

# Church Planting For Missional Impact



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# Gateway Timeline

## Spring 2010 to Summer 2011: Divine Discontent

- Learned a little about church and a lot about myself
- God solidified the call in us to plant
- The **WHY** of planting births in our hearts
  - o Its not about building a church, its about reaching people

## Fall 2011: First Steps

- Talk to Pastor Randy about planting in Spokane
  - o Honor and Submit to my leader
- Led to times of prayer and fasting
- **WHERE** God called us to plant comes into focus
  - o East Spokane (Hillyard)

## Winter – Summer 2012: The Journey Begins

- Attended Starting Point (NWMN Church Planting Intensive)
  - o Got connected with my first coach Terry Gurno
- Official announcement to the people of First Assembly
- The partnership with Pastor Mike Rima and Lake City begins with a miracle offering
- Core team building begins

## Fall 2012: Chapter 1

- Stepped down as Youth Pastor of First Assembly
- Sold our home and moved across the city
- Got settled with new jobs and new neighborhood
- Started home church meetings
- Continued team building
- Building community (dinners, gatherings, parties)

## Winter 2013 – Refining our call

- “So, do you have a building yet?” (x1000)
- Search for building
- God re-awakens our **WHY** and building becomes secondary

## Spring 2013 – Chapter 2

- Begin partnership with The River Church
- March 10, First “Practice Service” at The River Church
- Experimenting and adjusting **HOW** we do service
- Celebrating victories and fighting battles
- Growing team, growing people

# **Top 4 lessons we are learning**

## **1. BE BOLD**

- a. In leaving your comfort zone.
  - i. We decided to go where we felt the need was the greatest. This involved selling our home and downsizing/relocating to the neighborhood we planned to plant in.
- b. In asking others to join your team.
  - i. You will be amazed at what God is currently doing in people. We found God had already spoken to most of the people we asked to join our core team.
- c. In challenging people.
  - i. We set the challenge of a 40 day media fast and 21 day Daniel fast before our group. We discovered that a couple who were brand new to Gateway and at the very beginning of their journey with Christ, had taken the challenge in their own way. They decided that if we could fast for that long they could give up smoking... and they did (he was a 4 pack a day smoker, quit cold turkey).

## **2. DON'T PLANT ALONE**

- a. Take advantage of NWMN Coaches.
  - i. For me the first was Terry Gurno and now Mike Rima. These guys have sat with me over coffee and talked life and planting. They have asked the questions that have helped me through so many obstacles.
- b. Chase mentors.
  - i. I identified two men in my life that I sought as mentors. One has planted a successful non-denominational church in Spokane, and the other has a heart and passion for God that I desire.
- c. Build your team and life will be easier.
  - i. Let your team use the gifts God has given them.
- d. Partner with and build relationships with other churches. (In our denomination and in your community)

## **3. BE FLEXIBLE**

- a. Read every book you can get your hands on, but understand there is no cookie cutter church plant. Follow the leading of the Spirit.
- b. People, plans, and money will disappoint you. Hold it all loosely. (Other than your family and your faith.)

## **4. LEAD YOURSELF**

- a. Physical – exercise regularly.
- b. Journal – write out your wins, losses, and prayers. Dream and set goals.
- c. Family – Make yourself famous in your own home.
- d. Have Fun!

## **Gateway Unique Facts**

1. We started in our home with 5 couples and their kids (19 total people).
2. We maxed out our living room with 32 people.
3. We meet Sunday evenings at 5:30 in an historic building on the main strip of Hillyard.
4. We rent our building for four hours a week from another church, the rest of our church life and activities are in the community.
5. Every Saturday morning we have Saturday Serve
  - a. We walk the streets, pick up trash, and pray
  - b. We are piloting a program with the Spokane Police Department cleaning graffiti on businesses and residences (with permission from property owners). Since we are not working for the police department, we have the opportunity to pray with, share Christ, and invite people to church when we clean up their graffiti.
6. At least one member of our church is at the all of the local community meetings. At these meeting we are building relationships and assessing the needs of community so we can know where to serve.

