the Lord?

\*Jesus says in Mt. 7:24 "a wise man builds his house on the Rock, not on the sand" (What's the Rock? Jesus says it's His WORDS/Word of God. Are you allowing your world to be built on God's WORD? How?? **ARE you IN God's Word? Focused on His Word? Are you living it out?**

**Vs. 1:** Unless the Lord guards a city, The watchman stays awake in vain. **Vs. 2:** It is futile for you to rise up early, To stay up late, To eat the bread of painful labor; (*IF* God is not the builder/protector of your life, worship, and work) - **who are you living for? Trying to impress?**  
=Vs. fleeting sand of "our" success, our efforts, our skills, our abilities, our protection, our pride)  
=**VAIN**, useless, sad, a tragedy of a life that gets us nowhere with God. =**won't last/matter in eter**

\*\*If we can get out of the way (get low), He alone will lead our lives, our calling, our work, our parenting, our influence, our success. God wants to build your life spiritually -what's your plan?

**What are you building in your life that will outlast you? For whose glory is it built?**

**= Who are you letting build it? Who will benefit in their lives b/c of what is built?**

**2. The Lord is our REST (Peace)**

**Vs. 2:** This is how He gives to His beloved sleep. (NLT: "God gives rest to His loved ones)- IF we allow God to own our lives, our family, our jobs, our future = He grants us peace and rest b/c we can Trust in Him!! Ps. 4:8 "In peace I will lie down and sleep for you alone Lord make me dwell in safety." Commentary on Worry & Trust = Matthew 6:25-34; Phil 4:6-7

-Is God alone your source of rest? Is He alone your source of life/strength/joy/hope = He is the prize! **You rest in vain if you don't rest in Him.** =Worry, anxiety, (finances), depression

**What is zapping your peace of mind? What is robbing you of true rest and peace in the present?** Are you ready to mature in your faith & realize that the world/"success" can never offer you peace or give you lasting Joy? - **Are you ready to go to a diff. well to get your source** =Our task **2023** is to cut out distractions, counterfeit joys, lies, pressures from the world & to focus on what God cares most about & what will yield the most peace in your life:

\*There are only two eternal things on this earth: =You can only take two things to Heaven w/ u **The Word of God and People!!** Your daily investment needs to reflect that: Word/disc. people Where do I start??? How do I start?? =With your FAMILY, with those closest to you: in rel. w/

**Vs. 3:** Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate."

**3. The Lord is Relational** God's design is that we influence every relationship we have w Him!

\*God is teaching us that your children are not only a gift to us, but **reflect** us. *They reflect what you invest into them.* What you invest into them spiritually will yield (in time) how you send them out to influence the world. **How you love them, train them, disciple them =how they live**

-If you neglect them spiritually, don't be surprised when they reject Jesus & they hate Church

\*(What will you have to show for your kids' lives?? Sports trophies? Dance/cheer contests? OR kids who love and follow Jesus no matter what their friends do??) =**Prioritization and the power of saying NO to the building pressure of what this community expects as unified couple.**

\*Your family relationships are your single greatest achievements on this earth. (Nuclear fam., spiritual family, Ch. Fam. =singles, divorcés, widowed, single parents) **What does your quiver look like? What is in it? Arrows sharp? Ready for war? Or dull & neglected/distracted?** Your children, your family, your closest relationships are your stewardship (how do you take care of them? How are you investing in them? Spiritually - Those same relationships REFLECT YOU

-**What are you building in this life that will outlast you?** What will be your legacy? (**WORD?**)

-**In whom are you investing spiritually?** Family, friends, closest relationships -community

-**How will your relationship with this local Church grow?**

\*2023=**Our investment (spiritual and time) needs to be in our relationship with Jesus, our family, and the lost around us.** How can you better invest this year into key relationships?

\*\***What did COVID (Pandemic/shutdown) teach us about ourselves?** ....About the church?

=Covid exposed that the church has done a POOR job of discipling the church. People left the church in droves and did not return. **There was no depth to prepare people how to live**

**and find joy in Christ first (not stuff), to have joy in suffering and tragic circumstances!!**

The church failed its people. When you don't preach God's Word -all that's left is man's voice.

