

## **2017 INSPIRE LEADERS CONFERENCE: ONE - Evening Service: “One Vision”**

### **Pastor David Cannistraci**

Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, WHAT DO YOU SEE?” And I said, “I see a branch of an almond tree.” Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.” Jeremiah 1:11-12 (NKJV)

**I want to ask you a question: What do you see?** Tonight I want us to think about VISION. Vision is not hard to understand. It's simply something God shows us about what He is going to do.

Imagine a blank canvas that God is inviting you to work with Him on. He asks, What do you see?

**WHEN I LOOK AT THE BLANK CANVAS OF OUR FUTURE,  
I see one church flourishing in multiple cities, Inspiring Transformed Lives.**

#### **1. I see ONE CHURCH**

For me, the LOCAL CHURCH is where we begin. What is a local church? People following Jesus in supernatural community, and Jesus said He would build His church and hell would not stop it. I figure if I am building what Jesus is building, I won't be wasting my time.

For 30+ years I ran around helping hundreds of different churches. God really spoke to me in 2008 to stop running all over the world and focus on GateWay City Church. The central challenge before Kathy and I right now: To honor God by building a church that Inspires Transformed Lives. I plan to give 90% of the rest of my life to ONE CHURCH. It may be that some who want my help can't have it, because I have to focus what remains of my life on something, and that something is ONE CHURCH - GateWay.

#### **2. I see one church FLOURISHING**

In my spirit, I see GateWay City Church flourishing, growing and having a major impact for God. So how do we do that? For me, the secret to flourishing in life has not been my IQ, my good looks or getting things done in my own strength. Too be honest, if I thought that us flourishing was up to my talent or brains, I'd melt down completely...I'd be completely overwhelmed. I believe...

**We flourish in life because when we are faithful.**

Here's what the Lord spoke supernaturally to me on May 1, 2016: ‘...Because you have been faithful in a very small matter, you will have authority over TEN CITIES.’” (Luke 19:17) This verse appears in the story of the talents, where Jesus is teaching us to be faithful in small things so God can increase us.

“Those who are PLANTED in the house of the Lord shall FLOURISH in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and FLOURISHING...” PSALM 92:13-14 (NKJV)

I don't want you to be overwhelmed either. It's not up to us to be brilliant or amazing—just be faithful.

#### **3. I see one church flourishing in MULTIPLE CITIES**

We are now ONE church in multiple locations looking to touch TEN CITIES. This one church in multiple cities (the “multisite church” approach) is the best way for us to fulfill our calling to reach the lost.

**My journey and the heart and soul of this vision is in the book BEYOND: A Vision for Ten Cities, so please get it and read it—but it all came down to hearing one word from God about cities.**

What will each city look like? Our ONE HEART, ONE VISION, ONE STRATEGY AND ONE CULTURE is like a frame that gives boundaries and definition to a picture. Everywhere we go, there will be a frame: our beliefs, our vision for souls, our strategy to disciple, our heart of praise, prayer, our leadership and our culture will be a frame that protects it and connects it to the whole.

HERE'S THE EXCITING PART: EACH CITY IS LIKE A BLANK CANVAS. The canvas is a function of each local team. It will reflect the city, the people, the gifts and the creativity of that campus. It remains to be seen what each campus will fill in as a unique expression of that community. Every city we get involved in will look unique, but will have a common frame.

All of us together will be like a wall of family pictures, reflecting ONE family living in multiple cities.

So I ask everyone here: WHAT DO YOU SEE? WHAT IS GOD ABLE TO DO IN CITIES?

#### **4. Finally, I see one church flourishing in multiple cities INSPIRING TRANSFORMED LIVES**

Because it's all about changed lives...

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

We believe that when a person receives Jesus, He completely cleanses, heals and transforms them—and everything we do as a church is about seeing changed lives over and over again, wherever we go!

WHAT DO YOU SEE? Do you see what I see—because God wants to paint a picture through your life.

**LET'S COMMIT TO THE VISION OF ONE CHURCH FLOURISHING  
IN MULTIPLE CITIES, INSPIRING TRANSFORMED LIVES.**