

Vision Sunday

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NEXT: From Northwest Houston to the World | February 1, 2026 | Revelation 3; Luke 12:48; Matthew 25; Isaiah 54:2

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

Here you come on a special, special day. This is our Vision Weekend, and I am so excited about sharing with you right now the vision and the direction that we believe the Lord is leading us to.

If you're a guest, you came on a good day. There are a few things that are going to happen at the conclusion of our time together. When you leave, you're going to get a book. We want one per family, if at all possible. They'll be available at all of the exits. This book is going to give you the details of what we're looking at today and what we're going to be talking about, as well as a website that is live.

We've also got exhibits in our lobby and Commons. I encourage you to go by there and get any questions you may have answered. We'll talk a little bit more about this as we go, but it is going to be a great day.

I do want to encourage those who are still coming into the service to go ahead and be seated. Thank you for your attention this morning, and students, thank you for leaning in with us, because much of what I have to say today affects you in one way or another. I think what you're going to hear is going to encourage you, simply because of the past history of Champion Forest that we're going to outline.

If you have your Bibles, I want to invite you to grab them and turn to Isaiah chapter 54. We're going to get there in just a moment.

Our Focus Priorities

For those of you who are guests, we have, for the last couple of weeks, been talking through what we call our focus priorities here at Champion Forest. The goal was to finish this up last week, but that horrendous ice storm that came our way locked us all up so badly that we delayed this. So let me give you a review of where we are, and it'll set up where we're going.

We have a focus statement that encapsulates these focus priorities. This is what we're about. All of the ministries that we do and the programs that we are about, we try to funnel them through this focus statement as a church:

Champion Forest advances the kingdom by making disciples, loving our community, and strengthening the church.

What we said is that while this is a focus statement of our church, the church is people. What's good from a corporate standpoint is good for you personally.

You ought to be asking this of yourself: "Am I making disciples?" This is the Great Commission. We talked about this in week one. All of these focus priorities have a driving question behind them. The driving question behind making disciples is simply this: "When I stand before the Lord, will I be happy with what I have to present to Him?"

It's a reality that we're going to stand before God one day. Students, you're going to stand before the Lord one day, and you're going to give an account for your life. At the end of the day, what matters most is this: Will there be people in heaven because of you? Will there be people who look like Jesus because of your friendship, because of your leadership in their life, because you developed a friendship, shared Jesus with them, and disciplined them?

We can't improve on the Great Commission. These are the last words Jesus gave His disciples before He ascended to the Father: Go into the world and make disciples. It's the core of what we want to do. Freedom Weekend, at its essence, is about making disciples. It's an outreach, but at its core, we want to make disciples.

The second focus priority is loving our community. This is the Great Commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. The driving question behind this focus priority is this: "If Champion Forest disappeared tomorrow, if it were wiped off the map, would anyone in our surrounding community know, care, or even miss us?"

We want to live our lives in such a way that, if we disappeared tomorrow, our surrounding community, our school systems, and our neighbors would say, "That is not good. This was the church that came into our school systems and helped tutor our kids. These are the students who were from that church. They were on fire for the Lord. They were a blessing to the teaching faculty, to the administration, and to the teams. They were solid. That church is the one that helped me mud out my home when a hurricane hit, or they fed me when I was food insecure."

We're always going to believe in the power of the gospel - the articulation of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. That is what brings forgiveness of sins and brings you into a right relationship with the Lord. But that articulation of the gospel comes with real power when we tangibly show and share the love of Christ. We want to be about loving our community so that others see Christ.

The third focus priority, the one that we're going to outline today as we cast this next vision, is the one we refer to as strengthening the church. I call this priority the Great Commitment.

Scripturally, it's rooted in Matthew 25 and Luke 12. These two passages are about stewardship of one's life. Jesus is sharing a parable, and He calls for the steward, the manager. That's who we are. We steward and manage what God has entrusted to us: our time, our talents, our relationships, our abilities, and our resources. Our job is simply to steward what God has entrusted to us.

Jesus closes the parable in Luke 12:48. Listen to what He says:

Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

— Luke 12:48

From a corporate standpoint, as a church, Champion Forest is a Matthew 25 talent church. He has entrusted so much to us. He's given us an abundance of resources. He's given us an abundance of people. He's entrusted us with opportunities, privilege, and influence that, quite frankly, not a whole lot of other churches get to experience.

