

celebration sunday

COME AND SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE



SHARING THE GRACE AND TRUTH IN JESUS CHRIST AS HE'S CHANGING OUR LIVES



A NOTE FROM PASTOR DOUG

Expectation (n): a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future.

Before leaving for Grandma's house at Christmas, every child creates expectations of how the weekend will go. Those expectations may include a few kisses on the cheek, cookies, and, of course, presents! As the family car is packed for the return trip home after a few full days, these same children will review their weekend and decide, "Did this weekend meet my expectations?" A good trip to Grandma's usually results in expectations exceeded ... more cookies than planned and even better gifts than imagined!

If you were to think back one year, what were your expectations for the past 12 months? I don't know if I can define every expectation I had for Triumph for the past year; however, whatever they were ... God exceeded them! Though there are too many examples to count, too many ways to expound upon, I do want to mention a couple of the ways I have seen the Lord do marvelous things!

Vacation Bible School 2022:

Our new ministry year kicks off each year with VBS. And each year we experience the joy that comes as hundreds of children sing songs, play games, make crafts, and hear Bible stories of God's incredible love for them. Last summer was no different. Our West Campus saw record attendance at VBS, and as a whole, Triumph had 1,147 people participate in our "Monumental" 2022 VBS. God has exceeded expectations.

Pastor Ben Bigaouette:

It was in the past 12-months that we called, and received, Pastor Ben and his family. I have enjoyed the front row seat as I have watched Pastor Ben connect and lead our East Campus congregation and staff. So many of us have been blessed by his preaching of the Word of God, we've enjoyed conversations in the foyer with his family, and our staff has had the privilege of sitting under his leadership. God has exceeded expectations.

20 Years of Ministry in Chad, Africa:

January marked the 20th anniversary of Triumph's adoption of the Bilala people group in Chad, Africa. The Lord has been working in and through the missionaries that have served on the ground amongst the Bilala people. For 20 years, Triumph has been praying, giving, and sending to this people group to see the Gospel take hold. As we move into the next 20 years, we are excited to see God raising up missionaries from our sister church in Taiwan! The Wen family has recently settled amongst the Bilala, and it is exciting to see the global Church working together to reach the nations for Jesus. God has exceeded expectations.

Finish Well, Together:

And most recently, we are celebrating God's provision in our Finish Well, Together project. As we approached our fiscal year end (April 30), we were anticipating a financial shortfall. We asked our congregation to pray and seek the Lord's leading to be involved in a special year-end fund drive. We were praying for \$250,000. The Lord provided, through his people, over \$330,000! God has exceeded expectations.

In Ephesians chapter 3, the Apostle Paul reflects on the incredible goodness of God and his desire for all people to know of this goodness. Right in the middle of this letter, he breaks out in praise! And it is with this praise, I want to end. For God has done GREAT things amongst us, Triumph. We are so blessed. Praise be to God!

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21



Doug Rogers

Lead Pastor

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL TREASURER

Thank you for your generosity in giving to Triumph this past year!

We have seen God meet all of our needs through your gifts. We “Finished Well” this year and exceeded our giving budget for the first time in many years! God is good! Because of your gifts, we were also able to take care of a major HVAC need at both of our campuses. As we look back over this past year and reflect on God’s faithfulness, our team is praying that your generosity continues into this next year. We are so thankful for the staff and those who attend and give to our church. Triumph’s ministry wouldn’t be what it is without your support – in finances, in prayer, and in your time.

As we look forward to this next year, we would love for you to continue making Triumph a major part of your giving plan. Our goals for this next year are big and exciting!

