



Church Plant Proposal

Southeast Collin County, TX

Prepared by

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Introduction



Bart Blair
Pastor, Church Planter

<https://youtu.be/CIS11oXsZ90>

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**Helping people
experience a full
and meaningful life
through a personal
relationship with
Jesus Christ.**

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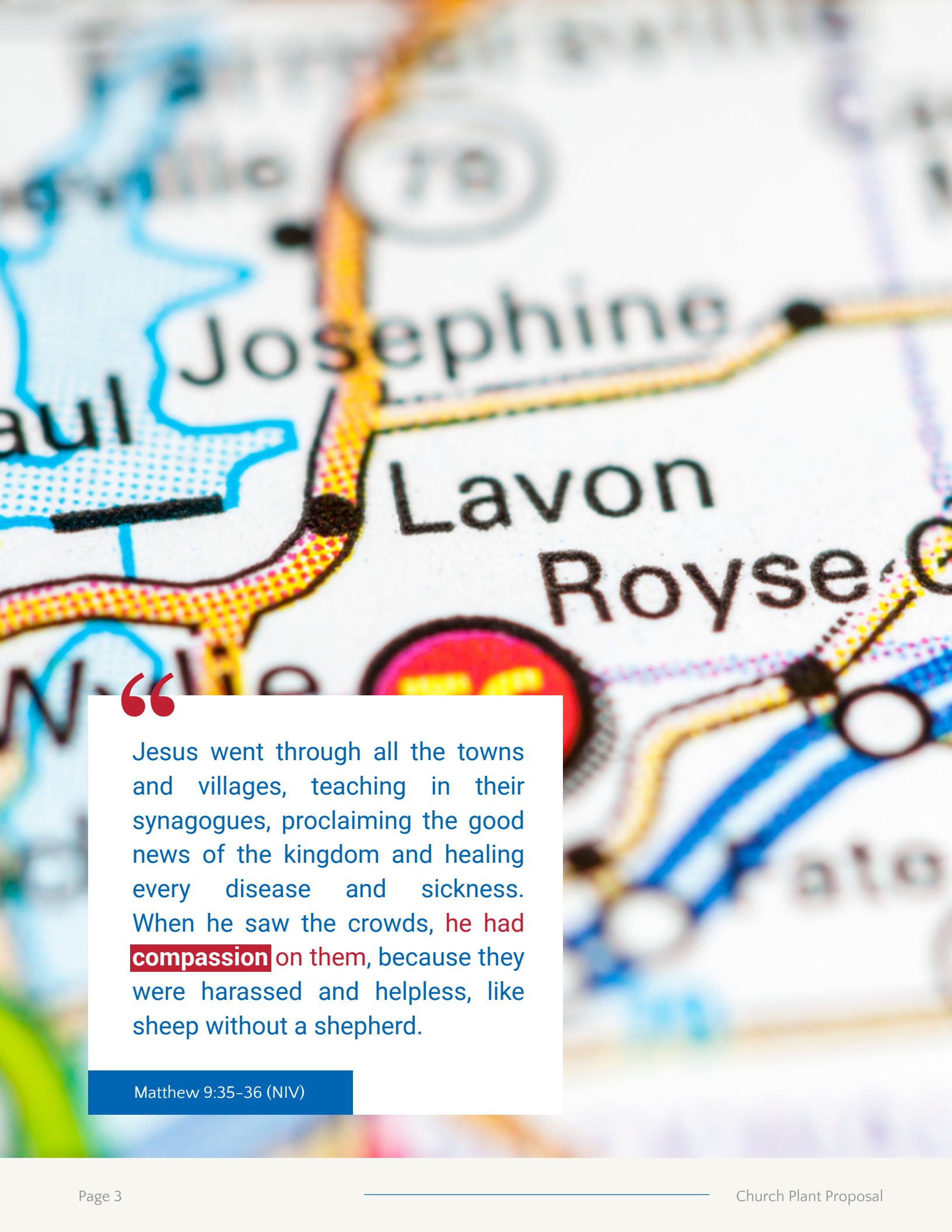
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Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion on them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:35-36 (NIV)

SE Collin County, Texas Church Plant

This proposal has been prepared to provide an overview of the planned launch of a new church in SE Collin County, Texas, encompassing the Community ISD - towns of Lavon, Nevada, Josephine and Copeville.

