

VERGE13  
CONFERENCE

# 2013

Welcome to Verge 2013! We are so excited to be able to serve you over the next few days. We hope that this event is a pivotal time for you, the leadership that God has entrusted to you, and the communities you work in and love. It is such an exciting time to be involved in the mission of God, and we hope that Verge 2013 inspires, encourages, and resources you to continue faithfully pursuing God's mission in community.

## **VISION OF VERGE**

As a network, Verge seeks to be an advocate and champion for movements of gospel-centered missional communities. Our vision is to equip everyday leaders—from church pastors, to college students, to artists and entrepreneurs—for the mission of God, in community, for the sake of the gospel.

To do this the Verge Network seeks to provide resources that are rich in content and practical for equipping God's people for God's mission. These resources range from great events like the Verge National Conference and One Day Regionals to timely and topical information, videos, interviews, articles, and on-going dialogue about living on mission in your context.

In addition to these resources, Verge seeks to catalyze movements of gospel-centered missional communities by connecting everyday people to seasoned missional thinkers and practitioners through a variety of networks who will help train and mobilize people to live on mission. Our prayer is that as the church is resourced and equipped, it will begin to have a greater impact in neighborhoods, cities, and world!

## **VERGE 2013 THEME**

Disciple Making is the theme of Verge 2013. In the Bible, Disciple Making is the core principle to Jesus' Great Commission, and the means by which the Gospel will be spread to the ends of the earth. Recently, there has been more and more of a resurgence in the interest and passion for making and multiplying disciples. From church planting movements in the East, to transitions in resourcing in the West, discipleship and discipling have been thrust to the forefront of the movement of the Gospel around the world today.

Yet, even though the concept of Disciple Making has been gaining more notoriety, the patterns and practices of making and multiplying reproducing disciples are still very much a need in the conversations and actions surrounding discipleship. During Verge 2013 we will demystify Disciple Making and get to the core of the content, context, culture, and process of making and multiplying gospel-centered, reproducing disciples.

And in all of this we pray that Jesus would be our goal, our hope, our strength, our model, our value, our significance, our worth, and our passion.

With you for the gospel,



Michael 'Stew' Stewart,  
Founder & Director of Verge Network

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# PRE-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

## TRACKS

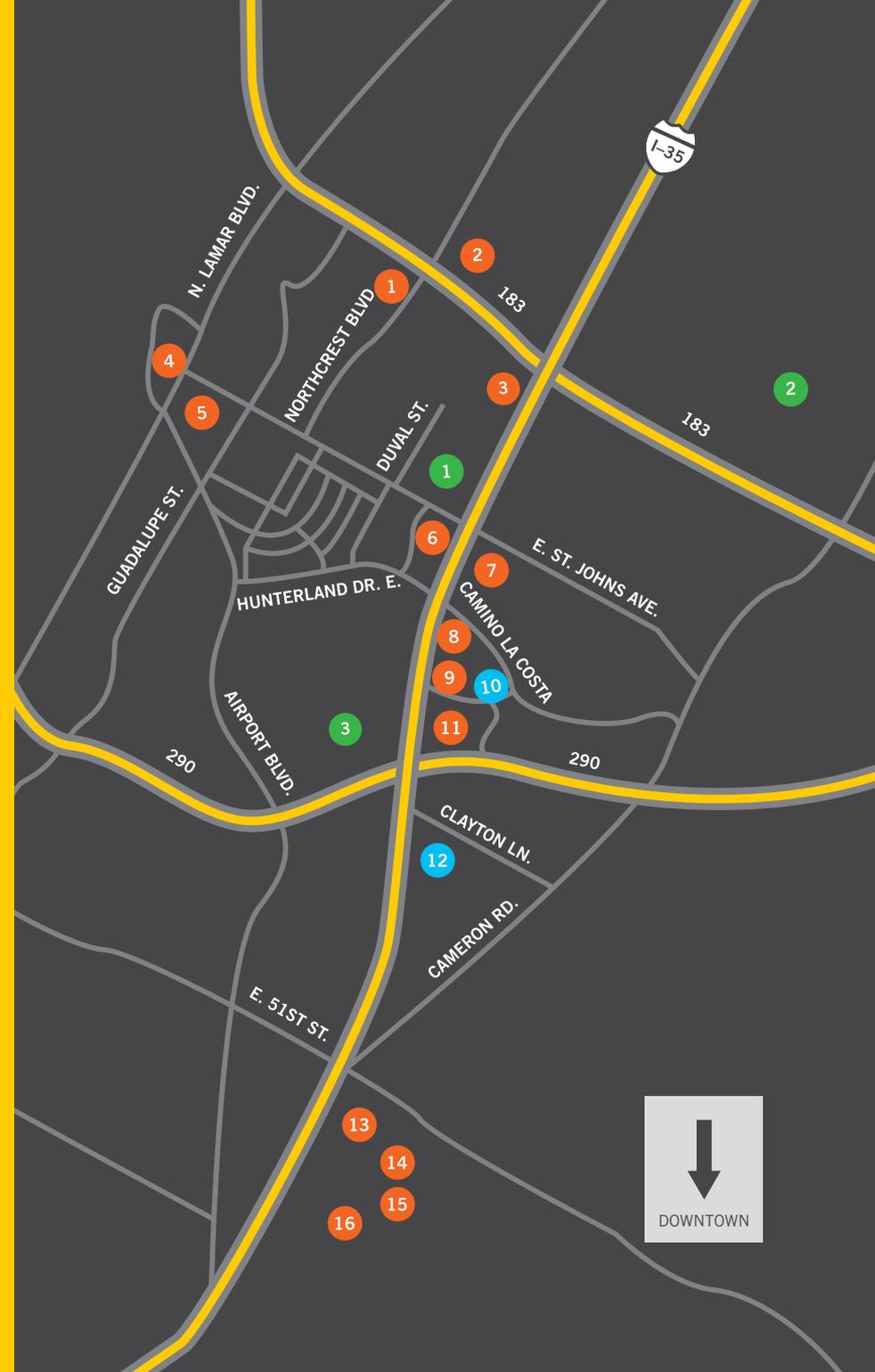
- 3DM **Leading Kingdom Movements**  
*Mike Breen, Jo Saxton, Doug Paul, Sally Breen*  
[Phillips Event Center, Ballroom](#)
- Forge **Missional Imagination: Unleashing the People of God to Live on Mission**  
*Alan Hirsch, Kim Hammond, Lance Ford, Brad Brisco*  
[Holiday Inn-Austin Midtown, Hill Country Ballroom D](#)
- GCM Collective **Engage in Gospel-Centered Missional Communities**  
*Jeff Vanderstelt, Caesar Kalinowski, Seth McBee, Jonathan Dodson*  
[The For the City Center, Auditorium](#)
- Missio **Getting Practical with the Missional Church**  
*Hugh Halter, Matt Smay, Brandon Hatmaker*  
[Holiday Inn-Austin Midtown, Hill Country Ballroom C](#)
- Rebuild **In Plain Sight: Developing a Holistic Strategy for Making Disciples in the Urban Context**  
*Dhati Lewis, Amisho Lewis, John Onwuchekwa, Adam Thomason, William Branch*  
[The For the City Center, Large Meeting Room](#)

