

# the



I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery.  
Colossians 2:2

# VISION



Church Claremont  
**Tapestry**

Document: Vision Prospectus  
Church: Tapestry City Church  
City: Claremont, CA



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***There is a story unfolding all around us...***

**It's a story in which we all play a part.** It's the story upon which all other stories rest. In fact, this story makes sense of all other stories. It's the greatest story ever told, filled to the edges with the greatest news ever imagined. It's a story in which life, joy, and hope are at stake, now and forever. It explains our deepest longings and our highest hopes.

**It's a story that tells us who we are and who we will be.** It's a story that explains why the world is the way it is and why we long for something more, something better. It's a story filled with great evil and immense good, wicked sin and fantastic grace, the heights of pride and the depths of humility, soul-numbing hate and wondrous love. It is a story of redemption.

**This is the true story of God.** This story has one central character, Jesus the Christ, one central event, the Cross, one central people, the Church, unified by one central message, the Gospel.

**This Gospel is the good news that "Christ died for our sins"** (1 Corinthians 15:3) to bring us home to God, destroy Satan, forgive sin, reverse the effects of the Fall, and once-and-for-all create a people for God out of all tribes, tongues and nations for His glory. The Gospel changes everything.

**God calls these Gospel people "the Church,"** redeemed sinners who by faith in Jesus have been cleansed of the shame of sin, adopted as children of God, sealed with the Holy Spirit and sent on a mission to enjoy God, redemptively engage their context, and invite everyone into this life that is truly life.

**Tragically, many do not know this God, this story, or this Gospel.**

In fact, many avoid Him, ignore Him, neuter Him, distort Him, domesticate Him, misunderstand Him, add to or subtract from Him, or simply hate Him. Many, however, have simply never heard of Him.

**So we must go to them.**

What you hold in your hands is the beginning of a new Gospel work. A church, forming in the city of Claremont, grounded in the message that Jesus Christ makes all things new. We invite you to read on and join us as we follow Jesus together.

The story continues in **Claremont.**





And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

# vision statement

**Tapestry will be a family of disciple-making missionaries who love Jesus, others, and the city of Claremont.**

# the city of claremont

HistoriContemporary.  
“The City of Tree’s and PhD’s.”

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## Overview

Located 30 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, Claremont is best known for its tree-lined streets, historic buildings, and college campuses. Claremont is a vital, balanced community that provides a wide range of programs and services for all age groups, preserves a full range of housing opportunities, and supports a variety of thriving commercial and industrial centers. The city values protecting the environment while encouraging appropriate development, and respects traditional values while embracing new ideas.

Home to students and professionals, artists and eclectics, fitness junkies and hipsters, jazz musicians and aspiring poets – this is Claremont.

## Size

With an estimated population of over 37,000, Claremont maintains a small town atmosphere. The city spans just over 14 square miles, where it is nestled in the Foothills of the San Gabriel Valley. Claremont itself is the least dense city in the Pomona Valley, which has a combined population of more than 580,000 people (2010 census).

## Diversity

Like a few other cities in Pomona Valley, Claremont is predominantly White and Latino, with a growing number of Asians and African Americans.

- White: 49.40%
- Hispanic: 19.6%
- Asian: 13.5%
- African American: 5.3%
- Two or more races: 4.7%
- Native American: 0.5%
- Native Hawaiian: 0.2%
- Some other race: 6.8%

• Population – 37,780

- Under 18 - 17.4%
- 18-24 - 19.80%
- 25-44 - 20.40%
- 45-54 - 13.40%
- 55-64 - 12.40%
- 65-84 - 13.60%
- over 85 - 3%

Family Households – 69.23%

-With Children under 18 – 31.33%

Married Couple family – 55.72%

-With Children under 18 – 24.1%

Female Householder – no husband – 10.39%

-With Children – 5.83%

Non-family Households – 30.77%

Average Household size 2.56

Average family size 3.08

## Influence

Claremont has long been known as a cultural arts center for Pomona Valley. It continues to provide opportunities for a variety of cultural pursuits showcasing local talent, as well as attracting well-known national artists. The Claremont Colleges spearhead activities by presenting art exhibits. Groups, such as the Fine Arts Foundation and the Curtain Raisers, ensure the involvement of the general public in planning programs for local galleries and theaters.

Claremont residents recognize the importance of cultural activities for the enhancement of their quality of life.

