



NEXT STEPS

Viva
CHURCH

WELCOME

WELCOME TO NEXT STEPS

Dear participant,

We welcome you in Jesus' Name to NEXT STEPS. We consider it a great privilege and honour for you to come learn about our church and discover how you can help build a strong church in our community.

This is an exciting time for VIVA as we continue to grow and expand to reach more people in our region. Your involvement fuels a passion for souls and for making the name of Jesus famous in our region.

People are our heart here at VIVA Church and that's why we encourage you to get connected by joining Growth Track and one of our VIVA groups. We'd also love for you to be part of the DREAM TEAM as we serve others together.

Whatever your background and experience, we believe you are being joined in the Spirit to VIVA Church and that this will be a new beginning in your life in every way.

Many blessings,
Pastors Frank and Chris Seixas

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WHAT TO EXPECT

NEXT STEPS is made up of three steps that will help you understand the vital importance of the church, and discover your purpose as you connect and serve others.

WHY CHURCH?

STEP 1:

Because of **GOD'S IDEA**

STEP 2:

Because of **OUR NEED**

STEP 3:

Because of **OUR COMMUNITY**

STEP 1

GOD'S IDEA

In the beginning, God created the
heavens and the earth...

Genesis 1:1

STEP 1

Church: God's Idea

- Great things always begin with GOD
- Church was God's, not man's IDEA
- Church is the hope of the WORLD

CENTRAL THOUGHT

"In the beginning, God..."

**WHAT
ABOUT THIS
CHURCH?**

VIVA HISTORY

Who we are

VIVA Church, previously known as Oshawa Community Church, started small in 1991, but it hasn't stopped growing since then. We're seeing amazing stories of life change as people come to know Jesus and have a relationship with Him. Our hope is that you will connect with this life-giving community and use your talents to be the hands and feet of Jesus through service. Our desire is for you to grow deeper in your walk with the Lord. Above all, we want to see God's name glorified, not ours. We're the first to admit that we're far from perfect—we're real people, with real problems in need of Jesus. No matter who you are or where you come from, you'll fit right in and together we want to reach people for Jesus.

Where we have been

In August 1992, Pr. Frank moved to Oshawa and pioneered what we know today as VIVA Church. In January 1994, Pr. Frank married Chris and they continued in ministry. Little by little, people began to join them. They moved buildings, added staff and in faith, kept moving forward. Even though there has been much change over the years, the vision remains the same - to reach people for Jesus.

As the years went by, we felt the increasing need to expand beyond Oshawa to impact other cities with the gospel. Soon we found that it would be impossible to plant churches or campuses in other cities with our name as Oshawa Community Church. After much prayer and consideration and with a word from the Lord, on December 6, 2020, we officially became VIVA Church. Our new name enables us to expand to other cities and provinces, and reflect more of who we are as a church in heart and vision.

Where we are going

VIVA Church is continuing to grow and change as a church - adding service times, and hosting city-wide events such as food drive, summer camps, conferences etc. But what will never change is our commitment to doing everything we can to reach people for Jesus.

How you can belong

You're always welcome at VIVA Church. We're saving a seat for you. Wherever you are in your life, you'll always be accepted as part of the VIVA family.

VIVA GOAL

VIVA Church exists with a simple goal - to help people connect with God so that they might reach their full potential. To accomplish this we, want to mobilize every believer to be involved in three things:

REACH people for Christ

We believe every born again believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and win souls - proclaiming good news about God's love and forgiveness to those around them.

SERVE others

We believe every church member is an integral part of the body of Christ with gifts and abilities that need to be released into fruitful and effective ministry - choosing a place of productive service in the local Church.

GROW together

We believe every growing Christian should be part of a vibrant healthy community where fellowship and friendship can be cultivated as they grow.