## INTENSIVES

- Missional Community Transitions Intensive**  
*Todd Engstrom, Tyler David, Steve Teng, Jon Dansby*  
[The For the City Center, Room 144](#)
- Internship & Residency: Leadership Pipeline Intensive**  
*Kevin Peck, Larry Cotton*  
[The For the City Center, Room 143](#)
- For the City Intensive**  
*Justin Lopez, Bo Schwarz*  
[The For the City Center, East Conference Room](#)
- For the Nations Intensive**  
*Ryan King, Andy Kampman*  
[The For the City Center, West Conference Room](#)

# PRE-CONFERENCE VENUE MAP

- 1 The For the City Network
- 2 Holiday Inn-Austin Midtown
- 3 Phillips Event Center
- 1 Red Lobster
- 2 Burger Tex
- 3 Applebee's
- 4 Black Star Co-op Pub & Brewery
- 5 Subway
- 6 Denny's
- 7 Burger King
- 8 Chili's Bar & Grill
- 9 Pappasito's Cantina
- 10 Doubletree Hotel by Hilton Austin
- 11 Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen
- 12 Embassy Suites Austin Central
- 13 Starbucks Coffee
- 14 Which Wich Sandwiches
- 15 Chipotle Mexican Grille
- 16 Pad Thai Cuisine



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# MAIN CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>

**SESSION 1**  
9-11AM  
**Disciple Making:  
There Is No Plan B**

**WORKSHOPS**

- 11:20-12PM  
Main Stage  
**Why the Missional Movement Will Fail?**  
*3DM Network*
- 11:30-12:30PM  
Off-Site  
**Off-Site Workshops**  
*see schedule, pages 19-20*
- 12:20-1:10PM  
Main Stage  
**In Plain Sight**  
*Rebuild*

**SESSION 2**  
1:30-3:45PM  
**Patterns & Practices of Disciple Making:  
Missional People & Missional Communities**

**WORKSHOPS**

- 4-5PM  
Main Stage  
**Creating a Holistic Discipleship Environment**  
*GCM Collective*
- 3:45-6:30PM  
Off-Site  
**Off-Site Workshops**  
*see schedule, pages 19-20*
- 5:20-6:20PM  
Main Stage  
**Missional Practices: Doing the Stuff**  
*Forge*

**SESSION 3**  
7-9PM  
**The Content of Disciple Making:  
Getting to the Heart of It All**

SATURDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

**SESSION 4**  
9-11AM  
**Culture and Disciple Making:  
Building Bridges & Removing Barriers**

**WORKSHOPS**

- 11:20-12PM  
Main Stage  
**Making the Kingdom Tangible through  
Incarnational Community**  
*Missio*
- 11:30-12:30PM  
Off-Site  
**Off-Site Workshops**  
*see schedule, pages 19-20*
- 12:20-1:10PM  
Main Stage  
**Church Transfusion: Releasing Organic  
Life into Established Churches**  
*Neil Cole*

**SESSION 5**  
1:30-3:45PM  
**The Process of Disciple Making: 8 Non-Negotiable  
Steps to Making & Multiplying Disciples**

**WORKSHOPS**

- 4-5PM  
Main Stage  
**The Method & Practice of Discipling Men**  
*John Bryson*
- 3:45-6:30PM  
Off-Site  
**Off-Site Workshops**  
*see schedule, pages 19-20*
- 5:20-6:20PM  
Main Stage  
**Women's Forum: Discipling Women  
in a Post Christian Culture**  
*Fabs Harford*

