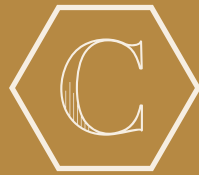
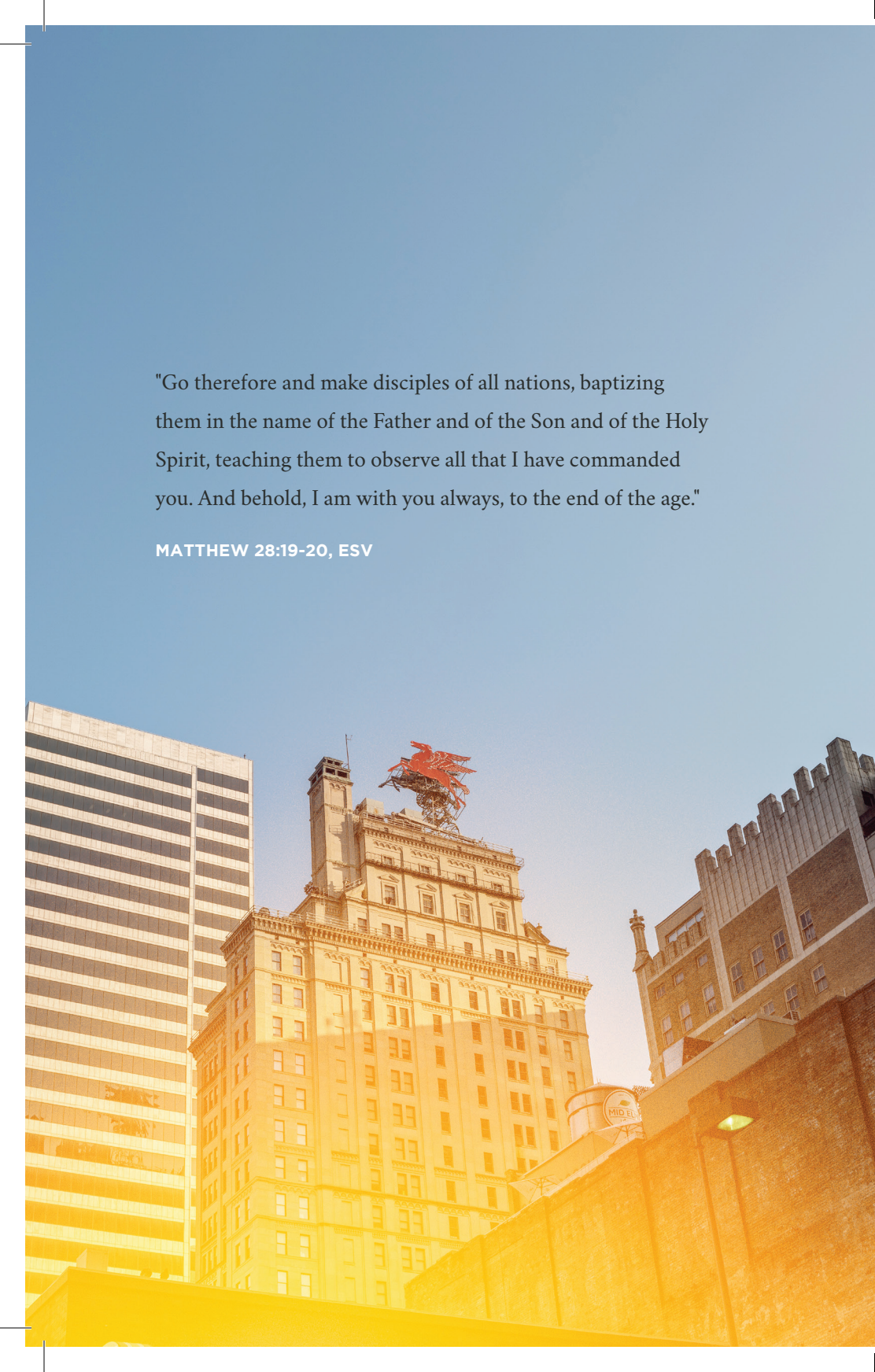


THE
COLLECTIVE
UNLEASH



FALL 2021



"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:19-20, ESV

We are so glad you're back for **Collective Unleash!**

Breathe deep. Exhale.

But, as always, don't get too comfortable.

Tonight, we hope to create a space to recall all God has done to unite, inspire, and equip us this year, so that we can live life as a people who remember to look back to move forward. To be reminded "since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)

For most of us, life is back in full swing with full schedules. You may be contemplating how God would have you spend your time in service to others, given the current state of the world. GREAT NEWS - no matter where you find yourself today, our mighty God has great purpose for you, and desires to use you! Our church and our city need you. Your time, your talents, your heart, your story. He has chosen YOU to live faithfully, and to be a conduit of hope to our broken world.

We couldn't be more excited to lock arms with you and run together! It's time to be unleashed!

