

T H E  
V / S / O N



“VERY TRULY I TELL YOU, WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL DO THE WORKS I HAVE BEEN DOING, AND THEY WILL DO EVEN **GREATER THINGS** THAN THESE, BECAUSE I AM GOING TO THE FATHER.



AND I WILL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, SO THAT THE FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON. YOU MAY ASK ME FOR ANYTHING IN MY NAME, AND I WILL DO IT.”

JOHN 14:12-14

# T H E V / S / O N

## OUR VISION

The Soul, The City, and the World Transformed  
by an **Only God** Movement.

## 5 YEAR VISION

- ✚ **HOLY SPIRIT** encounters are expected when we gather.
- ✚ **PRAYER** is our **FIRST** response, **NOT** our last resort.
- ✚ We are a **BRIDGE BUILDING** church.
- ✚ We are a **GOOD NEIGHBOR** through our **RADICAL HOSPITALITY**.
- ✚ The **HOUSE OF HOPE** is people's first phone call when life gets hard.
- ✚ We champion **EMOTIONAL, MENTAL, RELATIONAL, & PHYSICAL** health as **SPIRITUAL HEALTH**.
- ✚ We equip church leaders through our **TRANSFORMING LEADERSHIP CENTER**.
- ✚ We help people pause and be present to Jesus through our **RETREATS, CAMPS, & CONFERENCES**.
- ✚ Soul City Church is **DEBT-FREE**.
- ✚ We are reaching **5,000 PEOPLE** through our **TWO CHURCHES**.

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# A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Dear Soul City Church Family,

We are full of gratitude for the countless ways God has moved in and through Soul City Church. The ONLY GOD story that started in 2010 has transformed thousands of people's lives. God's goodness and faithfulness are woven throughout our history. When things are good it is easy to settle and play it safe, but playing it safe has never been synonymous with walking in faith.

In his fabulous book "Good To Great", Jim Collins says, "Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes GREAT. Few people attain GREAT lives, in large part because it is just so easy to settle for a GOOD life." As we've reflected on these last few years and what it means to be on this side of all that God has brought us through, we've found ourselves asking, "Have we settled for GOOD THINGS for the sake of GREATER THINGS?" "Have we quietly chosen COMFORT over COURAGE?" "Have we settled with FINE over FAITH?"

Jesus said in John 14:12-14, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even GREATER THINGS than these because I am going to the Father And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

God has given us an audacious five-year vision for GREATER THINGS at Soul City Church. We genuinely believe Soul City's best days are in front of us and we want you to be a part. We want to invite you to start to pray, God, what are the GREATER THINGS you want to do IN ME and THROUGH ME? And let's see what God does!

We love you. We are praying for you. We are humbled and honored to pastor Soul City Church and we believe God is about to wreck our lives with His amazing love and grace as we trust him for GREATER THINGS.

Grace & Peace,

Jarrett & Jeanne Stevens  
Founding & Lead Pastors



# GREATER *Things* STORY



**AVERY  
HOLLIDAY**

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CREATIVE TEAM  
LAKEVIEW EAST

“To me, this Greater Things season means being present and faithful with the little I have been given. Trusting that through the consistency of being faithful, God will not only refine my character and heart, but he would also increase the little to be a lasting blessing to others for his glory.”

# LEADING PEOPLE INTO A TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS





## LAUNCH PARTY

October 24, 2009

Parties have been in our DNA from the very beginning. Pastors Jeanne and Jarrett gather a group of friends and prospective Soul City families at the Wit Hotel in downtown Chicago. For the first time the vision is shared publicly, and people are invited to join in prayer and participation in the vision of Soul City Church.



## FIRST CHRISTMAS STORE

December 2010

We hold our very first Christmas Store to serve under-resourced friends and families on the west side of Chicago. Our church gathers new gifts, books, coats, and more and makes these items available at a greatly reduced price. This kicks off a meaningful partnership with Brown School that continues through the Back-to-School Bash and future Christmas Stores in years to come.



## 1150 W. ADAMS 2012

At the two-year mark, steady growth allows us to put a down payment on our building. A faithful group of angel investors also purchase the land next door, believing that God will continue to grow our church and move us to serve the city beyond our current capacity.



## WORK & WORSHIP

September 26, 2010

The first group of Soul City volunteers come together to clear out and clean up the building in preparation for public gatherings to launch. They initiate a legacy of sacrificial serving that continues in our Soul City volunteers to this day.

## THE STORY OF SOUL CITY

## WEST LOOP WAREHOUSE

June, 2010

The Searls Family feels led by God to participate in making Soul City a reality. They generously make their property available rent-free for two years—an Only God miracle!