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Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."**

Jeremiah 29:5-7

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### Lifestyle

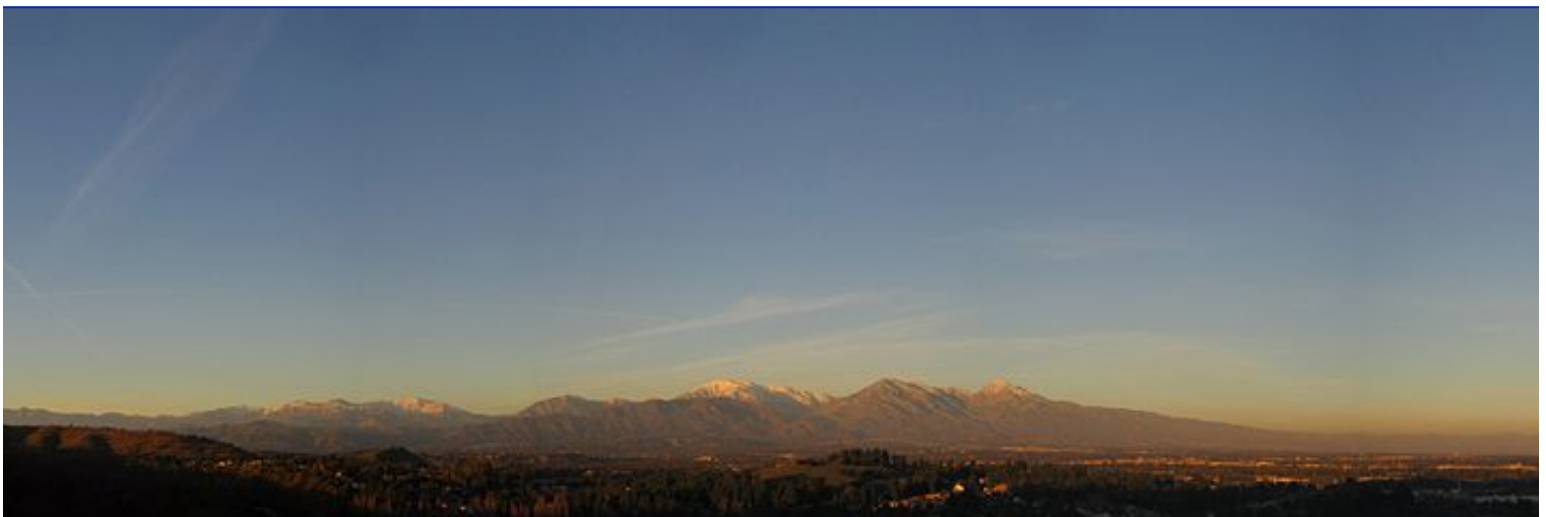
Although the largest employer in the city is the consortium of five undergraduate and two graduate schools of higher education known collectively as the Claremont Colleges, the renowned schools contribute much more to Claremont's culture. They play a large role in young life, in art collectives and athletics as well. Claremont is also characterized by its culturally rich streetscapes – one of the last, true “downtowns” in the area - offering mixed-use neighborhoods filled with neighborhood shops, restaurants and a specialty coffee shop / bakery. 4

In recent years, Money Magazine voted Claremont as number 5 in their list of the “Best Cities to Live.” Findthebest.com ranks Claremont at a solid 5 star “49” out of a possible 1315 cities. It's public schools – including Elementary and High School generally rank on the higher end of the scale according to Greatschools.com.

### Spiritual Need

Claremont is a beautiful place to live and work. Yet, the city is also a broken city filled with busy people seeking fulfillment and finding identity in everything except the God who created them. Amidst the beauty, creativity, ingenuity, and passion of Claremont, less than 60% of the 37,000 people here claim any religious affiliation. 41% are Roman Catholic, and less than 9% of the population identify themselves as Bible-believing evangelical Christians. Added to that, many residents dismiss the idea of the God of Scripture being King and Creator. Some have skewed perceptions about Jesus and the church. Others have been deeply hurt in a church context and therefore are suspicious of the gospel message. A growth in adherents to Islam should be noted as well – 1.1%.

There is great need for gospel-centered churches to take root within the city of Claremont.





# our mission

**Tapestry City Church is a church rooted in  
the soil of the Gospel, being  
planted in the city of  
Claremont**

It is our deep desire to not simply see a “building” that houses a church, but to see a gathering of disciples living as the church. Simply put, we desire to be a church that lives as a Family of Disciple-Making Missionaries who love Jesus, others and the city of Claremont.

## Family

From the beginning, the family has been the centerpiece to the work of God. Family represents a tight-knit community that lives life together – hurts, struggles, celebrations – all of life, all together.