VIVA MISSION

LOVE GOD

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”

Matthew 22:37

LOVE PEOPLE

“...You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:39

Our Mission involves:

1. Building a church on the New Testament **PATTERN**.
2. Preaching a message that is truly **GOOD NEWS** about a good God.
3. Communicating in ways that cross and bridge cultural **BARRIERS**.
4. The message of the authority of the **KINGDOM** and the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
5. An approach of positive **MESSAGES** as the ongoing ministry style of the church.
6. Ministry that begins with the **INDIVIDUAL** and works into every arena of life.
7. Outreach that is **PROVEN** first at home in our own community.
8. A vision that encompasses the **WHOLE** world as the Lord enables us.

Once we understand God's general mission for His church and God's specific mission for our local church, we must view everything we do, every ministry we launch in light of that perspective and interpret our every decision through that spiritual filter.

VIVA VALUES

1. **JESUS** is our focus

We will never apologize for proclaiming Jesus Christ. He is our reason for living, our hope for the future, and the head of the church.

Luke 24:27; Hebrews 12:1-2; Colossians 1:18-20; Colossians 3:17

2. **PEOPLE** are our heart

We believe people matter to God, and therefore, they matter to us.

Luke 15

3. **PASSION** is our spirit

We don't do anything half-heartedly. We are passionate for the person of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, prayer and worship. The Holy Spirit matters. We are dependent on His direction, witness and empowerment. We encourage everyone to passionately pursue the baptism of the Holy Spirit, staying filled with Him and walking in His gifts.

Acts 1:8; John 14:26; Jude 1:20

4. COMMUNITY is our pursuit

We actively pursue authentic community because church and life only work when we do them together.

Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:9-13; Galatians 6:2

5. GENEROSITY is our privilege

We are contributors, not consumers. We are generous with our time, talent and treasures.

Romans 12:6; Colossians 3:23-24; Ephesians 4:11-12

6. HONOUR is our calling

We honour Christ by honouring others and finding Him in them. We show respect in words and actions to those we lead, follow and disagree with.

Proverbs 3:9; Ephesians 6:2-3; Romans 12:10; 1 Timothy 5:17

7. DIVERSITY is our strength

We believe diversity is essential, not tolerable. We celebrate many cultures, personalities and gifts, and we remember that there is only one body.

Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 14

VIVA STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant.

1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 3:15, 16

We believe in the Eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself as one God existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible.

Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13-14

We believe the church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the church as a member of the body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23

We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness.

Romans 3:10-18

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, Mary, very God and very man.

Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:16

We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day, after which He personally appeared to His disciples.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 4:25

We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation and personal, literal and bodily coming again, a second time, for the church.

John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary, by which alone we obtain the remission of sins.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:12, 22; Romans 5:11

We believe in the necessity of water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, in order to fulfill the command of Christ.

Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:34-36; 19:1-6

We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation.

Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 10:44-46; Galatians 3:14-15

We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12-14, and as manifested in the early church.

1 Corinthians 12-14

We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world and perfecting holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith.

Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 7:1

We believe in the healing of the body by divine power, or divine healing in its varied aspects as practiced in the early church.

Acts 4:30; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:1

We believe in the table of the Lord, commonly called, 'Communion' or the 'Lord's Supper', for believers.

1 Corinthians 11:28-32

We believe in eternal life for believers and eternal punishment for unbelievers.

Mark 9:43-58; John 3:16; 5:24; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and the eternal judgment of Satan and his angels.

Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15

VIVA BELIEFS

In essential beliefs – we have UNITY

“There is one Body and one Spirit... there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...”

Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs – we have LIBERTY

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”

Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

In all our beliefs – we show LOVE

“...If I hold in my mind not all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains – but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.”

1 Corinthians. 13:2

VIVA ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The church is a living organism that finds its life and power applied through organization and structure. The style of structure and organization is a flexible issue and may vary greatly from church to church. We have created an organizational model that allows us to function strategically as a team of teams working together with unity and flow.

Defining Terms and Roles

The Lead Pastors: The Overseers of the Vision

The Lead Pastors are the executive overseers of the general vision and direction of the church. The Lead Pastors work within the VIVA Church organizational structure by giving direction to the overall vision and future of the church. The function of the Lead Pastors is to initiate and sustain vision. They have the ultimate responsibility to align the vision with the church's core values, ministry philosophy, principles and general expenditure. The Lead Pastors have the final authority on staffing issues.

