



ALIVE WESLEYAN CHURCH

CORE NIGHT

2021 - 2022

TOM'S UPDATE



Vision is a popular word in church circles. I think it came from the mega church movements of the 80's and 90's. The idea was every church had to have a fresh vision from God and every good leader would fan the vision into flame so the local church would follow whatever vision God had revealed. There is strong Biblical support for vision and vision casting. Abraham, Moses, Isaiah and Nehemiah all come to mind.

The part of vision that is often overlooked is that vision is always accompanied with sacrifice. When God gives a vision to an individual or a community, it is certain things will not remain as they have always been. There will be sacrifices required to accomplish God-given vision. In modern vernacular we might say, you can't keep doing the same thing and expect different results.

Moses had to face his past.

Abraham had to leave his home.

Nehemiah had to risk failure.

Isaiah had to embark on a challenging role as prophet to a people who would not listen.

And on the list goes.

In some ways, that is where I find my heart as I prepare for CORE night. God has faithfully given fresh visions to ALIVE. ALIVE itself is the result of a group of people who heard from God and were willing to sacrifice to see that vision become a reality. We pursued the vision to form a new unified body of ALIVE and First Wesleyan resulting in ALIVE Wesleyan, and many of us sacrificed preferences and positions to see that vision become reality.

We have seen the vision and sacrifice partnership in our building campaigns to build this campus and shortly thereafter to add the Children's space. The vision/sacrifice relationship can certainly be identified at Pelzer and Pleasant View. We sacrificed financially and even some of our traditions and traditional spaces to be where we believed God was leading us.

I guess, vision and sacrifice are now part of the DNA of ALIVE.

We now have this wonderful, challenging, daunting vision of Project 20. ALIVE desires to see 20 Christ centered communities started in the next 10 years. In all of our years as a community, this must surely be one of the greatest visions God has entrusted us with. At this point, like most visions, it feels like we are looking up a mountain to climb. But we have heard and responded to God enough times to know what it feels like when we reach the top of the mountain and can look and see what God has done!

When we felt God leading us toward Project 20, I was aware this might involve more sacrifice for our community. Of course, it would be expensive. Of course, it would be a learning curve. Of course, it would be scrutinized by others, both inside and outside the denomination. However, nothing could have prepared me for the sacrifice we would feel as we begin Project 20. One of the values we carry at ALIVE is vision submission. The idea is if we honestly believe we heard from God in terms of vision, then the vision must be accomplished, no matter the cost. We often joke as a staff that if for some reason we all no longer worked at ALIVE, we would still be giving our lives to reaching spiritually hungry people. The vision is that real to us.

I have had the privilege of doing ministry with lifelong friends over these past 18 years. ALIVE has enjoyed the luxury of very few staff transitions. Some of the staff have been with me since I started what we now know as ALIVE. As we prepare for this next season of ALIVE, many of those staff friends have felt God calling them elsewhere. Just to offer some perspective, Pete Wood is retiring. As Lisa and I headed to seminary in 1991, Pete came in to take over our role on staff and he built a beautiful ministry here. We have been friends for over 30 years and worked closely together for 18. His retirement is well deserved and he will be missed.

Stephanie Rhyne was part of the original group that met to discuss what was only a dream called ALIVE and together we have worked side by side to make this vision we all enjoy a reality, serving on staff for the past 14 years. Stephanie sensed God moving her heart to step away and is being used by God to help write curriculum for a major Christian publisher.

Matt Irvine joined our staff 11 years ago and has served valiantly at ALIVE in whatever role I asked him to fill. He led our student ministry with integrity and wisdom. Matt's faithfulness has allowed ALIVE to take great spiritual pride in our students as they head into the next phases of their lives. When I asked Matt to take on the responsibility of our Residency program, he developed one of the best on-ramps for raising up leaders I have ever seen in a local church. Recently, Matt agreed to take on the role of Pastoral Care at Central Campus. Matt did all of these things while pursuing his Masters and raising two beautiful children with his wife Anna. So when Matt came to me indicating he wanted to prioritize his family in a way he didn't feel he could in his current ministry setting, of course we affirmed his desire, but it also felt like sacrifice.

