

Building Hope-Filled Homes in Jesus

Mission and Vision Sunday 2022

95,852. That is the projected number of households in our area (77095, 77084, 77433) by 2024. It is estimated that 303,001 people will reside in those 95,852 households. More than 80,000 of these people will be under the age of 17, while nearly 125,000 of the people will be starting their careers and their families. God has placed us in a community where most of our neighbors, co-workers, and friends are part of diverse, middle-American families who enjoy a relative degree of affluence and youth.

Thirty-one years ago, when God moved our founding pastor, Larry Womack, to plant Copperfield Church in this community, God knew the stewardship that He would entrust to us. He knew that this community would need a church that would reach those that moved to the suburbs of Harris county. God knew that many of these families would have most of their basic needs met. Most would have good stable jobs. Most would be relatively well educated. Most would be married. Yet, none of these things that these people would possess would ultimately be able to satisfy the desires of their hearts or bring them the peace and security that they longed for. So, God planted a church in the middle of this community. A lighthouse of sorts. A beacon of hope in the hustle, bustle, and grind of suburban life. (Camp Hope, Chilean Miners)

For the past several months, a diverse team of church members and staff have been meeting to discern where God is leading us as a congregation. Through prayer and discussion, we considered where God placed our congregation, whom God placed in our congregation, and what God placed in our collective hearts as a congregation. We studied our community, our gifts, and our passions to find where all three of these areas overlap. Some of the results of that process are what you will start to hear today as we renew our mission and vision as Copperfield Church.

So, to begin this renewal of our mission and vision, I want to share what we believe God has revealed to us regarding our renewed mission statement: Our mission is **“to invite all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus.”**

With every fiber in my body, I believe that there is hope for every home in Jesus. I believe that all 95,000 households and 303,000 people in our area can experience true, abiding, lasting hope in Jesus. While many of these households will attempt to find hope in their finances or their recreation or their careers or their children or their spouses or their education, while many of these households will attempt to fill the god-sized void in their lives with things other than God, we, Copperfield Church, have been placed in their community at this time in history to lovingly and intentionally to beckon, to invite these homes to find hope in Jesus Christ. For there is no other source of hope, there is no other source of joy, that can compare to the hope of Jesus.

The apostle Paul describes Jesus in this very way in **Colossians 1:27**, when he writes, “To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, **the hope of glory.**” Our hope for glory, for restoration, for redemption, for salvation, is not found in us or in the things of this world but in Christ Jesus, which is why we want to “invite all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus.”

What does it look like for Copperfield Church to fulfill this mission of “inviting all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus?”

I. We must see the hopelessness and futility around us.

We will never think to invite our neighbors, friends, co-workers, and acquaintance to build hope-filled homes in Jesus if we do not see that their lives are full of hopelessness and futility. We will never carry this mission beyond the Copperfield area to the ends of the earth if we do not perceive that our world is lost and dying and without hope apart from Christ. We will simply continue to live with ease and a lack of concern for those that God has entrusted to us as a Great Commission stewardship.

Please do not misunderstand this renewed mission. We are in no way abandoning the foreign mission field. We will continue to give sacrificially and go faithfully to the nations. We are as committed today as we have ever been to seeing the nations come to Christ. Yet, we also recognize that we have a stewardship to those in close proximity to us. This is a biblical mandate from **Acts 1:8** that we reach our Jerusalem and Judea as well as the uttermost parts of the earth.

Yet, if we are willing to fly halfway across the world to share the gospel but unwilling to cross the street to share it with our neighbor, then something is deeply wrong. We must be both for the nations AND our neighbors, and if we are going to reach our neighbors, then we must have eyes to see the hopelessness and futility around us. We must recognize that anytime someone is building their life on something other than God and His promises in Christ, they are living a life of futility. This is what Jesus said in **Luke 6:46-49**,

⁴⁶ Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.

Our community is full of people who claim to know Jesus. In fact, they would call him, "Lord," but they do not do what He says. And Jesus says they are building their life on sand and when the trial comes, when devastation arrives, when the storms of life blow, when the flood waters rise, the home that they built will come crashing to the ground.

And that is what is happening in our community. People are acquainted with Jesus, but He is not their source of hope and security and peace in this world. He's an add-on. He's a fire insurance plan. He's not their hope of glory, though. And we must see this, if we will ever be compelled to invite them to find real, lasting, abiding hope in Jesus.