## Disciples

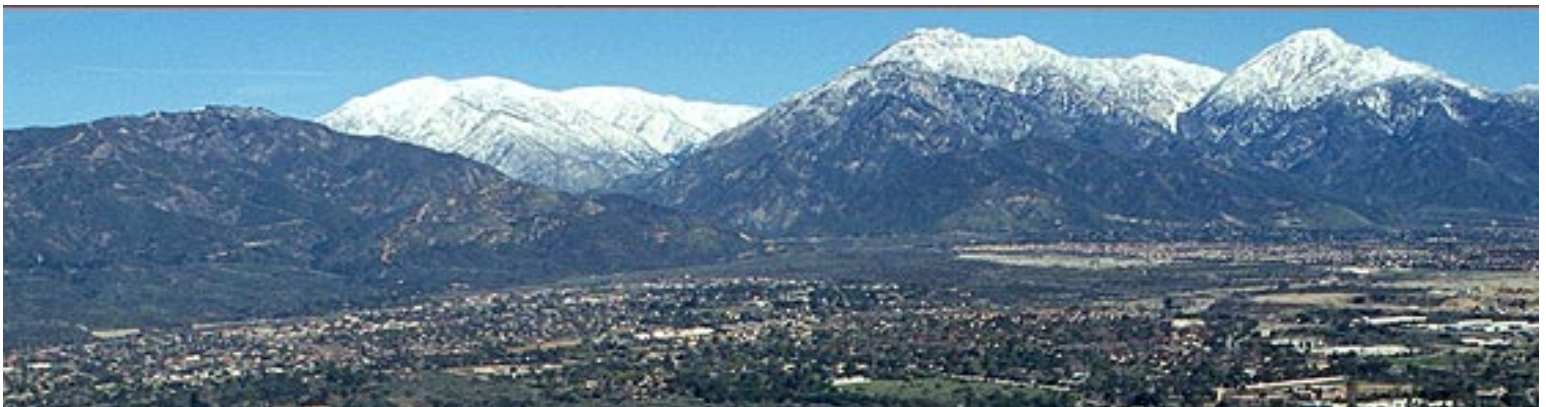
The call to “Go and make disciples” will not be taken lightly at Tapestry. It is the purpose for which we are here. Not only will we be a church of committed disciples, but also we’ll be a church of committed disciples who make disciples of all people, on mission with Jesus, and for His glory. This entails life-on-life, intentional relationships that produce mature believers ready and able to recognize their unique gifts, and how to use them for the glory of God.

## Missionaries

We live as those who are sent. Just as the Father sent the Son into the world, so too the Son has sent his church into the world. Therefore, to live as a disciple means that we live on mission with Jesus. This will be expressed as disciples adopt the posture of a missionary – to learn, listen to and love the culture locally and globally. In doing so, the church announces the salvation accomplished by the Son through the proclamation of the gospel while working and praying for the advancement of God’s kingdom.

## Love for Jesus, Others, and Claremont

Jesus said that the world would know his people by their love for each other. We know that love for one another stems from an understanding of how much God loves us. We love Him because He first loved us. It is our great pleasure to distribute that gift of love liberally, and to express that love in physical, tangible ways to Jesus, fellow believers, and everyone in the city to which we are called. We want to be a church known for and marked by our love.



# our values

We are unashamedly Jesus followers.

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## CORE VALUES:

**Gospel:** God's News

**Family:** God's Design

**Community:** God's People

**Discipleship:** God's Vessels

**Mission:** God's Purpose

**Compassion:** God's Mercy

**Multiplication:** Do it Again...

EVERYWHERE.

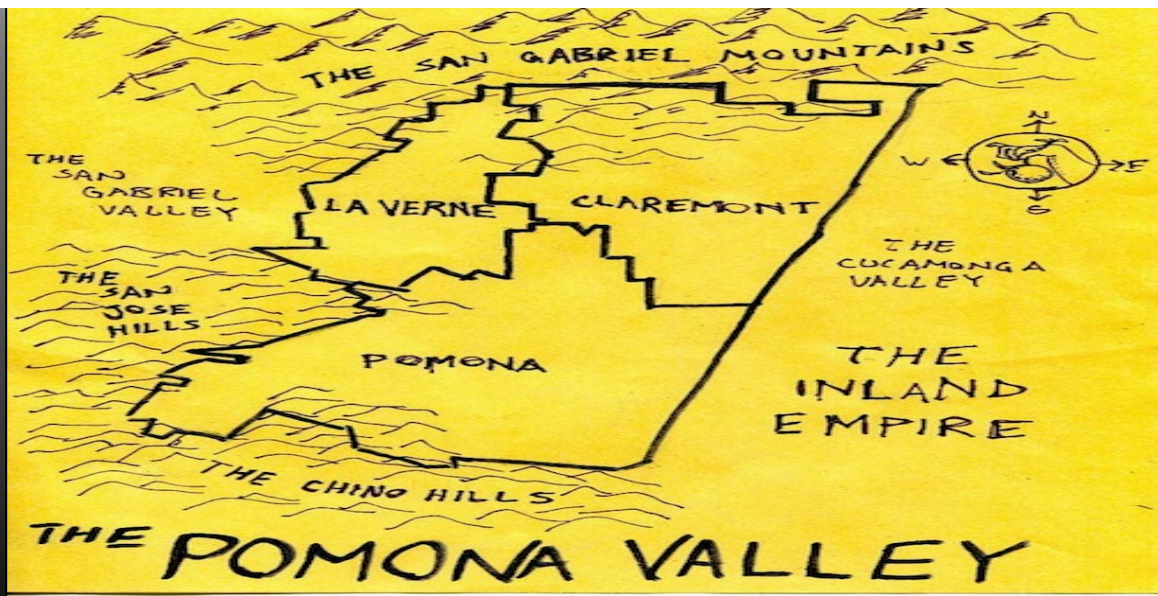
“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