## LAUNCH DAY

November 7, 2010

With a Sunday night service, we open our doors to the city of Chicago. We worship together and introduce our mission of leading people into a transforming relationship with Jesus. Those gathered are invited to let God wreck their lives with His amazing love and grace.



## FIRST BAPTISM WEEKEND

March 6, 2011

Joel and Kate Miller are the first couple baptized at Soul City Church in a powerful demonstration of what transformation looks like in public. Hundreds and hundreds more would soon follow.



## FOR THE LOVE

November, 2015

At our fifth anniversary, Soul City Church begins a faith-raising adventure to build a Transformation Center on the adjacent land. Together we pray and begin to build a space that is designed to love our community, this city, and the world.

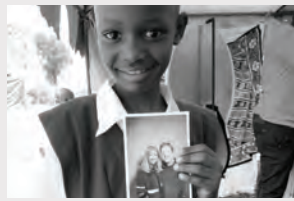






**TRANSFORMATION CENTER**  
November 4, 2017

Together we celebrate the completion of our new 780-seat auditorium and the beginning of the new ministry that will happen in and through this space. In our effort to be the church seven days a week, we also make these new facilities available to our community for a variety of small groups, events, recovery meetings, and more.



**WORLD VISION CHOSEN**  
February, 2019

Soul City Church pioneers a new child sponsorship relationship with World Vision. For the first time in World Vision's nearly 70-year history, the power to choose is in the hands of children. Kids in Mwala, Kenya, choose their sponsor from more than 650 Soul City Families that step up to be CHOSEN.



**COVID**  
March, 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted church as usual for months, but it also provided an opportunity for creativity through daily prayer and worship on Instagram, a new type of online church service called Church Refresh, Zoom small groups, and Meals of Hope that were served to essential workers and people in need in our community.



**HOUSE OF HOPE OPENING**  
2021

Soul City renovated the northwest side of its building to create a space for people inside our church and our greater community to walk alongside people when life is hard. The House of Hope offers resources, referrals, and relationships to anyone who is hurting. It has served almost 600 people since opening.

**FIRST ALPHA COURSE**  
2017

Alpha is introduced at Soul City with an 11-week course designed to create a space where people are excited to bring their friends for conversations about faith, life, and God. Our community responds with incredible enthusiasm. To date, more than 600 people have participated in Alpha.



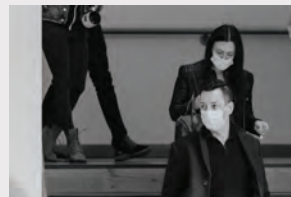
**READY FOR MORE**  
February, 2020

The vision is shared for the next chapter of Soul City! To launch two new churches to the west and to the north. Due to the global pandemic, the vision was put on pause.



**REOPENING**  
2021

After 11 months of online church, Soul City opened its doors again for weekly Sunday gatherings at 9am & 11am.



**A FRESH VISION**  
November 2023

Soul City Church announces a new five-year vision which includes launching a new Soul City Church in the Western Suburbs (somewhere from Oak Park to Oak Brook.) Together our church celebrates all that God has done and we declare that God is more than able to fulfill the vision that He's provided for the next five years.



# MIRANDA FAMILY



"GOD IS CALLING US TO  
CONTINUE TO GROW, SERVE,  
AND COMMUNICATE THE HOPE  
AND FAITHFULNESS THAT  
IS ONLY FOUND IN HIM."

Like mosaic pieces coming together by invisible threads of faith, the Miranda family has found themselves together at Soul City Church. Family matriarch Rosalina Miranda (affectionately known as Grandma Lina), her daughter Bernadette (Bebe) Miranda-Hobbs and son-in-law Michael Hobbs, granddaughters and sisters Melody and Kristen Miranda (nieces of Bebe and Michael), and great nephew Cameron (son of Kristen) have all found themselves walking in faith together at the same church and have served in Soul City Worship & Choir, Soul City Kids, and more. It was not always this way.

How did this come to be? Already familiar with Soul City and having been a part of a worship small group, Bebe began streaming Soul City consistently during the COVID pandemic as she searched for a church home. “The world had changed, I had changed, and I wanted to attend a church that would speak to the changes that our world was experiencing. A church that would speak on mental health, stand against the injustices experienced by black and brown communities, and ensure that space was made to hear the voices of the marginalized.” She found this at Soul City and invited her family to come and see. Soon after, Bebe, Michael, and Lina officially made Soul City their new church home and Bebe enthusiastically shared the news and invited her two nieces, Kristen and Melody. Bebe’s invitations to her nieces came during seasons when they needed it most. Both sisters found themselves experiencing difficult seasons, lacking trust in the church, and struggling to find comfort in God. “I needed that ‘come as you are at this time’ type church in my life,” says Kristen. “I didn’t find comfort in the Lord or the Bible,” says Melody. But through multiple invitations from Bebe, this family all began attending Soul City together towards the end of 2022.

