



UNFINISHED

80

UNFINISHED PEOPLE. UNFINISHED STORY.

SENECA

SHOREWOOD

MINOOKA

55

COAL CITY





HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE	6
WHERE WE ARE NOW	8
GROWTH & HEALTH	9
KIDS & STUDENTS	10
RECLAIM3D	12
GOALS OF UNFINISHED	16
COMMITMENT CARDS	21
UNFINISHED MESSAGE NOTES AND SMALL GROUP STUDY	23

OUR **UNFINISHED** VISION

We are prayerfully and humbly entering into a two-year vision initiative at The Village Christian Church. This season of our church will be like no other. God is not yet finished with us as individuals and He is not yet finished with us as a church.

This year (2024), as we celebrate 20 years of Life Change, Life Growth, and Life Purpose, we are so excited to share a vision for the next 2 years of even more with an initiative called "UNFINISHED."

We believe that each one of us is an unfinished person with an unfinished story. The best is yet to come!!!

Our team created this guide as an outline of the two-year challenge set before each of us at The Village Christian Church (2025-2026).

In the next 2 years, we hope to:

- **Reach 2,000 more people for Christ by the end of 2026 (\$500,000)**
- **Give away \$250,000 to local/regional/global initiatives**
- **Pay off \$750,000 in debt to allow us to fund more ministry**

To reach these goals we are praying for God to show up. Only His power and provision will allow these initiatives to occur. The best part of God's plan is you and me and we need your help!

Our Primary Goal is 100% participation on this journey by everyone who calls The Village their home. We don't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity. We can't wait to see what God is going to do through YOU!

Please take a few minutes to read and pray over the vision that will follow. Together, with God leading the way, nothing is impossible!

Nate

Nate Ferguson
Lead Pastor



HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Core Team

2004



Minooka Jr High

2006



Purchased New
Land

2014



Bell Road
Minooka, IL

2016



Online

2020



Seneca

2021



Coal City

2022



Shorewood

2024



WHERE WE ARE NOW

Over and over in the 20 year history of the Village Christian Church, God has made a way where there was no way. And we believe that He's not done with us yet. Far from it.

That's why we are embarking on a season in our church unlike any other - one that will require openness to God working deeply IN us and THROUGH us, in new levels a of FAITH AND GENEROSITY.

As God's UNFINISHED PEOPLE, we ask God to continue shaping us into His image as we grow deeper in our surrender to Him. As part of God's UNFINISHED STORY, we ask God to continue using The Village as a powerful conduit to continue advancing the gospel one person at a time.