\*\***Our responsibility as the leaders of the WELL is to get low, so God continues to BUILD HIS CHURCH:** to disciple you (transform you) more into Christ's image & likeness (Rom. 8:29)

**VISION of the WELL:** to see “*Thirsty souls restored, lives changed, & Joyful people worshipping Jesus Christ.*” HOW??? **Reaching** the Lost; **Equipping** the Church; **Sending** out disciplemakers  
\*2022-2023 Strategic Leadership changes for our church culture = **Fully formed leadership**  
-Because of **your generosity**, we’ve hired excellent, experienced Executive staff = Exec. Team  
= to allow our **Elders** to be less managers of the church & better Spiritual Shepherds whole Ch.  
(**Lead** (spiritually), **Feed** (biblically), **Care for/shepherd** (nurture), & **Protect** God’s flock)

## What will define our ministry at the WELL in 2023?

1. A spiritually healthy and mature church is a **reproducing** church; = starting the year off right, **planting GBC** on **Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30am service**. (\$50k, Trailer, Kid’s Min., Set up)
2. A **reproducing Church** is a church committed to **discipleship** (**Community Groups**; **Grow Groups**; and **Redemption Groups** – Tues. eve. Restore/Re-engage groups)
3. **Every Member of our church serving somewhere using their spiritual gifts** (**no one on the sideline; no one a spectator**). Spiritual investment of time, talents, experience, sp. gifts
4. **Start a true Deacon Ministry. To choose, vet, equip, & ordain 12 deacons/wives to serve as spiritual servants and coaches to our 30+ Community Groups leaders**
5. **Over 20 lay leaders being trained in Relational Care/Soul Care for people who go through traumatic issues** (marriage strain, divorce, depression, sin struggles, conflict in relationships, anger, loneliness, unhealthy habits, addictions, idols) – **We want YOU** to be trained (biblically) to be able to lead people through hard seasons of life/disciple them.
6. Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 (**8 yrs ago**) I became full time church planter. **Core team**. In May, started meeting on Sunday mornings. Aug 15, launched publicly. This summer, it will be 8.5 years working at this. This summer, the elders are allowing me an Extended break for rest, renewal, refreshment, to hear from God for my life and this church for the next 10 years.  
= **Sabbatical** for 10 weeks (June/July) of this year. (**Brent, Rex, Mike Bui, Adam C. Phil C**)
7. In 10 years (2033) it will be 2000 years since Christ was resurrected – 10 years for **World Evangelization** = “**Finishing the Task**” everyone everywhere has access to a **Bible, Believer, & Body of Christ**. **GOAL:** every person in the global church (2.6 billion Christians) to:
  - A. **share gospel with two people**, (Do you know how to share gospel/Ro. Rd./Testimony)
  - B. every **church to plant a church** (**our goal is at least three more in 10 years**) and sponsor a church planter outside of the DFW area (**our goal is five**), [**Cassio & Pastor Dave Lee, Ikon Church in Plano/Richardson Area**]
  - C. and to see that every people group on the earth has access to the gospel in their heart language. **We are narrowing down which UPG our church will adopt.**

### \*Member Participation in Int’l Missions

- = 2 **Mission Trips** to LYON, France (Spring Break, Fall)
  - = Summer **Mission trip** to Quebec City (June/July 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - = **Vision Trip** to India (fall)
- In **2024**, we will also add (Israel and UPG Vision Trip)

### \*Member Participation in Local Missions (Argyle/Northlake/Denton)

- (Refuge for Women, Denton Freedom House, 1st Refuge Denton, Denton Freedom Food, Women to Women, UP Ministry)

**Where will you serve in 2023?**

No matter what this year has in store for you (great expectations, good news, promotions, success, peace, growth, encouragement, breakthroughs, restoration ...or loss, suffering, bad news, devastation, disappointment, discomfort, discouragement, or even death....) ...whatever is coming ... God has called us this year (day by day) to lay it all down before Him and submit your joy and your pain to Him for His glory and your good; and through you for others' good!

**\*\*My aim, as your Pastor, is to lead you this year to PRESS ON for God's mission for your life, learning how to glorify God in all things and how to live well, suffer well, and die well for His glory. Let's get this right church!!**

**What will mark this year as significant in your life, in your family, in this church?**

Who will you share the gospel with?

Who will you disciple into greater spiritual maturity?

How will you leverage your life for Jesus at home? In your neighborhood? In the church?

What's your plan? Discipleship just doesn't happen? Plan. Encouragement. Accountability

2 Chron 16:9 ["For the eyes of the Lord roam throughout the earth, so that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."](#)