Some might say this was a coincidence, but this family will tell you that this is an ONLY GOD moment built on the faith-filled prayers and love of the family matriarch Grandma Lina and her late husband William. Although Grandma Lina has been facing the challenges of Alzheimer’s, her faith continues to serve as an anchor in her life. She continues to sing Psalm 121 over her family and pray for her family to have a relationship with Jesus. Grandma Lina also fully comprehends the ways God is moving in her family. Although she doesn’t show as much emotion as she has been known for, in January of 2023 she stood with her family as her granddaughter Melody felt led by God to be baptized. That day, the family matriarch cried her eyes out and hugged everyone, telling them that Melody was her granddaughter. She knew one of her prayers had been answered when her grandchild said yes to Jesus. As if it could not get any sweeter, the family worshiped together from the Soul City stage during Hispanic Heritage Month. “Singing and worshiping with my mother, husband, nieces, and great-nephew has been an impactful, visual culmination of God’s faithfulness. It was an ONLY GOD moment fueled by the unwavering faith of my mother,” says Bebe.

Soul City is a special place for the Miranda family. It is a place where they have connected, healed, freely worship, grow, and serve. When asked about what greater things God might be calling them into this season as a family, this was their response:

“God is calling us to continue to grow, serve, and communicate the hope and faithfulness that is only found in Him. And now our family is ready for the greater things that God wants to do in and through us.”

"NOW FAITH IS  
CONFIDENCE  
IN WHAT WE  
HOPE FOR AND  
ASSURANCE  
ABOUT WHAT WE  
DO NOT SEE"

HEBREWS 11:1



# LAUNCHING A NEW SOUL CITY CHURCH

**NOTHING reaches NEW PEOPLE like NEW CHURCHES!**

We are excited that God is leading us to launch another Soul City Church in the Western Suburbs somewhere between Oak Park and Oak Brook. We have a significant number of people in our church that are close to the I-290 corridor, spreading out to the Western Suburbs, so we want to make a church that is an easy invite for their friends and neighbors. This new church is not only for people from Soul City who live in the western suburbs, but it's for their friends. It's for their coworkers. It's for their neighbors. It's for anyone who needs a thriving and loving church where they can encounter and experience the transforming love of Jesus. And one thing we know is that NOTHING reaches NEW PEOPLE...like NEW CHURCHES! It is one of the best ways for folks to say YES to the transforming love of Jesus!

*\*This image is a conceptual rendering and does not represent actual location.*



## PRIMARY GOAL

# 100% ENGAGEMENT

We want to see the soul, the city, and the world transformed by an Only God movement. We believe God desires to do **GREATER THINGS** in our church and in each of our lives. We hope and pray that every person that calls Soul City Church their home would ask God, “What is the GREATER THING you want to do in me and through me?” and they would say YES to however God leads them.

## SECONDARY GOAL

# \$15 MILLION

This is a ONE FUND initiative. That simply means we are trusting God for this amount to cover all of our expenses for the next two years, which provides for our ongoing budget at both churches (West Loop Church and New Church to the West), start-up expenses for the new Church to the West, capital improvements at the West Loop Church, and funding all the other initiatives in our five-year vision.

# ASK, BELIEVE, COMMIT.

We are inviting you to take your next step toward transformation and generosity with prayer and faith as your starting point. As you go to God in prayer, use this three-step, faith-forming process:

## ASK

God, I'm asking you to speak. I am committing to listen. Put within me a vision for GREATER THINGS in my life. I am inviting you to lead me to a financial amount you would have me trust you with for the next two years. Use this step of obedience to advance my dependency on your Holy Spirit and to advance your kingdom here on earth.

## BELIEVE

God, thank you for speaking. I trust you. With great faith, I believe that you are my provider and that you will make a way for me to see this commitment to you all the way through!

## COMMIT

God, my response today and over the next two years is a courageous and complete yes. With joy and trust, I submit to your leadership of my life and receive your provision. I commit in advance to giving you all the glory for writing a GREATER THINGS story in and through my life.



## COMMITMENT

Are you ready to step into this faith-raising adventure? COMMIT to giving to God in a way that stretches and deepens your faith like never before. Complete a Commitment Card to make your financial commitment in faith to God and Soul City.

**VISION**

**PRIMARY GOAL | 100% ENGAGEMENT**

We want to see the soul, the city, and the world transformed by an Only God movement. We believe God desires to do GREATER THINGS in our church and in each of our lives. We hope and pray that every person that calls Soul City Church their home would ask God, "What is the GREATER THING you want to do in me and through me?" and they would say YES to however God leads them.