*Matthew 28:18–19 (ESV)*

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## A NEW CITY

We envision thousands of people from every corner of Claremont united under a new identity in Jesus and sent to love, serve and challenge the city, the Pomona Valley, and the cities of the world. Out of personal gospel renewal, city renewal will flow, as the very spiritual, social and cultural fabric of Claremont is transformed. To achieve this, our prayerful aim is to create a movement of autonomous Missional Communities in every neighborhood of the city.



# the strategy

Making disciples who make disciples  
and live for God's glory  
in all things.

**Our strategy is fourfold:**

## #1 Missional Communities

The city is an amazingly complex and diverse place. To incarnate the Gospel in the city, we will become a part of the city in all its forms. We will do this by cultivating communities of Spirit-led followers of Jesus that enjoy God, and engage the city at every intersection. These are smaller communities in which Jesus is loved, life is shared, disciples are made, mission is exercised, the Gospel is lived, others are invited in and, ultimately, churches are planted. By locally incarnating the Gospel, we represent the same Jesus and Gospel in contextually appropriate ways throughout the Pomona Valley, in word and deed.

## #2 Sunday Gatherings

Not only will we be cultivating Spirit-led communities, soon enough we'll start gathering every Sunday as a single community for Word and worship. The Bible is central to our meetings, because it is God's Word to us about who He is, who we are, and His true story of redemption in Jesus Christ. Our Sunday gatherings will be filled with passionate, intellectually engaging, Gospel-centered teaching with a heart to extend grace to seekers, skeptics and believers alike. We'll also strive for vibrant worship to glorify God in song and to tangibly experience His presence and power. Our goal is to create Spirit-led and God-glorifying gatherings defined by joy, reverent awe, and excellence.

## #3 Discipleship

The mission of the church is to make disciples; leading people from unbelief to becoming passionate Jesus followers. Without the building and sending of disciples the church dies. The Gospel is what creates, matures and develops disciples. As the Gospel takes greater and greater hold of a disciple's heart, the result is a humble, Gospel-centered, passionate and contagious follower who invites others to the same. We build disciples by abiding in Jesus, stewarding His gifts, and equipping the saints in love as we trust Jesus to build His church for His glory and our greatest good.

## #4 Church Planting

We will be a multiplying movement of disciples, communities and churches in the Pomona Valley and beyond. In other words: do it all again, everywhere.