The project is being initiated by Bart and Elizabeth Blair and will be supervised in partnership with Preston Trail Community Church and Assist Church Expansion.

Preston Trail Community Church

Preston Trail is a non-denominational church in Frisco, Texas. It has been the home church of the Blairs since 2018. Planted in 2002, Preston Trail's ministry has been extremely fruitful in helping people find and follow Jesus for two decades.

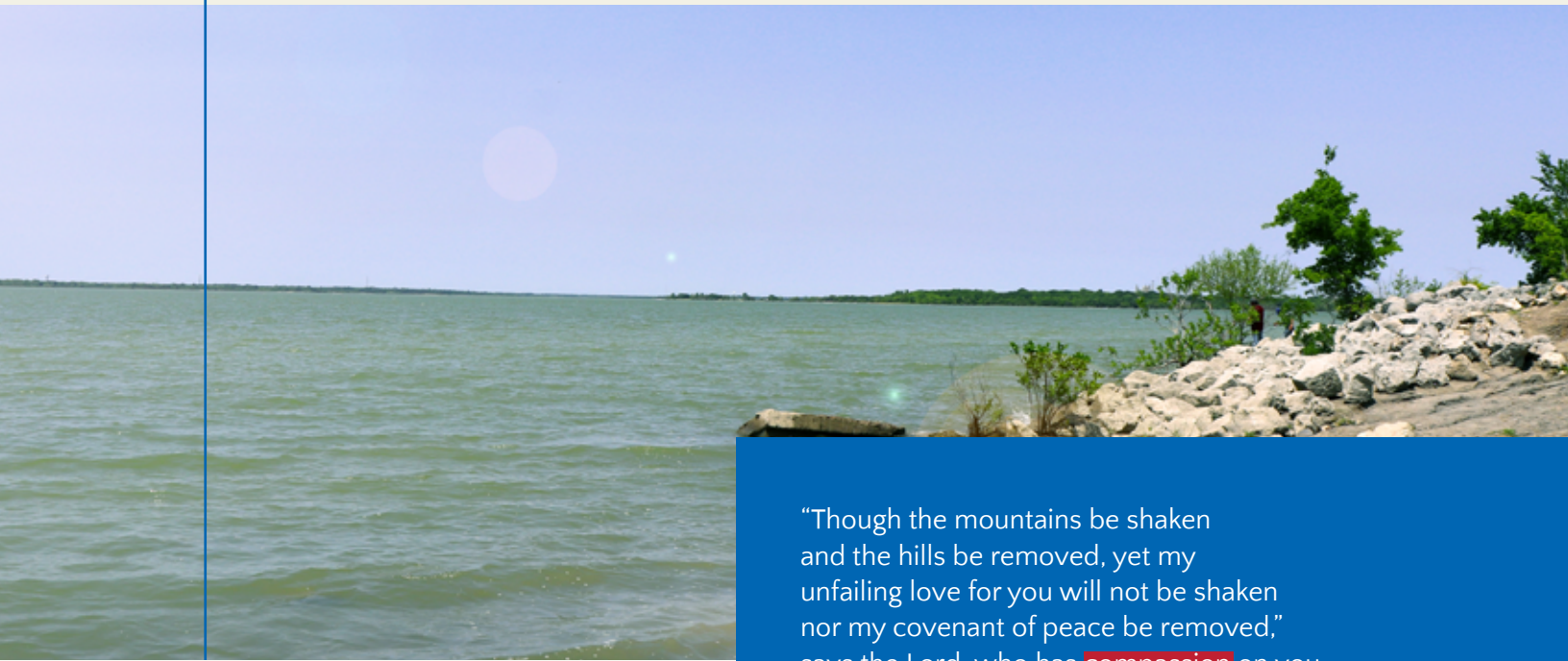
Assist Church Expansion

Assist is a National Organization for the Charis Fellowship of Churches that works in partnership with churches and church planters for the purpose of church planting, multi-site expansion and church revitalization.