**SECONDARY GOAL | \$15 MILLION**

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**NEXT STEPS**

We are inviting you to take your next step toward transformation and generosity with prayer and faith as your starting point. As you go to God in prayer, use this three-step, faith-forming process.

1

God, I'm asking you to speak. I am committing to listen. I am inviting you to lead me to a financial amount you would have me trust you with for the next two years.

2

God, thank you for speaking. I trust you. With great faith, I believe that you are my provider and that you will make a way for me to see this commitment to you all the way through!

3

God, my response today and over the next two years is a courageous and complete yes. I commit in advance to giving you all the glory for writing a GREATER THINGS story in and through my life.

**YOUR COMMITMENT**

<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="\$"/>	<b>What I/we would normally give in a year</b> <small>(regular giving, end of year campaign, etc.)</small>
+	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="\$"/> <b>My/Our expanded annual generosity as part of Greater Things</b>
=	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="\$"/> <b>x 2 years</b> <span style="font-size: 2em;">↓</span>
	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="\$"/>
<b>Gifts from my/our stored resources +</b>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="\$"/>
<b>MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR GREATER THINGS COMMITMENT</b> \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	

MAY 2024 - MAY 2026



# TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

Use this gift chart as a personal transformation tool to inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity and faithfulness.

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT LEVEL	MONTHLY GIFT LEVEL	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$1,500,000
1	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$1,000,000
2	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$1,000,000
5	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,250,000
7	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,050,000
10	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$1,000,000
15	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$1,125,000
18	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$1,170,000
20	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$1,000,000
30	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$1,050,000
45	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$1,125,000
55	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$825,000
60	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$600,000
80	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$600,000
90	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$450,000
Many	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$255,000
<b>TOTAL GOAL</b>				<b>\$15,000,000</b>

# GREATER *Things* STORY



## LOGAN WENTZ

STUDENTS TEAM & ALPHA TEAM  
DOWNERS GROVE

“I’m so grateful to be a part of Soul City! This season has already been so incredible. The timing could not be more Perfect because God already had me moving into a season of greater things in my personal life and in my faith. Throughout every valley I face, God shows up with his unfailing love to walk with me and to show me that even in times of financial distress or big life changes he is always with me and always wanting greater things for me!”

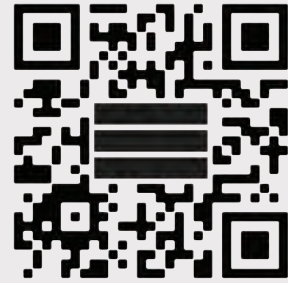
CREATING  
MOMENTS THAT  
LEAD TO  
MOVEMENT.



MOMENTS TO  
CONNECT, COMMIT,  
AND CHANGE.

# GREATER THINGS WEBSITE & VIRTUAL PRAYER WALL

Check out the Greater Things website that includes a virtual prayer wall for you to share the Greater Things that God has called you to in this season. But don't only leave yours... take the time to pray for someone else.



## GREATER THINGS PODCAST DEVOTIONAL

The Greater Things Podcast Devotional is a resource meant to help facilitate the journey of believing God for the Greater Things He desires to do in and through our lives. Through this daily Podcast experience, you will be drawn into deeper connection and trust in Jesus.

## KEY DATES

Greater Things Teaching Series - April 7th

Advanced Commitment Night - April 23rd

Commitment Sunday - May 5th

Celebration Sunday - May 19th















BUT YOU WILL  
RECEIVE POWER  
WHEN THE HOLY  
SPIRIT COMES ON  
YOU; AND YOU  
WILL BE MY  
WITNESSES IN  
JERUSALEM, AND  
IN ALL JUDEA AND  
SAMARIA, AND TO  
THE ENDS OF THE  
EARTH.

ACTS 1:8



## OUR PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for the people of Soul City Church. Thank you for this community where so many people have found connection to you and to other people. Thank you for hearing our prayers. We see the way you are at work in people's lives, transforming them from the inside out. We see and are so grateful for the ways you're moving here: leading people to be baptized, answering big prayers, and calling us to love you deeper.

Lord, forgive us for playing small and forgetting the magnitude of your power. You are the God who said if we have the faith of a mustard seed we can say to a mountain 'move' and it will move. We're sorry for getting preoccupied with circumstances in our lives in the here and now instead of seeing the bigger picture of how you are at work here and forever.

Holy Spirit, help us! We sense that you are moving in our church in very real ways and we want to get in step with you. We believe what you said, that we will do greater things in your name. Help us to tune in to you and listen to you. Help us to have the courage to do what you are leading us to do. We want to see the soul, the city, and the world transformed by an **ONLY GOD** movement.

We're ready and believing for greater things!





[SOULCITYCHURCH.COM/GREATERTHINGS](https://SOULCITYCHURCH.COM/GREATERTHINGS)