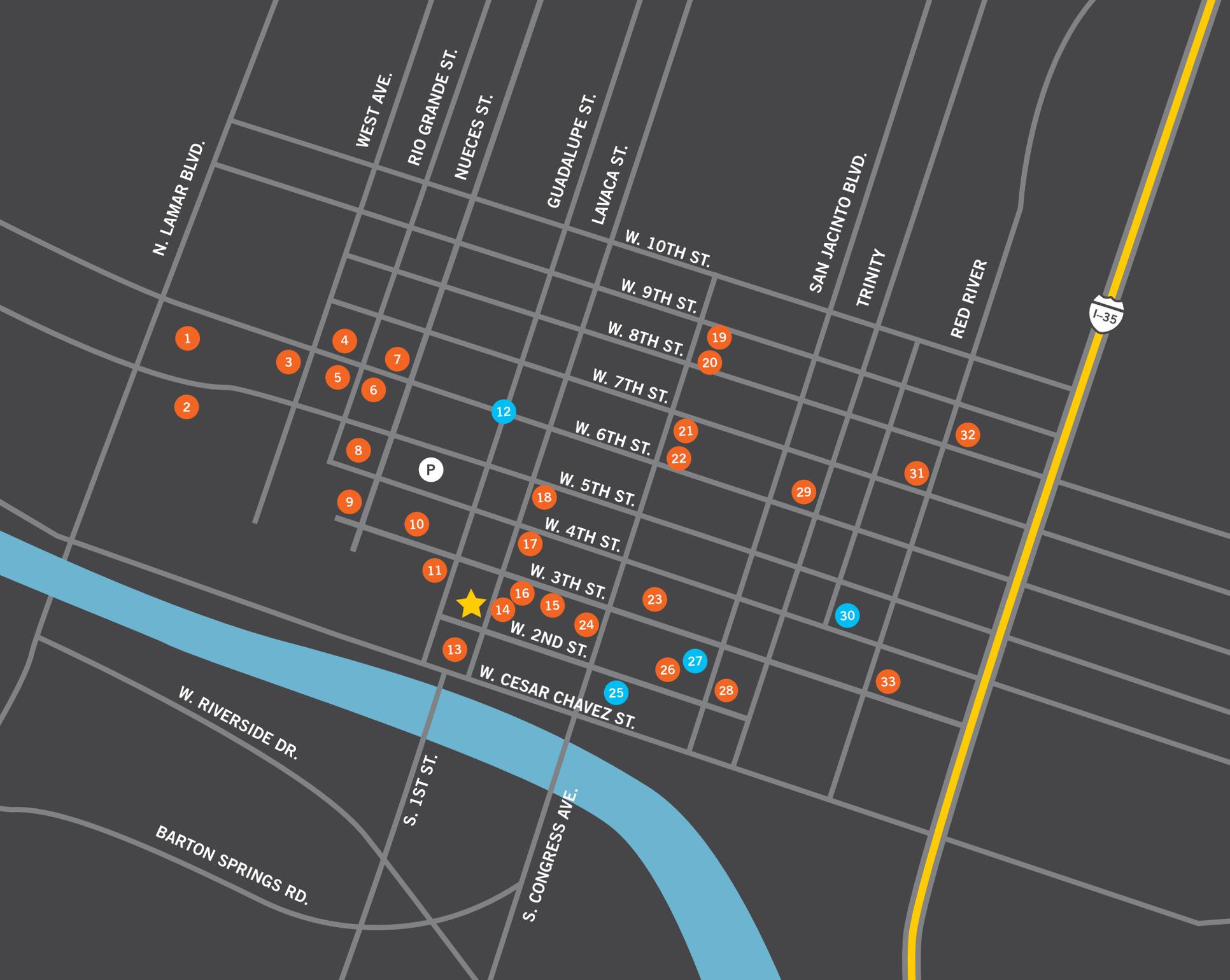
**SESSION 6**  
7-9PM  
**Living the Future Church:  
The Context of Disciple Making**

# DOWNTOWN

## HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

- 1 Whole Foods Market
- 2 Starbucks Coffee
- 3 Hut's Hamburgers
- 4 Opal Divine's Freehouse
- 5 Gatti's Pizza
- 6 Wahoo's Fish Taco
- 7 Walton's Fancy & Staple
- 8 Juan Pelato Cafe
- 9 Trifecta on 3rd
- 10 How Do You Roll?
- 11 Lamberts Downtown BBQ
- 12 Extended Stay America
- 13 Austin Java City Hall
- 14 Jo's Downtown
- 15 Royal Blue Grocery
- 16 Which Wich Sandwiches
- 17 The Ginger Man
- 18 Halcyon Coffee House Bar & Lounge
- 19 Subway
- 20 Chipotle Mexican Grille
- 21 The Pita Pit
- 22 The Hideout Theatre
- 23 Annie's Cafe & Bar
- 24 Cafe Medici
- 25 Radison Hotel & Suites
- 26 Cedar Door
- 27 Hampton Inn & Suites
- 28 P.F. Chang's China Bistro
- 29 Iron Cactus Mexican Grill
- 30 Hilton Austin
- 31 Hoboken Pie
- 32 Stubb's BBQ
- 33 Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill

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N. LAMAR BLVD.

WEST AVE.

RIO GRANDE ST.

NUECES ST.

GUADALUPE ST.

LAVACA ST.

SAN JACINTO BLVD.

