

Well, if you missed it, we made a major announcement this past Sunday at Aspire Church. We are putting into place a plan for Rio de Vida, a church that meets at Arizona Charter Academy, to become a part of Aspire Church, as our Spanish speaking ministry. We are so excited that God has put this opportunity in front of us. We understand that this probably stirs a lot of questions, so we wanted to give you a few more details about what this looks like. We've done our best to answer some questions in this FAQ, but please know that we have an open hand and open spirit towards God on this transition and the timeline.

Why is Rio de Vida becoming a part of Aspire Church?

Our desire is to be a church that can welcome people of all backgrounds, cultures, and even languages. For a while now, Aspire Church has had a desire to offer a Spanish speaking service for adults. At the same time, Rio de Vida has desired to be a place that can meet the needs of our community, including providing great English speaking kids and student ministries, while ministering to Spanish speaking adults. By joining Aspire Church, together we can provide tremendous kids and student ministry, as well as adult services in both English and Spanish. In doing so, we can reflect the demographic of our community, and most importantly, reach more people for Jesus Christ.

What is the timeline for this transition?

Beginning on Sunday, March 20th, all of the kids ministry for Aspire Church and Rio de Vida will fall under Aspire's AC Kids. At the same time, all student ministry will happen as Aspire's Rise Student Ministry.

We will spend the next few months strategically working together on various projects, with a goal of August, when we will become one church, Aspire Church. We are trusting God's leading on that date, as there is much to accomplish between now and then.

How many services will we have, and what time will the services be?

We will have two English speaking services, just as Aspire currently has, at 9:15am and 10:45am. We will have a Spanish speaking service at 10:45am. AC Kids will be available both services, with Rise students meeting during the 10:45 service. The Spanish speaking service will continue to be taught by Pastor Pat. We will share First Impressions, AC Kids Check-In, Parking, etc., as one church, and simply then go to either the English speaking or Spanish speaking venue.

We hope to actually have one service together a couple of times per year. That service would be preached in English and translated in Spanish. This will be an amazing opportunity for the body of Christ to worship and learn together.

Home Groups are such a big part of Aspire, how will that apply to our Spanish speaking service?

Currently, Rio de Vida has a Wednesday night gathering, which is taught in Spanish. This will continue as a home group option for those who speak Spanish.

What is the financial commitment of this transition?

Both churches are financially self supporting, so there is very little additional commitment of either entity. For the next few months, both churches will continue to be responsible for their own financial matters. As we come together, Aspire will take over all financial and administrative functions.

Where will Rise Student Ministry meet on Wednesday nights?

Beginning immediately, Rise will meet at Arizona Charter Academy on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. This is a much needed move for us to allow for continued growth and opportunity for our middle and high school students to worship. It also will help bring together the students of Aspire and Rio de Vida. Pastor David will be adding some worship time, as well as improving the environment, so it's an exciting place for our students to learn, but also to bring their friends.

Can Aspire attenders go check out a Rio de Vida service?

Yes! Definitely! Especially if you speak some Spanish, we would strongly encourage you to check it out. What a great way to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ, and to help pull together the two bodies.

How will we become 1 church?

We are working on a number of projects to do together that will help unite us. These events include a family movie night in April, outreach projects, and sharing communion together. We are also looking at a possible prayer and worship night, which would be really exciting!

How can you help?

Most important, pray. And we mean that, we really need your prayer through this transition. Second, get involved. If you're not serving, get signed up as soon as possible. We want to make Aspire Church a place where people feel welcomed, cared for, and where Christ is magnified. We need you to make that happen. Whether it's in AC Kids, Rise, First Impressions, Tech Team, or elsewhere, your gifts are important, and we need you. Stop by the Info Table in the lobby and get signed up for a Ministry Tour as soon as possible.

If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask. You can email office@aspirechurchaz.com and a staff member will get back to you.