The Charis Fellowship

The Charis Fellowship is a network of autonomous churches, campuses and ministries in the USA and Canada who are passionate about Jesus in Truth, Relationship, Mission. And that mission is to start new churches, train leaders and do good for the sake of the gospel.

Charis Fellowship is a member of the global Charis Alliance with 3000+ churches in more than 25 countries.



“Though the mountains be shaken
and the hills be removed, yet my
unfailing love for you will not be shaken
nor my covenant of peace be removed,”
says the Lord, who has **compassion** on you.

Bart & Elizabeth Blair

Married 20 years

Children: Sarah-lynn Friesen (31), Silas (20) and Ephraim (with the Lord)



Ministry Background

Bart is an ordained minister in the Charis Fellowship of Churches. He served as the Worship Pastor at Grace Community Church in Mississauga, ON from 2002 through 2010. He co-planted a church in Medicine Hat, AB in 2011 and served as the Lead Pastor of that church from 2013 until his return to Texas in 2018.

Since 2018, Bart has served on the executive team of Assist Church Expansion. His current position is Director of Church Revitalization, coaching pastors and guiding church leaders through a process of revisioning their churches for the future. Bart also works as a digital outreach coach for Missional Marketing, helping churches across the country leverage the internet and digital media for evangelism.

Bart and Elizabeth have served as volunteers at Preston Trail as small group leaders, in hospitality and in children's ministry.

About The Blairs

Bart was born and raised in North Texas. He grew up in McKinney, attended McKinney High School and spent time sailing with his dad on Lavon Lake as a kid. Bart attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied music.

Bart met Elizabeth in 2000 while on a job assignment in the Toronto area. Elizabeth was born and raised in Ontario, Canada. They have lived in Frisco, Texas since 2018.

Bart is employed by Assist Church Expansion and Missional Marketing. Elizabeth works as a freelance social media coordinator for several churches and businesses.

Call To Plant

Having served in Charis Fellowship churches for the past 20 years, Bart's hope, when returning to Texas, has been to be a part of starting a new Charis church in the Dallas area. Initially this was a passive pursuit.

After losing their youngest son, Ephraim, to suicide in 2021, the Blairs felt an immediate impulse to accelerate their ministry efforts. They began praying about what God might have them do. Soon after they began seeking the Lord's direction, the urge to plant a new church began to move them. Additionally, Preston Trail launched an initiative in 2021 with an emphasis on church planting.

The Compassion of Jesus



With a Heart of Compassion

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of **compassion** and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

In January 2021 Bart and Elizabeth Blair lost their 16-year old son, Ephraim, to suicide. It was a life-changing loss, propelling them into a season of grief that words cannot describe.

As they have traveled the valley of the shadow, the Lord has given them a new set of lenses through which to see the world. Their view of the gospel has taken on a new clarity. They have a heightened awareness of God's compassion and a need, as believers, to extend that compassion to others who are on their own journey of suffering and sorrow.

The Dream

At the outset of Jesus' public ministry, He cited the prophet Isaiah with a declaration that He would **preach to the poor, give sight to the blind and set the captives free**. Jesus was addressing the spiritual blindness and bondage that envelops the world. Yet the calling card for His ministry was the fact that He was literally restoring sight to blind people, and healing the sick, and repairing the bodies of those who were broken.

