

# Doxology Church

## **Doxology Church**

Doxology Church is a new gospel-centered church starting in the city of Portland. Our story and mission are told in the following pages. Please read and prayerfully consider how God would lead you to join in supporting our mission.

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# Our Story

Our call to preach the gospel

## The Desert

My life is a call to preach the gospel. I grew up in the desert of Arizona surrounded by coyotes and creosote bushes. I used to sit on our stucco porch and look out at the desert lit up by the moon and wonder who created such an incredible desert. Off in the distance I could hear the coyotes yelling. "It's God," my youth pastor Todd told me, "God is calling you to him. Jesus is asking you if you will serve him for the rest of your life."

## India, Thailand, Nepal

I gave my life to Jesus. I started reading my Bible and traveling as a missionary. I worked in Thailand, India, and Nepal. When I was 19 and in Calcutta I worked at Mother Teresa's homes for the sick and dying. "What are we doing here?" I asked Nick a tall southern Californian guy working next to me as we swabbed out puss filled bed sores down to the bone on the back of an Indian bus driver who'd had his legs cut off in a head-on collision. Nick had on a pair of dark vuarnet sunglasses he always wore. "We're learning," he said without looking up, "we're learning."

I remember seeing a little orphan baby in Thailand whose face I will never forget. Where her face should have been was a gaping hole. Her mother's drug use during her pregnancy left this little girl with a head too big, only one eye, and a gaping hole in her face that stretched from the bottom of her lip and continued up past her nose. Two teeth hung in the empty space. I was learning that the world is broken, I was seeing the face of suffering, and I realized that people need to hear the gospel, find Jesus, and be healed.

## College

Two years later I was at ASU standing on my back porch inflicting my own kind of suffering. It was one of many house parties. The band had already played, a DJ was spinning in the living room, the keg had been tapped, I was drunker than a skunk, and the police had been called on a noise complaint. I was lonelier than I'd ever been in my life. I finally realized nobody likes a slurred-speech gospel presentation by a drunk evangelist. I needed to choose one or the other. I repented to Jesus. He forgave me and told me to quite wasting my life, go to Bible school, and marry Nancy.

## Bible

At Bible school I learned how to study the Bible. I spent nine months, twelve hour a day, six days a week, studying through the Bible. I read every single book five times. I began to read books of the Bible as whole books. I studied each book in its own culture and historical context. I wanted to find out what the original writer intended to say. And how did the original reader understand

the text when they heard it read or preached aloud. And I wanted to interpret the truths they were talking about into my life and the realness of culture I found around me. At this school I found the grace of God; or rather it found me. I realized that it's the grace of God that saves us out of our sin and calls us into a life with Jesus. I realized everything we have is a gift of God's grace to us.

### **Nancy**

Nancy is God's beautiful gift of grace to me. She's smart, she's organized, and she's gorgeous. God brought her into my life when I needed her most and she has inspired me every since. Without her I would not be living out my call to preach the gospel, I would be a fumbling idiot. Being married to Nancy is an image of the Trinity in my life. And our two kids Abigail and Ethan are the two people I cannot spend enough time with. They are also God's gift of grace in my life. Nancy and I were married at the end of Bible school and moved to Seattle.

### **Seattle**

When we moved to Seattle we had no jobs, no money, and no place to live. We didn't even have a place to stay when we drove into the city. We found jobs in café's and restaurants and rented a condo in Ballard. Our condo was catty corner to Marshill Church. It's a gigantic church now but back then it was small. God shaped my call at this church. He shaped my view of the gospel. I started to understand the gospel as Jesus. I began to understand the gospel as something that embeds with every part of my life. And I started to read guys like Lesslie Newbiggin and understand a need to live missionally for Jesus in the city, with our neighbors, and in our neighborhoods.

### **Regent**

I realized I needed more Bible training. I knew I wanted to study the Bible and culture in order to preach the message of the gospel into real life. God sent me to Regent College in Vancouver. We lived in Bellingham WA so that Nancy could attend Western Washington University. I commuted three days a week, over the border, into Canada, in order to attend seminary at Regent. We had our two kids, Abigail and Ethan, while in Bellingham. The professors at Regent College helped me create a foundational understanding of theology and culture. Half my time I spent with the Bible geeks studying Biblical interpretation: exegesis and hermeneutics. The other half of my time I spent with the philosophy, art, and culture professors studying Hegel, Kierkegaard, and the emergence of modern protestant thought.