The beautiful part of vision is God always equips the faithful to accomplish his vision. God has provided new leadership, even before we knew we were going to need new leaders. What an affirmation it is, when we needed new leadership to carry on the vision, God provided tenfold.

Where could we find someone to lead Project 20? Paul and I were already carrying more load than we should and we recognized adding a vision of this magnitude to our plates would be disastrous for ALIVE. God brought us Rob Campbell who is a tenacious strategist with experience in starting and leading Christ centered communities.

ALIVE is now as large online as we are in person. Our church now spreads across multiple states from Texas to New York. I recently received a note from someone who watches in Canada. What a shock it was to me to realize we had this invisible congregation God was using us to care for, but we had no one and no strategy to care for them. Once again, God knew what we needed before we did and Ariail Lankford stepped up to lead our communications department. She oversees our online presence, online services and all things social media. I am deeply proud of her and feel honored to work by her side.

To sum up, we have gotten rid of all the old people and replaced them with new models...except the pastor.

As we adjust to Project 20 we are changing the organization chart at ALIVE as well. We are clarifying roles and responsibilities while increasing the size of our Executive Team. What this means is role adjustments for most staff, but perhaps mostly for me and Paul. We are creating space for a Central Campus Pastor as is our model on our other campuses. Central Campus needs leadership to develop our team and ministries locally. We need to make sure Central Campus continues thriving and setting new benchmarks in all arenas. The organization has grown too big for me to be able to do that.

We are so excited to announce that Scott Simmons will be joining our staff to serve as Central Campus Pastor. Scott has served as the leader of Youth for the Wesleyan denomination. Scott has served successfully as a pastor in North Carolina. Scott began to sense God stirring something in his heart and reached out to me. Neither of us had any idea of what God was doing and yet here we are once again. God's plan was in place and he was equipping ALIVE for the vision. We are excited for Scott to join our staff in July.

While this has certainly been the most challenging season of leading ALIVE, in many ways it has been one of the most affirming. The emotions of grief and celebration do not always go well together, but they seem to be descriptive of these days.

In spite of all the staff transitions, Project 20 has planted our first Christ Centered Community. We are also pleased to announce our second Christ Centered Community in North Carolina. We were approached by a church who worked with Pastor Rob and we now have strategic partnership with that church. They are part of the ALIVE Network and worship with us every Sunday morning.

God not only is providing people; he is also providing resources. What a joy it was recently to share a lunch with some of ALIVE's newest members. Imagine my utter amazement as they told me they would like to give a gift of a quarter million dollars to Project 20! It is pretty easy to see God's affirmation of his vision in times like these. Even I can catch it!

I don't always choose a word for the year and I am not sure I did this year either. But God keeps echoing in my heart two simple words, "Press on."

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV84) 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

WORSHIP

HIGHLIGHTS

Central Auditorium purchased an LED WALL to enhance the environment in the auditorium as well as online and campuses.



ALIVE hosted PRAISE ON THE PATIO, our first outdoor, live worship night!



ALIVE hosted a MARRIAGE CONFERENCE, where we saw over 175 couples throughout the weekend.



WORSHIP

THE CREW & BAND

"Serving on the tech team has been an awesome opportunity to not only grow in technical knowledge and experience, but have a time and space set aside to worship and to help create a great environment for others to worship."

August Farmer



"I love watching the joy, the awe, the hope, the adoration, and even the repentance on the faces of my church family as we enter worship. Watching them join me in adoration of our Savior is my favorite thing about serving on the worship team!"

Michelle Stinehart



"I love being a part of the worship team because of the combination of the people, the love I feel, the music, and being part of the worship itself - help center me both for worship and my walk with God."

Jeff Ramminger

PROJECT 20

TWENTY Christ-Centered communities in the next TEN YEARS.

ALIVE is changing everything to allow us to plant 20 Christ-centered communities, wherever God opens the door.

This year, ALIVE hired Rob Campbell as our Multiplication Pastor. Rob oversees all things Project20 and has already done incredible things to make Project20 happen. We are so glad to have Rob as a part of our team!

“What’s been created here is worth sharing.”

