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# A RESTORATION — MOVEMENT —

A TEN YEAR VISION OF THE HIGHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST  
April, 2012

# I. Introduction

*Acts 3:19-21*

*“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. **Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything**, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.”*

*Matthew 19:28*

*Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, **at the renewal of all things**, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*

Hans Kung writes, “A church which pitches its tents without constantly looking out for new horizons, which does not constantly strike camp, is being untrue to its calling...we must play down our longing for certainty, accept what is risky, and live by improvisations and experiment.”

N. T. Wright writes, “Whenever God does something new, he involves people—often unlikely people, frequently surprised and alarmed people. He asks them to trust him in a new way, to put aside their natural reactions, to listen humbly for a fresh word and to act on it without knowing exactly how it’s going to work out.”

For well over a decade the Highland Church of Christ has prayed in worship each week for heaven to come to earth. We have been asking over the last several months what does it look like for God to answer this prayer in our midst? The following outline lists ways we believe God has and will answer our prayer. The church is called to live in the reality of heaven now, and we pray that the vision of Highland will enable us to invest in mission in ways that allow us to be true to our calling as a church. The life of the church is to be the place where people see glimpses of the future glory that is to come. When we join in the mission of restoring all things, then we are embracing our true identity as the Body of Christ. The following outline presents some ways that Highland can witness to the Kingdom of God here and now.

This is a Restoration Movement.

## II. Restoration of Highland

- A. Offer creative, diverse, relevant, welcoming, and meaningful worship experiences.
  
- B. Grow current campuses (main campus, Freedom Fellowship, and Grace Fellowship) – become a church of over 3000 growing disciples, expanding resources for ministry (people and financial).
  
- C. Better connect Highland members to community, small groups, Bible classes, and ministry opportunities.
  
- D. Implement measures to improve the welcoming of visitors to our campuses.
  
- E. Pay off the current indebtedness and teach and model Biblical stewardship principles. Financial goal is to allocate 51% of Highland budget to external mission efforts.
  
- F. Provide resources to restore, support, and strengthen families.

## II. Restoration of Abilene

- A. Address and attack systemic homelessness in Abilene with the intent to eliminate homelessness by implementing a “housing first model”.
  
- B. Adopt a school (possibly Myra Martinez Elementary School) within the Abilene Independent School District.
  
- C. Expand ministries at Freedom, Grace, and Community Ministries of Abilene. Develop community centers for the neighborhoods around the Highland campuses, providing opportunities for lifelong learning, teaching, mentoring, fellowship, and fun.
  
- D. Investigate ministry opportunities with Abilene’s expanding refugee population.
  
- E. Provide places and times where Highland members can utilize their gifts and specialties to serve the people of Abilene.
  - marital counseling
  - job counseling and training
  - medical and dental care
  - auto care
  - carpentry and house repair
  - legal assistance
  - financial counseling
  - accounting and tax assistance
  - teachers and educators
  - others

## II. Restoration of the World

- A. Focus on Missions – Double Highland’s mission initiatives, both foreign and domestic (possible church plants). Expand people resources with full-time missionaries and Highland members/families.
  
- B. Support of non-profit organization that provides water for developing countries.
  
- C. Investigate opportunities for micro-financing.
  
- D. Encourage and provide resources for the incubation of new ministries by Highland members. This is deeply imbedded in Highland’s DNA: Herald of Truth, Christian Homes, Disability Resources, and Faith Works.