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

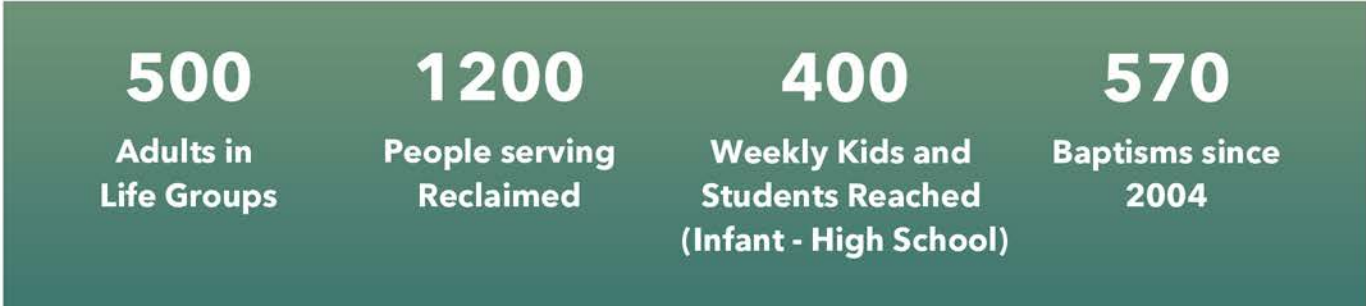
PHILIPPIANS 1:6

GROWTH & HEALTH

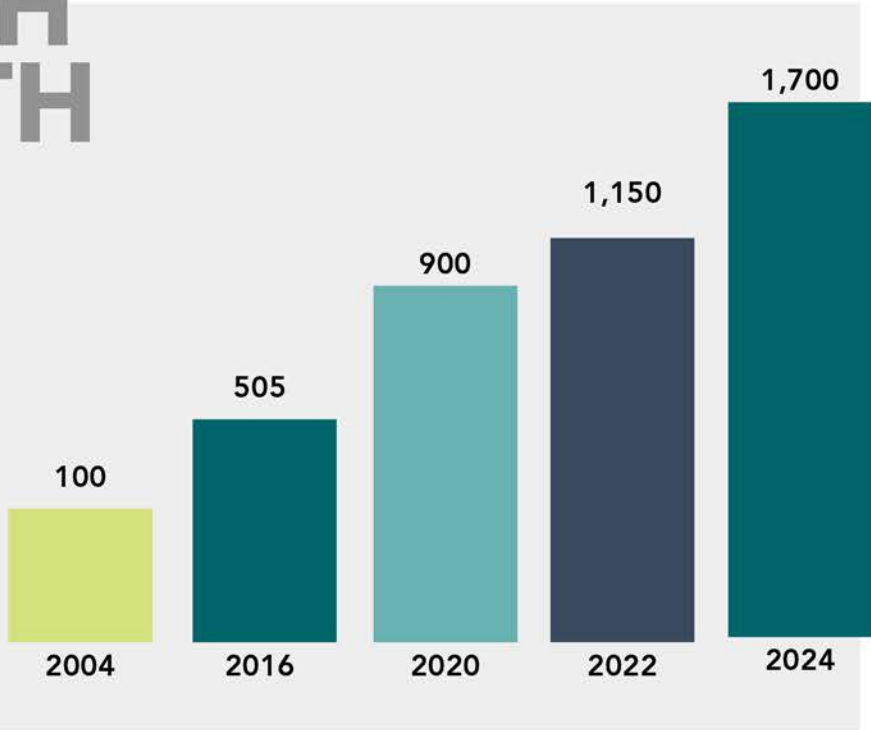
NUMBERS WORTH NOTING

The numbers below Celebrate all that GOD HAS DONE in the past 20 years at the Village Christian Church.

Please remember that every number has a NAME and a STORY and every single name and story MATTERS to God! He has been so good and we thank God for his Blessings!



CHURCH GROWTH



KIDS + STUDENTS

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

Since its inception, children and students have been one of the top priorities of The Village.

Whether it is holding and cuddling newborns or keeping pace with teens at summer camp, we are committed to do what it takes to have a voice in the lives of the next generation. The goal of our kids and student ministries is to make your kids feel special, have fun, and develop friendships, all while getting to know Jesus!

WE SERVE MORE THAN 1200 KIDS AND STUDENTS EACH MONTH

650 KID VILLAGE INFANTS - GRADE 3

135 PULSE 45 GRADES 4 & 5

450 PULSE JR/SR GRADES 6-12



KID VILLAGE

We give your infants, toddlers, and K-3 kids the love and attention that you want in a safe, secure environment with experienced workers.



PULSE 45

One of the core values of The Village is "No Boring Here" and that is lived out at Pulse Students. Pulse 45 is a fun place, a place where students want to be, a place where students can connect, feel valued, and supported.



PULSE JR/SR

During one of the most challenging stretches in the life of a young adult, we serve as an encouraging voice and a social outlet for Pulse high School students.



LOCAL, REGIONAL & GLOBAL

Reclaim3d, the charity arm of The Village, exists to reclaim bad circumstances into something beautiful locally, regionally, and globally. Founded in 2016, Reclaim3d is a non-profit that helps people in need and provides hope in a world that's sometimes hard to handle.

LOCAL

We strive to take care of the people in our community. The harsh reality is there are many people struggling right here in our community and the surrounding areas.

REGIONAL

We reach out beyond our physical campuses. It's not just about us or our community. We want to reach out further and help people beyond Grundy County.

GLOBAL

It's bigger than us. The world can be a scary place with so much struggle. We want to reach out, make a difference in our world, take bad circumstances and make them beautiful.

Local Partners

Locally, we aim to develop partnerships with existing pillar organizations in the local communities where Village campuses are located. Our goal is to empower kids to thrive and bring hope to families through various causes. We do this by listening and learning from key community partners, identifying gaps in services and intentionally mobilizing people and resources.

Local Reclaim3d Causes Include:

- Mobile Food Pantries
- School Backpack Program
- Dance The Night Away
- The Big Give For Kids
- Turkey Dinners
- This Little Light Of Mine Challenge
- One At A Time Challenge



OUR PARTNERS



Regional & Global Partners

Here are just a few of our outside partners:

Ms. Pearl's Good News Community Coffee House

Our Church family donated \$17,154 to Ms. Pearl's Christmas Store for the Good News Community Coffee House, a beacon of hope connection point for the community of Roseland on the south side of Chicago.

Lifeline Christian Mission Meal Pack

The goal was to pack 100,000 meals for Haiti at the November 4 packing event. 450 volunteers packed 104,544 meals.