The Eldership Team: The Keepers of the Vision

The Eldership Team is accountable for the overall vision, doctrine and major structural changes of the church. The Elders are the spiritual governing body of VIVA Church. The Lead Pastors direct the Elder's meetings and present proposals and topics of discussion. The Eldership Team's responsibilities include discussing and deciding on items such as doctrinal issues, buying or selling buildings or land, structural changes that affect the whole church, confirming new pastors and elders presented by the Lead Pastors, church discipline of a member, church plants etc. Each Elder is responsible to give input through their respective sphere of responsibility and support the overall vision of the church.

The Pastors: The Executors of the Vision

The Pastors work together with the Lead Pastors and the Eldership Team. They are responsible for an assigned number of departments. These duties include implementing the vision in their area of responsibility, encouraging and shepherding the people. They lead different areas of ministries, preach, teach and serve the Lead Pastors and the Eldership Team in anything they need. When called upon, the Pastors meet with the Elders to give input on issues facing the church.

**The Board of Directors:
The Managers of the Vision**

The Board of Directors (BOD) are the only legal members of VIVA Church. They meet yearly to approve the budget and make sure that the finances and the legal aspects of the organization comply with the Canadian government. The BOD works in harmony with the Lead Pastors to ensure that the church functions in a healthy way to maintain its testimony and integrity.

**The Staff and Team Coordinators:
The Implementers of the Vision**

This group consists of those who implement the vision of the church. They receive important communication concerning the vision, structure changes and doctrinal issues prior to the church at large. They serve and support the vision of VIVA Church along with the Lead Pastors, Eldership Team, Pastors and Board of Directors.

**WHERE DO
I GO FROM
HERE?**

WHAT NOW?

INVITE people to come with you on Sundays.

QUESTION

How can we see God
using the church to meet
people's needs?

STEP 2

OUR NEED

And God said, “Let there be light”
and there was light.

Genesis 1:3

STEP 2

Church: Our Need

- Step 2 is all about **CONNECTION**.
- Explore the ministry of VIVA Church and find out how to connect with God and our church.

CENTRAL THOUGHT

When God's plan meets our need, miracles happen.

PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

During this lesson we will be focusing on how the church is God's way to supply our need for relationship. We will also be discussing how the church plays an important part in preparing us, in order that we may fulfill His purposes on the earth and meet our need to relate with each other.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

RELATIONSHIP - To worship and glorify God.

Genesis 3:8; Ephesians 3:20, 21; Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9

CHARACTER - To be conformed to the image of Christ.

Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:28, 29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 2:7

FUNCTION - To do the works of Jesus.

Genesis 1:26, 28; Romans 16:20; Matthew 10:7, 8; Mark 3:14, 15; 1 John 3:8;

Acts 10:38

REPRODUCTION - To make disciples of all nationalities.

Genesis 1:28; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21;

Acts 1:8; Ephesians 4:12; Acts 20:28; Colossians 1:28

**HOW DO
WE GROW?**

1. INVESTING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

To see growth, your personal relationship with God is the first area you need to invest in. God wants you to grow in your spiritual life and there are three areas you need to devote yourself in order to succeed.

1. **PRAYER**

Christianity is more than just a religion. It is a relationship between God and humanity. All relationships grow through communication. The better the communication, the better the relationship will be. Communication is a two-way process involving both talking and listening.

Matthew 6:1-13

2. **WORD**

The Bible is more than an instruction manual or a rule book. It is more than a random collection of stories, poems and letters. It is the voice of God communicating with us. That is why the Bible is often referred to as “the word of God”. King David shows us how we should approach the Bible. David saw God’s word as his source of life and hope. He delighted in it and continually meditated on it. He understood that God spoke to him through it. The bottom line? We know the sound of God’s voice in our lives when we read His word.