I want you to notice that, when we talk about strengthening the church, it's the big C. It's the universal church. Our missions programs, our residency program that's training up 25 young men and women called to ministry and hopefully sending them out all over North America, our CF Connect church planting and resource arm of our church - why do we do these things? It's to help strengthen the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Two weeks ago, we had our Houston Church Planting Network, which is a network of pastors in the greater Houston area across denominational lines, all evangelical and doctrinally sound. We hosted them for a one-day conference. There were 500 pastors from the greater Houston area here for one day of training and equipping. It was beautiful to see kingdom-minded pastors from across the city locking arms and praying for the city of Houston.

This past week, we had around 10 Spanish church planters here. In the last five years, we have raised up more than 60 Spanish-speaking pastors through our church planting residency. We had our cohort here this week, training them, investing in them, and sending them out. We've sent out more than 60 Spanish-speaking pastors all over North America in the last five years. This is just the newest class.

Why do we host events and partner with organizations like the Houston Church Planting Network? Why do we have this Spanish church planting residency? It's all about what I'm talking about: strengthening the church.

The driving question behind this focus priority is this: "Are we stewarding the gifts, resources, and influence that God has graciously given us in a wise and strategic way? How are we doing in this?"

Again, what's good for our corporate body is good for you personally. I would ask you in this moment to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you and assess your own life. How are you stewarding the gifts, resources, relationships, and influence that God has graciously given you?

A strong local church, little c, will help make a more effective and stronger universal church, big C. Today I want to talk to you about what we believe is next for Champion Forest. It will no doubt help us be stronger and more effective. In return, I believe it'll help us fulfill our role, our obligation, and our responsibility to help strengthen the universal church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What's Next for Champion Forest

What I'm about to share with you, I have shared in many environments for nearly the past year. Some of you have heard this, and this will be the fourth or fifth time you've heard it. Others of you are hearing it for the very first time, and you're no doubt going to have questions.

I want you to write those questions down, because our desire is to answer every question you may have. It's why we have a website dedicated to this next vision, and I'll give you that website as we make our way through it. It's why we have people at our Next booth in the lobby and Commons area, where you can go and have

your questions answered. We have a place on our website where you can submit your questions if they aren't answered. We want to answer every question that you're no doubt going to have.

As we make our way through this, please take note of that. Hopefully, we'll answer some questions along the way.

Let's talk about what's coming next. When I say "next," I want to emphasize that it's what's next. This is not something new to Champion Forest. It is something that is next for Champion Forest.

For over 55 years, this church has been in Northwest Houston, going by faith and making a difference for the cause of Christ in this community. This body of faith that we call Champion Forest was birthed in faith and a desire to do something great for God.

I have in my office a box full of Champion Forest church history. I love reading through that box. It's amazing to see the faith-filled stories of this church through the generations.

It started in faith. Our first pastor was a man by the name of Robin Guess, going all the way back to 1968. Pastor Guess was serving as the pastor at First Baptist Church in Navasota, Texas. He had a hobby of photography. He loved taking pictures, so the Navasota Examiner hired him as a side job to come out to the Champions Golf Course and take pictures for the 1969 U.S. Open.

Robin, as the pastor of First Baptist Navasota, had been praying for God to do something big in his heart and life. He had been praying for God to stretch him. In fact, this is his wife Janie's testimony regarding that time. He came back from taking pictures at that golf tournament in 1969, and listen to what his wife said:

"He related to me all the wonderful things he had seen and how Champion Forest Drive was going to be a major thoroughfare someday and that this area needed a church."

She said, "Robin needed and wanted more of a challenge. So we prayed that God would give us a challenging field, and our prayers were answered."

She talks about those early days of the church as it was getting going. She said, "Whether clearing land or turning the preacher's garage into an office, the people of Champion Forest, their genuine faith and their great works, went hand in hand."

This isn't new. This is next. They would all say, "To God be the glory, great things He has done."

They started this church with six people in a home, in an apartment. Eventually, it went to the Klein Intermediate School building. At their first service of six people, five of them had the last name Guess. It was the pastor's family there. Look at what God has done. This church was birthed in faith.