TRINITY

RED RIVER

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W. 5TH ST.

W. 4TH ST.

W. 3TH ST.

W. 2ND ST.

W. CESAR CHAVEZ ST.

W. 10TH ST.

W. 9TH ST.

W. 8TH ST.

W. 7TH ST.

W. 6TH ST.

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# SOUTH CONGRESS

## HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

- 1 Sandy's Hamburgers
- 2 Threadgill's
- 3 Homestead Austin
- 4 Freebird's World Burrito
- 5 Dominican Joe Coffee Shop
- 6 Jo's Coffee
- 7 El Mercado
- 8 Torchy's Tacos
- 9 Hopdoddy Burger Bar
- 10 Amy's Ice Cream
- 11 Guero's Taco Bar
- 12 Home Slice Pizza
- 13 Izzoz Tacos
- 14 South Congress Cafe
- 15 SoCo Trailer Park
- 16 Wahoo's Fish Taco
- 17 Fran's Burgers
- 18 Magnolia Cafe

SOLOS



BARTON SPRINGS

RIVERSIDE DR

CONGRESS BRIDGE

I-35

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LADYBIRD LAKE

RIVERSIDE DR

S 1ST ST

S CONGRESS AVE

ACADEMY DR

7

8

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9

10

ELIZABETH ST

11

12

13

14

15

LITTLE STACY PARK

ANNIE ST

16

17

MARY ST

18

BLUE CREEK GREEN BELT



# OFF-SITE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>

### 11:30-12:30PM SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS

GCM House	<b>Missional DNA: Starting a Missional Community from Scratch</b> <i>GCM Collective</i>
Forge House	<b>Forging Everyday People into Everyday Missionaries</b> <i>Forge</i>
Missio House	<b>5 Critical Nuances to Missional</b> <i>Missio</i>
Violet Crown Cinema	<b>Art of Storytelling: Empowering Kingdom Artists in the Local Church</b> <i>Austin Stone Story Team</i>

### 4-6:30PM SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS

<b>4-5PM</b>	
3DM House	<b>Missional Prayer Walking 101</b> <i>3DM</i>
Missio House	<b>5 Critical Nuances to Missional</b> <i>Missio</i>
Rebuild Suite	<b>Fathering the Fatherless</b> <i>Rebuild</i>
<b>5:30-6:30PM</b>	
3DM House	<b>How to Lead a Missional Community Night</b> <i>3DM</i>
Rebuild Suite	<b>Fathering the Fatherless</b> <i>Rebuild</i>

### 9PM- MEET AND GREET

GCM House	<b>Meet &amp; Greet GCM Collective Leaders</b>
3DM House	<b>Nightcap–Network Meet &amp; Greet</b>

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

### 11:30-12:30PM SESSION 4 WORKSHOPS

GCM House	<b>Empowered by The Spirit: Disciples on Mission</b> <i>GCM Collective</i>
Forge House	<b>Forging Everyday People into Everyday Missionaries</b> <i>Forge</i>
3DM House	<b>Missional Prayer Walking 101</b> <i>3DM</i>

### 4-6:30PM SESSION 5 WORKSHOPS

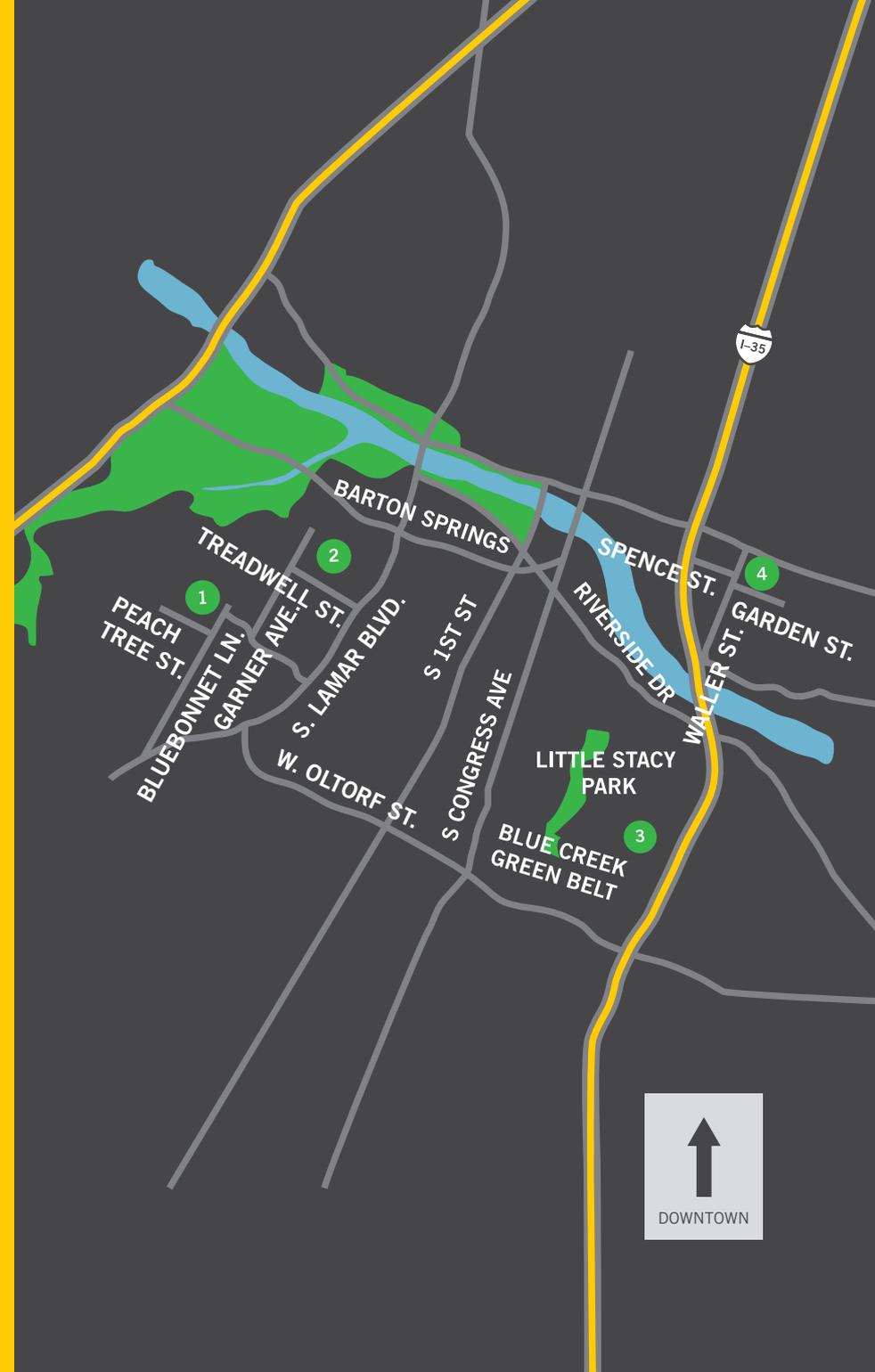
<b>4-5PM</b>	
GCM House	<b>Missional DNA: Starting a Missional Community from Scratch</b> <i>GCM Collective</i>
Forge House	<b>Forging Everyday People into Everyday Missionaries</b> <i>Forge</i>
3DM House	<b>How to Lead a Missional Community Night</b> <i>3DM</i>
Missio House	<b>5 Critical Nuances to Missional</b> <i>Missio</i>
Rebuild Suite	<b>Zoology: How Urban Ministry Has Turned into a Petting Experience</b> <i>Rebuild</i>