Operation Christmas Child

289 shoeboxes were filled and sent along with the good news about Jesus to children in countries around the world that have never heard about Him.

Heart for Africa

Our Church family sold beaded ornaments at Christmas to provide funds for the faith-based humanitarian organization that focuses on bringing HOPE to the Kingdom in Eswatini (Hunger, Orphans, Poverty and Education).

STORY



JESUS CHANGED OUR HOUSEHOLD

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

That verse is incredibly personal for Rob and Jessica. Specifically married not in a church of any sort, the couple raised their four kids in an agnostic home. While their house was a decently happy one, it was missing something.

Their third son, Carson, was born with a complex medical condition that resulted in seizures, loss of all muscle control, stroke-like symptoms, and many more unexplainable neurological difficulties. An incredibly rare tumor was found in his lung, which left neurologists and oncologists baffled. For his first five years of life, they had multiple incorrect diagnoses, no real answers, and no definite treatment plan. Every autoimmune infusion and seizure medication would end up failing. Between countless doctors, flying across the country for a second opinion at a renowned children's hospital, genetic testing, and more medical tests than possible to keep track of, they were left with no answers. They would watch their sweet son suddenly lose all ability to walk and move on his own. The doctors continued telling them all of his test results were normal, yet they knew something was being overlooked.

Their other three kids watched their brother continue to struggle and suffer. They were left with family often while their parents took Carson to the hospital and to doctor appointments. While they showed their strength and compassion in how they helped their brother through all of these difficulties, it took a toll on them as well.

Rob and Jessica's marriage became strained, and there was a lot of blame going on. Resentment settled in, anger turned into drinking in an attempt to cope, and life got darker. They fought all the time, anxiety and depression settled in Jessica, and Rob tried to shoulder the weight of everything going on by himself. It felt like they were at their breaking point.

Then one day on their walk to the bus stop, a neighbor stopped Jessica and their son and asked if he could pray for him. She didn't know how to respond but figured it couldn't hurt. Their neighbor laid his hand on Carson and prayed out loud for answers and guidance. The next day they received a phone call from a lab in France. The doctors had finally found a 100% answer and diagnosis to their medical mystery. Their little boy would be treated, and symptoms would be managed. It was that moment that got Jessica's attention that maybe there was something bigger out there.

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Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5: 7-8 NIV

From that moment, she began having pulls to go to church, listen to Christian music, and watch sermons online. This was very far from her normal, but she continued following these promptings in her heart.

Rob carried on in his atheist views, but watched from a distance as something began to change in his wife. Small at first, but noticeable, nonetheless. Jessica bought a Bible and started to have an insatiable desire to read it whenever possible.

Late night Netflix binges suddenly turned into time spent reading scripture. Shortly after, she knew she needed to go to church. Things began to change; God started convicting her of things that needed to be replaced in her life.

Jessica walked into the Village Christian Church and just remembers crying during the worship songs. She felt so much of God's love and forgiveness through those lyrics.

She was baptized not long after first attending and remembers wishing, praying, and dreaming of her husband to follow suit. It was a difficult path to walk, being the only Christian in the home. She remembers crying in her car on the way to church one day because all she wanted was for Rob to come with her. She couldn't believe it when the scripture put on the board was from 1 Corinthians 7:14 and actually spoke specifically about unsaved husbands being married to a believing wife! It was then that she knew God was telling her that he would take care of everything.

It was around that time that Rob agreed to do a Rooted group with her. He went into the group as a self-proclaimed atheist, but one that was genuinely curious about Jesus and also supportive of his wife. Jessica remembers being so skeptical and worried. There was no way that a church Bible study could change her husband's heart toward God. She will never forget the phone call she later received from him after spending hours talking with a pastor when Rob proclaimed over the phone that he was all in, and he was ready to accept Jesus.

Since those first days in church, a lot has changed in their household. They now homeschool their children, with Jesus as the most important subject every day. Alcohol is no longer a crutch that is needed. When you experience the freedom of Christ, those worldly pleasures tend to slip away one at a time. Rob and Jessica's marriage has truly never been stronger or more devoted in love. Their friendships and relationships have changed. Parenting has become more joyful.

Rob loves to discuss apologetics with agnostics and atheists, a crowd that he certainly can relate to. He is even serving on the worship band and drumming, something that Jessica used to joke about happening.

Their son, Carson, is doing wonderful. His symptoms are completely managed by a medical ketogenic diet, and he hasn't had a seizure in over a year. Daily they watch him develop, learn, and grow. That is a miracle in itself.

Zooming out, they can now see how God can turn the bad into good. Using Carson's medical diagnosis to bring their entire family to know Jesus's salvation is a victory that only God can be responsible for.

