celebration
international church

Growth Track

Step One

The Celebration Family

“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by International Bible Society. Used by permissionof Zondervan.
All rights reserved.

Welcome To Growth Track!

Growth Track guides you to discover God's unique purpose for your life and how to live the life that He has created for you. The Growth Track is made up of three steps.

Step One – The Celebration Family

Connect with Celebration International Church and discover the ins and outs of the church, learn details about beliefs, leadership and church government, how we handle money, and how we intentionally organize our church. You will also have the opportunity to become a member.

Step Two – Discover Your Design

Dive into the details of your personality, discover your gifts, and begin the journey of discovering your purpose in life and how you can make a difference in the lives of others.

Step Three - Join the Team

Find out what it means to make a difference with Celebration International Church and connect to the opportunities available to live out your purpose and serve others by using your God-given gifts.





Celebration International Church Story

Back in 1932 Pastor Alfred Wight started holding meetings on the Wellesley Park Campgrounds. From mid-June through Labor Day people would gather three times daily to encounter and praise God. Naturally, lives were being transformed through the life-giving message of the Gospel and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. A number of these attendees started purchasing land nearby, and for them the meetings continued year-round. On June 16, 1937, Pastor Alfred White and this little band started Wellesley Park Assembly of God. Their goal was simple, help people connect with God and uncover their fullest potential through a life that praises Him.

Over the years, that goal has been advanced by several great pastors. It has advanced out of a campground “cookshack,” out of a little white church house, even from a downtown coffee house, just to name a few. It has advanced to reach people locally, regionally, and internationally of great diversity. Thus, in the 90’s, Wellesley Park Assembly of God was renamed Celebration International Church.

Today, under the leadership of Pastor Brian Faria, we pursue the vision of a life worth celebrating for all. Yes all, regardless of people’s history, circumstance, or status. This life begins by knowing the One who redeems us from death and crowns us with loving mercy. Therefore, we are enthusiastic about revealing Christ, about raising people to greater purpose, and about reaching others everywhere we go.

We invite you to see for yourself how exciting church can be when the focus is simple, and people are free to seek God with passion.

To find out more about our vision, mission and more, see Resource Guide page 19.

“A life worth celebrating for all.”

> "Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies."
> Psalm 103:2-4 NLT



Our Prayer For You

> "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people."
> Ephesians 1:17–18

Our spiritual journey consists of four steps:

1. _____.

> "[I pray]...that you may know Him better [personally]."
> Ephesians 1:17–18

> "Some of these people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God..."
> 1 Timothy 6:21 TLB

At Celebration International Church, we help people know God through _____.

2. _____.

> "[I pray]...that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened [focused and clear]."
> Ephesians 1:17–18

> "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."
> James 5:16

At Celebration International Church, we help people find freedom through _____.

Our Prayer For You

3. _____.

"[I pray]...that you may know the hope to which He has called you."
Ephesians 1:17–18

"All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be."
Psalm 139:16

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."
Romans 12:6

At Celebration International Church, we help people discover their purpose through the _____.

4. _____.

"[I pray]...that you may grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for His followers [in His holy people]."
Ephesians 1:17–18 MSG

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."
J1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT

"'This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples...I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.'"
John 15:8, 11

"God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."
1 Peter 4:10 NLT

At Celebration International Church, we help people use their gifts to make a difference on the _____.



Celebration International Church Government

As you consider investing your heart, time, family, and finances into the life of a church, it is important for you to feel confident in church leadership. Our goal in sharing the details of Celebration International Church's government is that you can better understand that our church is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability, and spiritual authority.

1. Guided by _____.

The ministry teams and church staff is led by the Lead Pastor, Brian Faria. He oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. The pastor and his team serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church.

2. Protected by _____.

Our Board is comprised of members from the congregation. They are appointed by the Lead Pastor and congregation, to oversee the finances, provide counsel to the Lead Pastor, and provide spiritual protection to the church. The Board serve as non- staff deacons.

3. Empowered by _____.

We are empowered by our members. These covenanted partners support the life of our church and share responsibility for our church. Members participate in critical decisions, help with selection of leaders, provide mutual accountability, financially support the ministry, protect the unity and more. See pages 13-15 for more information.



Church Finances

At Celebration International Church, we believe that giving is a gift from God. The reason why we give is because God first gave to us. Giving is a responsive act of worship.

> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
> Matthew 6:21

> No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
> Matthew 6:24

We might have expected Jesus to say, You can't serve God and the devil. But he says the number one contender for your heart – the thing that poses a threat to **devotion** to God – is MONEY! So God gave us the greatest weapon against devotion to our money – **generosity**! When we give, we combat greed!