**Unless the Lord builds the  
house, those who build it  
labor in vain.**

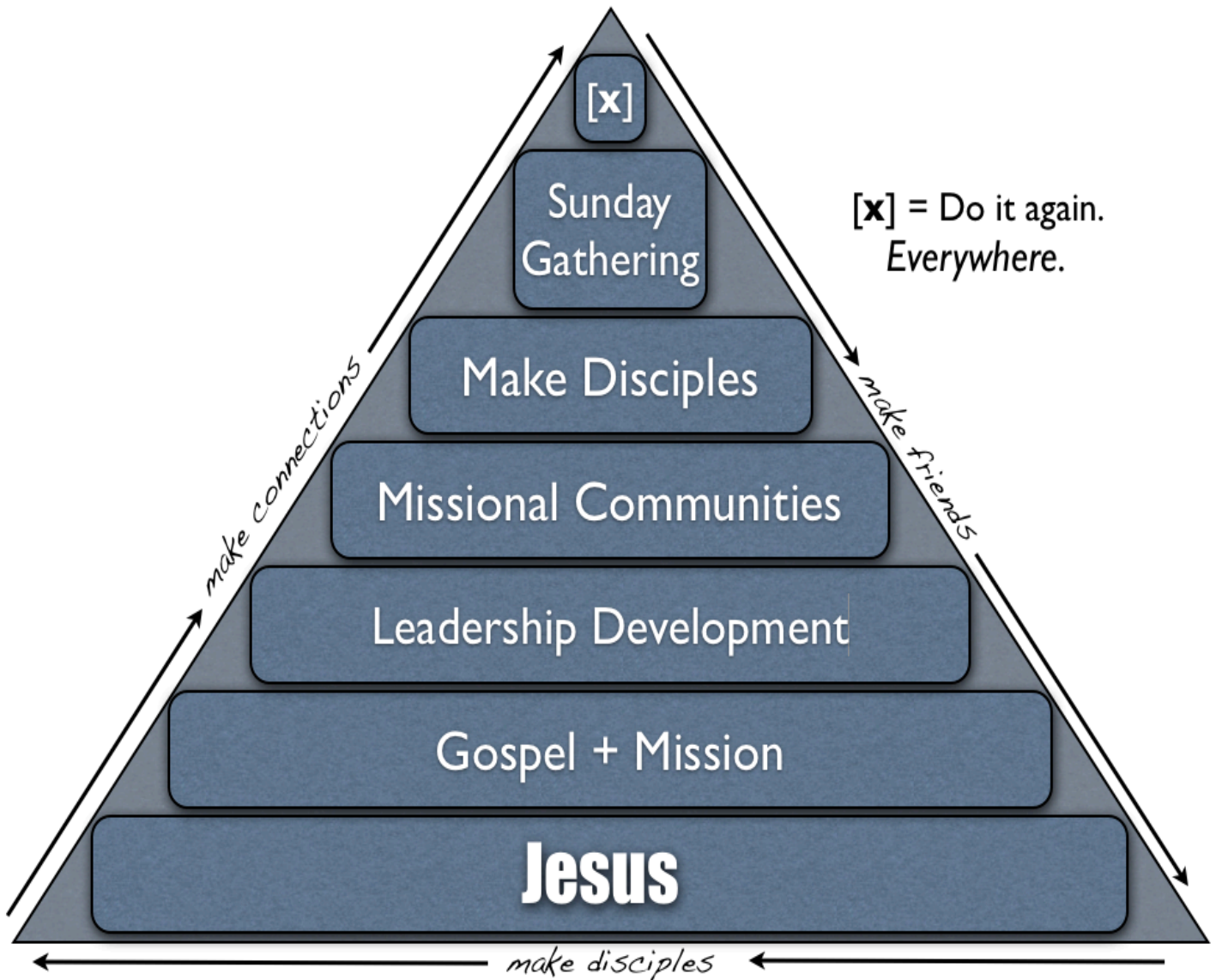
Psalms 127:1



# the structure

## With Christ as our Foundation, Tapestry is Gospel-Centered, Mission Focused and Community Driven

The Scriptures convince us that Church is not a building to go to, a weekend activity, or a service to engage in, but rather the Church is a people – a community of Christians, living for the glory of God. To that end, Tapestry recognizes the importance of Missional Community – where life happens in the everyday – to be the most transformative, challenging, and impacting piece of what we do. In these communities, the Gospel is preached, disciples are made, and multiplication happens. Our Sunday Gatherings are a celebration of what God is doing in individual communities. We see this being worked out in the following illustration:





**That's where we're going**, but we need your help. Please consider how Jesus may be inviting you to support us — whether through prayer, giving, or joining us as we follow Jesus in planting a new Gospel work in the heart of Pomona Valley.

### Pray

We need prayer. For all our strategizing and preparation, we cannot succeed without the Spirit of God building His church. Through the act of corporate and private prayer we are submitting ourselves, our opinions and our desires to Jesus, the Head of the Church. Please pray with and for us daily. Jesus will build His church, but he does so through the faithful work, service and prayers of His people. There is much spiritual opposition, relational tension, financial strain and physical hardship involved in planting a church. Please join us in prayer to our God who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask, think or imagine (Eph 3:20).

Please pray that...

- We would be a church marked by a deep love for Jesus.
- Many souls will be saved and lives transformed through this new Gospel work.
- We would have wisdom, discernment and grace in the city.
- We would be given favor by the city.
- God would provide all of our financial needs.
- God would bring the right people at the right time.
- Many Gospel-centered Jesus-loving churches would be planted.
- Claremont would be loved, served, challenged and changed through the Gospel.