They are so thankful that God didn't give up on them and label them as lost. They're thankful for the reality that is seen at the Village Christian Church. Being able to text your pastor and have them genuinely care about you is something that they never thought a church could be capable of. Serving with the church, getting to know the people, and being able to relate to the Sunday message has been life changing. Their family now rests in the peace that is only found through Jesus Christ, and is comforted by knowing that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him.



And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8: 28

PRIMARY GOAL

Unfinished People:

The Primary Goal is 100% ENGAGEMENT

We believe that God's work in us is unfinished and He is calling us to take our generosity with Him to new levels.



SECONDARY GOALS

WE HOPE TO REACH 2,000 MORE PEOPLE FOR CHRIST BY THE END OF 2026.

\$500,000

HOW?

Launch new campus in Shorewood	(Reach 400 more)
Launch new service in Minooka at 8am	(Reach 200 more)
Launch new service in Seneca... 9/10:30am	(Reach 100 more)
Build out 3400 more sq ft at Coal City Campus	(Reach 200 more)
Focus intensely on Online Ministry	(Reach 500 more)
Launch Spanish Ministry	(Reach 100 more)
Launch Prison Campus	(Reach 100 more)
Unknown things God will provide.	(Reach 400 more)

Total Reach 2000 More People!

WE PLAN TO SERVE PEOPLE LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY.

\$250,000

- Provide 50 Mobile Food Pantries serving local community
- Back to school clothing and supply drive during "Big Give For Kids" (1000 kids x 2 years)
- Host a special needs Prom "Dance The Night Away" (500 family members x 2 years)
- Send kids to camp at Little Galilee Christian Camp (1000 kids x 2 years)
- Provide food for hungry students through backpack program at local schools

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WE PLAN TO SERVE PEOPLE LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY.

- Pack 100,000 meals for Lifeline Christian Mission
(1 in 2025, 1 in 2026)
- Rescue 100 kids out of human trafficking through global partner Destiny Rescue
- Help support 500 orphans through global partner Heart for Africa
- Any other opportunity God provides

WE HOPE TO PAY OFF \$750,000 IN DEBT TO ALLOW US MORE FUNDS FOR MINISTRY.

\$750,000

Our mortgage rate will reset in August of 2027. Our current rate is 4.5%. We anticipate that rate to be much higher. Paying down as much debt as possible (going from 2.5 million to 1.75 million) will serve us well going into the future and save us \$600,000 in interest payments.

SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS NEEDED...

<i>Reach 2000 more people by the end of 2026</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>
<i>Serve people locally, regionally and globally</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>
<i>Pay off \$750,000 in debt to allow us more funds for ministry.</i>	<i>\$750,000</i>
Total Funds Needed	\$1,500,000

STORY

FINDING COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION ROOTED IN CHRIST

“The Village Christian Church has welcomed me with a “come as you are” mentality, creating a supportive environment where everyone is valued.”

Life often takes unexpected turns, and what seems like a straightforward path can become much more complex. Growing up, Jose Viaga believed that success meant getting a job, getting married, and starting a family. He worked hard to achieve these goals, only to find that life was more complicated than he had anticipated.

By the end of 2019, Jose’s marriage had ended in divorce. It was a difficult period for him, filled with anger and confusion. He struggled to understand what was missing in his life. “Looking back, I realize I wasn’t the supportive partner I should have been.” His approach of asserting control only created fear and didn’t resolve issues. “This challenging time forced me to confront my shortcomings and seek a deeper sense of purpose, guided by Jesus.”

During this period, He found community in The Village’s Rooted program. This program was a turning point for Jose, providing a new perspective on faith and helping him grow personally. It gave Jose the tools to face challenges with hope and clarity.

Following Rooted, Jose made further connection through discipleship with church mentors. These mentors’ wisdom and guidance through biblical studies were instrumental in Jose’s spiritual development. The community discipleship provided gave Jose the support and insight he needed to navigate and dive deeper into his faith journey.

As his faith grew, Jose jumped into serving at The Village. Music is a passion for Jose, but he was unable to join the worship band on Sunday mornings due to a demanding work schedule.

A unique opportunity presented itself after a meeting with The Village’s Creative Arts Director, Sarah Windham. After Jose finished long weekend shifts at his job, he would drum for the Pulse Student Ministry worship band on Sunday nights.

These nights reignited his passion for music and allowed him to reconnect with his faith in a meaningful way.

Serving as a teammate at The Village ignited a fire inside of Jose. He started serving at the church once a week, eager to contribute and make a difference in the community.

