

The effects of Greater Exodus' mission and ministries are felt in almost every segment of the Philadelphia community. There is only one way all this could have taken place, and that is through a **Shared Vision**, the spiritual capacity to see and or believe that "things hoped for and not yet seen," are possible through Christ. No Church in Philadelphia touches more lives.

Now, you and I know that these milestones in ministry were accomplished without 100% **Shared Vision**. Just think for a moment how much **more** could be realized with 100% **Shared Vision**. I challenge every member of Greater Exodus to share this critical vision for holistic ministry. To continue our holistic ministry, we have to see and believe some things that we cannot yet physically see, such as becoming a House of Prayer, building a family community center, building or expanding our church building, in addition to creating new ministries ARE all possible! To share this vision you must ignore the "nay-sayers", believe that there is more to life than meets the eye and never be found guilty of limiting God!!

To own God's vision for our church requires three things:

1. Vision requires the ability to see.
Vision comes from God. Take a good look at God! Keep your eyes on the work of God and not the situation. Ask God for it! Once we understand how awesome God is, we will not hesitate to believe God for great things.

2. Vision requires faith in God to believe.
If you have difficulty believing, ask God to help you. In Mark 9:24 the Bible says, "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." There are many factors that influence our service for God over which we have no control: our background, our age, our giftedness, our parents; but there is one important factor over which we do have control - how much we choose to believe God!

3. Vision requires the courage to act, the courage to say, "Lord, let me come to you walking on the water;" the courage of vision to say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord;" the courage of vision to say "If God be for us, who can be against us?" The courage of vision to say, "The trials of this life are not worthy to be compared with the glories that are to come." The courage of vision to say, "If I perish let me perish, for I am going to see the King."

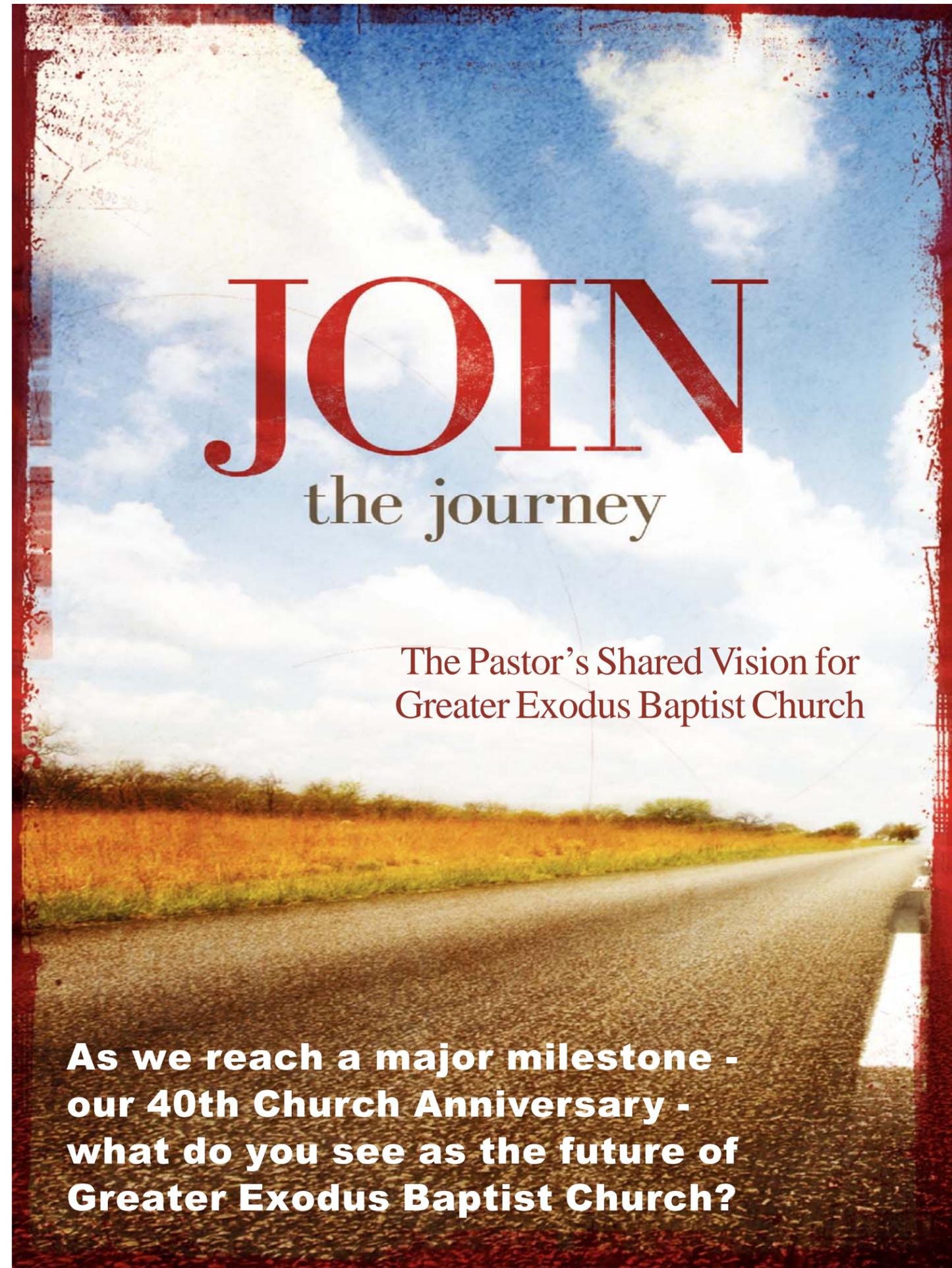
I close with a story of a teacher's assignment for her 5th grade science class. She asked the class to go home and count the stars in the sky as part of their homework. They came back with various numbers. Some said 100, some said 1,000 some said 1,000,000. Finally the teacher asked a little boy who had said nothing, "How many stars did you count?" He replied, "3". The teacher asked, "How did you only see 3?" He responded, "I guess we just have a small backyard."