Jesus drew crowds as much for the fact that He was

able to address the felt needs of the community as He was for His outrageous teaching and claims about being the Son of God.

The Blairs' dream is to plant a church that leads with compassion and care, meeting the needs of our modern-day paralytics; those who are struggling in grief, marriage, addiction and financial bondage. They will introduce neighbors to the person of Jesus while addressing the immediate real life struggles faced every day.

Our Purpose

This new church will exist to:

Help people experience a full and meaningful life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Problem

Our culture is one in which people pursue many things to give their lives purpose and meaning. Our “inalienable right” as Americans to pursue happiness has led us to seek our human value in careers, accomplishments, relationships and wealth. This is a problem for both the American believer and the unbeliever.

The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- Jesus (John 10:10)

Jesus’s statement about our enemy’s plan to steal, kill and destroy is not an idle threat. The enemy is a liar, a thief and a murderer. For those who are not in Christ, he will leverage the culture against sin nature to keep us in bondage, stealing eternal hope and life.

For those who are in Christ, the enemy will capitalize on the fact that we tend to find so much of

our identity in the things that the world tells us are important. And he will rob of us those things, stealing the joy we should experience as God’s redeemed children. While he cannot take us from the Father’s hand, he can render our lives impotent and cause us to waver in our faith, questioning God’s goodness when the things we have centered our lives around are taken from us.

The vision for this new church is to build and equip a family of growing disciples who hold all things that are not Christ with open hands. We pursue Jesus first. We will recognize our wealth, possessions, relationships and opportunities as gifts from above, given for Kingdom purposes.

We will strive to find our identity, purpose and hope in life as adopted sons and daughters who deserve nothing, yet have received an inheritance that exceeds anything we might achieve or attain in this world.

About SE Collin County

Collin County is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. 28 miles northeast of Downtown Dallas, the city of Lavon is often referred to as the gateway to East Texas



Why Southeast Collin County?

Collin County is one of the fastest growing regions in the U.S. Over the past 25 years, the cities of McKinney and Frisco have grown from sleepy bedroom communities to combine for nearly half a million people. Extensive new development in north Collin County (Celina, Prosper, Anna and Melissa) has led to a flurry of new church plants and mega-churches launching campuses.

The eastern third of the county is still somewhat rural, but home builders are beginning to buy land and plot the course of new home development. As of this writing,

there are 21 actively building subdivisions within the towns of Lavon, Nevada, Josephine and Copeville - all within a 50 square mile radius.

Many DFW residents are relocating to this area because of its proximity to the lakes, and the ability to buy larger, more affordable home lots.

The Blairs were blessed with an opportunity to contract on a new home construction during a time that such opportunities were quite limited due to supply chain issues. They will relocate to Lavon, TX in the summer of 2022.



Community **ISD**

The towns served by the Community Independent School District are small but growing. There are currently 21 actively building subdivisions in the district.

The 2020 enrollment in the district was approximately 2,700 students. The 10-year

year projection is that the district will grow to over 6,300 students by 2030/31.

On May 7, 2022, the district approved a \$595M bond to build four elementary schools, two new middle schools and expand the current high school to accommodate the growth.



The Team

The church planting process outlined by Assist Church Expansion prescribes a team model with a specific set of gifts and talents to be included on the Vision Team.

Although he is leading the way for the new church plant, Bart does not believe his calling is to be the lead pastor of the church. His ministry experience, including five years as a senior pastor, have confirmed for him that his gifts are more apostolic. He embraces adventure and runs towards the opportunity to start new works, but is pleased to step aside and allow other qualified leaders to use their gifts to manage, coordinate and oversee the operations of the church and its ministries. As Bart and Elizabeth have been dreaming of this new work, they have also been praying for the calling of a Vision Team that will help develop the specific missional strategy for this new church.