God is not done working in Jose. He’s excited for new Coach roles as director of the Pulse Worship Band and will be leading a Spanish Rooted session this fall. Jose dreams of the possibility of seeing a Spanish ministry come to fruition at The Village. He’s excited for what God has next in his life and hopes to share his journey to encourage and support others.

When asked about The Village Jose says, “The Village Christian Church has welcomed me with a “come as you are” mentality, creating a supportive environment where everyone is valued. This community has been instrumental in my growth, offering comfort and encouragement through services and teachings that reflect the love of Jesus. The connections I’ve made here have shown me that I am not alone on this journey.”

Reflecting on his path, Jose is grateful for the opportunities and support he’s received at The Village. Despite his challenges, he has found hope and a renewed sense of purpose. Jose says, “The Village Christian Church and the wonderful people I have meet have been key to my recovery. I am now more hopeful and motivated, ready to embrace the future with faith and determination. The road ahead holds many possibilities, including opportunities to reach out to others and share my experiences.” Inspired by Jesus, he is committed to helping others with compassion and understanding, free from judgment.

Jose concludes, “We are all on a journey, and with the love of God and the spirit of Jesus, we can overcome any obstacle and find our way.”



And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10: 24-25

WHERE TO START



PRAY PERSISTENTLY

Pray that God will work in the hearts of people at the Village and that we will listen with the intent to respond.



COMMIT FULLY

Be part of the 100% engagement by saying YES and encourage others to do the same



CELEBRATE LOUDLY

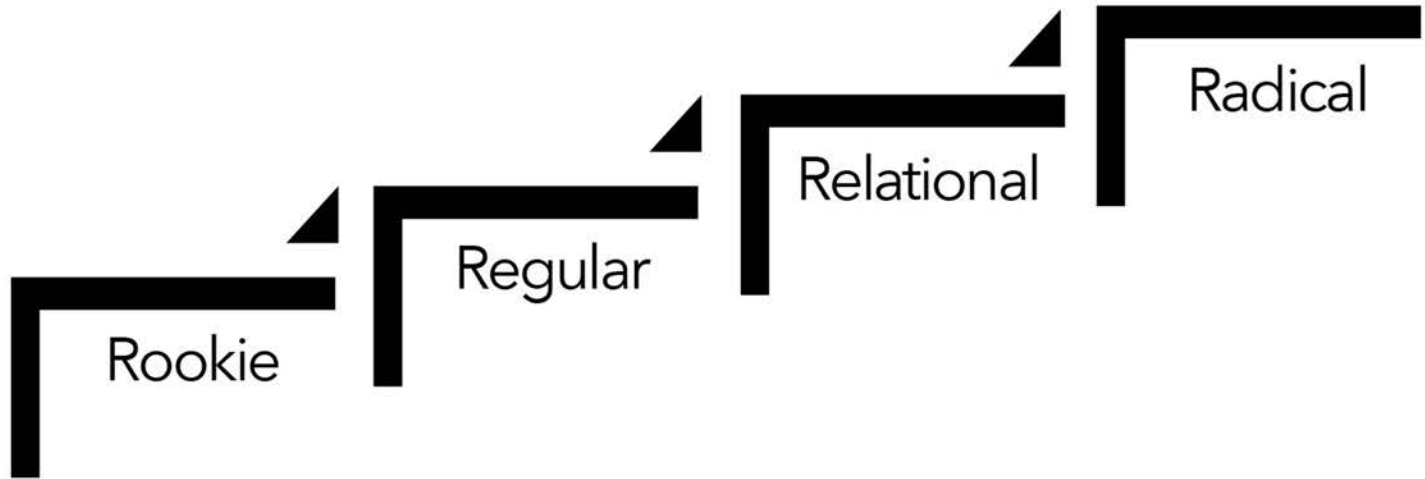
God is going to do amazing things in your life during this season. Share His handiwork enthusiastically with those around you.



GIVE GENEROUSLY

Live and give in a way that stretches you to take your faith to a whole new level of generosity.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER A FIRST STEP OR A NEXT STEP?



ROOKIE

If you are currently not being generous, consider giving for the first time.

REGULAR

If you are sporadically generous, start to give regularly on a weekly or monthly basis

RELATIONAL

If you are a Regular giver, become a Relational giver (10% of income)

RADICAL

If you are a Relational giver, become a Radical giver (anything above 10%)



COMMITMENT CARD

\$

What I/we would normally give in a year
(regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)

+ \$

My/our expanded annual generosity as
part of the Unfinished initiative

= \$

x 2 years



Gifts from my/our stored resources +

\$

\$

MY/OUR TOTAL 2 YEAR UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

\$

November 2024 - November 2026