



GATHERING OF CHAMPIONS INTERNATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Mission, Vision, Purpose and Church Values

☐ Vision

Vision of the Gathering of Champions Church International is to transform the lives of the disciple by education, empowerment, and equipping through the Word of God, thusly, positioning our ministry and the disciples for excellence!

☐ Mission

Our mission is to minister the Word of God in a way that will positively affect the lives of her disciples through simplicity and practicality.† We desire to play a unique type of freedom in ministry through fellowship, discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, worship and creativity, producing disciples and families that are healthy, mature, strong, supportive, and complete,† In short we are “A Ministry of Practical Christianity”.

☐ Purpose

The body of believers that assemble at the Gathering of Champions Church International, do so to give glory to God. In meeting, we attempt to learn and share in a capacity that will enhance the spiritual life of the believer. By singing, praising God, worship, preaching and teaching, exhorting, and sharing, we extend the family and body of Christ from the people here to the entire world. We purpose to love people for who they are and not what they have. Accept their differences, not ostracize them. Lock arms with them and be their support, not walk away in their time of need. And above all, "do good to all people, especially those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10b)

☐ Church Values

The church of Jesus Christ is an organism that lives by impeccable standards set forth by the Word of God. It is the desire of this church to abide by the standards of the Word of God and adhere to them in the spirit of excellence by which we are called. The standards by no means replace any other portion of scripture, however, we endeavor to epitomize those things that Jesus put a priority on.

- **Fellowship** is one of the primary functions of the believer. Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV) says, "...not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as in the manner of some, and so much the more as you see the day approaching."

We believe with all our heart that we grow as a ministry when we share good things with others. But we grow as a family when we show up and support one another. The purpose of

any gathering at our church is to educate, empower, encourage and equip. No church I can think of desires the rivers of fellowship to flow like Gathering of Champions. Fellowship is such a paramount order that it, like your other priorities, need to be scheduled and attended. Without you, there can never be anus.

- **Discipleship** is another item in our value system that makes our church complete. In II Timothy 2:15 (NKJV), it says, " Study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

The best life is a Word centered life. When we make it a priority to study the Word of God, we find the roadmap to the possibilities that God has given us. The journey is exciting! Finding new things in the Word of God is exhilarating! Putting them to action is simply rewarding. Our church is a Bible based, Bible believing ministry.

- **Stewardship** is key to the growth of any Christian.

We here at GCCI, put a priority on the training and practicing of stewardship. Stewardship means more than money; it most nearly means the management of all assets of an owner. In Psalms 24:1, we discover that, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein." We believe that everything that we have belongs to God and that we are simply managing it. Malachi 3:10 tells, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove me now this say the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open up the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." And in the book of Luke 6:38 it says, "Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over shall men give unto your bosom."

The truth of the matter is that even though we are in control of what God owns, there is a natural human tendency to hoard, finagle and keep. This goes against the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. We tithe, give offerings, and sacrificial gifts. A "tithe", is a tenth, or ten percent of your gross income to God through His storehouse or commonly known today, the church. This is His requirement! An "offering" is anything above your tithe. God seeks offerings to deter people from doing the minimum out of obligation, not sincerity. The finally, a "sacrificial gift" or "sacrificial offering", is an offering that you give in appreciation and love for God that is done out of total submission, loyalty and revelation.

- **Evangelism** is the motor that keeps ministry fresh and growing.

In Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV), we discover Jesus' message on evangelism in these words, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, (v.20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. The Christian manifesto is neatly discussed in this message from the enunciator of evangelism Himself. Our duty is to witness, share, and discuss our faith and experiences with others to encourage them to seek our Christ. Not merely from the theological point, but from the experiential as

well. Christ is the center of all joy for us and we express Him not only as the Christ of the Bible, but the happiness, help and hope of our lives.

The main part of evangelism is the "going" part. It is not evangelism if it is in the comfortable confines of our church. We are called to share and then share not only from the Bible, but also from the heart. Apostle Peter said in I Peter 3:15b, "...always be ready to give defense to everyone who ask you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear...". Thusly, our challenge is to give people a reason why we have hope in Jesus. We live in a world that is very weak and very wicked. Many people are hurting right in our own families and need to know the healing, salvific, message of Jesus Christ. We are the light, we are the salt, we are the city set on a hill, if we will just shine, season and stay, others will see our good works and worship Christ.

- **Creativity** is the mother of skillful, successful, and strong ministry.

In Ephesians 3:30 (NKJV), we get the privilege to peek into a new power source that makes ministry happen. It reads, "Now to Him, Who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." God has released the talent, giftedness, innate ability, and skills within us to do all that we have been challenged by Him to do in the vision. We have access that we never had before, we have leadership that is more daring and faith conscious than ever before, we have tenacious people willing to submit and follow more than ever before. What then is lacking? It is the creative edge to do the unthinkable. I don't believe God intended for us to be a "feeder church", or better said, a church that is always looking up to others. We believe that even as we have mentors in our personal lives, so we will in our church. But there comes a time when the mentor and protégé become peers. That is the vision of our congregation. We are a gathering of people that stand together, pool our knowledge, resources, experience, wisdom, abilities, and strengths to build a bigger, brighter, better Gathering of Champions Church International. The exciting part for us is that this scripture tells us of God's ability to do it and the impetus for Him doing it is already locked up within us!

- **Leadership** is the tool that makes the big picture and makes it digestible and realistic.

John Maxwell says that, "everything rises and falls on leadership." We agree! Apostle Paul says in II Thessalonians 3:9b, "...but to make ourselves and example of how you should follow us." Leadership is a principal ingredient to the success of anything. Our church is dedicated to godly leadership that leads from the front and not from the rear. You will see that the leadership of our church will be a harmonious team of Christians dedicated to managing ministries, motivating people, and making an impact on the live of the disciples. We are dedicated to the position that training and continuous education is essential from the pastor to all staff. It will be our endeavor to keep up with the latest information, as well to be creative, developing ministry tools that will aide in the pursuit of the vision of the house. We will as well, always be seeking leaders to help keep the ministry fresh and thriving.

- **Commitment** is the adhesive that holds the ministry together.

Success has a greater possibility of manifestation when commitment is present. Jesus said in Revelations 2:10c (NKJV), "...be though faithful until death...". What a powerful message coming to us from Christ. The job of a church disciple has vastly changed over the years. We live in the time that people are called on to be more than pew holders and fan wavers. We have a job to do! All too often churches lose their vitality and fervor because Christians are committed only for a short time. Unfortunately, they tend to be the most committed when things are going well and less committed when they are not going well. For commitment to have a true interpretation, there must be consistency as well. If commitment is the chassis, then consistency is the body; they go together. More than ever before, the church is in need of committed individuals that are in a tri-fold arrangement. The tri-fold arrangement is: 1) committed and submitted to God; 2) Committed and submitted to leadership; 3) committed and submitted to the church body. This is an all weather commitment! We are committed to each other in good times, bad times, anytime. Our motto is, our church, our community, our responsibility.