

Vision 2024

ANNOUNCE TRIPS

COMMISSIONING OF VICTOR:

- Revolve is led by Elders under King Jesus:
 - In the Bible, the Greek word for "pastor" means "shepherd" because pastors are called by God to care for the people of God in the same way that a shepherd cares for his sheep (1 Peter 5:2-3)
 - Other words in the Bible used to describe the Office of Pastor include "elder/presbyter" (Acts 20:17; 1 Peter 5:1; Titus 1:5) and "overseer/bishop" (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:1-2; Titus 1:7).
 - God has given these leaders "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12).
 - The model and ultimate leader of the church is Jesus the Good, Great, Chief Shepherd
 - Jesus is, essentially, the "Senior Pastor" as described in the Bible.
 - He is referred to as the "Good Shepherd" (John 10:14-16), the "Great Shepherd" (Hebrews 13:20-21), and the "Chief Shepherd" (1 Peter 5:4).
 - He modeled what true leadership looks like:
 - Jesus declared, "I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:15). This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep... If anyone enters by me, he will be saved" (John 10:7-9). Shepherds in the Middle East lay down in the doorway of the sheep-pen to protect their sheep and keep them safe.
 - Jesus literally died to make us spiritually successful!
 - The elders, shepherds, or pastors of the local church are "under-shepherds" under Jesus and they are responsible to:
 - WORD || PRAY || LEAD || CARE & PROTECT
 - Primarily a ministry of the Word and Prayer as an overflow of who we are in Christ → Leadership as overflow
 - Qualifications
 - This is a trustworthy saying: "If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task" (1 Timothy 3:1). Qualifications for the men of God who will "shepherd the flock of God" (1 Peter 5:2) are clearly defined in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
 - Summarized: Gospel Character || Gospel Competency || Calling
- Over the last ten months or so, the elders have folded Victor Davis into our leadership as an elder candidate
- It is my privilege to tell you that effective today he is an official elder at Revolve
 - <Pray over Victor with the elders>

SERMON

- All things are for the glory of God!
 - This driving passion was the very heartbeat of Jesus Christ, the highest aim He sought, the loftiest goal He pursued.
 - All things in life and ministry, He taught, are to be for the glory of God.
 - When we bring our prayers to the Creator God, we must remember that the ultimate goal of our faith, our prayers, our lives his glory
 - We have been unpacking prayer over the last two months
 - The primary focus of prayer is the glory of God.
 - Our Father in heaven... holy... your kingdom come... your will be done...
 - In Matthew 6:13, Jesus ended the Lord's Prayer, **"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen"** (nkjv).
 - This is from the New King James Version, a translation based upon the Textus Receptus, a collection of manuscripts that differs slightly from the oldest manuscripts currently available to us
 - Scholars debate if it was added in middle ages by the Church
 - This is why that phrase may be in brackets or not even exist in your Bible
 - Whether or not that sentence was in the original manuscript is up for debate, but it's truthfulness is reliable and biblical
 - What does this verse say? What does it teach us?
 - **First, it begins with a passionate declaration of God's sovereignty.**
 - The kingdom is not Revolve's, not <insert famous pastor>, not Trump's, not the Pope's - the kingdom is the Lord's
 - God both possesses and presides over His vast kingdom.
 - He is the sovereign king, who exercises supreme authority and unrestricted dominion over an immense empire.
 - **Second, it affirms that "the power" belongs to God.**
 - What power? The power. All of it.
 - It's scope is without bounds
 - As Jesus has (Mt 28) ALL authority he also has ALL power
 - As Revelation 7:12 says, "Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and **power** and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
 - Everything that God chooses to do in his supreme majesty he also has the power to do it.
 - He is not in a tug of war with Satan. Satan is subservient, lesser
 - **Finally, the prayer crescendos to the declaration that "the glory" also belongs to our God forever. What glory? All of it.**
 - The Bible talks of glory in two ways
 - (1) Intrinsic glory - the sum total of God's perfection
 - (a) Mankind adds nothing to this
 - (2) Ascribed glory: glory given to him, rightfully deserved

- God deserves glory, fame, and honor
 - (1) It is DUE to him
 - You owe God your life, your all
 - These weren't words weren't rhetoric for Jesus - the were the reality of his life
 - Upon his resurrection, he doesn't abandon these goals; he passes them to his people, those who represent his body on earth, empowering them by the Holy Spirit
 - **What this means is that every follower of Jesus, every family of believers, every church, every denomination, every movement of God exists (1) to build his kingdom... (2) by his power... (3) for his glory...**
- Why does Revolve exist? To build God's kingdom, by his power, for his glory
 - The Great Commission, making disciples about all nations, is about building God's kingdom, by his power, for his glory
 - The Great Commandment, loving God and loving your neighbor, is about building God's kingdom, by his power, for his glory
 - As a church, we are here to build God's kingdom not the Revolve Empire, multisite status, instagram following or brand → we don't care about any of that
 - We need more nameless, bannerless, logo-less workers who just want Jesus high and lifted up in CMC and around the world
 - A leader's job is to equip you to that end (elders, DG leaders, parents)
 - To show you how to build his kingdom, to live by his power so that every tongue, tribe, and person ascribes to the Lord the glory due his name
 - Our role is to equip you to go and live the life God wants YOU to lead
 - Our hope and dream is that the people of Revolve would be a family of missionaries, who gather together to celebrate what God is doing and to be equipped, in order to scatter and live a missionary lifestyle - making disciples where they live, learn, work, and play.
 - Disciples made, new groups formed, Lord willing churches planted, communities reached with the gospel from here to the ends of the earth
- The last few years have been a spiritual valley for me
 - When the pandemic hit, I had many expectations of what God would do
 - Movement of God
 - Explosion of Evangelistic Opportunities
 - Moria → Egypt → Iraq
 - Pandemic Realities → Many uphill battles
 - Divisiveness over politics, COVID, social issues
 - Positively, yes there was much discipleship
 - But also a reality of rebuilding (losing many key families)
 - Moria refugee camp burned down
 - Egypt never materialized to anything else
 - Never invited back to Iraq
 - Personally: I have felt in a fog