YOUR COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

HEGNO.



NO HIDE S.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

PRAY

Friends, let's take the next four weeks to pray together over everything we've learned tonight. **Will you commit to praying?**

We want to Serve this City, and we want to do it as Jesus did. We are trusting that God will use our prayers to show us our next step of faithfulness.

WK 1 EVANGELISM

If you don't already have a Top 10 list, create one. Pray over this Top 10 list. Beg God to save the men or women on it!

(Isaiah 61:1-3, Matthew 28:11-13, 1 Timothy 4:2)

WK 2 OUR CITY: POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

Pray that those of us with warm houses not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness. Pray God would help us to see Jesus' face in the eyes of every homeless person we meet so that we may be empowered through word and deed, and through all the means we have, to bring justice and peace to those who are homeless. Thank God that even in times of need, despair, and brokenness, He is there. Pray He would put His arms around children and families in extreme poverty so they feel comfort and hope; that He would meet their needs both physically and spiritually. And Lord, guide us so we can be your hands and feet pursuing justice for the poor and upholding the cause of the needy.

(Psalm 140:12)

WK3 OUR CITY: INITIATIVES FOR LIFE

Pray that abortion would end today - that laws would be changed and abortion clinic doors would be closed. Pray for all who work for an end to abortion or to defend life, that they might be strengthened by prayer, and that God might reward them for their goodness. Pray for expectant mothers considering abortion, that they would choose life for their unborn child, and that they'd

find hope and healing in Christ. Pray for protection and safety of unborn children and pray that the Heartbeat bill would stay in effect and reach full execution! Pray that all who know the Lord would have radical compassion for those in situations of unplanned pregnancies, while loving them and leading them towards life for their child. Pray for women who have already chosen to give up their children to abortion, that they'd know and accept the forgiveness of Christ, find healing in His name, and that they'd be vulnerable to share their story and proclaim the same hope to others that are wrestling with the choice of life

(Jeremiah 1:4-5, Isaiah 49:1b, 1 Corinthians 16:14)

WK4 LOCAL INTERNATIONAL

Lord, we pray that you'd revive the Church and awaken our nation to Your greatness and supremacy. We thank you that Dallas continues to be one of our country's top destinations for immigrants and those seeking asylum. Would you continue to unite us and create friendships amongst us despite our differences? We pray you'd open our eyes and hearts as You give us unique opportunities to share the gospel to all of the nations of the world and to love our neighbors. Teach us to be compassionate and bold as we create friendships and help connect them to Christ and the local Church. We pray for the international students in our own backyard, that you'd continue to provide ways for us to support refugees, and that You'd show us ways to serve our local international friends in unique ways.

(2 Peter 3:9, Psalm 85:6, Psalm 133:1, Ephesians 4:3-6)

J H O N D A J O H N S O N

UNLEASHED TO SERVE

“My life before Christ was fueled by a skewed view of acceptance and value. After being sexually assaulted, I engaged in reckless behavior to numb the pain. I became even more intent on seeking the validation and acceptance my heart ached for by finding my identity in how others viewed me, whether that was in the party scene, or excessively consuming alcohol and drugs to numb and fit in.”

“I tried to manipulate others’ perception of me by placing my identity in achievements, work, and relationships. I believed accomplishments and accolades would be impressive enough to win both approval from man and God.”



“I was living in a false reality. It wasn’t until I acknowledged my need for help and began to start my path to healing that I began to find life and freedom from my past.

“The love, care, and faithfulness of God’s people led me to Watermark’s recovery ministry, re:generation. God used a community of individuals as a vessel to grow me closer to Him, deepen my understanding of true biblical fellowship, and learn more about God’s character. I had my first glimpses of biblical community as I watched believers speak truth into my life, encourage, and support me.

“Through the tools I gained in reading God’s Word, as well as resources from re:generation, God began to transform my heart to fully surrender to His Will. My past no longer defines me. This gives me courage and hope to serve, love, and walk alongside other women who need to experience the same transformation.

“Now, I can rest in knowing that through Jesus I am made new, an adopted daughter, and heir to my Father’s Kingdom. He isn’t finished. He is still in control and can be trusted with my fears, my desire, hope, joy, and disappointment.

“Discovering God’s great love for me has given my heart now a new passion to care for others. I love serving through the Community Development Corporation (CDC). Our mission is to transform the economic welfare of our city and to ensure every person has dignity, is developed to their full potential, and is disciplined through equipping and empowering them in skills, resources, and opportunities they may not have had otherwise. God can use anyone to do anything. All we must do is be willing to see His children the way He does, love them, engage with them, and use the opportunities He has blessed us with to help remove barriers. ■

A NEW KINGDOM

ERIKA PAUL





I WAS A CHILD WHEN I CAME TO KNOW THE LOVE AND GRACE OF JESUS, BUT EVEN THEN, I WAS FILLED WITH PRIDE.