### **Mission**

After one of my classes on missional theology Nancy and I felt God inspiring us to start living more missionally in our community. We moved closer into downtown. I took a job at a local HIV/AIDS hospice where I cleaned virus infused blood stains off toilet seats. I work on staff at Hillcrest Chapel as an

arts pastor. We installed an art gallery and worked to bring in artists and show their work. I developed an event called *Fight Night* where pastors, seminary students, college students, and unchurched people would gather, and discuss issues of God and culture.

### **The Call**

After seminary we heard God call us to plant a church. We attended an Acts 29 boot camp in Raleigh, NC. It was at this church planting conference that God spoke and called us to plant a church in Portland, OR. We packed up our family for the second time in a year, moved to Portland, and began the process of church planting. I remember visiting Portland while God was calling us. I was praying at Laurelhurst Park, it was cold, and God said that church planting in Portland was going to be one of the hardest things I would ever do. And he is right. It's already been hard. This year we lost our third child, our new baby girl Sabrina. She died a week before she was due and we buried her in the Lone Pine cemetery in southeast just off Belmont. Although this was one of the hardest days in the life of our family it solidified our call to plant a church in this city. We are here for life. We are here to plant a church in this city and preach the gospel for as long as we possibly can.

### **Portland**

We love Portland. We love the city of Portland. We love the people of Portland. Moving here is like moving home. A pastor once told me that cities are like people each with their own characteristics and personalities. He said that pastors are created to preach the gospel in certain cities and that you will know when you are in the right city. I was made to preach the gospel in Portland. There are so many great things about this city and I speak the language of the culture. When I walk down the street it's as if I'm surrounded by people just like me. We are so privileged to be called by God to bring the gospel to Portland.

# Our Call to Plant a Church

Why a church plant?

Peter Wagner said, “Planting churches is the single most effective method of evangelism.” What he meant was that there are few moments in Church life when the gospel is able to speak the language of culture and reach the unchurched for Jesus the way a new church plant can. Church plants do this effectively because they’re brand new, the language is new, and the culture of the church is new. People who would normally never visit or join a church are drawn to churches like this, they understand the language right away, and they have an opportunity to meet Jesus.

The goal of church planting is not to plant *a* single powerful church, but to plant a church that becomes a church planting church. Our goal is to be a church planting church. We believe that it is Jesus who starts churches and it Jesus who decides when to shut them down. Our goal is to work for Jesus and plant as many churches as we can for the life of Doxology. In fact, we would like to plant a church in every major neighborhood in the city of Portland over the next ten years.

## Portland is like a Donut

Most cities in America have an urban core that’s a lot like a donut hole. A few decades ago many churches started migrating to the outlying suburbs and neighborhoods of the cities leaving an unchurched urban hole behind. Portland is a lot like this. Certainly there are gospel centered churches in the city of Portland. For example: *Imago Dei*, *Red Sea*, *Emmaus*, and *The Table*. But there is a wide open market for more. Our goal is to fill this hole with gospel centered churches.

## Too Many Churches

Someone asked me recently if it be hard having too many churches in the same area? My answer was, “No.” Having too many gospel centered churches in one city is like having too many hundred dollar bills your wallet. It wouldn’t be hard. It would be awesome!

# Our Call to Portland

## Why Portland?

God called Nancy and I to plant a church in Portland because this city needs the gospel. I feel that certain people are created, made for doing ministry in certain cities, particular spaces. We are built for Portland. God created us to do ministry in this city. We love urban environments, the arts, great food, locally brewed beer and wine, culture based on community before commerce, green ideologies, incredible local music, and a city that nurtures families. Portland scores high points in every one of these categories. Which brings us to the conclusion that its not so much that we are made for Portland, but rather that God has created Portland totally open for the gospel. Few people in this town looks to Jesus as their Lord and savior; but people participate in ideologies that are wide open for the gospel. I have yet to live in a place where there are so many natural connections to make with the gospel.