In fact, I've got Pastor Guess's message that he preached in 1974, when they were dedicating the new worship center at the Greenwood Forest location. For those of you who have been around for a while, that's the old chapel. He preached an amazing sermon, and I pulled a quote from it. Listen to his challenge from that sermon that day.

Pastor Guess said, "Believe me, if we yield to the temptation to sit back and take it easy for even one day, if we relax for one week, we will tend to become like the church in Laodicea."

He was referencing the church Jesus speaks about in Revelation chapter 3. Students, Jesus said this church was lukewarm. They weren't hot, on fire for Jesus. They weren't ice-cold. They were just lukewarm. Jesus said, "I'm ready to spit them out of My mouth." I mean, who wants lukewarm coffee? Nobody likes that.

Pastor Guess was saying, "We can't relax for a moment. We don't want to be like the church at Laodicea, being lukewarm."

Look at what he says: "I pray to God that we shall never be a warm church. Let us pray fervently that the influence of Laodicea will not encroach upon our blessed fellowship."

God bless you, Pastor Robin Guess. I love that man and never even knew him.

From the very beginning, it's been in our DNA at Champion Forest. It's always been our desire: We're going to move by faith, and we're going to attempt great things for the glory of God.

It wasn't just Robin Guess. Following his tenure as pastor here, Pastor Dean Shook came and, for 28 years, served this church in a faithful manner. I wish I would have gotten to know Pastor Dean. I met his wife, Jackie, shortly before she passed, but I've always sensed a kindred spirit with Pastor Dean Shook.

Here's why: Pastor Dean was 42 years old when he became pastor of Champion Forest. I was 42 years old when I became pastor of Champion Forest. Pastor Dean Shook graduated from Baptist. I graduated from Baptist. So I've always felt a kindred spirit, and his family has always been so good to me.

Listen to his challenge to the congregation of Champion Forest way back in 1981. Dean Shook said, "Therefore, do you want to do something great, to make a difference in Houston and to the world? Then put your first emphasis, your first prayers, your first energy, your first dollars where Jesus Christ put His concern and commission: His local body of believers. For you and me, this means Champion Forest Baptist Church."

This call to go by faith, to attempt something great for God, to be faithful stewards, and to work to ensure that everything we have and all that we are is put to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ has always been in us. Not just to do something great in Houston, but in the whole world. It has marked us all of our days.

From Pastor Robin Guess to Pastor Dean Shook to Pastor David Fleming, my predecessor, this call has gone out to Champion Forest again and again: Let's move by faith. Again and again, Champion Forest, you have stepped up and answered the call.

Listen to this sense of urgency from Pastor David Fleming in 2008: "It's the question of the hour. Will we do whatever it takes to keep reaching people for Christ? Each of us must make an impact with our lives and the resources God has and will provide."

Even then, he was talking about stewardship and faithfulness.

"I pray you will respond with a confident and faith-filled yes, so that together we can make an impact for Him

for every generation."

Students, that's why I'm so glad that God, in His sovereignty, chose Freedom Weekend to be Vision Weekend. What we're talking about today is a baton that has been passed for over 50 years, from one generation to another.

When we say this is next, that is truly what we're saying. What I'm about to talk to you about is what you've been doing and what we've been doing for over 55 years.

From Northwest Houston to the World

With that being said, let me introduce you to Next.

In the summer of 2024, I woke up in the middle of the night. This has rarely happened, okay? I promise you, I'm not the prophet. I'm not the son of the prophet, okay? Usually, when I wake up in the middle of the night, it's because Lupe was sitting heavy, okay?

But this night, I woke up, and immediately on my mind and heart was this statement: "From Northwest Houston to the world."

I didn't know what it meant. I didn't know where it came from, but I sure liked the sound of it. From Northwest Houston to the world.

I got up, and I remember writing it down. Those journals I showed you a few weeks ago, I could probably point you to the night when I wrote it down. I didn't tell anybody about it. I didn't know what it meant. I just thought about it. "What does that mean? Northwest Houston to the world?"

