

Vision Statement

Golden Gates Baptist Church's vision is "To see God for His glory alone." The church community feels that some churches in today's age stray too far away from the true meaning of worship. Golden Gates' members feel like some churches may use technology too much, such as screens or projectors and a worship style that may include fog machines, many instruments, or a worship band. While Golden Gates Baptist Church members realize that this worship style may work well for others, they feel as if all of the extra technology takes away from glorifying God. Because of this, Golden Gates offers a minimal technological experience. The only technology used in the church are earbuds for those who are hard of hearing, a weekly livestream for those who are unable to attend the service in person, point source speakers to allow everyone to hear, and warm ceiling lights to make for a cozy environment where people can see who they are worshipping with.

Since there is not a lot of technology in the church, it is easy for the members of Golden Gates Baptist Church to keep their focus on God. Their down-to-Earth ministry allows for the vision of the church to reign true without overshadowing the Gospel. However, Golden Gates volunteers and leaders ensure that there is enough technology available to make for a good experience universally. Additionally, the leaders of Golden Gates Baptist Church also allow their volunteers to have creative liberties over production. Examples of this include creating a separate audio mix for livestreams and earbuds, adding captions to the livestreams, and editing former livestreams for a better video experience as well as uploading these videos to various social media platforms so that people remotely can listen and watch a sermon that they may have missed or want to go back to. While volunteers are given creative liberties, they are also taught the ropes of the technology that they work with to ensure that it is being handled properly.

Mission Statement

The mission statement of Golden Gates Baptist Church is “Keeping the main thing the main thing.” Golden Gates’ members believe that Jesus should always be the main thing, and they strive to minimize anything that may take the focus off of Him. The technology that the church does use all serves a very practical purpose. Though members of the church reach others by physically going out and evangelizing in the community and surrounding areas, they only use technology in their outreach for livestreaming Sunday services. Inside of the building on Sundays, there is soft lighting to offer a comfortable experience as well as earbuds free to use for those who have trouble hearing and point source speakers spread sparingly across the sanctuary. Outside of the church there is a light that continuously shines on a cross. The cross is used by the church as a symbol of peace and sanctuary, letting those who stumble by know that there is a God who is always watching over and protecting.

After church every Sunday there is an open door meeting with production volunteers and church leaders. During these meetings, the church leaders ask what improvements can be done to help the volunteers. To ensure volunteers feel up to the task and supported, the leaders also cook breakfast for the volunteers once a month as a token of appreciation. During this breakfast and fellowship time, the leaders of the church sit down with the volunteers to see if there is anything they can do for them personally and pray over all of them individually for their own needs.

Reflection

Since the church is minimalistic in technology usage, there was one idea in particular that I really liked but decided to give up on. The idea in essence was to have an LED wall outside of the church that projected the sermon, as well as waterproof line array speakers. The vision was to have it set up so that anyone driving by the church could see the sermon and may be enticed to

stop in, or even hear something that changed their life. However, thinking about the church that I have created, and my knowledge of the complexity of LED walls, I decided against it. The majority of the congregation are older individuals, and most of them I imagine are farmers or such that would not have the resources to understand new technology such as the LED wall. Because of this, I feel as if a lot of members would see it as more difficult than useful and did away with the idea. Like stated in the Mission Statement portion, the volunteers will be given a special time of fellowship and appreciation once a month, as well as a weekly meeting to ensure the best performance and emotional satisfaction. As a former volunteer myself, I understand why caring for volunteers is so important. Truly, volunteers are the backbone of church productions, so their opinions and feelings matter a lot. In my opinion, the biggest potential danger of overusing technology is taking the focus off of God, however unintentional. The issue is addressed by making a church where technology is minimal.