3. WORSHIP

Worship is not the slow or the fast song we sing. The types of songs we sing do not define what true worship really is. There are many acts or expressions as well as definitions of worship. One definition characterizes worship as a spiritual discipline. Worship is to honour with extravagant love and extreme submission. True worship is best defined by where God ranks on our list of priorities.

2. SHARING

WHEN DO WE SHARE?

One of our primary purposes is to reach people far from God. Every one of us can do our part by following these four principles:

1. Accept the personal **RESPONSIBILITY**
2. Build a personal **RELATIONSHIP**
3. Share your personal **STORY**
4. Give a personal **INVITATION**

WHERE DO WE SHARE?

In three places:

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

1. In Jerusalem - **OUR CITY**

“Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight.” ***James 1:27 Message***

2. In Judea and Samaria - OUR NATION

“Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.” *1 Corinthians 9:22 TLB*

3. To the ends of the Earth - OUR WORLD

“Jesus said to His followers, ‘Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.’” *Mark 16:15 NCV*

At VIVA Church we strategically invest a portion of our resources in mission projects all around the world with a focus on unreached people groups, children and church planting.

HOW CAN YOU JOIN US IN SHARING?

1. PRAYING

Pray for each of these areas that we might reach people with the Good News of Jesus.

“Then he said to His disciples; ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.’” *Matthew 9:37-38*

2. GOING

Go to these areas to serve others and show them God's love.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' He said, 'Go and tell this people...' *Isaiah 6:8-9*

3. GIVING

Give your time and resources to reach people for Christ.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

3. PARTICIPATING IN SUNDAY SERVICES

Our Sunday services focus on four values:

1. **CELEBRATION**

We believe church should be enjoyable.

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" *Psalms 122:1 NKJV*

"The kind of worshipers the Father seeks...worship in the Spirit and in truth." *John 4:23-24*

2. **INSPIRATION**

We believe church should be a place where people experience God's presence.

"But... when some unbelievers or ordinary people come in, they will be convinced of their sin by what they hear. They will be judged by all they hear, their secret thoughts will be brought into the open, and they will bow down and worship God, confessing, 'Truly God is here among you!'" *1 Corinthians 14:24-25 GNT*

3. PREPARATION

We believe church should be a place where people learn how the Bible applies to their daily lives.

“So Christ himself gave apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the 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

4. SALVATION

We believe church should be a place where people can accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?” *Romans 10:13-14 NLT*

4. JOINING A VIVA GROUP

A VIVA group is an intentional gathering of people who meet regularly. Since God designed us for relationships, we believe it is through the connections made in small groups that God will help us grow. People form groups around what matters in their lives. This can be by connecting with people who share similar interests or are at the same stage in life, as well as finding people who have experience in an area in which you want to grow. Small groups are also where we pray for each other and support each other. VIVA groups meet regularly in locations all around our region, and with many groups to choose from, we believe there is a group out there for you.

VIVA groups provide three things:

1. A place to CONNECT with others.

“Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.” *1 Corinthians 9:22 TLB*

2. A place to PROTECT each other.

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” *1 John 3:16 NLT*

3. A place to **GROW** together.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17

Two things you should know about our VIVA groups:

Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to join a small group. VIVA Groups start and stop three times a year in a cycle we refer to as “seasons.” Each group will vary in length and new groups will be released each season.

1. Each season has **4 MONTHS**

Our seasons are:

SZN1 - January to April

SZN2 - May to August

SZN3 - September to December

2. You can join at **ANYTIME**

We would love for you to get connected in a group. For more information download the Church Center App on your phone, visit vivachurch.ca or email us at hello@vivachurch.ca

5. JOINING GROWTH TRACK

Growth Track is a series of 8-week adult Christian education courses designed to help you grow in your faith and understanding of the Bible. Growth Track is a systematic doctrinal teaching. Courses are offered 3 times per year: fall, winter, and spring. They are held at VIVA Church on Wednesday evenings.