### 9PM- MEET AND GREET

GCM House	<b>Meet &amp; Greet GCM Collective Leaders</b>
3DM House	<b>Nightcap–Network Meet &amp; Greet</b>

# OFF-SITE WORKSHOP NETWORK HOUSES

- 1 GCM Collective House  
2005 Peach Tree Street
- 2 Forge Network House  
915 Garner Avenue
- 3 3DM Network House  
1811 Kenwood Avenue
- 4 Mission Network House  
1202 Garden Street



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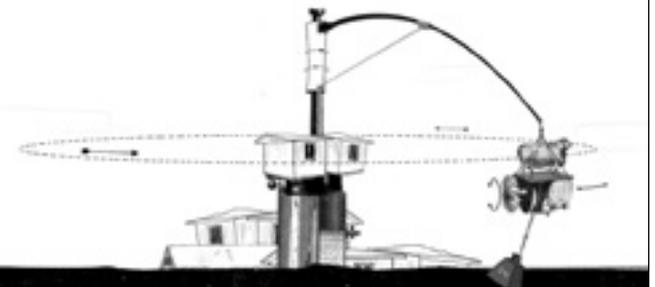
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# ARE GOSPEL COMMUNITIES ON MISSION ESSENTIAL TO MAKING FULLY FORMED DISCIPLES?

Seth Mcbee

Many people see us speaking about making disciples here at the GCM Collective. Not only that, but we push to what it might look like to make fully formed disciples of Jesus. We go so far as to say that you cannot make fully formed disciples of Jesus without being led and empowered by the Spirit, gospel centered, in community, and on mission. When we say this, it can shock some. But here is why we say this.

When one looks at “fully formed disciples” you’ll have to look back to the Scriptures and start asking some questions, or at least see how God has always formed his people and for what reason.

We see from the beginning that Adam and Eve were in community with God and that one of their main purposes was to be fruitful and multiply more image bearers on the earth to fill it with God’s glory (or more specific, image bearers of God). Not only that, God was the one who informed/formed Adam and Eve of their image—stating that they were very good before they did anything good or bad—and he was their Lord.

When the community of God were not what God intended, he sent a flood to destroy mankind. You’ll notice what he told Noah and his family afterward:

*And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” (Genesis 9:1)*

God called Abram out of his land to be a great nation and to create a large family to show off what God was like

God made Israel a nation to show off what he was like—not because they were great or large in number as Deuteronomy 7 points out.

God then takes this same understanding into the New Testament as Jesus calls us his church, his flock, his body, his new family to show off who God is and what he is like.

This understanding of being in community, empowered by God for the sake of the mission of God is all throughout God’s story. Those are just a few overarching examples.

Who is God and what is he like? One of the aspects of God is that he is triune in nature—meaning, he lives in community—one God in three persons.

When we live in community, we are pointers to who God is and what he is like.

Paul, when speaking of the body of Christ speaks about our different functions. Hand, foot, eye, ear.

To say that one can become a fully formed disciple of Jesus without being centered on the gospel, in community on mission would be like saying a man can fully function without one of his limbs. Can he function well? Yes, we see this all the time. But, the question is, “Would he function more fully if he had all his parts?” Of course he would.