Darren Rogness, Treasurer

LOOKING BACK 2022/23 BUDGET

Total Offerings		\$1,884,767
Other Income		\$21,477
Staffing	\$1,134,476	
Operations	\$395,314	
Ministry Support	\$87,414	
Capital Expenditures	\$9,427	
Missions & Benevolence	\$190,521	
Net Income		\$89,092

LOOKING AHEAD 2023/24 BUDGET

	2022/23 Budget	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Budget
Offerings	\$1,655,165	\$1,884,767	\$1,901,560
Other Income	\$80,367	\$21,477	\$10,550
	\$1,735,532	\$1,906,244	\$1,912,110
Staffing	\$1,125,732	\$1,134,476	\$1,226,639
Operations	\$363,516	\$395,314	\$355,150
Ministry Support	\$73,440	\$87,414	\$123,410
Capital Expenditures	\$8,235	\$9,427	\$15,700
Missions & Benevolence	\$165,513	\$190,521	\$191,211
Totals	\$1,736,436	\$1,817,152	\$1,912,110
Net Income	\$(904)	\$89,092	\$ -

A STORY OF HOPE

When Shanna Knutson started feeling the pain in her back, she figured it was nothing more than the aches and pains that come with being an active, working mother of 7. But the pain didn't go away. And it was getting worse. So last December, Shanna went to the doctor. And her tests came back negative. She consulted with two other doctors and they, too, found nothing wrong. But they couldn't figure out what was causing the pain or explain why it was getting worse.

But in February, a fourth doctor ordered a CT scan which revealed the cause of the pain. It was the kind of result no one wants to hear. Cancer. Even worse, stage IV pancreatic cancer. Her biomarkers, which signal the extent of the cancer, were over 60,000 (that's really high!). This was a grim diagnosis. One which would require an aggressive treatment of chemotherapy.

Shanna reacted as any of us would. She felt afraid, angry, and confused. She questioned, "Why is this happening?" Shanna struggled. But she struggled with God.



THE KNOTSON FAMILY (SHANNA IS THIRD FROM THE LEFT)

As she was in the grip of the threat of her diagnosis, she refused to let go of God. And more importantly, God refused to let go of her. One of the ways Shanna held on to the Lord was by trusting the words of James 5:14 which says to call on the elders of the church, and let them pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. That's what Shanna did. So our West Campus pastors and elders, along with Cindy Rogness, West Campus Women's Ministry Director, and Shanna's husband, Tim, prayed over Shanna and anointed her for healing according to the Lord's will.

Within weeks of praying together, Shanna's doctor came back with some unexpected news. Further testing revealed that she has esophageal cancer, not pancreatic cancer. While this change in diagnosis by no means put Shanna in the clear, it did come as a relief. It is a much more optimistic prognosis and requires a less aggressive treatment.

This is Shanna's journey. And it's not an easy one, to say the least. But Shanna has found the Lord to be good and faithful along the way. She has experienced peace that stretches beyond her understanding and an abiding sense of God's presence with her. Shanna also says that in addition to the constant, amazing love and support of her family, one of the most meaningful ways the Lord has blessed her is through the love, empathy, and support of the women in her Tuesday evening Bible Study. Those women, and their time together, has been a true difference-maker in her life.

At last check, Shanna's biomarkers have dropped to 3,000 (that's a big improvement!). And although there are good days, and much harder ones, Shanna has found the promise of Isaiah 41:10 to be a true and strong reality for her.

THE LORD SAYS: FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU; BE NOT DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD; I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU, I WILL HELP YOU, I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND. (ESV)

607

"I'M NEW HERE"
WEBPAGE VISITS

20

YEARS OF ADOPTING
THE BILALA IN CHAD, AFRICA



6,500+

HUNGRY HEARTS MEALS
SERVED AT TRIUMPH EAST!



663

KIDS INVOLVED IN
TRIUMPH KIDS MINISTRY

1147
PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN
2022 "MONUMENTAL" VBS



LITTLE LIGHTS
2022-23
"LOCALS LOVE US"
WINNER!

910

NEW PROFILES CREATED IN
TRIUMPH'S DATABASE!



210

LITTLE LIGHTS
STUDENTS



A WORK OF COMPASSION

My guitar was slightly out of tune, but for once, I didn't care. My G chord, coupled with a semi-aggressive strumming pattern, was lurching through our living room between the wails of my son.

Within seconds of the first strum, the crying stopped. Those days, my less than subtle guitar playing was the only thing that would stop his crying ... most of the time.

I used to silently (or not silently) make fun of people who would name their kids weird names ... until my wife Addy and I named our son Elo, after my great-great uncle Elo who was a wonderful man of God. Anyways, a few months into his young life, Elo was getting more and more fussy. We figured it was normal, or that it was a season that he would grow out of, but it seemed his crying never stopped. Life seemed hopeless. The conversations with myself in my head constantly consisted of questioning our desire to have multiple kids, because one seemed to be quite enough.