You afford me every summer, and I'm very grateful, about four to six weeks out of the pulpit. I'm here working, outside of two weeks when I get away for the summer. But those four to six weeks out of the pulpit, I'm so grateful for. We've got an incredible teaching team. We don't miss a beat. It's healthy for our church to hear from other people.

In that time away, the way I refer to it is that I'm not working in the ministry; I'm working on the ministry. The Super Bowl is coming up. There'll be coaches on the sidelines, but there'll also be coaches in the press box. During those four to six weeks that you allow me away, I'm typically in the press box, so to speak, looking down on our church, praying and thinking.

I pray for our family. I pray for myself and what's next for me personally. I pray for our church, because God's entrusted this flock to my care. I'm the undershepherd of the Lord Jesus Christ and serve with an incredible team. I use that time to pray.

Typically, I'm away for two weeks. I pal around with some friends the first week, and the second week I bring my family out, or I bring Debbie out. It's always a lot more fun when it's just Debbie, but, you know, I bring them all out, and it's great.

I remember when I first got here, people were so kind, and I'd have conversations. They'd say, "What's your

vision? What's your vision for our church?"

I've said this in many environments, and it's true: I had no vision. I was trying to learn where Louetta started and where it stopped. All right? I couldn't figure it out to save my life.

I didn't know this area. I didn't know our church. My first year here, truly, all I wanted to do was pray. I wanted to be like Nehemiah. We're starting a Nehemiah series next week, and what Nehemiah was doing in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and what we're doing go together just like this. It's going to be a beautiful series that starts next week.

But in that first year, I just wanted to pray. I wanted to observe. I wanted to get to know our team. I wanted to get to know you. I wanted to preach good sermons to the best of my ability. That was the first year. I would tinker with things as they came along the way, but I had no real vision.

Truthfully, during all these summers of getting away, God's been speaking. But here's how I work as a leader, just so you know. I'm not sitting in my office, having this huge vision, and then coming out and saying, "Here's where we go. Let's go." That's not the way I operate.

Typically, I'll pray through it. I got that statement, and I sat on it for a year.

Last year, I was in my time away and in my time alone with the Lord. I was in Isaiah 54:2 as part of my Old Testament reading. I wasn't looking for anything specifically. I was just going through a chapter a day in my Old Testament. As I was praying, this verse came off the page and into my heart.

Here's the context: Israel has been in rebellion and judgment, and God is getting ready to send them into captivity. He gives them a word: "You're going to be judged, and I'm sending you into captivity, but I'm going to bring you out eventually."

He gives them a word of hope: "When I bring you out of captivity, I'm going to bless you like crazy, but you have to prepare for it."

This is the verse:

*Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.*

— Isaiah 54:2

Do you see it there? He's speaking of the nomadic world of the day. He's saying, "Listen, I'm going to bless you, but you've got to prepare for the blessing. You'd better lengthen your cords. You'd better make the tent bigger. You've got to expand. You've got to enlarge."

Then look at what He says: "You've got to strengthen your stakes." Some versions say you've got to drive your stakes deep. You've got to anchor down.

That picture of expansion, enlargement, and anchoring down - if you grew up in church like me, you used to

sing a song, "Deep and Wide." I ain't going to sing it for you, but you know the song, right? Deep and wide.

That's the sense of what I got God calling us to. We knew we needed to do some things around here, and we've been talking about it, but this was the first time I saw a green light. I love that sense of urgency: "Do not hold back." It's like, "Now is the time."

I came back, and we've been praying about this. What I try to do with a vision, until it crystallizes - because I'm not even sure, and I want to make sure I'm not out over my skis and leading you somewhere you don't need to be - is just start leaking it through concentric circles of influence.

I bring it to our senior team here, and we talk and pray. I bring it to leaders in the church, and we talk and pray. I just begin leaking it and letting people speak into it.

We told all of our life group leaders about it last August. We got a team of people together that we call our Next Vision Team. Many of you know these people. This represents a cross-section of our church. We've got people on here from age 26 to 85. They are Champions members, North Klein members, and members of our Spanish church. It's a great cross-section of our church.

I got these leaders together in September, I believe, for the first time. We began to talk, and we began to pray. They began to hear what we believe the Lord was doing. They were able to speak into it, and they have been unbelievable, meeting on a monthly basis, praying, and helping us massage what we were looking at here.