1. Growth Track 01

This course is designed for new Christians and for those who are new to VIVA Church. Get acquainted with your new faith or brush up on the basics. whether you've been saved one day or 20 years, be prepared to soak in the amazing truths of the Bible.

2. Growth Track 02

This course will establish participants in the foundational teachings of the Christian faith. They obtain a strong understanding of who God is and all that He has accomplished for us. Be prepared for your spiritual roots to go down deep in the truths of the Bible.

Notes

**WHERE DO
I GO FROM
HERE?**

WHAT NOW?

1. **REGISTER** for growth track.
2. **JOIN** a small group.

QUESTION

How can you see God
using the church to meet
a spiritual need in you?

STEP 3

OUR COM MUN ITY

It is not good for man to be alone.
Genesis 2:8

STEP 3

Church: Our Community

During this class, we will be discussing the importance of:

- **OUR PURPOSE** - not living for ourselves.
- **SERVING OTHERS** - in our local church and our community.

CENTRAL THOUGHT

We are designed for community and called to serve.

**YOUR
PLACE**

DISCOVERING YOUR PLACE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

We want **YOU** first, then what you can **DO** for VIVA Church.

God has designed His church with the same order that exists in all of His creation. The Bible, particularly the New Testament, gives us specific commandments and principles by which the local church is to operate.

1. God **COUNTS** His people.

- A shepherd counts his flock. *Matthew 18:12; Jeremiah 33:13*
- A good shepherd knows his sheep. *John 10:14*
- A shepherd discerns the state of his flock. *Proverbs 27:23*
- Jesus chose 12 apostles who were named and numbered.
Luke 9:1, 12
- Jesus commissioned a specific 70 to do His work. *Luke 10:1, 2*
- Over 500 witnessed the resurrected Jesus. *1 Corinthians 15:3-8*
- 120 gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. *Acts 1:15*
- 3,000 early church believers were counted. *Acts 2:41*
- About 5,000 were added to the church at one time. *Acts 4:4*
- The number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem.
Acts 6:7

2. The **BIBLE** refers to records kept of people's names.

- Israelites had their names recorded in the books of genealogy. ***Numbers 1, 2***
- The church of the firstborn have their names written in heaven. ***Hebrews 12:22-24***
- The redeemed have their names written in the Book of Life. ***Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 21:27***
- The exiles who rebuilt Jerusalem had their names recorded by Nehemiah. ***Nehemiah 3:1-32***

3. We are **MEMBERS** of the Body of Christ.

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” ***1 Corinthians 12:12***

4. We must belong to a **LOCAL CHURCH**.

- “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” **Acts 2:47**
- “And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.” **Acts 16:4-5**
- “And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.” **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**
- “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.” **Hebrews 13:7**
- “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.”
Hebrews 13:17

At VIVA Church:

1. Everyone is a **MINISTER**
2. Every task is **IMPORTANT**
3. Everyone is a “10” in **SOME AREA**

BUILDING THE HOUSE

God called us all to be builders involved in His house

Here at VIVA Church there are several ways that you can be involved in this local body. God desires us to work as a team to build together a house that will honour Him, bless us and our family and reach others to Him. God intends for all His people to be involved in serving, ministering and laying down their lives for others.

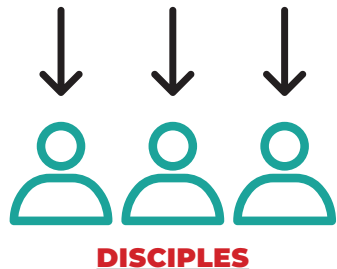
Building the church

Churches that are built on one man or woman will crush that pastor as the church grows or will be limited in growth depending on how much pressure the pastor can handle. Churches that are built on a multitude of dedicated disciples can handle more growth as the church increases in number.

WEIGHT OF THE MINISTRY



WEIGHT OF THE MINISTRY



The concept of a builder is taken from several key passages of scripture:

'Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings;...Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon... Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.'

Nehemiah 4:13-18

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." ***Psalms 127:1***

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being one joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." ***Ephesians 2:19-22***

“Sunoikodomeo”

- **Greek 4925. sunoikodomeo.**

soon-oy-kod-om-eh-o; to construct. i.e. (pass.) to compose (in company with other Christians, fig.); build together.