Months previous, our West Campus staff had begun a Bible study on Tuesday mornings, and we happened to be walking through the Gospel of Mark. Right in the midst of those difficult days and nights marked by the screams of my son, we were in Mark 9 in staff Bible study. This particular Tuesday morning, we were looking at Mark 9:33-37. Little did I know that the Spirit of the living God would use these five verses to rock my world.

In this text Jesus is taking his disciples' understanding of greatness, and flipping it on its head. As per usual in Mark's gospel account, the disciple's were doing something quite ridiculous. This time it was an argument about who among them was the best. But Jesus, full of patience and love, rebukes them.

First he says to them in verse 35, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." Jesus redefines greatness to equate serving. Being a servant equals greatness. He was and is the ultimate example of this (Paul's words in Philippians 2:1-11 come to mind).

But Jesus wasn't done. He then takes a child in his arms and says to his disciples, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me" (v. 37).

Pastor Jay pointed out to us the prevailing view of children in those days. Unless they managed to survive until adulthood, children were seen as property and were expendable. They existed to serve the head of the house. If food was scarce, they were the first to starve. If money was short, they would be sold as slaves. The poor of the community would be better taken care of than the children at times. Their dependence was an annoyance. This was the cultural norm.

So Jesus's exhortation to his followers to receive and serve a helpless, totally dependent child was RADICAL. There was no one lesser to serve - children were the bottom of the barrel.

And then the Word confronted me of my sin. I didn't necessarily think of my son as "bottom of the barrel," nor did I think about selling him into slavery when times got tough, but my sinful selfishness was reigning in my heart, and I had not realized it until reading this text. Elo's total dependence had been a huge annoyance for me, but the Spirit of God had had enough. I praise the Lord for this!

I praise the Lord that He doesn't abandon us to let our sin rule and reign in our hearts, but instead He continually is convicting, forgiving, and transforming us. His grace is greater, and His mercy is more!

Through that text, the Lord was essentially saying to me "Isaac, when you receive and love and serve your helpless, totally dependent son, you receive and love and serve ME." I went home that afternoon with a changed heart. Because of the word I was more patient with Elo. Because of the word my thinking had changed. Because of the word I was able to serve my King Jesus himself, through my son.

I will never forget going home that day after our staff bible study in Mark 9, excited and honored to serve my King, and my son. What a GIFT the word of God is! Let us as a church, be open to what the Spirit of the Living God is speaking to us through the word! All praise, honor, power, and glory be unto His name!

ISAAC + ADDY ERICKSON





TO SEE THE LIFE AND MESSAGE OF JESUS TRANSFORM HEARTS, HOMES, + CITIES



W.O.W. (WOMEN OF THE WORLD)

Wednesday is my favorite day of the week! I have the privilege of sharing life with women from other countries during our 6:00 Small Group time. This is our second year – we have evolved from an English language Learning Group, into a group of women who encourage each other and study the Bible together each time we meet. We have had half a dozen countries represented with nearly 30 women being involved! There have been some changes in direction over the two years as we discovered the group's main purpose. It turns out that, mostly, we just want a safe place to talk about God and His impact on our daily lives.

God clearly had given me the desire to begin this adventure – and He kept pressing me forward. Selfishly, I already knew I would be blessed by being with people from other cultures. I had already experienced this while working with refugees and other immigrants through my positions at Fargo Public Schools.

I have been stretched personally as we discuss the Bible together and as each woman models her ongoing strength and resiliency as they navigate life's challenges. The group appreciates the hour to discuss Bible passages with other women, send their kids to Club 3:16, and experience a welcoming environment. They also enjoy being in a church with so many wonderful material blessings that we can sometimes take for granted. You, church members, have not only made the ladies feel welcome, but accepted and loved. Thank you.

As for me, I come to church on Wednesdays feeling tired and leave exhilarated!

Vonnie Sanders



NEXT GENERATION SERVING

Every generation worries about the condition of the world when looking at generations below them. Those younger generations think about life differently than we do. They do and say, and wear, weird things.