They serve in different capacities. Some are life group leaders, and some are deacons, but they're all throughout our church. These people have been unbelievable in coming alongside the leadership of our church and helping crystallize what it is that I'm about to present to you.

Preparing for Growth

I want to give you the basis of what's been going on here at Champion Forest so you can get a feel for what's happening.

First of all, I want you to see our worship attendance over the last three years. This is very important for you to know. You see the increase at North Klein. This is year over year over year. You see Champions: 9%, 10%, 9%. God is blessing us like crazy.

What this means is that the front door of our church is wide open because you're inviting friends. People are hearing about what God is doing, and our front door is wide open.

By the way, for those of you who love our parking situation, those 1,200 people represent 600 more cars that weren't here three years ago, okay? Just hang with us, because I think I've got some good news in the future - not today, but in the coming weeks - about our parking. Anyway, I just lay that out there. All right? Be nice on the way out of here.

You see the increase. Here's what you need to know about church: If a normal church is increasing by 3% to 5% in any given year, that's like high fives and Gatorade baths. All right? That means they're doing a good job. Look at the growth that God is giving us year after year after year.

It's not only happening in worship. Look at our life groups. What this means is that not only is our front door wide open, but our back door is closing, because our discipleship mechanism in our church mainly happens in life groups. That's how we get the big church small.

This is where you use your spiritual gifts. This is where you minister to one another. If you're in the hospital, this is where people know you're in the hospital, and they can come and help meet needs. This shows us that our back door is closing.

You see the dip at North Klein. It's going down a little bit, and I believe I can explain why in just a minute. I think we have a solution to it.

The point is that the front door is open, the back door is closing, more people are getting assimilated into ministry, and God is blessing like crazy. The whole point of Isaiah 54 is that we've got to continue to expand and anchor deep.

There are five initiatives I want to share with you in this Next vision. All five of these initiatives funnel within these focus priorities. There is a reason we're doing the focus priority series at the beginning of the year.

What I'm about to share with you in these five initiatives is not something new. They funnel and filter through everything that we've been talking about: making disciples, loving our community, and strengthening the church.

Again, I know you're going to have questions. Write them down. Check our website this afternoon. Go by our Next booth. Ask your questions, and we'll work them out in the days ahead.

Initiative One: Worship Center Renovation

The first initiative is a worship center renovation.

This worship center was built, dedicated, and opened in 2002. This is the original carpet. It's the original painting and original lighting. In fact, the lights in this room right now are 100% on, except for these two sides right here, where it's a little darker.

This room has served us well for nearly 25 years, and it's just time to freshen it up. It's a big room - 4,100 seats - and it's a big dollar amount.

We last did a technology upgrade in 2012, which was wonderful. We needed a technology upgrade. But as you know, technology and media are new every single day. I bet there aren't many people in this church, or watching online for that matter, who have a phone or are watching from a TV from 2012. If you are, it's connected to an adapter, to an adapter, to an adapter.

If you talk to our media crew, we have gotten mileage out of this technology upgrade, and they're holding it together adapter to adapter to adapter to adapter.

For those of you who have been around here for a long time, we did recover the seats. They used to be all red. That was before my time. I bet it was glorious.

But it's time to come in here and refresh this worship center.

When I was in England, I was given a statement by Churchill that he made when they were rebuilding the House of Commons. He wanted to rebuild the House of Commons exactly the way it was before it was bombed in World War II. Listen to what Churchill said: "We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us."

For nearly 25 years, Champion Forest, think about the lives this building has shaped. Think about the marriages that have been strengthened and some that have been restored. Think about the kids who have been dedicated. Think about the students, some of your children, who have been baptized.

We shape our buildings, but then our buildings - especially through the preaching and teaching of God's Word - shape our lives.

It's time to reshape our building. We don't think we're getting out over our skis. We've partnered with a very trusted firm that does this all over North America. They've done renovations in some buddies of mine's churches across the United States. We've seen it.

It's time. This building has served us for 23 years. It's time to fix it up so that it can serve the next generation for the next 25 years.

That's initiative number one.

Initiative Two: North Klein Kids and Adult Discipleship Building

Initiative number two is a Kids and Adult Discipleship Building at our North Klein campus.

