



A discipling community, inwardly strong and outwardly focused, where God's power is changing lives now and for eternity.

Dear Colonial Family,

On March 2, 1997, Colonial created a new location (now known as the Quivira site) at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. It was the beginning of what we now call our “multi-site” reality. Since the day our second site began, the members of Colonial have never heard the same message from the Lead/Senior Pastor on the same day. As a result, our two sites have lacked a unity of purpose and vision. **It's time for a change.**

Beginning October 12, Colonial's focus will be **unified** around one message as we enter into our six-week Fall Focus Series based on John Ortberg's *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. The sermon series will fall in step with the LIFE Group studies and weekly reading assignments. This is one of my favorite books by one of my favorite authors. PLEASE make every effort to get plugged into a LIFE Group for this six week series (call Jan Neisess 816-501-3039).

We will foster **unity** by utilizing “simulcast” technology. Your Session made this decision after many hours of prayer, fasting, and seeking the discernment of the Holy Spirit. The use of simulcast is critical to our new God-honoring vision. **I will cast that vision on November 9.** Please make every effort to be present on that day, and bring some friends who may be on the fence regarding their faith or their commitment to the church. It will be a day to remember for many years to come.

In an effort to address some of the questions that will naturally arise regarding simulcast, you will find a “frequently asked questions” summary below. I hope you will find it helpful.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: What is “simulcast?”

A: Simulcast is simply a live (or delayed) audio/video feed from one location to another. It enables the teaching pastor to communicate with the entire church family on a Sunday.

Q: Will the simulcast be live or taped?

A: Depending upon the timing of the services and where the teaching pastor is that Sunday, the simulcast may be live or a recorded version of the sermon from earlier that day.

Q: What part of the services will be simulcast?

A: The sermon will be the only part of the service that will be simulcast on most Sundays.

Q: Why not simulcast the whole service?

A: Having only the sermon on simulcast allows us to worship with a variety of musical styles and in a variety of settings while still seeing/hearing the same message. Simulcasting the whole service would reduce Colonial to one particular style of worship.

Q: Will one of our sites be “video” only?

A: No. We will have the ability to broadcast from either site. Consequently, the teaching pastor can move back and forth between sites on a weekly or biweekly basis. Both sites will enjoy equal time of live and simulcast sermons.

Q: What about the music, sacraments, and other worship elements?

A: Music, sacraments, and other elements of worship will occur at each site without being simulcast.

Q: Doesn't simulcast make the pastor seem distant and impersonal?

A: No. Simulcast is used in thousands of multi-site churches around the world. The consistent feedback is that people quickly grow accustomed to simulcast because they can actually see the teaching pastor better on the screen than in person. We heard testimony from several “skeptical” elders who had a similar discovery when visiting churches that used simulcast.

Locations: **Wornall campus:** 95th and Wornall, Kansas City, MO; **Quivira campus:** 137th & Rosehill, Overland Park, KS
Mailing Address: 9500 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64114 W- 816-942-3272, Q-913-322-1108 www.colonialkc.org

Q: How can I feel connected with the teaching pastor when he's not there in person?

A: More physical connection is possible with simulcast because teaching pastors will be physically present at both sites on a more regular basis. Instead of 4-5 weeks of being physically absent between series, the teaching pastor can be present every other week or so at both sites.

Q: Will there be a consistent pastoral presence at both of our sites?

A: Yes. We are currently developing job descriptions for Pastor Paul to serve as site pastor at Wornall and for Pastor Bob to serve as site pastor at Quivira. Pastor Paul will also serve as a teaching pastor.

Q: Will Pastor Jim provide all of the preaching now that we have simulcast?

A: No. Pastor Jim and Pastor Paul will continue to share the preaching responsibility.

Q: Will we simulcast every Sunday of the year?

A: No. We anticipate using simulcast for a majority of the year, but there will be a number of Sundays when we have site-specific sermons.

Q: What about Christmas Eve?

A: We are planning on three Christmas Eve services at Quivira, and two at Wornall. The times of the services are being arranged so that the first and third services at Quivira and the two services at Wornall will have Pastor Jim physically present to deliver the message. Only the middle service at Quivira will be simulcast.

Q: I know we were once considering a bid for simulcast that would have cost the church between \$700,000 to one million dollars! How much did we spend on this technology?

A: Our simulcast solution has cost the church right at \$100,000. We are paying it off over five years at the cost of \$1800 per month, as voted upon by Session when the 2008-2009 budget was approved.

Q: Does simulcast help or hinder our new vision?

A: Simulcast greatly helps our vision. In fact, our vision depends on successfully utilizing simulcast. More to come on Vision Sunday, scheduled for November 9.

Q: Does simulcast have any other value apart from Sunday services?

A: Yes. We will be able to use the technology for Small Groups, conferences, and other purposes within the church.

Q: Why simulcast at all? Why can't we just keep doing what we're doing?

A: The value of simulcast is primarily the means of communicating a message that unifies the congregation around a clear vision and a consistent messenger. Depending upon multiple pastors preaching multiple messages has been the status quo for over 10 years, and it has led to a sense of disconnect between our sites. Almost every successful multi-site church in the world uses simulcast/tape delay for communicating the message to multiple venues, some churches boasting up to 20 different sites! The evidence is compelling: multi-site churches communicate and function better as God's evangelists through the use of simulcast.

Q: Why don't we stop being multi-site so that each church can hire its own Sr. Pastor and be autonomous?

A: Your Session considered that possibility. Not one pastor or elder (out of 24 elders and 5 pastors) discerned God leading Colonial to move in that direction. We are confident that God has led us to move forward as a multi-site church, which means we need to get better at being a multi-site church. As we'll read in Ortberg's book: "If you can't get out of it, get into it!"

Q: Some people won't like simulcast! Have you thought about that?

A: Yes, we have. Leaders have to make tough decisions, knowing full well that those decisions may not rest well with everyone. The decision to use simulcast was a difficult decision ONLY because we know some will find it hard to accept. However, this decision is one that fits squarely into our mission as well as the vision we sense God has placed upon us.

Remember, we're not a country club or a cruise ship. We don't make decisions based upon the preferences of our members. We are a missional organization...God's Coast Guard Cutter...and we are going to sea, into the storms of this world, to save ships that are going down. Simulcast is a powerful engine to get us out where we need to go! For those who are feeling upset or uncomfortable, your elders and pastors encourage you to pray, fast, and seek the discernment of the Holy Spirit. That is what we as Session have done, and the result is the decision to utilize simulcast to further our Kingdom efforts.