Please consider partnering with us at one of the following levels:

### Give

Tapestry operates on a minimalistic budget, as there aren't salaries, allowances, or benefits to be paid out at this time. Still, renting facilities, insuring them, and some simple operational costs (local missions, children's ministry, books, resources, meals, signage, print materials, etc.) add up quickly. At current, we can run up to \$1600 / month to operate, and the goal is to be able to add staff in the not-too-distant future. Would you consider giving to the mission and work of Tapestry?

In 2014, we have been able to care for families in our own fellowship who were in need, families in our community that are without resources, and contribute to the wider work of local missions by partnering with like-minded churches to feed over 200 people this past Thanksgiving.

We are on the look out for a more permanent space to meet at, but real estate in this town comes at a premium. We are thankful for the school facilities that currently house our Sunday gatherings, and for the downtown area office space that is suitable for the work at hand. These make up the largest cost of our current budget. In the coming fiscal year, we'd like to like to be able to supply housing allowances for the elders who serve Tapestry, soon followed by a stipend, and eventually salary.

Your giving helps us to meet these needs, as well as plan for outreach, mission, and set forward a budget for the years to come.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7



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## Join

We're praying that God would put a spark into those who He's calling to labor with us in this new work. Would you consider joining us? Are you a risk taker, a dreamer, a planner who loves Jesus and his church? Pray about moving into the city. Pray about getting a job, starting a business, or raising money and becoming an integral part of this new work. We would love to see you join this family of disciple-makers who love Jesus, one another, and the city of Claremont!

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I thank my God every time I  
remember you. In all my prayers for  
all of you, I always pray with joy  
because of your partnership in the  
gospel from the first day until now...

Philippians 1:3-5



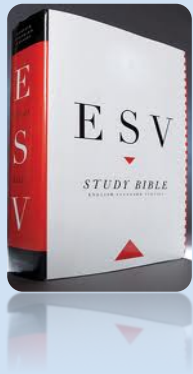
# we believe:

- The scriptures of the Old and New Testament as being verbally inspired by God and inerrant and infallible in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in matters of faith, salvation and practice.
- In one God eternally existing in one essence yet equal persons, the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- That Jesus Christ was begotten by God, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born to the virgin Mary.
- In the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He is the life of the believer and He empowers the preaching and teaching of the Gospel.
- That mankind was created in the image of God, but soon after disobeyed God, allowing sin to enter God's perfect world. From then on, every human has been born with sinful desires that lead to separation from God.
- That the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the basis of His shed blood.
- In the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, His ascension into heaven and His present life there as High Priest and Advocate for us.
- In the blessed hope, which is the personal, visible and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- That all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
- In the Church, whose mission it is to preach the Gospel to all the world, all of its endeavors being guided by multiple leadership and supported by the wise stewardship of God's people.

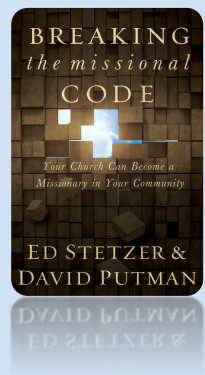
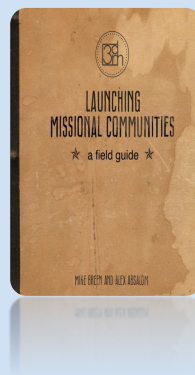
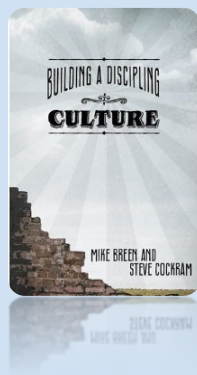
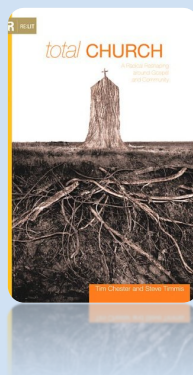
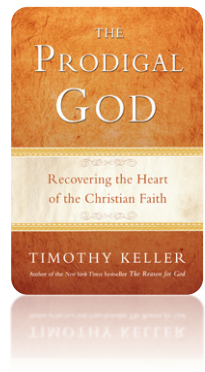
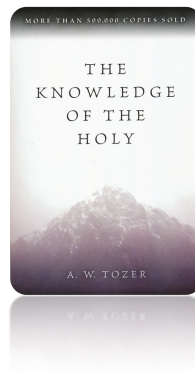
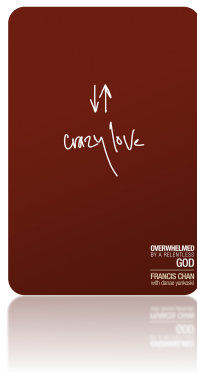
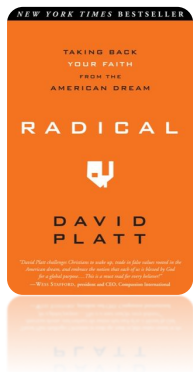


# resources

If you are considering joining us on this journey, following are some helpful resources that will equip, edify and inform you.