Visionary Leader: **Bart Blair**

The Visionary Leader takes responsibility for the direction and future of the church. He develops vision, inspires and leads the team and church to work together to accomplish that vision. He will typically have a strong apostolic gift. He is entrepreneurial. He is not afraid of risks. He is optimistic. His spiritual gift of faith will be strong. The Visionary Leader may also be a Gatherer or a Shepherd, but not likely both. His DISC profile will likely be high “D” and may also have a strong “I”. Everything will usually move too slowly for this person, which is why he needs the rest of the team to keep him grounded and balanced.



Shepherd: **TBD**

The Shepherd cares for the spiritual and emotional needs of the people. People in the church know and feel that they are loved and cared for because of this person. They are highly empathetic, nurturing and merciful. They are very comfortable in smaller groups or one-on-one settings. They enjoy listening to others and helping them solve problems. Their relational influence is typically narrow but deep. They cannot let the needs of the people go unmet. The Shepherd will likely be a high “S” on the DISC profile but will likely also have a notable “I”.

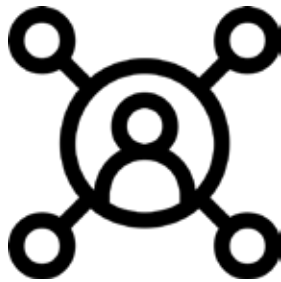


Teacher: **TBD**

The Greek word for those with the spiritual gift of teaching is didaskalos. From the root of this word we get our English word, “didactic.” The word didasko means to teach, instruct, instill doctrine, explain, and expound. Those with the spiritual gift of teaching love in-depth study of the Bible. They hate when Scripture is misused or used out of context. The Teacher is not necessarily the “preacher” in the church, but a member of the team whose priorities always include Word-based spiritual formation and discipleship. This person is able to help the church understand doctrine and biblical instruction. People live out the truth because of the Teacher’s influence.

The Team

(continued)



Gatherer: TBD

This person is a “people magnet.” They are natural at building relationships. The Gatherer is probably an extrovert whose presence gives others a sense of excitement. They are more natural in group settings than one-one-one. This person mobilizes people. They are constantly bringing in new people and encouraging people to move from one place to another in the church. They are always bringing someone new and are encouraging the team and church to do the same. The Gatherer will likely have a wide but shallow relational influence. They are likely to have strong spiritual gifts in hospitality and/or evangelism. Their DISC profile is likely a high “I”.



Translator: TBD

One of the most important nuances in reaching your community is having the ability to communicate in language that our neighbors understand. It would be foolish to go into a foreign mission field without having spent some time learning some basic phrases and attempting to learn the culture of the people you are trying to reach. We often underestimate how different our church culture (or Christian culture) is from the culture we are trying to reach. We need a team member who has the ability to help us communicate in a way that is culturally relevant and can help us filter our actions and language to ensure that we are drawing people in rather than pushing them away. Our team’s translator will help us see ourselves the way our unchurched neighbors see us.



Administrator: TBD

The spiritual gift of administration is identified by someone who naturally guides and directs a group of people toward a goal or destination in an organized and thoughtful way. This person creates and manages systems and structures to organize the church. They work with the visionary leader and the team to break down the goals to practical, achievable steps and to ensure the church is orderly and all the systems and teams are working well in the church. This person is goal or task oriented and is concerned for details and organization. They like checklists and they like rules and they love it when people follow the checklists and the rules. The Administrator will live by the calendar. The DISC profile for an Administrator is usually a high “C”. This is likely the most risk-averse person on the team.

The Timeline



As with all things in life and ministry, **the Lord's timing is the right timing**. The timeline described here is meant to provide benchmarks for progress, but will be held loosely to ensure that all finances, necessary team members and strategic plans are in place prior to a public launch.



Relocate & Recruit

2022

01

The Blairs are building a new home in Lavon which should be ready for move-in by Summer 2022. While awaiting the home completion, they will begin sharing their vision with friends and family, inviting them to join the team. They will begin building a prayer base and financial support.



