

(STAND AT THE PODIUM) Hello everyone! It is nice to be here today! I would like to thank the Chamber for having me today. As President Smatresk said, my name is Kim Keller, and I am here today on behalf of Denton Bible Church. (SLIDE 1) There are many ways that your business and our church can partner together to help the community, and I will discuss that a little later.

(FEEL FREE TO MOVE AROUND THE STAGE) First, I want to tell you a story. (PAUSE) You are all growing business men and women, but you were not always successful. You did not graduate high school with the resources you have today. I am sure that many of you started out in college, barely making ends meet, eating ramen in your dorm rooms. (PAUSE) While you have since surpassed those days, there are many in our community who are still in those days or who are not even in college and are struggling to make ends meet and put food on their tables. In the North Texas area, 300-thousand meals are needed every day to feed hungry residents. As food costs rise, the more families become unable to provide for themselves. Which is why we created the Denton Bible Cattle Ministry. (SLIDE 2) You may be wondering what is a cattle ministry? Volunteers in our church help raise and feed cattle on church owned property and then process the meat products so that those who cannot afford meat for their families have food on their table. We started this ministry out not too long ago and we only had two heifers. Today, we have over 50 animals. We did not do this alone, however, the generous support of volunteers and ranchers donating their time, money, hay, and feed is what made that possible.

We also have another ministry that sort of goes hand-in-hand with the Cattle Ministry and that is what we call Vision Ministries. (SLIDE 3) Unlike the Cattle Ministry relating to cattle, Vision Ministries does not relate to eye-care and eye doctors, which it is sometimes mistaken for. Vision Ministries seeks to help the under-resourced members of our community by helping them get food, clothing, and other essential items that you and I don't think twice about. Vision seeks to build bridges between those who are hurting and under-resourced to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe that everyone is broken, but Jesus can fix all of us.

Many of you also know Gene Gumfory. (HE MAY BE IN THE AUDIENCE) For those of you who don't, just feel free to stop by one of our many Sonic Drive-Ins in town or It's a Burger!, and I am

sure his name will start to ring a bell. Gene Gumfory is a kind-hearted business man in town who often uses his own resources, time and money to help us. With the help of Gene Gumfory, Denton Bible Church was able to start one of the largest community gardens in America right here in our own backyard. (SLIDE 4) The purpose of the community garden was not to provide the church with fresh fruits and vegetables. The purpose was to provide the community with a place to learn and grow produce for their families and also provide food for those in need. In the Bible, Jesus said, "Feed my sheep!" and with the help of the Community Garden, supported by our own local business leaders, we hope to do just that.

Denton Bible also has a ministry called Career Transitions. (SLIDE 5) Which, I believe would make the perfect partnership between the church and the chamber. Our Career Transitions ministry offers residents of Denton the opportunity to job search, get help with personal branding, resume help, networking opportunities, and help with interviewing and salary negotiating. The Career Transitions Ministry could serve as a gateway into the chamber's job fair, setting up our residents for success. We hope to work with the chamber to make that possible. Currently, Career Transitions Ministry meets every other Wednesday night, and we discuss possible job-leads throughout the meeting, but we are unable to provide them with a job fair at the moment. The possibility of sending them to the chamber's job fair would be huge for all of those involved and are seeking a new career.

Another way we try to help out the community is through our Incarcerated Ministry. Our church members, and even some of you in the audience, travel to both juvenile and adult jails to teach Bible studies and to try to connect with inmates so that they can hear the word of God. While it is not easy, our church members are persistent in helping them do something good with their lives and bringing them hope. Just because they have done something bad in their life, it does not mean that they will be punished forever. We hope to be able to talk about salvation with them and lead them in the right direction.

We also have many ministries that happen on Sundays, such as our Children, Student and College Ministries, that help out the community. One in particular that I would like to mention is our His Workmanship ministry and RISE classes. The purpose of His Workmanship is to provide opportunities to

families who have those with special needs and abilities and allow them to grow and engage the church. This is accomplished in many ways, but most notable in our RISE and Buddy for Me classes. RISE provides special classes that give them the opportunity to interact with others just like them. Buddy for Me allows our church members to experience our everyday programming and gives them a partner to help them navigate the classes.

We also have a Counseling Ministry, Marriage Ministry, and Support Groups available to community members at any time. Our Counseling Ministry is made up of lay counselors that can help community members with anything they may be dealing with. (SLIDE 6) Our Marriage Ministry provides reconciliation and Bible studies and partners with Watermark Community Church in Dallas to put on a service called re|engage. This service is a marriage program designed to help husbands and wives reconnect with each other. This is done through open groups and closed groups that go through a 16-lesson curriculum together. We also have various support groups that our church members and community members can attend throughout the week. Some support groups that we offer are for those who need abuse recovery or suffer with cancer, anxiety and depression.

I have another story to tell you today from a member of our team that could not be here today. He grew up in Denton but did not attend Denton Bible Church. He grew up through the public-school system and lived with their grandparents during some rough times. When his great grandmother got older, it started to become more and more difficult to go places due to his great grandmother not being able to walk. The great grandmother used a wheelchair but did not get to experience life outside the house as there was no way for her to exit her home. The home they lived in only featured stairs. A kind-hearted neighbor saw this and submitted this family's information to the church. We have a ministry that help the elderly, sick, widows, and those financially unable with yardwork, house repairs, and even wheelchair ramps. The team is made primarily of retired men who want to give back to the community. Because of the kind-hearted neighbor, our team was able to build this family a ramp, which allowed their great grandmother the chance to enjoy the sweet outdoors during the final days of her life.

(MOVE TO CENTER STAGE/PODIUM) There are many ways the businesses and business owners in Denton can get involved with Denton Bible Church to help our community members, and we look forward to hearing from everyone. We are always looking to find new ways to help our community. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Thank you for your time today.

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