- **Greek 4883. sunarmologeo.**

soon-ar-mol-og-eh-o; to render close-jointed together, i.e. organize compactly; be fitly framed & joined together.

As a church, we are building together. We are cooperating and flowing with one another to fulfill the wonderful task God gave us to accomplish in our city.

Definition of a builder

A builder is a person who is being added to and joined in spirit to this local church who wants to be a participant, rather than a spectator.

What a builder is not

- A builder is not a **SPECTATOR**
- A builder is not a **CHURCH CRITIC**
- A builder is not a **SELF-SEEKER**
- A builder is not a **DESTROYER**
- A builder is not a **SLANDERER**
- A builder is not a **CASUAL CHRISTIAN**

What a builder is:

- A builder is an active **PARTICIPANT**
- A builder is an owner of the **VISION**
- A builder is a **TEAM PLAYER**
- A builder is a co-laborer with Christ and His **CHURCH**
- A builder is a bridge **BUILDER**
- A builder is an **INITIATOR**
- A builder is a **LOVER OF PEOPLE**
- A builder is a person of **FAITH**

Notes

**VIVA
CHURCH
COVENANT**

Having received Christ as my Lord and Saviour and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in STEP 2, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with VIVA Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH:

- By acting in love toward other members.
- By refusing to gossip.
- By following the leaders.

“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of one another’s character.” **Romans 14:19 PH**

“Live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward the other.” **Romans 15:5 TLB**

“Have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart.” **1 Peter 1:22 GNT**

“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.
- By inviting the unchurched to attend.
- By 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, 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.” **1 Peter 1:22 GNT**

3. I WILL SERVE ON TEAM AT MY CHURCH:

- By discovering my gifts and talents.
- By being equipped to serve my pastors and leaders.
- By developing a servant's heart.

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you.”

1 Peter 4:10 PH

“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 church and participating in a VIVA group faithfully.
- By living a godly life.
- By 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 PH**

**DREAM TEAM
OPPORTUNITIES**

Here at VIVA there are many areas and opportunities for you to volunteer. Listed below are all VIVA departments and teams. Read the information provided and see where you feel called to serve. Each area has specific requirements that must be met before you can start serving and all teams require compliance with our VIVA Code of Conduct. We would love to have you as part of the Dream Team.

VIVA GROUPS

Big things happen in small groups. Groups can run for several weeks or indefinitely and cover specific topics or just be a time of fellowship and discussion. Become a VIVA group leader and allow God to use you in a special way as you do life together with some amazing people.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and 02, police check and a successful interview with team coordinator.

VIVA WORSHIP

We value praise and worship here at VIVA Church. If you are musically gifted, we would love to hear from you. Our main goal is to use our talents collectively to lead the church into the presence of God.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and 02, successful interview and audition with team director.

VIVA STUDENTS

Junior Youth

JY provides a vibrant and relevant space for students in Grades 6-8. We are committed to creating a place where students can belong, grow, and encounter God. We meet every Friday at 7pm.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and 02, police check and a successful interview with team coordinator.

Royal Youth

Royal youth is our vibrant youth ministry dedicated to changing the lives of young people. Through weekly meetings on Fridays at 7pm and monthly events, we are dedicated to creating an atmosphere where young people can feel comfortable, have fun, and experience God in a new way. For students grades 9 - 12.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and 02, police check and a successful interview with team coordinator.

Young Adults

VIVA Young Adults is a ministry dedicated to helping young people develop and mature their relationships with Jesus Christ and one another. Through regular meetings, we provide an environment that fosters spiritual growth. For ages 18-30.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and 02, police check and a successful interview with team coordinator.

VIVA FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Host

A great church does a great job at making people feel welcome and maintaining order, so God can be front and centre. Our hosts greet people at the door, help them find the perfect seat, receive the tithes and offerings and many other behind-the-scenes jobs to keep our services running smoothly.