Same could be asked with the family. Can a family function without a father or a mother? Yes. Would it be a far healthier family if they had all the parts of their family living for the glory of God? Yes.

We need to stop eating soup with a fork and realize it’s far more efficient to eat soup with a spoon.

Same goes for discipleship.

Most have functioned in the past without community and have matured—but they will be formed fully in a gospel community on mission because this is how God has designed us to show off His glory to one another and to the world.

If we are in community on mission, as Jesus was, then we will see the different places in our lives, and the lives of others, where the gospel hasn’t come to bear on our/their lives. We find out where Jesus isn’t the King of our/their life and can bring to bear the good news so that we/they can be filled with joy!

On the mission field, together in community is where we find out if we are generous, kind, patient, forebearing, joyous, loving, faithful, etc.

This is the point of discipleship: by the power of the Spirit, through the gospel, to bring every area of our lives, and the lives of others, under the Lordship of Jesus for the glory of God and for the fullness of our joy.

This is exactly what Jesus did. We figure that Jesus discipled his disciples about 80-85% of the time on the mission field in the midst of the broken, not behind four walls in a safe environment.

Are Gospel Communities on Mission Essential  
to Making Fully Formed Disciples?

We think Peter was a moron because of all the stupid things he said, but it was his reactions to real life on the actual mission field. When you are in the midst of the broken, you will react poorly and in the flesh, and that brings to bear where you need the good news.

As the church, we have flipped this on its head and spend 80-85% in a classroom or training, and then 15-20% on the mission field. I think I'm being pretty generous in those numbers, based on my experience. In that safe environment we can fake it. We can be timely in our answers. We can mask our inefficiencies in the gospel.

We must get back to the purpose and intent of discipleship.

We must get back to making fully formed disciples of Jesus, by the Spirit, through the gospel, in community, on mission for the sake of the glory of God and the fullness of our joy.



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# WHY THE MISSIONAL MOVEMENT WILL FAIL

Mike Breen

It's time we start being brutally honest about the missional movement that has emerged in the last 10-15 years: Chances are better than not it's going to fail.

That may seem cynical, but I'm being realistic. There is a reason so many movements in the Western church have failed in the past century: They are a car without an engine. A missional church or a missional community or a missional small group is the new car that everyone is talking about right now, but no matter how beautiful or shiny the vehicle, without an engine, it won't go anywhere.

## THE ENGINE OF THE CHURCH

So what is the engine of the church? Discipleship. I've said it many times: If you make disciples, you will always get the church. But if you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples.

If you're good at making disciples, you'll get more leaders than you'll know what to do with. If you make disciples like Jesus made them, you'll see people come to faith who didn't know Him. If you disciple people well, you will always get the missional thing.

### Always.

We took 30 days and examined the Twitter conversations happening. We discovered there are between 100-150 times as many people talking about mission as there are discipleship (to be clear, that's a 100:1). We are a group of people addicted to and obsessed with the work of the Kingdom, with little to no idea how to be with the King.

As Skye Jethani wrote in his Out of Ur post a little while back "Has Mission become an Idol?":

*"Many church leaders unknowingly replace the transcendent vitality of a life with God for the ego satisfaction they derive from a life for God."*

Look, I'm not criticizing the people who are passionate about missional – I am one of those people. I was one of the people pioneering Missional Communities in the 1980's and have been doing it ever since. This is my camp, my tribe, my people. But it has to be said: God did not design us to do Kingdom mission outside of the scope of intentional, biblical discipleship and if we don't see that, we're fooling ourselves.

## MISSION IS THE UMBRELLA OF DISCIPLESHIP

Mission is under the umbrella of discipleship as it is one of the many things that Jesus taught his disciples to do well. But it wasn't done in a vacuum outside of knowing God and being shaped by that relationship, where a constant refinement of their character was happening alongside of their continued skill development (which included mission).

The truth about discipleship is that it's never hip and it's never in style – it's the call to come and die; a long obedience in the same direction. While the "missional" conversation is imbued with the energy and vitality that comes with kingdom work, it seems to be missing some of the hallmark reality that those of us who have lived it over time have come to expect: Mission is messy. It's humbling. There's often no glory in it. It's for the long haul. And it's completely unsustainable without discipleship.

This is the crux of it: **The reason the missional movement may fail is because most people and communities in the Western church are pretty bad at making disciples.** Without a plan for making disciples –and a plan that works– any missional thing you launch will be completely unsustainable.

## MISSION IS A WAR ZONE

Think about it this way: Sending people out to do mission is to send them out to a war zone. Discipleship is not only the boot camp to train them for the front lines, but the hospital when they get wounded and the off-duty time they need to rest and recuperate. When we don't disciple people the way Jesus and the New Testament talked about, we are sending them out without armor, weapons, or training. This is mass carnage waiting to happen. How can we be surprised that people burn out, quit and never want to return to the missional life (or the church)? How can we not expect people will feel used and abused?

There's a story from World War II where The Red (Russian) Army sent wave after wave of untrained, practically weaponless soldiers into the thick of the German front. They were slaughtered in droves. Why did they do this? Because they knew that eventually the German soldiers would run out of ammunition, creating an opportunity for the Red Army to send in their best soldiers to finish them off. The first wave of

## Why the Missional Community Will Fail

untrained soldiers were the best way of exhausting ammunition, leaving their enemy vulnerable.