Integration & Ministry

Fall 2022 - Fall 2023

02

The Blairs will begin facilitating compassion ministry groups such as DivorceCare, The Marriage Course and Financial Peace University, with the goal of making new relationships and casting vision for the new church. During this time, Vision Team formation will begin and the team will attend a church planting bootcamp.



Ministry & Team Formation

Fall 2023 - Fall 2024

03

Compassion ministries will continue. Vision Team members will begin hosting microchurch experiences in homes or other locations. Invitations for launch team will begin. The Vision team will attend a second bootcamp.



Launch

December, 2024

04

In January 2024, microchurches will begin gathering monthly for corporate worship. These gatherings will move to weekly in the fall of 2024 leading to the public launch (grand opening) in December 2024.

Who Will Help Us?



Working Together

Church planting requires more than a pastor and a few people to start a weekend service. It requires the concerted commitment of a larger team of people who will pray, give and go to bring to life a new church community.

Our ask is that you would consider becoming a partner for the project in one or more of these areas.



Those Who Pray

Prayer Team

Pray For Us

Without the Lord's hand on this project, our work is in vain. Commit to praying for this church plant and those who are sacrificing to make it happen.

[Join the Prayer Team](#)

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.



Those Who Give

Investment Team

Make a Pledge

Use your financial blessings to be a blessing to us. Commit to an annual or monthly gift to help us meet our generosity goal.

[Make a Pledge](#)

Proverbs 11:24

One person gives freely, yet gains even more.



Those Who Join

Launch Team

Move to Lavon

Move to SE Collin County to be a part of this new church family, using your gifts and talents to make new disciples and bring God's glory to this community.

[Learn About Joining the Team](#)

Psalm 133:1

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Generosity Goal



3-Year Pledge Goal: **\$653,000**

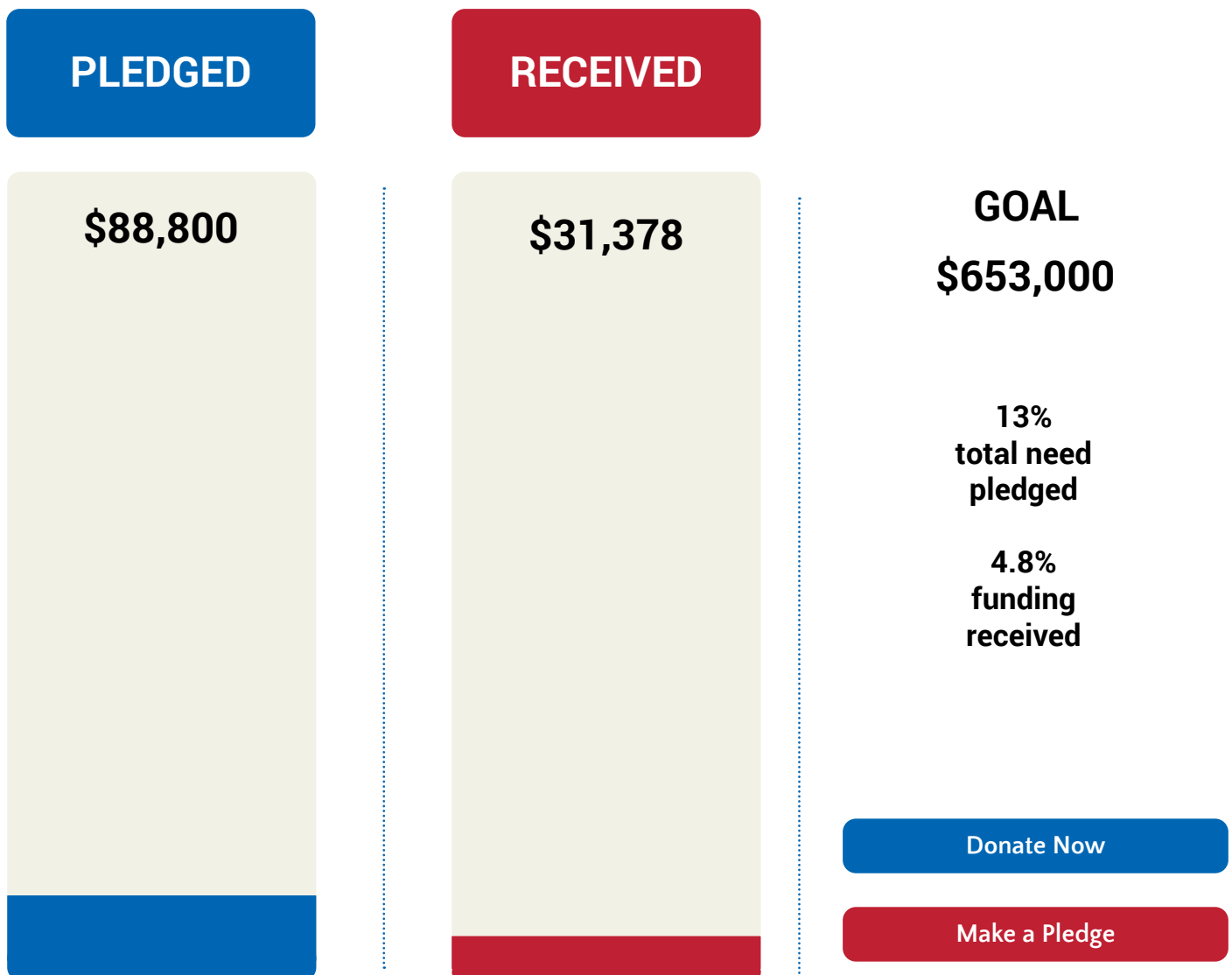
We believe that God has called us to this work. And in so doing, God will provide the financial resources necessary to launch well and to make a significant Kingdom impact in eastern Collin County and beyond.