If you haven't been up to North Klein, God's doing an amazing work there. It's so amazing that, if you noticed those numbers, the growth in North Klein has kind of tailed off over the last year, especially in life groups.

Let me tell you why. God is blessing our congregation there in such a tremendous way that we've had to go into Fox Elementary School, which is about a quarter of a mile down the road from the church.

I want you to think about being a young couple who comes to church. You drop your children off at the children's building, and you say, "Okay, where do I go to a couples class?"

They say, "Glad you asked. Get back in your car and drive about a quarter of a mile down the road, or get on a shuttle bus. You're not going to be on the same campus as your children."

It's been working for the last two years, but the reality is that our philosophy of ministry here - and this is very important for you to hear - is that we believe in on-campus small groups. We know there are churches out there that do home groups, and we think that's great, but we believe in on-campus life groups. That's how we've always been, and we believe it's most effective and most strategic. But it's also expensive.

We need to come into North Klein and expand it by 15,000 square feet. This will help maximize their growth there. It will help get everybody out of Fox Elementary and back on campus. We're also going to have a 130-

space parking lot that they desperately need on the south side of their campus.

This is an expansion at our North Klein campus. That's initiative number two.

Initiative Three: Digital Ministry and Broadcast Expansion

Initiative number three is a digital ministry and broadcast expansion.

When I was at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, one of the statements they made at seminary - they would say it at every chapel, and we would say it in nearly every class - was, "The sun never sets on the ministry of Southwestern Seminary."

Man, I thought that was so cool. What they were talking about was that, somewhere around the world, there's a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary serving Jesus on the mission field. The sun never sets.

Today, we know the sun never sets through this right here. The sun never sets through digital media.

We believe God is calling us to this because what we're talking about today is stewardship. To whom much is given, much is required.

God has blessed us. We believe that what God has given us in the pulpit ministries of this church, not just in English but in Spanish, needs to go out. We have, in Pastor Ramon Medina, one of the most gifted communicators in the world. We need to get his messages to as many people as possible in Spanish. I believe we need to get the messages that we're preaching here to the entire world.

By the way, if you follow us on social media, you saw that what we call our broadcast ministry started this past hour on CBS. It started today. There are 2.9 million households in Houston that we have the potential to reach with the gospel.

We want to saturate the airwaves. I'm not just talking about radio, television, and the internet. I'm not just talking about English and Spanish. I'm talking about streaming services.

One of the missional components we want to pursue is getting on an app called Pando. Again, technology is expensive. It costs money.

Pando is a ministry under the heading of God Behind Bars. Did you know there are 1.9 million incarcerated individuals in North America right now? There are 1.9 million people in prison systems across the United States.

At certain facilities, the government allows certain inmates to have an iPad with approved educational and inspirational apps. The only inspirational app they have right now that is government-approved is the Pando app.

You can specialize where you want to go and which prisons you want to go into. We can go into Navasota. We can go into Angleton. We can put our messages on there in English and Spanish.

Wouldn't that be incredible, to be able to preach the gospel behind bars? People get saved. People get disciplined. Then, God willing, when they get out, maybe they even come to Champion Forest and find a place to plug in and serve for the glory of God.

It's rebuilding lives, but it costs. This is the third initiative in Next: the worship center renovation, the North Klein Kids and Adult Discipleship Building, and a digital ministry and broadcast expansion.

Initiative Four: International Church Planting

The fourth initiative is an international church planting project.

When we were thinking about doing this, we knew that we wanted to strengthen the church, the universal church. We have three partners with whom our church has long-standing relationships. One is Greater Europe Mission. The other is For All Mankind Movement. The third is the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

We have long relationships with each of these organizations. We met with them and said, "What could we do that would be special and unique and could be a great move of God in partnership with you?"

Greater Europe Mission came back and said, "Would you help us adopt four countries in Europe? We want you to help us train pastors and missionaries to go into these four cities in Europe. We want you to send teams - life group teams going together to these cities - and help start a church planting movement in these four cities in Europe."

For All Mankind Movement said, "We're all in. God's doing a great work in Nepal. There are seven provinces in Nepal. Would you come and help us train indigenous church planters and church workers?"

