



CHURCH**ALIVE**

L O V E • G R O W • L E A D

*Foundations 101:
Vision, Mission & Structure*



VISION

The Vision of Church Alive begins with *Matthew 16:18*, “I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”

As a body of believers, we have the privilege to partner with God and build His Church. That said, we know that God calls each church to uniquely contribute to this construction by using their time and resources in certain ways. We believe Church Alive, specifically, has been called to do three things to help build His Church: **Love, Grow and Lead.**

LOVE

1. We understand that God loves messed up people.

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8
- God didn’t say, “I’ll love you once you become perfect.”

2. We understand that God deserves our love.

- Why do we love God? Because He first loved us. *1 John 4:19*
- Deuteronomy 6:5
- Matthew 6:24

3. We love people - even messed up people.

- Why do we love others? Because that is what He tells us to do.
 - John 15:12
 - John 13:34-35
- We have to change the way we see people. Even when we don’t agree with others’ lifestyles, we must love them. Love doesn’t mean that we approve of their lifestyle; love means that we can look past their actions and see them as people made in God’s image.
- When we have a hard time loving others, we need to spend more time with the source of love.
 - 1 John 4:7-8

GROW

Growth is about not being stagnate. It’s not limited to numbers; rather, it’s about moving forward. Most importantly, growth is about touching lives (of course, the more we can reach the better). We want to grow in 3 areas:



1. We grow in our relationship with God.

- “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” *Luke 2:52*
- Jesus knew we would need an example to follow.
- It’s the goodness of God that leads men to repentance. When we’ve experienced His goodness, we naturally want to know Him more. Much like newborns who can’t go more than a few hours without milk, we, as believers, hunger and crave spiritual milk. *1 Peter 2:1-3*
- Our desire to pursue God and being in his Word regularly is necessary to move forward in our relationship with Him. A lack of focus will make the Word unfruitful in our lives.

2. We grow in our relationship with our church family.

- Paul wasn’t talking about tolerance. He was saying to keep your eyes on Jesus and stop getting sidetracked by nit-picky things. *1 Corinthians 1:10-12*
- They took care of each other, and they loved each other. Sometimes, our church family simply needs someone to listen to them, spend a moment with them or pray with them. *Acts 4:32-33*

3. We grow in our relationship with our community.

- Growing in God and growing in our church body ultimately prepares us to impact our community. In *Matthew 28*, Jesus says that because we are growing, we should help others grow too.
- Why? Because nothing in God’s kingdom stands still. *Isaiah 9:7* says, “of the increase of His Kingdom there will be no end.” When God speaks, growth is a result.
- Jesus reminds us that we have something others need to know about. We are not just to keep what He’s given us within the walls of our church. *Matthew 5:14-16*

LEAD

Lead simply means we are to help others experience the same love and growth that we have experienced.

- We are the light of the world. *Matthew 5:14-16*
- We’ve all been told to “go”! *Mark 16:15*



MISSION

Ultimately, our vision (Love, Grow, Lead) was formed from the foundation for our mission. It is the motivation for our 6 mission points.

1. Teach the Word

From the pulpit and throughout each of our ministries, our purpose is to teach the Word of God as it is written. We commit to proclaiming the uncompromising, balanced, no nonsense Word of God. We teach God's word because we love people and we want them to experience God's love. We also understand that growth comes from learning to live according to the Word God has given us, and we believe that the Word helps us to lead others into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- 2 Timothy 4:2-3
- Acts 5:20
- Hebrews 4:12
- Romans 10:17
- 2 Corinthians 4:17
- 2 Timothy 3:16

2. Restore families

As a church, we will promote God's purpose in restoring families back to their rightful place through training in the areas of marriage, parenting and the unique issues facing broken and blended families. We believe that Christ's example of sacrificial love is designed to be mirrored in our family relationships. As we seek God's design and answers for restoration we will grow together as a family unit and church body. Ultimately, this positions us to help others experience restoration in their lives as well.

- Ephesians 5:25-26
- Ephesians 5:33
- Exodus 20:12
- Ephesians 6:4
- Matthew 19:8
- Malachi 2:16
- Philippians 2:3
- We believe marriage is between one man and one woman.



3. Bridge the generational gap

We desire to see those both young and old working together to spread the love of Jesus, because we believe that Jesus loves all ages. We realize that every generation offers something different to the Kingdom, and our desire is to see them grow, worship and work together.

- 1 Timothy 4:12
- Matthew 19:14
- Joel 2:28
- Titus 2:4

4. Transform our community

We have a fervency to minister and be a shining light in our community, to our city leaders, and those who protect us from harm and danger. By partnering with area churches, we desire to collectively take the love of Jesus to our communities and cities to help others grow.

- Luke 24:47
- Acts 1:8

5. Unify cultures

We are a diverse church that desires to unify all races and cultures in our local area and around the world. We have a passion to see all people sharing in God's love, growing, and showing others how to worship and serve in the power of the Spirit.

- Genesis 1:27
- Psalms 24:1
- Romans 10:12
- 1 Corinthians 1:10

6. Impact nations

We are a church that strategically connects with others outside our walls to proclaim the gospel around the world. We desire to send members from our church body to minister, assist, and partner with missionaries around the world. We believe that God's love should be experienced by everyone, and everyone should have the chance to grow and lead.

- Psalms 96:3
- Matthew 28:19
- Mark 13:10



STRUCTURE

We believe that church structure is important because it helps keep everything in perspective. Our vision and our mission help us to be a part of what God is doing in building His Church. Our structure helps us to make decisions to best pursue our vision, so we can achieve our mission.

- ***We believe church government is a theocracy, not a democracy.***
 - Theocracy: God ruled. Colossians 1:18
 - Democracy: Rule by a body of people.

- ***God establishes every great work with a founder or set man.***
 - Numbers 27:16-17

- ***The founder moves in at least one of the 5-fold ministry and gives vision and direction.***
 - Ephesians 4:11

- ***God sets key leadership in place to assist the founder.***
 - Exodus 18:21, 25-26
 - Numbers 11:16-17
 - Acts 6:2-4

- ***The Board of Directors makes decisions regarding hiring, fiscal affairs, budget and finance.***
 - Church financial records are available to tithing members who have completed the Open Door class.
 - An annual business meeting is held at the beginning of each year, usually in late January.
 - Financial records are available in January and July to tithing members.
 - Contributions statements are sent in early January.
 - The church is here to assist those who are active and tithing members. We ask that folks not ask other members for assistance, but contact the church instead.



- Outside of being on the Board of Directors, Pastor Gene is not involved in the day-to-day finances of the church. For years, he was the Administrator of the church; but, now his focus is solely on pastoring. He is not involved in the counting of the offering (we have multiple teams that do that), the paying of bills or writing checks, unless we are in a situation where our bookkeeper is not available.
- ***Elders and Deacons advise Pastor in spiritual matters, oversee the spiritual health of the church body, watch for people or circumstances that could bring division within the body and ensure balanced teaching of the Word.***
 - Hebrews 13:17
 - Titus 1:7
 - 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- ***Associate Pastors, as with Elders and Deacons, care for our church family. These men fill the pulpit regularly, and when Pastor Gene is away, they are available to for ministry along with our Deacons and Elders.***
- ***Our Church accountability and covering falls under the Network of Related Pastors (NRP).***
 - A covering is spiritual protection.
 - Overseers are Pastor Rod and Mary Aguillard. Pastor Keith Tucci is NRP's Senior Apostle.
 - nrpastors.com