WEST CITY

ALIVE has officially launched our first Christ-Centered Community! Jason VonBehren joined the Project 20 team as our first church planter. Jason is planting a non-denominational church in the West Greenville area that will be called West City.

DISCIPLESHIP

BAPTISMS



40

ALIVE CENTRAL CAMPUS

4Ds

CLASS ATTENDANCE

73

DISCOVERY

70

DEEPEN

66

DEFINE /
DECIDE



"4D is truly for anyone from those just falling in love with Jesus to those who consider Him an old friend. I enjoyed learning more about how to deepen my faith through structured bible study as well as getting to understand my own personal spiritual gifts and strengths."

- Liz Hiller

CARE MINISTRY

OVER

120

MEALS DELIVERED
TO FAMILIES IN NEED

130

INDIVIDUALS / FAMILIES
PROVIDED WITH CARE

200

PERSONAL, HANDWRITTEN
NOTES SENT THIS YEAR

DISCIPLESHIP

RE/ENGAGE

MARRIAGE MINISTRY
RECORD PARTICIPATION

32 FALL

44 SPRING



"I am more aware of healthy communication strategies to use with my spouse. It also helped me solidify that my spouse is a gift from God to be cherished and served."

"It's saved our marriage. I'm not sure we would have made it without it."

PREPARE & ENRICH

17

•

12

•

7

•

4

couples took the pre-marriage assessment in 2021

couples have been mentored before marriage

mentor couples are actively mentoring other couples

more couples are scheduled to be married by the end of summer 2022

PERSONALIZED CARE

STEPHEN MINISTRY
6 NEWLY COMMISSIONED
CARE GIVERS



12 ACTIVE CARE
GIVERS

18 CARE
RECEIVERS

"ALIVE Personalized Care has given me an opportunity to make a difference. Getting involved in the ministry has given me such a sense of fulfillment, but more than that I've had the joy of watching God work in people's lives in a marvelous way."

Phil Bailly

DISCIPLESHIP

SMALL GROUPS

RECORD PARTICIPATION

640^{FALL}₂₀₂₁ : 635^{SPRING}₂₀₂₂

“Life is a lot better when you have friends who will walk with you through the highs and lows. My small group has given me a community.”

Caleb Harding

“Fishing with them changed everything. Now when we see each other at church we have intentional conversation. Small group participation builds friendships.”

Robin Bryant

SENIOR MINISTRY



This year our Senior Adult Ministry was finally able to begin again since 2020. They have gathered once a month and have prayed together, shared meals, made crafts, played games, and toured the Clemson athletic center!



COOL THINGS & ONLINE CAMPUS

UNTIL UNITY - 12 host groups launched

CELEBRATE RECOVERY PROGRAM

launched for the first time this spring. Currently averaging 27 people per week!

Led TEXT-IN TRUTH CHALLENGE with over 600 participants.

This year, ALIVE hosted a completely online Until Unity Group.

For the last 2 semesters, ALIVE has had a Relengage Group that meets all online!

This past winter, ALIVE hosted our first ever Hybrid Discovery Class. We had people meet here in Central, as well as join us from Indiana and Texas!

THE EXCHANGE

Volunteers have sorted and sold over 6,500 ITEMS of clothing.



Over 1,000 INDIVIDUALS have purchased items at The Exchange.

BLACK FRIDAY OPENING DAY :
ALMOST \$2,000 IN SALES



Collected 107 PRAYER REQUESTS
through our prayer request box that
have been prayed over.



THE EXCHANGE

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Participated in Family Night at Liberty Primary

We are partnering with Love a School to offer thank you coupons to teachers.

Assisted refugee families who have been relocated to our area.

Became a Clemson Life Partner: We have 2 interns on the Exchange Team.



**“The Exchange
became my favorite
thrift store today!
Just amazing service.
I felt welcomed &
will definitely be
going back!”
From one of our loyal
customers,
Tyler Stockton**



AWSM

151 GUESTS 2 BAPTISMS



This year, ALIVE sent 71 students to NTS camp! NTS is always a highlight every year, and we love seeing the spiritual growth in our students as well as the relationships built between them!



AWSM leaders built a Gagaball pit for our students to build community around and have fun with on a Wednesday night!