## **CHURCH PLANTING FOR MISSIONAL IMPACT...**

### **Multiplication 2.0 at Lake City Community Church (April 23, 2013)**

*Justin Farley, Blue Bridge Church ([justin@bluebridgechurch.org](mailto:justin@bluebridgechurch.org))*

#### **PROCESS**

##### **January 1996: Decision to Follow**

I had claimed to be disciple of Jesus for over two years – but had little to no concept of what it meant to be on the mission. I thought that I was saying ‘yes’ to being in vocational pastoral ministry – but really I was committing to go where Jesus told me to go and do what he asked me to do (regardless of personal cost).

##### **June 2002: Youth Ministry**

After five years of internships and four years of college, I of course, had everything figured out. It took less than six months for me to realize how little I really knew. Regardless, I had planned out my life – Jana and I would be in youth ministry for ten years and then possibly a lead pastor of a turnaround church (I have this terrible habit of believing if I can plan something then I can be in control of it).

##### **August 2004: Dreams and Discussions**

I would meet with friends and discuss “why” and “what” as it relates to Christ and the church. I was intrigued with simple discipleship and mobilizing ministers.

##### **January 2006: Transition**

I committed at least five years to Pastor David Brakke. We trusted each other enough to share our dreams for the future with each other. My hope was to honor him by aligning the youth ministry with the local church and his desire was to develop me to be the leader that I was supposed to be. The conversation continued.

**January 2009: Masters Program**

I began studying at Southeastern University with the intention of learning more about turnaround churches but gradually began to think more about launching a missional community in the Tri-Cities. I was greatly influenced by the works of Alan Hirsch, Thom Rainer, Ed Stetzer, and Leonard Sweet (as well as conversations with Don Detrick, Jeffery Portmann, Dan Serdahl, and John Jay Wilson).

**August 2010: Restless Contentment**

My lead pastor's nine-week sabbatical solidified in me the desire to do something – I just did not know what. Honestly, I had a bad case of "Junior-itis." Just because I wanted to do something did not necessarily mean it was the right time.

**July 2011: Pursuit**

Conversations occurred with a couple of churches about the possibility of pipelines and partnerships. My lead pastor asked, "Why not give Maltby a chance?" He agreed to send me to Starting Point (a Network workshop designed for church planters). I followed that session up with prayer in the Tri-Cities (once by myself and once with my lead pastor and our spouses). We made our final decision in October.

**December 2011: Honor the Past and Present**

I made appointments with the lead pastors of the six existing churches in the Tri-Cities. My hope has never been to compete with them – but to compliment what they were already doing. Many of these churches were instrumental in my life and family. Though I cannot do all that they ask, I am determined to do all that I can to honor them. I have a lot to learn from several of them – especially in prayer and leadership. Time and time again, I have been overwhelmed with their support.

**February 2012: Public Announcement**

We shared with Maltby Christian Assembly the plan and timeline for them to be primary partner with Blue Bridge Church (a relational connection). Our desire is for this multiplication venture to be as much a win for Maltby as it is for Blue Bridge.

## **TIMELINE**

- February 2012: Incorporation (Trustees began meeting monthly)
- March
  - Lead Team Meetings began meeting monthly
  - Pre-Launch Party
- April: Launch Team meetings began meeting monthly (rotating between east-side and west-side locations)
- August
  - Family moved (team moved between June 2012 and January 2013)
  - Lead Team and Launch Team began meeting weekly
- September: Monthly Serve Days began
- October: Preview Gathering #1
- November : First (and second) Water Baptism and Preview Gathering #2
- December: Preview Gathering #3
- January 2013:
  - Launch team dissolved (honored for their investment)
  - Soft Launch (weekly worship gatherings at the Carmike 12)
- February: Official Launch
- April: Groups launched (Spring Trimester)
- October: Multiply Second Gathering
- February 2015: Multiply to Second Site

## **CURRENT REALITY**

- Approximately 20 individuals (including children) moved from Northwest
- 26 churches/orgs contributed finances/facilities (\$120,000 pledged/given)
- 5 trustees (1 more projected in next six months)
- 8 lead team members (1-2 more projected to be added before September)
- Averaging 75 over 12 weeks (10 first-time and 5 second-time guests weekly)
- 8 serve days in 8 months (500 hours) w/ 20% of giving going to other orgs