Requirements: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful a successful interview with team coordinator.*

Concierge

This frontline team helps people connect with everything that is happening around the church. They attend to the check-in stations and register people for events, classes, conferences, VIVA groups and much more.

Requirements: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful a successful interview with team coordinator.*

Safety

The VIVA Safety Team is made up of dedicated men and women that have a heart for the safety and security of our church family. To join the team, you don't need to have a police or military background. Training will be provided.

Requirements: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01, police check and a successful interview with team coordinator.*

Parking

A great Sunday morning experience doesn't start the moment you step foot in the building, it starts right in the parking lot. Our parking attendants will assist you in finding the right spot to park your vehicle and will make you feel welcome before the service even starts.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.

VIVA PRODUCTION

Sound

Members of this crucial team work hard to balance and harmonize sound, and create an environment where we can meet with God without distraction. Prior experience and knowledge are an asset but a detailed ear is a must.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.

Media

Whether you're joining in worship at our services or watching the message online, you have our Media Team to thank. Several positions make up this important Sunday team, including projector, switcher, stream and camera operator. If you've got an eye for visual media and attention to detail, we would love to have you on team!

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.

Lights

The Lights team is passionate about providing creative, beautiful and well-lit services. With a careful eye for detail and a creative mind, members of the lighting team work alongside the production teams to help create an environment where praise and worship take place during services.

Requirements: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.*

VIVA CARE

Prayer

In Matthew 21:13, Jesus says, “My house shall be called a house of prayer...” If you have a heart of compassion and love to pray for people in person, following the leading of the Holy Spirit, sign up for this powerful ministry. Opportunities to serve include Sunday service altar prayer and in Whole Heart Personals.

Requirements: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and 02 and interview with team coordinator.*

Baptism

At VIVA Church, baptism happens at least once every season. As a member of this team, you will be assisting candidates before, during and after their baptismal. This is a very exciting place to serve as you get to meet people taking their first steps of faith.

Requirements: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and interview with team coordinator.*

VIVA HOSPITALITY

NEXT STEPS

This is a vibrant place to serve and connect with new people.

Our NEXT STEPS facilitators and hosts communicate the heart of the house to our guests. A passion for excellence and a heart for people are the basis for serving as a part of this team.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and 02 and a successful interview with team coordinator.

VIP Lounge

This is a vibrant place to serve and connect with new people.

Our VIP hosts strive to make our guests feel welcome and celebrated. A passion for excellence and a heart for people are the basis for serving as a part of this team.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.

VIVA Coffee

Long live coffee! At VIVA Coffee we value good coffee, good times and good people. We would love to have you on team if you like action-packed environments and hospitality.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.

Events

This team plans, prepares, and executes the various events hosted by VIVA. From decor to food, registration to tear-down, this team makes sure that every event is unique and runs smooth from start to finish. Being creative, detail oriented, and able to work well as a team are key. If this describes you, we want you on team.

Requirements: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.*

Maintenance

This team keeps the church clean and organized consistently. preparing for Sunday Services, as well as special gatherings and events. If you are detail oriented and complete tasks with excellence we want you on team.

Requirements: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.*

VIVA CREATIVE

If you love photography, videography and social media, the creative team is perfect for you. This team's goal is to inspire people to connect with what God is doing at VIVA.

Requirement: *NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.*

VIVA KIDS

Sunday Team

VIVA Kids is all about raising up the next generation of leaders. Something we say on team is; “It’s leadership development not babysitting”. On the Sunday team, you’ll get to have fun with world changers ages 6 months to grade 5.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and 02, police check and a successful interview with team coordinator.

Prep Team

The VIVA Kids prep team are the real MVPs - they make sure everything is ready to go for Sundays. If you love helping behind the scenes this is the perfect team for you.

Requirements: NEXT STEPS, GROWTH TRACK 01 and a successful interview with team coordinator.

Notes

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**“Come now and let’s deliberate
over the NEXT STEPS to
take together”**

Isaiah 1:18 TPT