It's going to cost, but we can do it. That's what For All Mankind Movement wants to do: a church planting movement in Nepal.

The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention saw what we do in our Spanish church planting residency, and they think it's amazing. They said, "Would you come to Madrid and start a Spanish church planting residency in Madrid?"

The head of our church planting residency, under Ramon Medina's leadership, is a man by the name of Esteban Vasquez. He and his wife, Karina, have been members of our church for 16 years. They've been on staff for 13 years. He's one of the teaching pastors in the Spanish church, and he's the one who leads this church planting residency.

As the IMB began to talk, Pastor Esteban began to feel in his heart that he's the one who needs to go and lead that ministry.

Pastor Esteban and his wife, Karina, are sitting right over here. Pastor, stand up. Karina, stand up. Let us honor you right here. We love you.

I'm going to interview Pastor Esteban in a couple of weeks, but he's going to go. He's already passing the

baton of leadership here, so our residency here is going to continue, but he's going to do in Madrid what we're doing here. We're a part of this. This is for the nations. It's an international church planting project.

Initiative Five: A Third Campus

Fifth and finally, the fifth initiative is a third campus in the Magnolia area.

Many of you, if you've been around this area long, know that this is a thriving area. Just look at the numbers. From 2020 to 2025, Magnolia grew by 147%, Tomball by 67%, and Montgomery grew by 64%.

Many of you drive down from that area. We have many members who drive down to the North Klein campus. We believe it's time to start a third campus in the North Magnolia region and do for this third campus what we did in North Klein.

Let me talk about our multisite approach. When I came here five years ago, we had four campuses: one in Conroe, one in Jersey Village, North Klein, and Champions.

In my second year, we spun off our Conroe campus and made it its own autonomous church. Pillar Church, led by Pastor Alec Brunson, is thriving and doing a wonderful job.

We spun off Jersey Village in 2024. Now it's the Church at Jersey Village, led by Pastor Avery Lamell. They're thriving and doing a wonderful job.

We believe the best way to plant campuses is to do it just like we did with North Klein. Three hundred members of our Champions campus, who share our DNA, went and helped plant this campus. You see the numbers. It's blowing up.

It's time to ask members. We're not going to make anybody do anything, but if you live in that area and you're interested, we believe we can have services beginning in January of 2027. We're going to work our way toward that end.

Part of this project is asking for a certain amount of money to be laid aside so that, when land comes up, if we find the right piece, we can acquire that land.

The church can meet. We can find a school. We can find somewhere to meet. That's not going to stop us from starting the campus. But as part of this project that you're going to hear about in just a minute, we want that money to be solely set aside for land. When the land comes up, we can make the purchase.

You see here a little heat map. I won't stay here long, but I want you to see it. You see the major thoroughfares right there. The yellow dots at the bottom represent Champions members and where our Champions members live. The red dots represent where our North Klein members live. That circled region is where we're wanting to go.

Our prayer is that in five years it's saturated with dots that are blue, purple, green - we don't care. But it's going to be saturated with people because we are going from Northwest Houston to the world.

As long as there is somebody in Northwest Houston who doesn't know Jesus and needs to be reached with the love of Christ, Champion Forest, to whom much is given, much is required. We have a stewardship on our lives. This is something that we believe God is calling us to do. We've got to go.

The Next Generosity Initiative

The total price of the project is \$38 million.

Here's what's important about this: This is the start of what we call a capital campaign, a generosity initiative. This is nothing new to Champion Forest. Again, this is next. You've been through capital campaigns in the past.

We call them generosity initiatives because, for them to ever work, you have to be generous. It's a three-year capital campaign in which we ask you to pray and commit, over a three-year period, to give a certain amount - whatever God leads you to give - over and above your regular tithes and offerings.

This is not like our previous program, where we had one fund for two years that combined our operating budget with what we wanted to do. This is a traditional three-year campaign where you commit, as families, to give over and above your regular tithes and offerings. We're not going to stop the ministry we're doing. In fact, we need more. But we're asking you to commit over three years to allow us to do these projects.

The total price of the project is \$38 million. The book you receive when you walk out is going to have all the details of these projects, everything I've talked about.