I wanted people around me, especially those I admired and respected, to think highly of me. I wanted to portray only strength, which led to me hiding any weaknesses from view. Everything was about me - I was building my own little kingdom rather than God's Kingdom. It was an exhausting way to live.

"I grew up with two different kinds of people proclaiming Jesus in my life. Sadly, many were held captive to legalism, religiosity, and like me, rule-following for the sake of appearances. But by the grace of God, others were beautiful reflections of Jesus, namely my mom and grandma. My mom was the one who led me to Christ after I asked loads of questions on the way home from church one Sunday, about hell and heaven and living with God forever. Admittedly, the

thought of separation from God for eternity terrified me as a kid, but underneath it all was a deep desire to be fully loved and fully accepted. I'm so deeply thankful for the marking of that initial moment of faith - the recognition that in the car on that day, there was a shift in my little soul forevermore toward trust and hope in the truth of the gospel through the power of the Spirit. I wish I could tell you that my struggles with pride, people-pleasing, and hiding sin ended on that day, but they didn't. It was the beginning of a journey to learn to let Jesus call me back when my heart wants to wander toward things that seem shiny in the moment but are truly painful.

"I began to see this tested as my family walked through some challenging seasons during my more formative years. I was angry with God for interrupting my childhood with some horrific things like addiction and financial ruin. Eventually, I came to the end of myself, and Jesus was still there, ready to turn those hurts into compassion and weaknesses into empathy. I didn't realize it at the time, but the adversity in my life was the very thing that prepared my heart to serve. As I got older, I began to see how God has used the experiences of my life to drive me to my next endeavor. From my early days in politics, to fighting injustice with International Justice Mission, to my current role with Prison Fellowship, I have found that the most rewarding seasons have been those in which my heart is not preoccupied with building my own kingdom, but the Lord's. The beginning of Isaiah 61 shows me that the extraordinary thing about God's redemptive, restorative nature is the way He takes our areas of deepest struggle, most painful wounds, and bestows on us a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair (Isaiah 61:3). I just want to be a part of bringing the beauty of God's restoration to our world.

As the decades have passed, the Lord has generously showed me His beauty and goodness. Equally, in the loneliest and scariest, or most joyful and wonderful seasons of life, He has rerouted my love of building my own kingdom. He has shifted my desire to be about bringing His Kingdom to bear on our broken, longing, and yet still beautifully created world. He's continually drawing my heart toward His Story, and in His Story, I've found my story too. ■

ACT.

MINISTRY PARTNER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

■ FOR THE NATIONS REFUGEE OUTREACH

For the Nations: Refugee Outreach serves refugees in the Dallas area and offers a wide variety of educational programs to help refugees continue in the long process of adapting to life in the United States. ftnro.org/volunteer/

NEXT SERVICE OPP:

Fall weekly volunteer opportunities
Contact: Jackie Michael
localinternational@watermark.org

■ OURCALLING WOMEN'S CENTER

Motivated by the love of Christ, OurCalling searches every corner of the city for the lost and needy and offer them true friendship and meaningful support. They build long-term relationships with friends on the street, guiding them to a relationship with Jesus Christ that will help them to realize their worth and inspire them to invest in their lives. ourcalling.vomo.org/

NEXT SERVICE OPP:

Visit website for full list of opportunities
Contact: volunteer@ourcalling.org

■ WORTH MORE FOR WOMEN

Care and recovery for women with past abortions and those impacted by an abortion decision.

watermark.org/worthmore

NEXT SERVICE OPP:

Mentoring starts Thursday, September 2nd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and continues every Thursday night until November 18th. Abortion must be a part of your story to be a mentor for this ministry.

Contact: Hannah Reyes
hreyes@watermark.org

■ UNASHAMED

SHARE YOUR FAITH

An in-town weekend catalyst for sharing your faith. A unique bonding experience. A fun and memorable weekend. An eye-opening, heart-moving experience, together with other community groups and serving groups through which friendships form, change happens in our city, and participants get hands-on experience growing in the area of evangelism.

watermark.org/unashamed

NEXT SERVICE OPP TO GET INVOLVED:

February 2022

Contact: Laura Eldredge
leldredge@watermark.org

■ PATH TO RESTORATION FOR WOMEN

Family Restoration helps parents break patterns of addiction, violence, and poverty so they can care for their children and prevent family breakdown. watermark.org/worthmore

NEXT SERVICE OPP:

Mentoring meets weekly for 12 weeks on Thursdays at 10:30 am
Contact: Hannah Reyes
hreyes@watermark.org

■ WATERMARK INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INC.

Watermark members are sharing Christ's love and building relationships with international students on UTD's campus. Volunteers assist with opening their homes, facilitating discussion, organizing activities, and most of all, building relationships with students.

watermark.org/localinternational

NEXT SERVICE OPP:

Home Group on October 22
Contact: Jackie Michael
localinternational@watermark.org