- Instead of feeling inspired, I have felt like I was brainstorming
 - Every idea, every dream, every vision was popped by my own analysis paralysis and practicality
 - Where's the faith, Lord? Where's the bold steps? Where are YOU?
 - I could stand here and tell you about all the ups and downs of ministry in 2023
 - Giving is less now than 2020
 - Attendance is up since the pandemic
 - Inflation is rotten. Costs are up.
 - We gave too much away (which is better than overspending, I guess) and burned through about \$50k in savings helping people in need
 - We baptized this many people and have XYZ # in Discipleship Groups
 - Can I be honest with you? Yes that's good, numbers are important
 - Church family... I am weary of thinking and acting like a practical person
 - This week worship camp... a team had to meet in the fire escape hallway in the cold b/c we didn't have enough space
 - I'm done operating from a place like the KINGDOM, the POWER, and the GLORY belongs to someone else's God
 - Because it belongs to my God! To our God.
- I'm gonna tell you my dream, my vision, and I am going to tell you up front that I have no plan. If you come to me and ask me how this can possibly happen, I will tell you that I have no idea, but I am not content to live an ordinary life any longer
 - I dream of every person at this church living for the glory of God instead of the trash of the world
 - I dream of every follower of Christ in this room being equipped to grow in the gospel, knowing how to self-feed on the Word of God even if an EMP destroys your Bible App and Saint Google can't answer your questions
 - I dream of every follower of Christ here at Revolve knowing how to fall on their face in prayer, worship at the king's throne and hear his voice
 - I dream of every follower of Christ here at Revolve viewing himself/herself as a missionary and then bringing the gospel into their place of work and life
 - I dream of every follower of Christ here at Revolve feeling so equipped to grow and develop others that whether you are a USCG who gets transferred, a family who moves, or a couple who gets sick of Revolve and goes elsewhere - you will equip, mobilize and transform any spiritual community you touch b/c YOU have something most don't have. YOU live for the kingdom. YOU are filled with his power. And YOU are obsessed with his glory.
 - I dream of every follower of Christ here at Revolve wanting to sacrifice like we are at war to PRAY, SEND, and GO to the ends of the earth with the gospel
 - To train leaders, to smuggle Bibles, to plant churches, to evangelize the lost, and to make disciples
 - I dream of every follower of Christ here at Revolve equipped not just with the gospel but with practical skills so that they can go and be tent-makers (unpaid ministry workers) anywhere they go

- So that when the cash flow dries up under persecution the gospel doesn't stop going forward
 - I dream of every follower of Christ here at Revolve knowing their role in the story
 - I dream of every follower of Christ here at Revolve sacrificing their finances for the king and his glory b/c he's worth more than a boat, a camper, or a half bath
 - I dream of every follower of Christ here at Revolve giving not 2%, 5%, or 10% but asking God how much they should keep so we can fund work and workers here and abroad
- I dream of starting a discipleship training center that where people can come for one or two years to be equipped in discipleship, theology, and missiology
- I dream of launching the next generation of missionaries and church planters across this country and the world
- I dream of seeing a community of worship and prayer established, where we teach our young people to worship, to write songs, to seek the Lord, and to do so biblically
- I dream of our kids being discipled so well that they don't experience the catastrophic collapse into apathy and atheism like so many do
- I dream of bringing people with me on every trip overseas because they just have to bring the gospel to the unreached
- I dream of Saudi Arabia. I dream of Iran. I dream of Syria. I dream of Yemen. I dream of Qatar. I dream of Israel. I dream of the places in this world that want nothing to do with Jesus Christ, and I wonder how we can get the truth of Christ to them
 - I dream that they will worship King Jesus
 - I dream that his power would flow over those nations like a river
 - I dream that his glory would shine brightest in those dark recesses
- I dream of churches planted in the most spiritually desolate places on the planet
 - I dream of promises and words spoken over me that I believed to be true but have yet to come to pass
 - I dream of more.
- And Ephesians 3:20-21 tells me this: Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably** more than all we ask or **imagine**, according to his **power** that is at work within us, to him be **glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!
 - **The Kingdom belongs to Jesus. The power belongs to our God. He deserves the glory!**
- Friends, I don't know what to do next, but if we don't do something I feel like I am either going to burst or dry up

ACTION:

- I want you to pray. I want you to fast. I want you to ask God three things all month.
 - **Lord, build your kingdom through us**
 - **Lord, pour out your power on us**
 - **Lord, show your glory to us**