If you are willing to embrace the *Holistic Vision* God has given me for Greater Exodus, please know that it is not a back yard vision. The sky is our limit!

The Lord answered me, and said, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run who reads it."

Make me look good!

Love, *Pastor*



The Pastor's Shared Vision for
Greater Exodus Baptist Church

**As we reach a major milestone -
our 40th Church Anniversary -
what do you see as the future of
Greater Exodus Baptist Church?**

The Pastor's Shared Vision for Greater Exodus Baptist Church

The Lord answered me, and said, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he who reads it may run with it." Habakkuk 2:2

I purposely use the word "shared" because over the years, without many members sharing my vision, very little, if anything, could have been accomplished. I give respect, honor and gratitude to Reverend Dr. Jack Kelly, his wife and family who by faith, as well as others, used their personal homes as collateral to secure the mortgage for the building that we presently enjoy. We will never allow the memory of their many sacrifices to be forgotten.



The popular fad today is to name the Church a *Worship Center*. While it is true that the Church building is to be a center for worship, I have always believed and envisioned the Church to be much more than that. When reading the Gospel of Jesus Christ it is clear to me that although He kept the Sabbath, He had a much broader, holistic approach to His work. Most of His best work took place outside the temple walls. Some years ago I heard the late Dr. Emmanuel Scott say that Jesus had one dominant mission, but many

ministries. In fact, for the most part, both the mission and the ministries of Jesus occurred outside the temple or in someone's home. My **Shared Vision** for Greater Exodus Baptist Church is and has always been a reflection of the holistic work we see in the Gospels following the example of Jesus. His mission was clear. (Luke 19:10)

The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10) However, Christ used a holistic method to accomplish His mission. Jesus cared about the whole person. Jesus preached, taught, sang, healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, fed the hungry, clothed the naked; He was moved with compassion, and among many other glorious things, He gave His time to the children. Moreover, He enjoined His followers to do the same. My **Shared Vision** for our Church is that our methodology in pursuing Jesus' mission will be the same as His.

Proverbs 29:18 tells us that "Where there is no vision, the people will perish." Helen Keller, a girl who was born into this world deaf, dumb and blind, was once asked, "What would be worse than being born blind?" to which she replied, "Having sight without a vision." What then is Vision? To have vision is to be able to see the things of God. I believe it is to possess the spiritual capacity to see and or believe the unseen. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)



I believe with all my heart that many members of our Church have proved to own this quality. There is no other possible way to explain such extraordinary accomplishments. From a humble beginning of a few members and over \$250,000.00 in debt, many wonderful things have taken place:

- ❖ Over 2,000 new members have been added and over 500 new believers have been baptized.
- ❖ We have fed over 30,000 families.
- ❖ Total Church assets stand at over \$14,000,000.
- ❖ Counseling services have been provided to hundreds of people.
- ❖ We have our own financial institution.
- ❖ Many new ministries have been created from Dance to Community Prayer.

Our *People for People* social service agency's record of success and outcomes is amazing. PFP continues the mission of "Changing Lives" while facilitating some of the highest volume programs in the city. The following is a snapshot of the just the last 5 years of "Changing Lives" through the provision of services via various programs.



I. Abstinence Program

- a. Delivered to over 10,000 youth
- b. Counseled over 300 youth
- c. Facilitated a dozen engagement activities

II. Mentoring Program

- a. Enlisted over 200 mentees
- b. Mentored over 300 children

III. EARN Center

- a. 12,000 clients served
- b. Over 3,500 placed into permanent employment or training

IV. PREP Program (Bridge taking students from GED to higher education)

- a. 50 served
- b. 6 placed in college
- c. 10 G.E.D. certificates earned
- d. 10 permanently employed

V. SOAR

- a. Over 100 youth attained employment

VI. Green Jobs Training Program

- a. 11 renewable energy certifications earned
- b. 6 permanently employed

VII. Fatherhood Program

- a. 100 men counseled
- b. A number of fathers moved into the job market

In sum, just a few of PFP's social services has helped families with:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ❖ Job Specific Skills Training | ❖ Counseling |
| ❖ Job Readiness | ❖ Financial Literacy |
| ❖ Employment | ❖ Housing Referrals |
| ❖ Job Retention | ❖ Drug, Alcohol and Domestic Violence Referrals |
| ❖ Mentoring | |

A Charter School but "More than a Charter School" *Family Parent Institute*: (A Community School)

We are extending and intensifying our outreach to and involvement with the community on all levels: an important priority. This will strengthen the school and the community. Our *Parent Institute* is the embodiment of a focus on engaging and supporting our parents in non-traditional ways. We know that in low-income communities, parents who are struggling affect the emotional and academic health of their children. Through a Parent Resource Center and a variety of services, PFP knows that to be successful, we must service the whole family through its school.

People for People has a multi-million dollar annual budget. We are an employer of over 200 full time individuals through various ministries. Unlike other church social services, our membership is directly involved in the leadership and implementation of strategy.