STUDENT QUOTE

“AWSM has showed me what it means to share my testimony and what it looks like to truly step out in faith for God.”

Ryan Hester

2 Students currently on the MISSION FIELD



VOLUNTEER QUOTE

“AWSM was a place where I always felt safe as a student, so now as a volunteer, it’s special for me to help make it a safe place for the next generation.”

Nawfal Sleem



ALIVE KIDS

52 SALVATIONS

22 BAPTISMS



KIDS WEEK

ALIVE Kids had Kids Week LIVE and IN PERSON this year after being online only in 2020.

250 KIDS

9 KIDS came to ALIVE FOR THE FIRST TIME the following Sunday after Kids Week.



An incredible volunteer team made up **ALMOST ENTIRELY** of **NEW** volunteers

FAMILY INVESTMENT



ALIVE Kids introduced the Resource Wall this year. The Resource Wall contains foundational resources for families and kids like Bibles and developmental resources.

ALIVE KIDS

JINGLE JAM

THIS YEAR, WE TOOK JINGLE JAM IN TO SCHOOLS.

3 SCHOOLS watched Jingle Jam and participated in games & activities in their classrooms.

We got to INVITE every kid & staff member to Jingle Jam Part 2 - which was either attending ALIVE Kids in person, OR watching an online video that told the TRUE story of Christmas.



We had 323 VIEWS of Jingle Jam part 2 Online. We saw 6 GUEST KIDS the following Sunday.

STATS



196

GUESTS ATTENDED
ALIVE KIDS THIS YEAR



ALIVE KIDS STAFF & VOLUNTEERS...

M
A
D
E
427
PHONE
CALLS

S
E
N
T
793
POST
CARDS

S
E
N
T
253
EMAILS
TO KIDS WHO WERE MISSING
3 -7 WEEKS IN A ROW

S
A
W
567 KIDS RETURNING
AFTER MAKING ONE OR MORE OF THESE CONNECTIONS

LOVE A SCHOOL



Love a school delivered dinner to all principals and vice principals on the first day of school.

We have gifted EVERY staff member in our 9 schools with a goodie bag that included a well-ness tool: "the gauges," as well as multiple gift cards & coupons to local businesses.

This Christmas, a school administration reached out to ALIVE directly to care for the Christmas needs of a family. The admin stated they knew our reputation for meeting needs like this. One of our staff members got to connect with the student and The Exchange loaded up a cart of gifts for them for Christmas!



MISSIONS

GLOBAL OUTREACH TEAM

3 GOALS

- 1 Educate our ALIVE family on missions partnerships and opportunities.
- 2 Encourage ALIVE missions partners through prayer, financial support, and ongoing communication.
- 3 Equip ALIVE members to go on missions trips.

ALIVE is honored to pray for and financially support our
EIGHT MISSIONS PARTNERS

The Bagley's • The Tolan's • The Shankar's
The Schmutz's • The Seibert's • The Stanley's
OKIPE Children's Home • The Nove Family

This year ALIVE lost a member of our International Family, Angela Shankar, who passed away unexpectedly. She and her Husband Rupak and their three children have been ALIVE partners for over 17 years. Thank you to the ALIVE family for honoring Angela through your encouragement and financial support. Continue to pray for Rupak and their children.

MISSIONS

OUR FIRST MISSIONS TRIP SINCE THE COVID PANDEMIC:

In June 2021, ALIVE sent a team of 4 to Haiti to paint, lay concrete, build shelves, build concrete support columns, and other much-needed work at The Ortlip Center and visit the OKIPE Children's Village. This was the first time an ALIVE team was visiting a Mission Partner who had been called to serve while attending ALIVE.



PLEASANT VIEW

ATTENDANCE AVERAGE IS UP FROM 50 TO 80 THIS YEAR!



“We’ve worked hard getting ready for company and God is bringing new people to PV every week!”



7 NEW MEMBERS 2 CHILD DEDICATIONS



We launched the ALIVE Collective at the Pleasant View Campus!

We’ve spent the last few months getting our pasture ready and officially have cows on the property!



We took to the streets celebrating Christ’s birth in Belton’s Christmas Parade.