In addition to the books displayed here, there is a wealth of resources to be found in blogs, videos, and white papers that are both invaluable and inspirational. For more information, please let us know of your interest by emailing us at [info@tapestryclaremont.org](mailto:info@tapestryclaremont.org)



# APPENDIX 1

## Why Plant a New Church in the City?

*adapted from "Why Plant Churches" by Tim Keller*

Often times, the normal response to discussions about church planting is something like this:

- We already have plenty of churches and lots of room for all the other people. Let's get them filled before we build other churches
- A new church will just take people away from existing churches
- Help should be given to the struggling churches first. We need better churches, not more churches.

Although these statements appear to be 'common sense' to many people, they rest on several assumptions. The error of this thinking will become clear if we ask, "Why is church planting crucially important?"

### **Church Planting is a Biblical Mandate**

Jesus' essential call was to plant churches. Virtually all the great evangelistic challenges of the New Testament are basically calls to plant churches, not simply to share the faith. The 'Great Commission' (Matt.28: 18-20) is not just a call to 'make disciples' but to 'baptize' and to 'teach.' In Acts and elsewhere, it is clear that baptism means incorporation into a worshipping community with accountability and boundaries (cf. Acts 2:41-47). The only way to be truly sure you are increasing the number of Christians in a city is to increase the number of churches.

Paul's whole strategy was to plant churches. The greatest missionary in history, St. Paul, had a rather simple, two-fold strategy. First, he went into the most influential city of the region (cf. Acts 16:9,12), and second, he planted churches in each city (cf. Titus 1:5). Once Paul had done that, he could say that he had 'fully preached' the gospel in a region and that he had 'no more work' to do there (cf. Romans 15:19,23). This means Paul had two controlling assumptions: a) that the way to most permanently influence a country was through its chief cities, and b) the way to most permanently influence a city was to plant churches in it. Once he had accomplished this in a city, he moved on. He knew that the rest that needed to happen would follow.

### **Planting New Churches is Healthy for the Entire Body of Christ**

It is a great mistake to think that we have to choose between church planting and church renewal. Strange as it may seem, the planting of new churches in a city is one of the very best ways to revitalize many older churches in the vicinity and renew the whole Body of Christ.

Often times, in efforts to reach out to unchurched people, a new church will take risks and bring new ideas into the whole Body. It is the new churches that will have freedom to be innovative and they become the 'Research and Development' department for the whole Body in the city. Often the older congregations were too timid to try a particular approach or were absolutely sure it would 'not work here'. But when the new church in town succeeds wildly with some new method, the other churches eventually take notice and get the courage to try it themselves.

Likewise, in older congregations, leaders can emphasize tradition, tenure, routine, and kinship ties. New congregations, on the other hand, attract a higher percentage of venturesome people who value creativity, risk, innovation and future orientation. Often older churches 'box out' many people with strong leadership skills who cannot work in more traditional settings. New churches thus attract and harness many people in the city whose gifts would otherwise not be utilized in the work of the Body. These new leaders benefit the whole city-Body eventually.

### **A Kingdom Mentality**

New church planting is the only way that we can be sure we are going to increase the number of believers in a city and one of the best ways to renew the whole Body of Christ. The evidence for this statement is strong--Biblically, sociologically, and historically. In the end, a focus on the Kingdom of God rather than our own personal kingdoms will keep us fixated upon Jesus' call to go and make disciples of all nations.

# APPENDIX 2

## What is a Gospel-Centered Church?

*Adapted from "Christ City Church – Vision Packet" by Jonathan McIntosh*

Is there really such a thing as a Christian church that is not also gospel-centered? Is it possible for elders and pastors to lead churches into areas that are not gospel-centered? Yes.

However, it is not that these churches have fallen into some sort of blatant heresy. Most likely, it is that over time, they have let the message of the gospel slip in favor of another way to try and draw people or even change people.

### Replacements for Gospel Motivation

A few of the most prevalent replacements that can crowd out the gospel:

**Moralism** - using fear, rules and commands as the basis for discouraging sin and encouraging holy living, which sadly, results in increases self-righteousness among the rule-keepers and despair among those who feel they can't live up.

**Pragmatism** - when in an effort to reach new people, church leaders spend more time focused on techniques of useful principals than actually pointing people to the only thing that has real power to change both hearts and lives.