## LESSONS LEARNED (AND STILL LEARNING)

- **Honor:** We resist a maverick mentality. We respect those who are already in the area – understanding that we are a different work (not a better one). That being said, the mission takes priority. The harvest is ripe.
- **Identity:** We remind ourselves: 1) This is not our church. This is much bigger than a personality or method. What drives Blue Bridge? 2) This is not about planting. We are defined by faith to Christ in all areas of our lives.
- **Prayer:** We are tempted to work on a project rather than to pray. Don't.
- **Pressure:** We thought that the most stressful point would be saying “yes.” We were wrong. Pressure mounts when people join us on the journey.
- **Success:** We *must* define true success. Otherwise we will grow discouraged.
- **Trust:** A “no” hurts more than we ever thought that it would. But we must remind ourselves that following Christ does not look the same for everyone.
- **Unity:** We cannot and will not do this alone. Our primary partner is Maltby (and many churches and individuals in addition to that). A diverse team is being compiled and developed. This is not *my* vision – but *our* vision.
- **Work:** The pre-launch phase is more difficult than ever imagined. We are caught between two worlds – finishing strong and preparing for the next phase. Time management, accountability, and grace are non-negotiables.
- **Location:** The right place comes at the right time and at right price.
- **Chemistry:** Under-promise and over-perform when it comes to recruitment of your team. Hold them to a higher standard early and often. Do not apologize - but paint the picture of what they are a part of and why they are a part of. Do not be afraid to ask someone to step down and another person to step up. Time and time again, God provided the right person at the right time and in the right way. And it was rarely my “first choice.”



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Mission:** By going weekly, the temptation is to forget the mission in the midst of tasks. We must be reminded not only *what* to do but *why* we do it.
- **Finances:** We have been blessed by so many partners who helped with startup costs. (as well as Focus Worship's help with all equipment). Now one responsibility is to teach stewardship as part of discipleship - crossing lines between first-time giving, regular giving, tithing, and extravagant giving.
- **Transition:** There are still a couple of individuals who are looking for housing and work as they move over for the plant.
- **Diversity:** Our community is estimated at 40 percent Latino. We want to look more like the Tri-Cities and a whole lot more like heaven. We are currently praying and searching for a second or third generation hispanic leader who would consider joining our lead team with the heart and intent to help us better speak the language of the surrounding culture and prepare for the possibility of further multiplication in our region.

## PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Loving God and loving others**
  - Facility Rental (\$300 a week, \$1200-1500 a month, or \$15,600 a year)
    - We are grateful for our location (the Carmike Cinema is right behind the mall, next to Costco, and central to the marketplace)
    - This strategic partnership would allow us to designate more funds for outreach and ministry
  - Lobby Decor (one-time gift of \$1,000-\$5000) - creating a welcoming environment for first-time guests as well as an atmosphere for all to better connect before and after the gathering

- Equipment
  - Camera (to better show and share the story of the gospel)
    - Canon XA-10- 1699
    - Tripod with fluid head- 150
    - 32 GB Flash card (X2)- 23
    - Pelican Case- 80
  - Editing Software (to better to show and share the gospel story)
    - Final Cut X- 300
    - Compressor- 50
  - Lights - 4 bar- tri (x2)- 600 visual element to the Sunday Morning Worship Gathering)
  - Keyboard (one time gift of \$1500-3000)
- **Growing with God and each other**
  - Leadership Team Stipends (\$100 to \$1,000 a month for 6-24 months)
    - To tangibly recognize key roles such as music/arts, family life, operations, outreach, communications/media, and connections
    - These leaders are committed to leading others - allowing for us to more effectively multiply disciples and mobilize teams
  - Portable Baptistry (\$800-\$2000) - baptisms on a regularly basis)
- **Serving God by serving others**
  - Latino Leadership
  - Future Multiplication Vision (\$50,000)
    - We understand that over 90 percent of churches who do not multiply in their first five years will never multiply.
    - Our goal is to have 2 sites in 2 years (in the Tri-City Area) and a second plant within five years (in the Mid-Columbia Region). We are calling our church to give above and beyond.