Launch Fund	\$128,000
Marketing and Media Branding, Web Development, Launch Marketing	\$40,000
Audio/Visual and Worship Equipment Sound system, video display, cameras/broadcast, computers	\$56,000
Children's Ministry Computers, video equipment, supplies, curriculum	\$12,000
Portable Church Equipment Trailer, containers, road cases, signage, hospitality	\$20,000
3-Year Operations Support Fund	\$525,000
Staff Salaries and Benefits 90% year 1, 60% year 2, 30% year 3.	\$230,000
Facility Rental and Outreach/Discipleship Expenses 90% year 1, 60% year 2, 30% year 3.	\$295,000

Generosity Progress

The goal is to reach commitments from individuals and churches totaling **\$653,000** prior to the soft launch of the church in the Fall of 2024.

This generosity goal is inclusive of the tithes and offerings of the Vision Team and Launch Team members prior to the soft launch of the church in 2024.



Commitments & Theology

The new church plant intends to participate as a member of the **Charis Fellowship of Churches**. Charis churches are autonomous, independent, self-governed churches who agree to and operate under the fellowship's **Commitment to Common Identity**.



Biblical Truth

We seek to understand the intent of each biblical writer by using grammatical, historical, and contextual principles of interpretation, focused on Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, and oriented by grace.

We accept the absolute authority of the Bible rather than that of creeds, traditions, or leaders.

We commit to an ongoing study, understanding and application of God's unchanging truth in our constantly changing world, whether personal, social or cultural.

We affirm that true believers put their trust in Jesus Christ and are kept forever in the saving grace of God through His promises and His power. Every believer has been eternally justified, blessed with all spiritual blessings, and set free from all condemnation.

We affirm that Jesus Christ gave the ordinances of baptism and communion to the church.



Biblical Relationships

We affirm that the Triune God serves as the perfect and ultimate model for human relationships. As a result, each person has equal value yet different roles, which are expressed in loving unity.