Here's the call to action today.

Number one, I'm going to ask you to pray it through. In order for us to accomplish this goal and do what we believe God is leading us to do, and if we want to do something great for God, it's going to take every single one of us in here. Every single one of us.

All I'm asking you to do, as your pastor, is pray it through: "God, what would You have me do?"

Secondly, I'm asking you to participate as God leads. The only pressure you ought to feel as we make our way through this campaign is the pressure of the Holy Spirit, because you're not going to feel it from me.

I'm praying what Paul prayed for the Macedonians. You know what he said about the Macedonians? I was in my time alone with the Lord this week, and I'm in 2 Corinthians chapter 8. It says that the Macedonians gave above their means, of their own accord.

That's what I'm praying. I'm praying that we'll participate at whatever level God says, but we'll strive to sacrifice and to go above our means, of our own accord.

I'm going to ask you to propel us forward. What I mean by that is that, on March 1, we're going to have Commitment Sunday. We've got five weeks to pray as families and to pray as a church.

If you're signed up for our devotionals, you got a devotional sent to you today. If you're looking for a devotional and want to go through a spiritual guide over these next 28 days, all you have to do is text the word DEVOTE

to 77069, and you'll get 28 days' worth of devotionals as we pray and seek the Lord.

This generosity initiative, this capital campaign, is intended to be a spiritual journey. It's why we're going to go through the book of Nehemiah together. Text DEVOTE to 77069, and you'll get a devotional every morning.

As a staff, we've been fasting since the first week of January. On Wednesdays at noon, we've been fasting for this right here. We're going to ask you to join us in a fast. If you can't do it on Wednesdays at noon, pick a day to do it. Give up something physical to seek the Lord at a greater spiritual level.

On March 1, here's what we're going to ask you to do. There's a commitment card in the book. You'll get a commitment card over the next two weeks. You're going to hear about Next a lot.

Here's the thing: The average church member comes once a month. Over the next nine weeks, we're going to hit it, because we've got to reach every member who comes. But all we're asking you to do is pray and participate.

On March 1, we'll have Commitment Sunday. We're going to have a time in our service when we come and lay our commitments at the altar. On March 1, we're asking you to bring your first and best offering, along with your three-year pledge. Think of it as a down payment on a house, if you will.

You're going to bring your first and best offering on March 1, and you're going to bring your three-year pledge. We're going to lay it at the altar and have a time of prayer.

March 8 and 15 are spring break weeks around here. We're going to continue to take in commitments. Then March 22 will be Celebration Sunday, when we tell you, as a church, what we've done.

As you look at this card, I want you to notice our audacious goal. God's going to have to come through, and every single one of us is going to have to participate for this to happen.

It's not equal gifts. None of us can give the same thing, but it is equal sacrifice: "God, what would You have me do?"

On March 1, we're praying that God would allow us to take in \$6 million that Sunday so that we can trigger the work that needs to be done here. Work on the worship center could start immediately after Easter, and Lord willing, we'd be back in December. But for that to happen, we need \$6 million on March 1. That also triggers the North Klein expansion.

We already have \$2 million on hand, which is wonderful, but we need \$6 million on March 1.

If you notice on this card, it says we need pledges of \$22 million. For you engineers and math wizards, you're saying, "\$22 million and \$6 million, Pastor Jarrett? That's \$28 million. I thought you said the goal was \$38 million."

The answer is yes.

As we visited with stewardship consultants, people who looked at us, saw our giving, and saw what our past initiatives have done, do you know what they told us? They said, "If Champion Forest knocks it out of the

ballpark in this three-year campaign, you can expect \$28 million."

We looked at them and said, "We believe God can do immeasurably more than we could ever ask, think, or imagine."

We're going for the full \$38 million, but it's going to take every single one of us going all in.

If we take out debt, know that the church has to approve that. We've got a Finance Committee that'll make sure we're being responsible in that. But before we take out any debt, you as a church have to approve it.

Champion Forest, to whom much is given, much is required. We have a stewardship on our church. We have an obligation and a responsibility to do whatever it takes to reach as many people as possible.

I want you to hear the urgency of Isaiah 54:2: "Do not hold back."

Now is the time.

From Northwest Houston to the world.