

Tappers and listeners. In 1990, Elizabeth Newton earned her Ph.D. at Stanford by studying tappers and listeners. The group she called “tappers” were asked to tap out well-known songs just as we’ve done, and the listeners were supposed to guess the songs. Just from the taps, listeners were able to guess *less than* three songs in a hundred. But what made her study so novel is that after a song was tapped out but *before* the listeners made their guess, Newton asked the *tappers* to predict whether or not the listeners would guess correctly. And about half the time (50 songs out of a hundred), the tappers assumed the listeners got it. From a tapper’s perspective (because they know the song and are singing it in their head while they tap), the song seems so obvious that it’s hard to imagine anyone on the receiving end not getting it. But the listeners correctly guessed less than three songs in a hundred. Newton concluded that there is something called the “curse of knowledge” in communication. The person with knowledge in a given situation will often assume the listener understands more than they do. So Newton’s study was all about the disconnect between what we communicate and what listeners hear.

I’m thinking about this because right now, we are in the midst of a really interesting season at Mosaic. We’re talking about our vision for ministry and our vision for the use of this building. When we’re talking about something as abstract as *vision*, the odds that you would hear the same song I’m tapping are pretty slim. So we keep coming back to it, with the hope that over time we’re beginning to hear the same song. And I have to tell you ... last week was pretty exciting. I got to hear you tapping, and I was so encouraged to hear in many of your comments that maybe you’re hearing the same tune in your head that I’m hearing in mine. The same vision. And this morning, I want to test that. I want to share with you four assumptions I heard in what you said and in what I see in these options for a master plan. And when I’m done, you’ll have to tell me if what you tapped out is what I’m hearing.

Please keep in mind that all four plans include the same basic ministry areas, so I'm going to work from the first one on the wall as I share these assumptions.

The first assumption I see in this master plan is that we will grow. I get this assumption from the simple fact that we're talking about developing the building. If we don't plan to grow, there is not much point in developing the building. On the other hand, if we want to grow, more space is pretty important, especially for our children's ministry. And this is a good assumption. Multiplication is biblical. God blessed the first humans to be fruitful and multiply. Back then it was about physical population; now it is about spiritual multiplication. And God works through all kinds of circumstances to accomplish this. When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, the Pharaoh crushed their spirits to keep them in bondage. But God used the crushing to motivate his people to want more. In fact, the story says (Exodus 1:12) - *the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.* Spiritual multiplication works on the same principle. It is how God brings people up out of slavery.

That's why Jesus made it a priority for his followers. He said (Matthew 28:18-20) - *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* Multiply. Baptize people. Teach them. Don't stop until everyone in your world believes. That's the vision of God – to change the world one person at a time by having people like us tell our stories of rescue. Your stories of rescue are how we will multiply. This floor plan assumes our church will double in size, and I believe that can happen on the sheer strength of your stories.

And it's not just about numerical growth. Because if we're just tapping out numbers, we're not hearing the whole gospel song. John Maxwell, in his book *The Difference Maker*, tells a story he heard from Ernest Campbell about a woman who bought a parrot at a local pet store because she was lonely. She took the bird home, but after a couple of days, she went back to the store to complain. "That parrot hasn't said a word yet!" "Does it have a **mirror**?" the pet store owner asked. "Parrots like to be able to look at themselves in the mirror." So the lady bought a mirror and returned home. The next day, she was back at the store because the bird still hadn't made a peep. "What about a **ladder**?" the store owner asked. "Parrots enjoy walking up and down a ladder." So she bought a ladder and returned home.

She was back at the store the next day. Still the parrot hadn't said a thing. "Does the parrot have a **swing**?" the owner asked. "Birds enjoy relaxing on a swing." She bought a swing and went home again. The next day she returned to the store to tell the owner that the bird had died. "I'm terribly sorry to hear that," said the store owner. "Did the bird ever say anything before it died?" "Yes," answered the lady. "It said, 'Don't they sell any food down there?'"

