



VOLUME IV ISSUE I

# LOVE NOTES

## VESSELS OF HIS LOVE CHURCH

SUMMER 2017

### A CHURCH ON WHEELS

Pastor Thelma J. Leftwich had several encounters with God about Vessels of His Love. Our name, mission and moniker all came via dreams and visions in prayer time.

One more statement is now coming to fruition: "Vessels of His Love will be a church on wheels." She used to say that in the early 90's and late 00's, but we didn't really know what it meant. We are now meeting at the home of Pastor Devin Leftwich, but we will often move our church services to various other locations.

Vessels of His Love has now truly become "a church on wheels."

**Along with all of the other changes, the weekly service location for Vessels of His Love Church will also change.**

**Be sure to check our website weekly, [vesselsofhislove.org](http://vesselsofhislove.org), for Service locations and weekly podcasts.**

### FULL CIRCLE

Nearly 24 years ago a few families began having service in the home of Otis & Thelma Leftwich. In January 1994, after several months of fellowship together, Vessels of His Love Church was born.

I remember when the church started. I was a student at Wheaton College, finishing up my bachelors degree. I was living at home and attending church, but as a college student, there was no way I was going to go to church in my house with my parents as the Pastors. So every Sunday I would try to get up before anyone came to the house and leave out so no one would see me choosing not to go to service with my family. I was happy to go to church, but church in the home? In MY home?

Two dozen years later, God has brought us back full circle. After

about 2 years in my parents home, 5 years at the Park District, 6 years sharing a building with another church, 2 years in that same building by ourselves, and nearly 7 years in our own location, we are going back to my house to have church. On May 31, 2017, we moved out of our building and had our first home service on June 4, Pentecost Sunday.

Why would we make such a move? These things are normally precipitated by finances and numbers, and it was no different in this case. We were just no longer able to sustain ourselves in a building with the numbers that we had. But God made it clear shortly after making the decision that even

if we had the best numbers, we would still make this move. I am absolutely certain that God is doing something different with this ministry, and if we want to survive, if we want to thrive, this is how God is going to do it. Vessels has never been the normal community church, and we are not going to start being that now. We are a peculiar people with a peculiar purpose: to be "The House of Healing" and minister to hurting people by helping them to become whole again. So here we are, back where we started, having worship service in the Pastor's home. I just hope my kids have an easier time with church in their home than I did.

### CHANGE

"Change is a constant," at least that is how the saying goes. As a math major, I tend to see it a bit differently. Stability needs to be the constant, with change as a variable in the equation. It's how you solve for "X," that variable of change, that determines your success or failure.

In the past year, Vessels has had a lot of change, and it has

proven to be a variable that is difficult to solve. Our founding pastor went home to be with the Lord, we let go of our financial manager, and now after reduced numbers, we are moving from a building to homes.

How do you maintain stability with so many changes going on? You must solve for "X." Although solutions may vary, you always

find the answer the same way: in prayer and communion with the Master. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7, NKJV

*Our core purpose is Luke 4:18-19*

## **VESSELS OF HIS LOVE CHURCH**

814 W. Hawthorne Boulevard  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
P.O. Box 1231  
Wheaton, IL 60187

Phone: 630-923-5495

Email: [vesselsofhislove@gmail.com](mailto:vesselsofhislove@gmail.com)

Website: [www.vesselsofhislove.com](http://www.vesselsofhislove.com)



*Pastor Devin Leftwich*

## **MOVE ON AND LET GO**

In February of this year, I gave the congregation a “State of Vessels Report,” detailing where we are, how we got here, and where we plan to go. It was at this meeting that I informed the church that in order to move the ministry forward and stay financially viable, our Board had decided that we should move out of our building.

I knew this would not be an easy “sell,” but I also knew that it was of the Holy Spirit. A few weeks earlier the Lord gave me a message entitled “Finding Your Goshen” from Genesis 42-45. I spoke of 5 steps necessary to find your Goshen—that place of protection where you can flourish just before God sends you to where you are destined to go:

1. You must be led by the Holy Spirit and go where He sends you
2. You must understand that darkness comes before the dawn
3. Even in the midst of darkness, know that God continues to bless and provide
4. You must be willing to give up or sacrifice your best in order to get God’s best
5. You must continue to intercede

As I preached that message in late January, I knew that it was for the future of Vessels. We needed to let go of our building, because God had already told us that it was not our final resting place.

We also needed to let go of some of the “stuff” that we had accumulated, because the church is not about the building or possessions, but about the people.

So it was vital not only to let go of our building and “stuff,” but our preconceived notions of what church *should* be. What began as sorrow and regret has turned into joy and expectation, because we can move on and let go by faith.

“Now this I know: The Lord gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” Psalm 20:6-7, NIV

## **STATEMENT OF BELIEFS**

1. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He was crucified and buried, and on the third day He arose from the dead and ascended to His seat at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
2. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead (trinity): God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that there is only one way to God and that is through His Son Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; therefore all are in need of redemption.
5. We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ is the source of our redemption as well as a powerful weapon against the enemy.
6. We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God inspired by God. We believe that faith is action on the Word of God.
7. We believe in water baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus. We believe in the power and authority of the name of Jesus.
8. We believe in divine healing. Jesus is the healer and by His stripes we were healed.
9. We believe that all of the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 are available today to empower the church, including gifts of tongues, healings, and working of miracles.
10. We believe in the rapture; that the dead in Christ will rise first and that those who are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet Jesus in the air.
11. We believe that after death, eternal life is spent either with God in heaven or apart from God in hell; where one spends eternity is based on one’s relationship with Jesus Christ.
12. We believe in tithing and giving offerings. We also believe in giving alms and caring for the poor, sick, homeless, etc.