**Activism** - out of a desire to get involved in the public square and influence policy, Christians of every political stripe often begin to equate the spread of the gospel with the growth of a particular political party.

What is tricky is that usually these -isms start with good intentions and noble aspirations: a deep desire to help people change and grow, a desire to reach out to people who are far from God, or a desire to use influence to change the way things are done. Unfortunately, when something other than Jesus is our primary goal, (no matter how good that goal is), we will eventually start taking shortcuts to get what we want accomplished.

### Marks of a Gospel-Centered Church

A gospel-centered church understands that change or transformation of any kind, especially authentic heart-transformation, cannot happen apart from the gospel of grace. A gospel-centered church roots itself and keeps the focus of all activity - teaching, worship, outreach, social

activism and discipleship - honed in on the gospel: the riches of the grace of God available because of the sacrificial death of Jesus for sinners.

Because of this, a gospel-centered church is committed to:

- Reading and teaching the entire Bible in light of the gospel message
- Preaching the gospel to believers, not just unbelievers
- Leaders applying the gospel to themselves first; church leaders are a model of repentance
- Developing a leadership culture marked by ever increasing "gospel-astonishment"
- Being known for an atmosphere of grace (gospel-centered churches are a safe place for seekers, skeptics and those outside the faith)
- Producing people who not only know the doctrine of the gospel but who also love the person of Jesus Christ

### The Heartbeat of Tapestry City Church

These are some of the themes that we are committed to living together at Tapestry City Church. At the end of the day, grace isn't just something we "get" and the cross is not just some object in time. These things hinge on a person. Jesus.

In an age when His name is easily tossed around or relegated to some minor point of doctrine used to win arguments and manipulate people, we long for the day when Jesus is seen for what He is: the hero of the story.



# APPENDIX 3

## What is a Missional Church?

*Adapted from "What is a Mission Church", Christ City Church; Jonathan McIntosh*

We're all on a mission of some kind. The question is: what's yours? What defines what your life is about? That's your mission. Jesus gave His church, His people one mission: make disciples from rebels (Mt 28:18-20). Calling rebellious sinners to faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, life with God and partnering with Him in his unfolding story is the mission of the church.

However, often the church drifts from this mission. This happens when a church lets something else take over as the primary mission: a building project, an unstated theology of "people should come to us," personality of the preacher, the size of the church, making budget, keeping programs running or sometimes simple laziness.

Ultimately, when mission drift occurs indefinitely the church stops reaching people.

The term "missional" is simply the noun "missionary" adapted into an adjective. Thus, a "missionary" is someone who acts like a missionary (e.g. understands a culture, proclaims the faithful Gospel in a way that people in culture can understand, and uses parts of that culture to glorify God). A "missional church" is a church that acts like a missionary in its community.

What, then do missional churches look like?

**Incarnational** - Missional churches are deeply connected to the community. The church is not focused on its facility, but is focused on living, demonstrating, and offering biblical community to a lost world. It means following the example of Jesus, God becoming man. We are now commissioned to become part of the community in which God has placed us as redemptive agents.

**Indigenous** - Churches that are indigenous have taken root in the soil and reflect, to some degree, the culture of their community. An indigenous church looks different from Claremont to Colombia to Cambodia. This means that churches must become humble students of the varied peoples and cultures surrounding them to communicate the Gospel truth in ways the culture understands.

Intentional - Missional churches are intentional about their methodologies:

- Intentional about producing missionaries instead of consumers in the discipleship process.
- Intentional about equipping people to live every day with Gospel intentionality.
- Intentional about building a great city and not just a good church.
- Intentional about working to heal the real wounds and righting injustices in the community through mercy and social justice.
- Intentional about planting other churches to go and do the same.
- Intentional about Biblical fidelity merged with contextual engagement.

In all this, Jesus serves as our primary example. The incarnation – God becoming man – helps us understand and relate to people. The cross provides the framework for our theology (what we believe and how we relate to God). But it's the incarnation that provides the framework for our missiology (what we believe and how we relate to culture).

During His earthly ministry we see Jesus loving people, spending time with people, and sharing His life with people. We see an outcast ministering to outcasts, we see grace offered to a prostitute, an adulterer, and a tax-collector. We see a God-man moved with absolute compassion because He sees those around Him are "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Mt 9:36). And He says I am here. I am here to "seek and save that which is lost."

A missional church sees that people and culture are not enemies of the church, but broken treasures that God is restoring. Restoration is only made fully and freely available through the Gospel delivered by God's sent people, the Church. That's missional. We have a sender (Jesus), a message (the Gospel), and a people to whom we are sent (real people in culture). These are the themes that we are committed to living out together as Tapestry City Church.