We believe there are **five values for biblical giving** found in the New Testament. Giving should be:

1. Willing and Cheerful

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."
2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

2. A Regular Pattern

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income…
1 Corinthians 16:2

3. Proportionate To One's Ability

… each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income…
1 Corinthians 16:2

4. Generous

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability…
2 Corinthians 8:3

5. Sacrificial

… Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."
Mark 12:43-44 (NIV)

What about tithing? The tithe, or "first fruits" of our labor/income belong to God. We find this principle all through God's Word. Tithing, giving God the first 10% of our income to the local church, is the primary, practical way we acknowledge that God is first (Proverbs 3:9–10).

Understand that tithing existed before the law, tithing was commanded under the law, and tithing is still good for us today. While it may not be explicitly commanded in the New Testament, what we do see is that people who were changed by Jesus always gave more than the law required. We would say that because of what Jesus has done, tithing becomes the bare minimum for us today.

The best question to ask when it comes to giving is, "Because of how much God has given me, how much do I get to give back to Him?" Giving is a gift. It is a privilege. We get to give, we don't have to give.

Many people love to give to God and want to feel confident in the organization through which they give. At Celebration International Church, we want people to understand they are giving to God through the church, not to the church. As we openly share the honesty, integrity, and spiritual values that guide the financial practices of Celebration International Church, we believe people can focus on what God is calling them to give and trust that He is leading our church to steward it well.



Becoming a Family Member

Celebration International Church Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, having been baptized in water, and agreeing with the values presented in Step One of the Growth Track, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Celebration International Church family. In doing so, I make the following commitment to God and my fellow church members:

1. I will protect the unity of my church by:.

- Acting in love toward other members.
- Refusing to gossip
- Following the leaders.

"So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up."
Romans 14:19 NLT

"May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus."
Romans 15:5 NLT

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart."
1 Peter 1:22

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."
Ephesians 4:29

"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."
Hebrews 13:17

2. I will share the responsibility of my church by

- Praying for its growth and health.
- Inviting the unchurched to attend.
- Warmly welcoming those who visit.

"To the church...we always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers."
1 Thessalonians 1:1–2

"'Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that the house will be full.'"
Luke 14:23 TLB

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified."
Romans 15:7 TLB

3. I will serve the ministry of my church by:

- Discovering my gifts and talents.
- Using my God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.
- Developing a servant's heart.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
1 Peter 4:10

"So Christ Himself gave...pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."
Ephesians 4:11–12

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...taking the form of a bondservant..."
Philippians 2:4–5, 7 NKJV

4. I will support the testimony of my church by:

- Attending faithfully.
- Living a godly life.
- Giving regularly.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
Acts 2:42

"Let us not neglect our meeting together…but encourage one another."
Hebrews 10:25 NLT

"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ."
Philippians 1:27 Phillips

To read through our full Statement of Faith, see Resource Guide page 20.



Next Steps

1. Join the Celebration Family

Becoming part of the Celebration Family will deepen your relationship with other believers, strengthen your belief in Jesus, and equip you to become an empowered follower of Jesus. This is about more than just adding your name to a roster; it's about owning the vision of the church. Fill out the Celebration Family - Membership form.

2. Join a Small Group.

Browse our online Small Groups directory at cicalive.org. Navigate to our CIC Hub and click Find A Group. Once you find a few groups that interest you, contact the leaders to learn more and make plans to check out the group(s) in person.

3. Discover Your Purpose.

Dive into the details of your personality, discover your gifts, and see how your design reveals your purpose in life and your best fit in ministry. More on this in Step Two.

4. Join the Dream Team.

Connect to the opportunities available at Celebration International Church to live out your purpose and serve others by using your God-given gifts. More on this in Step Three.



celebration
international church

Resource Guide

Vision & More

Statement of Faith

Answer Key

Our Vision & More

Vision

"A life worth celebrating for all."

We believe that Jesus brings celebration into our lives, eternally and presently. We exist to lead people into such a life.
Psalm 103:1-4

Mission

1. Reveal

This life worth celebrating begins with knowing Jesus. Therefore, we reveal Christ by first encountering and displaying Him through personal transformation. He reveals life; we reveal Him.
2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Galatians 1:15 -16, 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

2. Raise

God has got immeasurably more for us to celebrate. Therefore, we raise people to greater potential and purpose by equipping them for a life of growth and ministry.
Ephesians 4:11-13, John10:10, Psalm 4:1-13, 3 John 1:2

3. Reach

Every person is invaluable and irreplaceable in the eyes of God; each life is worthy of celebration. Therefore, we reach families, communities, and the world, by sending out followers of Jesus to make a difference.
Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-15, John 17:18

Core Values

Reach the Lost

We are passionate about those who do not know God yet.

Chase the Ideal

We advance. Growing is not a luxury; it is a necessity.

Better Together

We love doing life together.

Actively Pray

We pray like it depends on God, while working like it depends on us.

Make Bold Moves

We serve a big God & we will not dishonor Him with small faith.

Live to Give

We sacrifice the things we love for the things we love more.

Have Fun

We enjoy each other and laugh together!