The moral of the story is that you can visit the pet store regularly and still starve to death. There is no point in growing numerically if we are not also growing spiritually. So I have a question for you: are you invested spiritually? Are you committed to your own spiritual feeding and the feeding of others? God, please deliver us from being a place of which people say, "Don't they sell any food down there?" If we're going to invest in this vision for developing a building and become a mission outpost for our community, we assume both numerical *and* spiritual growth. ***How are you participating in that?***

We will serve. James is the guy in the Bible who talks about how something as small as a rudder can determine the direction of a whole boat. The rudder he's talking about is the tongue, but I think the principle transfers. This building has a loading dock in the back ... in fact, a couple of them. When we first talked about this place as an option for a permanent location, I noticed that those who had that vision would often say things like, "That loading dock is who we are. We want this place to feel more like a working space than a sanctuary." So that loading dock, which probably takes up about twenty square feet, has become a kind of rudder for us. It's affecting our direction. It's driving us to serve Jesus radically ... which I think Jesus would support. Listen to what he said about how we'll be judged at the end of time. He said (Matthew 25:31-40) - "*When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 ... and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ... 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

We are saved by grace, but somehow we'll be known by our fruit. Jesus says so. So how cool is it that we have dedicated more than a tithe of our total space to mission? I believe that in the next decade, this space will become a mission center for all of Columbia County. And I hope one day we're tithing *everything* to mission ... our building, our budget, our time, *everything*.

We don't have to wait. We can start now by cultivating our Angel Food ministry and our recovery ministry. What else can we do here that will have an eternal impact?

We will offer grace. I heard you saying last week that we have a special ability to welcome and accept people. This commons area reflects that value. Think of it as a community room or a family room. In this scheme it leads directly to the prayer room, a place that for us has truly been a place of grace. A lot of healing prayer has happened in this room. In Zechariah's prophecy, he hears God talk about the values of the people of God. And he says (Zechariah 12:10) - *I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and prayer.* I pray that spirit over Mosaic ... a spirit of grace and prayer. You hear the same idea in what Paul teaches the Galatians. He tells them to (Galatians 6:2) *carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.* That's what the spirit of grace and prayer is about. It's about welcoming the least, the last and the lost just as they are. And it's also about holding on to them long enough for them to experience the grace of Jesus Christ. How are you going to invest in that?

We will worship. We're not just a ministry. We're a worshiping community. Loving God is our deepest value, so our worship space should be the biggest room in the house. There is that story of the time when Jesus went out of his way to get water from a well near Samaria. While he was there at the well, a woman came to draw water and he struck up a conversation ... totally against cultural norms on so many levels. But there he was, talking with this woman ... and she tries to look all spiritual by asking him a technical question about where the true people of God will worship at the end of time. Jesus tells her worship is more about attitude than location. He says (John 4:23-24) - *a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers*

the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

It's sort of a surprise ... to find out God is seeking after a particular kind of worshiper. He's looking for people who ... worship! Who are not afraid to do spiritual things in church. I was thinking about how this statement from Jesus relates to what we're doing and I had this thought ... that the world does not need one more mortuary disguised as a church. But the world does need ... *really* needs ... one more place where the people worship in spirit and in truth. How will you invest in that?

There is so much more here in these options. We have a dream for hosting a weekday preschool that's committed to sharing Jesus with children. We've got some very cool ideas for our youth ministry. It is an ambitious vision that will take years to accomplish. What matters most right now is that we're beginning to tap out the same tune, because there is strength in unity. So let's continue the conversation until we're all hearing the same melody. Share your ideas with folks on the leadership team. Invest time in our prayer vigil. That's how we'll get God out in front.

God-sized visions don't happen overnight. It is hard to believe that we've already been in this process for two years. I can assure you that our leadership team is absolutely committed to seeing this done with integrity ... with an eye not just for the next five years but for the next fifty. I want to thank you for being thoughtful and concerned for the health of our life together. Thank you for seeing Christ in this vision and for investing in it so generously.