But we not only see it around us, we must perceive it in ourselves as well. We are not immune to the temptation to find our hope in our finances, our careers, our families, our marriages, our parenting, our education, our property values or insurance plans, our healthcare system, our politicians, our recreation, our dreams and ambitions. We are prone to the same distractions. The love of this world is a temptation that we all face and must fight against through faith in Christ. In fact, I believe that one of the reasons why we often fail to see the hopelessness and futility is because we have invited them into our lives as well.

I think this is one of the reasons why so few of us have the conversations that the apostle Peter expected us to have at some point in our lives. In **1 Peter 3:15-16**, Peter writes,

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Did you notice the assumption that Peter is making in these verses? Peter assumes that we will need to be ready to give an answer for the hope that we have because, apparently, people should be looking at our lives and wondering why we are so different from the rest of the world. Peter says, “Be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within you, because people are going to ask.” Which leads us to an uncomfortable situation. And what is that? Well, it’s the situation of not really ever having to give an answer to the question. But you say, “Well, nobody has ever asked me.” But why is it that no one is asking about our hope? Could it be, as one theologian put, that the reason no one is asking about the hope within us is because it looks like we are hoping in all the same things that they are hoping in?

Could it be that it looks like we are hoping in our careers, our finances, our families, our education, our retirement, our politics and politicians, our country, our own strength instead of Jesus Christ, the hope of glory?

So, we must see the hopelessness and futility around us and in us if we are ever going to “invite all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus.” But now that we are perceiving the hopelessness and futility around us, we can move to the invitation...

II. We must invite them to find hope in Jesus.

When Jesus saw the hopelessness and futility in the crowds that followed Him, responded by inviting them, calling them to himself. We see this in two places in the gospels. First, we see it in **Matthew 11:28-30**, where Jesus, looking upon a weary and restless people, weighed down by burdens, said to them,

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

He called them to Himself! He didn’t call them to clean their lives up. He called them in all their brokenness, pain, confusion, and weariness, and He told them their hope for rest would be found in Him alone. We see a similar passage in **John 7:37-38**, where Jesus calls out to the crowd and invites them to Himself,

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

All the spiritually thirsty people, who were trying to find satisfaction in the broken cisterns of the world, were invited to come drink deeply of the life-giving water of Jesus.

The satisfaction that they were looking for would only be found in Jesus. This world would never satisfy them. This world would never give them true, lasting, abiding hope. And we, as those who have come to Jesus for rest and drank deeply of eternal life, as those filled with the Spirit of God, as the church, the bride of Christ, we take up this work of inviting all to come to find hope for life in Christ. **Revelation 22:17** describes this work,

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

We, alongside and filled with the Spirit, are to be engaged in the work of invitation. Of inviting all to come to Jesus, find hope in Jesus, fill your home with the hope that only Jesus can bring. Come enjoy this free gift!

Our community and our world are hungry for this kind of hope. They are looking for a hope that does not disappoint. And that is what we, Copperfield Church, have been placed in this community to do, to invite all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus. We want every household to know and experience what the apostle Paul wrote of in **Romans 5:1-5**,

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

The world cannot offer this hope. The world is constantly on the brink of devastation. The world is full of threats against hope. Just in the last few weeks, the President of the United States went so far as to speak of an impending "Armageddon in light of the threat of nuclear war between Ukraine and Russia. Our newspapers are full of reports of mass murders, threatening our hope for life. Gas and grocery prices continue to increase with inflation, threatening our hope for financial security and career satisfaction. Marriage is hard. Parenting is harder. While our healthcare gets more technically advanced, our life expectancy continues to drop due to diseases of despair and substance abuse.

The things that this world offers as a source of hope are always threatened, never enduring, never lasting, always changing. Yet, there is a hope that is more than wishful thinking or optimism. There is a hope that is certain. There is a hope that is sure. There is a hope that is immovable: Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**).

He is our hope. He is our peace. We must build our lives in Him. We must invite all to build their lives in Him. This is our mission at Copperfield Church. This is what God has called us to. In a world of uncertain and moveable hope, we invite all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus.

Would your life be filled with hope today? Then you are inviting to come to Jesus!