(By the way, those same statements were said of you and your generation by those older than you as well!)

But when it comes to leaving something you love to the care of the younger generation, it can be fearful. Will they carry it on? Will they pick up the torch and run with it? This can be especially true when it comes to leading the church. Does the next generation care? Will they love Jesus and keep sharing that love with others? Is the church in good hands as I age?

It was the week after Easter and Pastor Jeff and I were reflecting on the happenings of Holy Week. And one of the themes we reflected upon was how involved the younger generation was in the services! And it got me thinking and and it got me noticing. We have SO many from younger generations serving at Triumph!

For example...

- We have 10 students Junior High through College Age serving in our Youth Ministry at our East Campus
- 27 students in that same age group (J.H. - College) are serving with Triumph Kids at East
- And there are 40(!) students 6th through 11th grade serving our Triumph Kids at West!

Isn't this great!! When reflecting on the impact our youth is having on our kids programming, Shana Bronson (Triumph Kids Director- West Campus) had this thought to share:

"I am so grateful for the youth who are engaged as volunteers within the ministry of Triumph Kids. Our youth volunteers are a critical part of our ministry! They bring energy, commitment, and a unique ability to connect with our kids. What a blessing to serve beside these amazing young people!"

So, church ... when we think about the next generation, they may still listen to weird music and do things we never did ... but one thing should be an encouragement: The church is in good hands! Our students love Jesus and are loving serving him!





LOOKING AHEAD

When was the last time you got really excited about the future because of the past? If your sports teams had a great year last year and made great off-season moves ... you get optimistic about next year. If you are planning another weekend away with your best friends because the last one was 'the best weekend ever,' your excitement about the next weekend soars!

If you are like me, thinking about all God has done over the past few years gets me excited about the next few years! We know that although we make our plans, it is God that directs our steps (Proverbs 16:9). We enter our next year with open hearts to God's leading...and we enter next year with plans. What are we planning over the next 12 months?

VBS!

As we kick off another great year of ministry, we are excited to launch into STELLAR 2023: Shine Jesus' Light! At both of our campuses, we will again host hundreds of kids and volunteers who will all share in the good news of Jesus and what it means for our lives. If you haven't volunteered in the past for this incredible week, DO IT! This is the most energetic, fun-filled week of our year!

SUMMER OF 'DWELL'ING!

We are excited to launch our new summer preaching series in which we are encouraging all ages to memorize God's Word! When we memorize God's Word, we plant scripture in our minds and our hearts. As it resides in our mind and heart, we will often find the Holy Spirit reminding us of those words (John 14:26), which helps guide our decisions and beliefs. We believe committing God's Word to memory is a task worthy of our time! We have provided 15 easy to memorize sections of scripture, and we will preach these texts so we can go deeper. Join us for DWELL this summer!



MESSAGE OF JESUS:

Over this past year, we've spent extensive time in the Gospel of Mark studying the life of Jesus. As we come into our fall, we are going to shift our attention to the message of Jesus. As we begin our year, we are going to shift to the Gospel of Matthew and begin thinking about the Sermon on the Mount. It has been called the greatest sermon ever preached ... and since Jesus himself is the preacher, it's pretty hard to argue with that!

WHAT'S NEXT, LORD?

We are sensing it's time to think about the future and ask the Lord to guide our steps into the next 3-5 years. This fall will begin an intentional effort to seek the Lord and create a plan for the next years ahead. Keep your ears and eyes open as we will be seeking input from all of you! Our goal will be to introduce a plan during our celebration events of May 2024!

Expectations. We are heading into this next year with anticipation and expectation. And although we don't know the exact path God will bring us on, we are confident He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. And for that reason, we praise Him and give Him glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! (Eph 3:20-21)

Lord guide and lead us these next 12 months, not for our glory, but for yours! Amen.

Pastor Doug



WE HUMBL Y ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE DEPENDENT ON JESUS CHRIST, AS THE LIVING HEAD OF THE CHURCH. WE REALIZE THAT IT IS ONLY AS WE ALLOW HIS SPIRIT TO DIRECT AND GUIDE US THAT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR US WILL BE REALIZED.