While this isn't a perfect analogy, I sense this is a bit like the missional movement right now. We are sending bright-eyed civilians into the battle where the fighting is fiercest without the equipping they need, not just to survive, but to fight well and advance the Kingdom of their dad, the King.

### MISSION DEVOID OF DISCIPLESHIP = FAILURE

The missional movement will fail because, by-and-large, we are having a discussion about mission devoid of discipleship. Unless we start having more discussion about discipleship and how we make missionaries out of disciples, this movement will stall and fade. Any discussion about mission must begin with discipleship. If your church community is not yet competent at making disciples who can make disciples, please don't send your members out on mission until you have a growing sense of confidence in your ability to train, equip and disciple them.

Here are some questions I have leaders I'm working with ask regularly:

- Am I a disciple?
- Do I know how to disciple people who can then disciple people who then disciple people, etc? (i.e. does my discipleship plan work?)
- Does our discipleship plan naturally lead all disciples to become missionaries? (not just the elite, Delta-seal missional ninjas)



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## 25 SIMPLE WAYS TO BE MISSIONAL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Josh Reeves

I have found that it is often helpful to have practical ideas to start engaging the people around me. Most of the things on this list are normal, everyday things that many people are already doing. The hope is that we would do these things with Gospel intentionality. This means we do them:

In the normal rhythms of life pursuing to meet and engage new people

Prayerfully watching and listening to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working.

Looking to boldly, humbly, and contextually proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

Below is a list of my top 25. Not all of these are for everyone, but hopefully there will be several ideas on the list that God uses to help you engage your neighbors.

1. Stay outside in the front yard longer while watering the yard
2. Walk your dog regularly around the same time in your neighborhood
3. Sit on the front porch and let kids play in the front yard
4. Pass out baked goods (fresh bread, cookies, brownies, etc.)
5. Invite neighbors over for dinner
6. Attend and participate in HOA functions
7. Attend the parties invited to by neighbors
8. Do a food drive or coat drive in winter and get neighbors involved
9. Have a game night (yard games outside, or board games inside)
10. Art swap night – bring out what you're tired of and trade with neighbors
11. Grow a garden and give out extra produce to neighbors
12. Have an Easter egg hunt on your block and invite neighbors to use their front yard
13. Start a weekly open meal night in your home
14. Do a summer BBQ every Friday night and invite others to contribute
15. Create a block/street email and phone contact list for safety
16. Host a sports game watching party
17. Host a coffee and dessert night
18. Organize and host a ladies artistic creation night
19. Organize a tasting tour on your street (everyone sets up food and table on front porch)
20. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
21. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
22. Start hosting a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
23. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
24. Volunteer to coach a local little league sports team
25. Have a front yard ice cream party in the summer



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## HOW IS A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY DIFFERENT FROM A BIBLE STUDY?

Matt Carter

### FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS TO MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

Before, we had what was called community groups. The idea behind community groups was that they were these little small groups that met for Bible study. They had some chips and some dips. And we called this community—small group Bible studies with some chips and some dips thrown in. That was a big win for us.

But we began to think differently. What if we challenged, trained and equipped our leaders, who would then in turn train, challenge and equip all our small groups not just to come together on a Tuesday night, eat some snacks, have a Bible study, pray and go home? What if we challenged them not just to do that, but to come together for the purpose of living radically on mission together?

What if we challenged them to come together for the purpose of being the church? What if we challenged them to come together for the purpose of living missionally and living incarnationally together as a group in their neighborhoods, in their workplaces, on their campuses? What would happen if we did that? We might actually make a difference in Austin, Texas in our lifetime.

### GROWING RESTLESSNESS IN THE AMERICAN CHURCH

There's a growing sense of restlessness that I'm seeing in the American church. When my parents went to church, which was every single Sunday of my young life, here's what their church experience looked like: We would go to the Sunday event. They tithed. They would serve in the nursery once a month. My dad was an usher sometimes, and, about once a month, he'd pass the offering plate. We prayed before meals. My parents would have a couple of quiet times a week.

That was it. That was their definition of Christianity. That was their Christian experience, because in their minds there was a group of people who did the ministry. These were the pastors and the teachers and the evangelists and the missionaries and the music guys. Then there were the people like them who sat in the pews and got fed by the professional Christians who did the ministry.

However, this generation—the 18 to 30 year olds who are coming of age in the church today—they are not wired that way. This generation is not okay with sitting on the sidelines of ministry. They are hardwired to want to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

They are not afraid of challenge. They're not afraid of getting outside of their comfort zone. They want to experience life for themselves. They want to see the world change, and they want to be a part of it. The reason this generation is leaving the church in droves in this country right now is because the vast majority of churches in this country haven't figured that out.

### MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES- EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOUR PEOPLE

People in church right now, the people God is going to bring to future churches, are capable of doing more than you have ever dreamed they can do if you will just challenge them and give them the chance to do it.

They're capable because the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is sitting in that single mom. The power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is sitting in that young married couple. The power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is sitting in that 65-year-old guy who has wasted his life making money for himself. Release people and raise the bar for what it means to live on mission.

When we as a church began to cast this vision for Missional Communities, for groups not just to gather but to live on mission together in the context that God has called them to, we've had people respond that want to make a difference for the kingdom. They have raised their hands and said, "I want to get in the fight."

One family in particular sold their home and moved into an at-risk, under-resourced neighborhood in Austin. They bought several houses around them so that impoverished single moms could have transitional housing. He and his wife started a Missional Community whose purpose is to serve these single mothers, disciple and train these women, and to give these women hope.