Statement of Faith

1. The Scripture Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.
2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary work on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead, and His exaltation of the right hand of God.
Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.
Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.
Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12

6. The Salvation of Man

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements —bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ; a memorial of His suffering and death; and a prophecy of His second coming; and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 Corinthians 11:26

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit, a deepened reverence for God, an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work, and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost.

Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9; John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8; 2:43; Hebrews 12:28; Acts 2:42; Mark 16:20

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance. The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but different in purpose and use.

Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12; 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Romans 6:11,13; 8:1-2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 1:5

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven.

Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world, (2) worship of God, (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion.
Mark 16:15-20; John 4:23-24; Ephesians 4:11, 16; Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers.
Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church.
1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

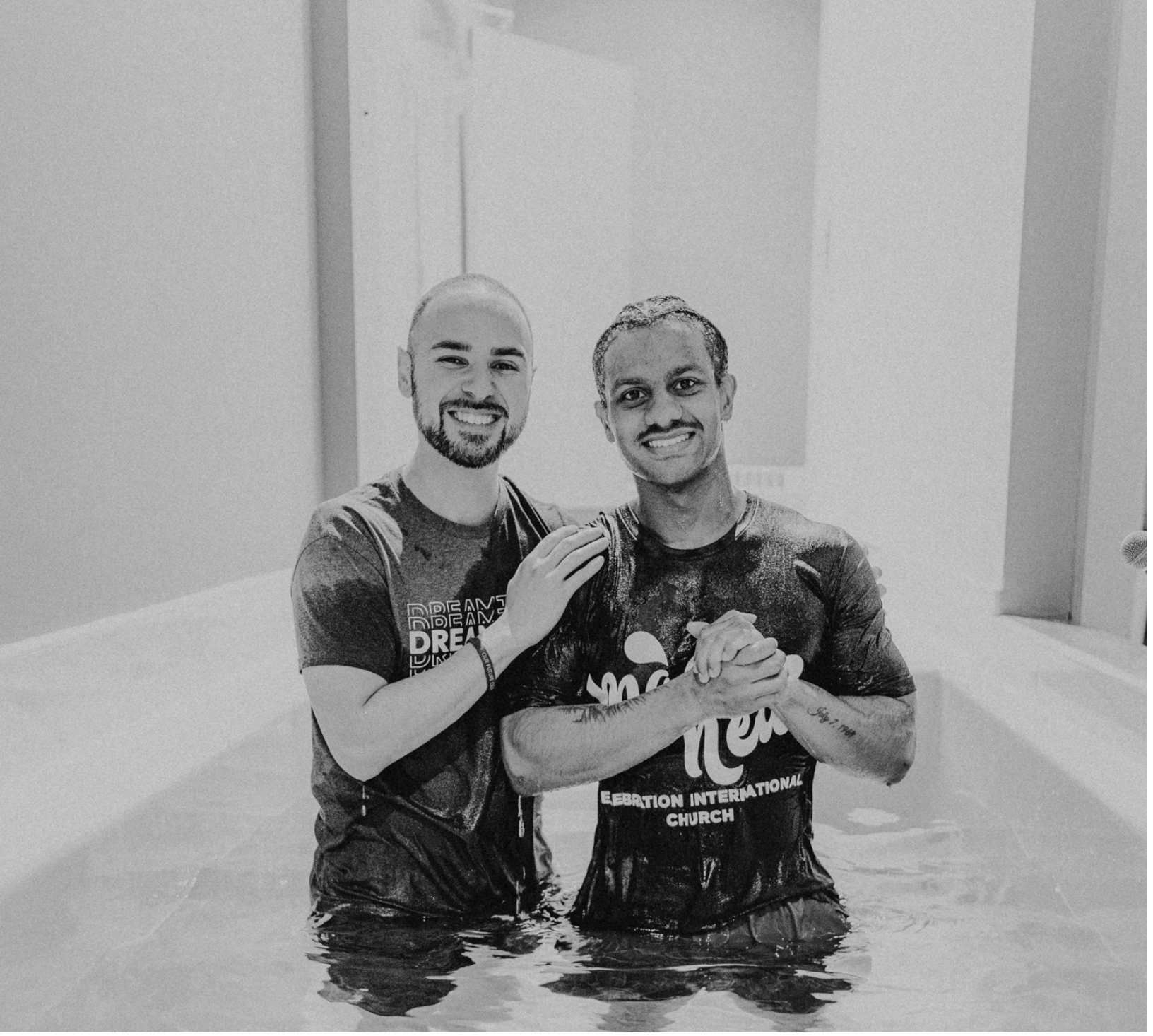
The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years. This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel and the establishment of universal peace.
Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6; Ezekiel 37:21-22;
Zephaniah 3:19-20; Romans 11:26-27; Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3-4

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.
Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness”
2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21-22



Answer Key

Page 5: Know God
Page 5: Church services
Page 5: Find freedom
Page 5: Small groups
Page 6: Discover purpose
Page 6: Growth track
Page 6: Make a difference
Page 6: Dream team
Page 8: Pastors
Page 8: Board of Directors
Page 8: Make a difference