We spent the year celebrating Kids in our community with the Pelzer Campus at Kid’s Week, the Spring Water Festival, and Easter Jam!



PELZER

RECORD ATTENDANCE **121**

“To have the incredible opportunity and responsibility to incite others into worship of our holy, gracious, and good Father is absolutely breathtaking to me.”

- Samantha Broom

70 GUESTS

• **6** NEW MEMBERS



3 UNTIL UNITY GROUPS

• **4** CHILD DEDICATIONS

4 NEW GROUPS includes our first Life After Loss Grief Group and hosting our second Relengage Group

4 BAPTISMS



“We love seeing how active your church is in the community.”

Will Ragland, Mayor of Pelzer

PELZER

The PELZER COLLECTIVE started this year!



“I love serving in ALIVE Kids because it’s amazing to watch our kids grow and learn about God, seeing them grow into adults serving God and knowing that I got to be a small part of that!”

- Adrian Lollis



5 OUTREACH EVENTS were held in the community, 3 partnering with the PLEASANT VIEW CAMPUS.



STAFF UPDATE

RESIDENT HIRES:

KATIE COOK – CENTRAL CAMPUS CHILDREN’S PASTOR

We are excited to welcome Katie as a full-time ALIVE staff member as our Central Campus Children’s Pastor. During her residency, Katie worked side-by-side with Katelyn and Stephanie where she helped prepare Sundays message, taught on Sundays, worked closely with campuses, prepped and executed kids events, and so much more. We cannot wait to see what God does in the life of our kids through Katie.

JAMI WRIGHT – CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Jami has been with ALIVE since she was a student at Southern Wesleyan University where she was an AWSM volunteer. After SWU, Jami joined ALIVE’s residency staff where she wore many different hats. Throughout her residency Jami has been a key leader for AWSM, has worked closely with care, and has led our connections team. We are so excited to have Jami join our full-time staff team!

ARIAIL LANKFORD – COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Ariail has joined the team as our Communications Director where she oversees all things communication – whether that be social media, website, advertisement, and much more! Throughout her residency you may have seen Ariail behind a camera, running our switch board, or producing our Sunday morning services. Ariail is incredibly gifted in the area of communication and we are excited to see Ariail shine in her new role!

NEW HIRES:

ROB CAMPBELL – MULTIPLICATION PASTOR

This year, Pastor Tom announced our new initiative, Project 20, where we said ALIVE is changing everything we do to plant 20 Christ-Centered communities in the next 10 years. To help make that happen, ALIVE knew we would need someone with a gift for multiplication to make that happen, and we truly believe God sent us Rob to be that person! Rob came to ALIVE with experience in the Coast Guard, 20+ years in ministry, and a heart to see God’s kingdom grow. We are so glad to have Rob as a part of our team and believe God is going to do big things for Project 20 through Rob!

KAITLYN GARRISON – STUDENT MINISTRIES PASTOR

ALIVE is so excited to welcome Kaitlyn Garrison to our team! Kaitlyn is joining the ALIVE staff on June 1st as our Student Ministries Pastor. Kaitlyn is coming to us from North Carolina where she has been serving as the Youth Director for a large sized youth group for the last 2 years. Kaitlyn is familiar with the upstate as she attended Anderson University for her undergrad. Kaitlyn got married this month to her now-husband, Daniel, and we are so excited to welcome Kaitlyn and Daniel to the ALIVE family!

ROLE CHANGE:

KATELYN FORD – CHILDREN’S DIRECTOR

Katelyn Ford has been on staff at ALIVE for the last 7 years as the Assistant to the Children’s Pastor. Katelyn has been a crucial part in ALIVE Kids, whether it be administration, event planning, team leading, or anything ALIVE Kids. As ALIVE is looking forward and planning everything around Project 20, we knew we needed to make some changes to how our staff looked. And because of that we are excited to have Katelyn now as our Children’s Director! Katelyn will oversee all things ALIVE Kids and will be a key part in multiplying ALIVE Kids at all Project 20 campuses. We cannot wait to see how Katelyn thrives as she helps grow ALIVE Kids!