They're not just engaging in social justice or charity. They're engaging in community development in their neighborhood, and they are changing the world. They're seeing people come to Christ. They're making a difference in the city of Austin.

If we had never challenged them, if we had never raised the bar for them, and if we'd never released them, if we'd never given them permission, or told them it's okay for you to use your finances, your time, and your

How is a Missional Community Different from a Bible Study?

giftings outside of the four walls of this church, there's a really good chance this family would have spent the rest of their lives sitting in a chair in our sanctuary listening to sermons, singing songs, passing the offering plate, never knowing the thrill of giving their life away for Jesus Christ.

People are hungrier than you could ever dream to get in the fight. Challenge them, train them, and release them not just to come to church but to be the Church.

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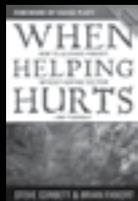


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# 4 SKILLS TO MAKE AND MULTIPLY DISCIPLES

George Patterson

## SKILL 1 EVANGELIZE LIKE THE APOSTLES DID

Work in homes of persons of peace; yield control; avoid extraction. Tell the historical gospel events (Jesus' Great Commission in *Luke 24:46-48*). Pray for healing in the name of Jesus (Jesus' Great Commission in *Mark 16*). Deal with entire families and work within kinship circles or specific pockets of people. (*Acts 10:24; 16:31*)

## SKILL 2 MAKE DISCIPLES BY TEACHING THEM TO OBEY JESUS' COMMANDS

Begin with Jesus' Basic Commands that the first New Testament church obeyed in *Acts 2:37-47*:

1. Repent, believe, and receive the Holy Spirit; avoid decision-making rituals, *Mark 1:15; John 20:22; Acts 2:38*.
2. Be baptized and live the new, holy life that it initiates; avoid non-biblical requirements, *Acts 2:38, 41; Rom. 6*.
3. Break bread (Communion) and let new believers experience Christ; preserve the mystery, *Luke 22:19-20*.
4. Love God, neighbor, disciples, needy neighbor, enemy, *Luke 10:25-37*
5. Pray and embrace the supernatural work of God, *John 16:24; 15:4-5; 14:12-14; Matt. 10:7-8*.
6. Give and practice stewardship in all forms, which may include tent-making, *Luke 6:38; Acts 18*.
7. Make disciples teach and obey God's word, *Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 4:19; John 21:15-17*.

What is the foundation for a church and our lives? (*Matt. 7:24-29; 28:18-20*). Discern levels of authority for church activities:

1. New Testament commands,
2. New Testament practices,
3. Traditions

## SKILL 3 PRACTICE A WORSHIP STYLE THAT FITS A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

Practice the many One Another commands, within and between Missional Communities. Celebrate the Lord's Supper; let anyone who meets biblical requirements lead it.

## SKILL 4 MENTOR NEW LEADERS LIKE JESUS AND PAUL DID, TO MULTIPLY

How many links are in 2 *Tim. 2:2*? What resulted from this chain? How is our power to reproduce like that of grain? Mentor an apprentice until their Missional Community is doing what God requires of it:

1. Prayer, personal & family devotions, spiritual warfare
2. Evangelize, witness, baptize
3. Make disciples and aim to obey Jesus above all else
4. Give and practice stewardship
5. Counsel and deal privately with personal or family issues
6. Teach and apply the Word, equip to serve
7. Show mercy and serve the hurting and needy
8. Cultivate love and fellowship in the body
9. Organize and serve each other with our different spiritual gifts
10. Strengthen family life and marriage by learning to forgive, reconcile, love
11. Organize and serve one another with spiritual gifts
12. Correct and restore, watch for wolves, weak lambs
13. Worship and serve Holy Communion, let all to participate actively
14. Multiply churches/cells and spread Jesus' reign nearby & abroad
15. Train leaders, pastors, missionaries, elders, and evangelists

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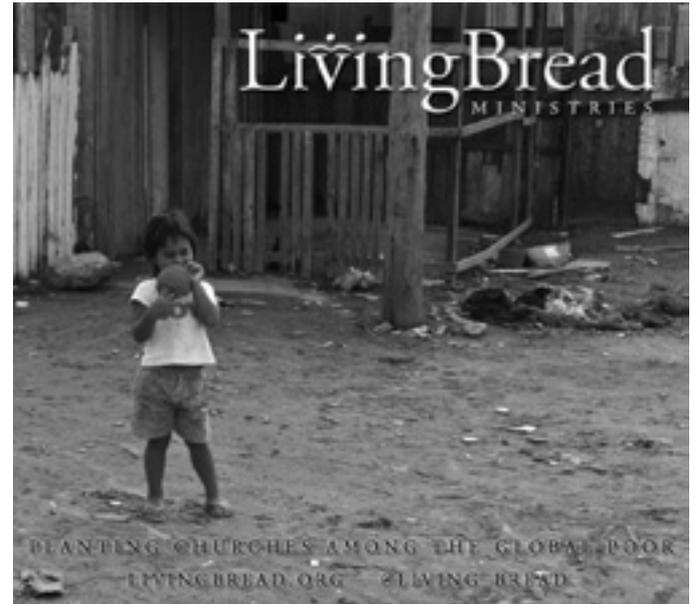
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- Paul Clarke

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(immediate or extended)

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**Friends**

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**Work**

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