We affirm that differences in gifts and ministries are a manifestation of the multifaceted grace of God. As a result, we encourage all believers to use their gifts in ways that promote the unity, growth and ministry of the local church.

We affirm our obligation to love and respect one another, and to practice the 'one another' exhortations. As a result, we commit to work together and to resolve our differences, for the good of individuals, churches and communities.

We affirm the responsibility of local churches to govern their own affairs while urging those churches to live and serve in community and interdependency with other churches.



Biblical Mission

We affirm that God's plan for this age is best summarized in Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. This includes the evangelistic call to reconciliation with God by means of the completed work of Christ and the lifelong pursuit of obedience to God by means of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

We affirm that God's plan for this age includes the recognition, training and releasing of spiritually qualified and appropriately trained leaders. While the specific gifts, abilities and responsibilities of leaders may vary, all leaders must serve as servants of God, shepherds of God's people and stewards of God's resources.

We affirm that God's plan for this age is most fully expressed through establishing healthy churches. Although practices may vary between cultures, healthy local churches are comprised of believers in Christ who assume a mutual commitment to worship, learning, service, prayer and witness.

The Evangelical Core

The One True God

There is one, and only one, true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally in three persons, never less and never more – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is fully God, existing eternally. Everything was created by Him and for Him. His incarnation took place in the womb of a virgin. He became man, but never sinned. He died a substitutionary death to atone for sin, resurrected bodily, and ascended into heaven where He remains fully God and fully man, and is presently ministering until He comes again.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully God, existing eternally. He is a person, and was involved in Creation and the inspiration of Scripture. His works of convicting and regenerating are essential to the believer's salvation. Believers are entitled to the benefit and joy of being filled and walking in the Spirit for empowerment in Christian life, service, and mission.

The Bible

The sixty-six books, and only these, known as the Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God. God's inspiration and superintendence of the writing of every word of the Bible guarantees that what was written is His Word and therefore authoritative, true, and without error in the original manuscripts. God preserves His Word, which is powerful and effective to accomplish His purpose of salvation among all nations. God's Spirit illumines the minds of believers in every culture to understand and apply the unchanging truth of Scripture in fresh and relevant ways for the benefit of the whole Body of Christ.

Humanity

God created man and woman in His image. As a result, all people are bearers of that image. However, Adam's subsequent sin resulted in a condition of spiritual death which all people since Adam have experienced, marring the beauty of God's image in them and in every facet of life. This condition of spiritual death has rendered all people unable to save themselves, and leads to physical death. Therefore, new birth is necessary for salvation.

Salvation

The salvation brought by God is a complete and eternal salvation by His grace alone, received as the free gift of God through personal faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, as He declares believers righteous in Him.

Church

There exists one true Church, which is called the Household of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. It is comprised of all true disciples of Jesus Christ and is created by the action of the Holy Spirit. Tangible expressions of this true Church are found in local churches.

Christian Life

The believer is saved by faith alone. The faith that saves is expected to produce obedience and good works, which are the products of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The dimensions of biblical ethics are both individual and social, and extend to every facet of life. God faithfully continues to finish the work of sanctification, which He initiated in the life of each believer with the goal of Christlikeness.

Angels, Satan, Demons

God created a multitude of spiritual beings called "angels". Righteous angels continue to serve God and work both in the heavenly sphere and on earth. By his disobedience, Satan, a fallen angel, became the adversary of God and God's people, carrying with him a procession of demons. Jesus Christ has overcome Satan so that the final judgment and doom of Satan and his demons are certain.

Future Life

The dead will have a conscious existence in eternity and their bodies will be resurrected. Unbelievers, already under condemnation, will be sentenced to suffer eternal separation from God. Believers, already having been granted eternal life, will be judged and rewarded according to their works, and will experience a glorified, eternal existence in the presence of the Lord.

Preaching Videos



Nehemiah 2



1 John



Prayer



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