FINANCES

Financial Report - April 30, 2022

Cash Accounts

First Citizens - Operating	\$ 346,544.19
First Citizens - The Growing Place	109107.76
First Citizens - The Exchange	2610.31
Wesleyan Investment Foundation	1176114.85
Total Cash and Savings Accounts	\$ 1,634,377

Debt

Wesleyan Investment Foundation	\$ 3,087,223
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Designated Balances	May 1, 2021			April 30, 2022
	Balance	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
General Fund	\$ 12,904	\$ 2,871,583	\$ 2,871,061	\$ 13,425
General Fund Reserve	275,000	220,445	-	495,445
The Growing Place	103,816	806,954	801,663	109,108
The Growing Place Reserve	-	51,000	-	51,000
The Exchange	-	62,395	59,784	2,610
96,000 Reach	302,253	248,225	197,643	352,835
Project 20	-	13,345	11,437	1,907
Hope Grows Here Building Fund	70,969	353,640	199,402	225,207
Memorials	300	1,700	625	1,375
Facility/Equipment Replacement	90,813	210,000	60,081	240,731
Small Group Activities	9,804	23,168	15,707	17,265
Outreach Activities	24,876	101,647	23,934	102,589
Operating Activities	12,059	35,704	26,884	20,879
Totals	\$902,794	\$4,999,805	\$4,268,222	\$ 1,634,377

General Operating Fund - May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2022

	TOTAL		
	Actual	Budget	% Budget
INCOME			
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,659,175	2,392,000	111.17%
Interest Income	11,856	8,000	148.20%
Other Income	1,162	-	
Grant Income	24,850	-	
Exchange Revenue	100		
The Growing Place Revenue	174,439	83,000	210.17%
INCOME TOTALS	\$ 2,871,583	2,483,000	115.65%
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,120,440	1,165,540	96.13%
Ministries	-	-	
Worship	76,621	69,034	110.99%
Outreach	193,176	167,266	115.49%
Fellowship	16,209	13,990	115.86%
Service	11,822	10,425	113.40%
Discipleship	34,026	38,270	88.91%
96,000 Reach	190,930	190,930	100.00%
Ministries Totals	522,783	489,915	106.71%
Operations	146,843	145,371	101.01%
Facilities and Grounds	146,423	41,400	353.68%
Equipment	124,819	57,824	215.86%
Utilities	78,657	92,950	84.62%
Building Payment	541,596	320,000	169.25%
General & District Budget	170,000	170,000	100.00%
Reserve	19,500	-	
EXPENSE TOTALS	\$ 2,871,061	2,483,000	115.63%
Over / (Under)	\$ 522	-	

● Tithes and Offering grew by \$323,500 or 13.85%

● Paid an additional \$199,000 against our mortgage.

● As a result of growth in giving and contained operating costs, ALIVE was able to designate the following:

Debt Reduction	\$225,000
Community Projects	\$25,000
Capital Replacements	\$130,000
Equipment	\$100,000

● Refitted the picnic shelter to the current Exchange Resale Shop debt free.

● Added a barn to house equipment for farm supplies.

● May 2021 mortgage balance - \$3,463,000
May 2022 Mortgage Balance - \$2,862,000

FINANCES

ALIVE Wesleyan Church 2022 - 2023 Budget

	2022-2023 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
INCOME		
Tithes and Offerings	2,699,500	2,392,000
Interest Income	10,000	8,000
The Growing Place	102,500	83,000
The Exchange Income	17,675	
Other	1,200	
INCOME TOTAL	2,830,875	2,483,000
EXPENSE		
Salaries and Benefits	1,406,750	1,165,540
Ministries		
Worship	71,855	69,034
Outreach	179,590	167,266
Fellowship	15,575	13,990
Service	11,125	10,425
Discipleship	42,710	38,270
96,000 Reach	162,515	160,930
Ministries Total	483,370	459,915
Operations	152,520	145,371
Facilities and Equipment		
Building Payment	320,000	320,000
Depreciation/Capital	100,000	
Improvements/Repairs	45,750	41,400
Equipment/Technology	38,155	57,824
Utilities	84,330	92,950
Facilities and Equipment Total	588,235	512,174
General and District Budget	200,000	200,000
EXPENSE TOTAL	2,830,875	2,483,000

NOTES