And yet, it's an extremely needy and evil place, as well. In the urban core of Portland 5% of the population follows Jesus. There are more dogs in downtown than Christians (so I've heard goes for San Francisco and Seattle too). Not only are there almost no Christians there is also a high level of evilness and sin. Depending on what part of town you drive through there are more strip clubs on a given street than coffee shops. I've also heard that Portland has one of the highest pornography rates in the country. I was talking to a friend the other day who told me that the hip thing to do is get a group of 5 or 10 people together, males and females, go out to tour strip clubs together in an "urban hip" sort of way. It's cool to abuse sex. Portland is the number one city in the world for furring: having sexual intercourse in the wild dressed up as animals. This city needs Jesus and needs the gospel, desperately.

On top of this, we have a lack of gospel centered churches to meet this desperation. Many of the churches downtown or near in to downtown are dying congregations and preach weak theology. Of the 7 to 9 churches downtown, many are universalist in their theology or are heading that way. The same goes for churches in many of the neighborhoods as you cross the water east or head up into the hills of south and northwest Portland. When I drive and walk through the neighborhoods of Belmont and Hawthorne I see churches made of stone to last forever, but congregations that have all but dried up. The entire area is wide open for the gospel. God is calling us to plant a church in the Belmont/Hawthorne area and from that church plant churches in every major neighborhood around Portland and the world.

## Our Mission

The vision of Doxology Church is to be a biblically-rooted, grace-centered, culturally-connected community centered on the gospel and living to see lives transformed by Jesus in the neighborhoods of Portland.

**Our mission is to see lives transformed by Jesus**

### **We are Biblically-Rooted**

We are a Biblically-rooted church. We love the Bible because we love God. Studying and reading about him is our joy. Fighting for good, balanced, healthy theology is part of our mission. If you join us in our mission expect to learn deep Biblical truths that lead to a rich theological understanding of God, culture, and the human life.

### **We are Grace-Centered**

We are a grace-centered church. Jesus' death on the cross is the grace that saves, calls, and compels us to live on mission for God. We are saved not by our own religious deed but by the atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross. We are called into salvation by the grace of God; it's not our own doing. And the free gift of God's grace given to us compels us to give back our entire lives to Jesus as an act of service and gratitude.

### **We are Culturally-Connected**

We are a culturally-connected church. We follow Paul's example in Acts 17 when he preached the gospel at Marshell using the language of the philosophers and poets of Athens. We connect to culture because we want people to know Jesus. The message of the gospel is communicated through culture. If we want the people of our city and neighborhoods to know Jesus, and live for him, then we need to communicate the gospel in a language they understand.

We accomplish this by gathering for worship, creating community life, and learning to live on mission for God. Another way to say this is:

**Dox Worship - Dox Community - Dox Mission**

## Dox Worship

We gather for God. Doxology is a hymn of praise for the Trinity. As we gather we do everything in honor of the Triune God. In particular we gather to hear the word of God preached and respond as we worship the Trinity. We do this corporately and we do it regularly just like the Bible asks us to.

### Text

Our goal is to understand the Bible as the authority of God for our lives. In order to do this we read the Bible as a series of whole books meant to be read each with their own context, culture, and perspective of God. At the same time, we read it through the eyes of the gospel because the entire story of the Bible is about Jesus. We seek to read a whole Bible, understand a whole gospel, and learn to live our whole lives following Jesus.

### Music

In order to do this well we worship through good music found in culture accompanied by strong lyrics found in scripture. Our music is inspired by the bands people listen to in Portland. Our target audience listens to indie rock and our worship reflects such bands as *the national*, *arcade fire*, *band of horses*, *broken social scene*, *yo la tengo*, *bon iver*, *frightened rabbit*, and *alcoholic faith mission*. Our goal is to create worship that mirrors the music of culture in order to allow the worship of Jesus to be real and draw people in to worship him.

Our lyrics are inspired by deep theology found in scripture. Our goal is for everyone - no matter if the person is church-ed or unchurch-ed - to come before their God, their maker, their king; to repent of sin and fall on the grace and mercy of the cross before a loving God. If there is one theological message you hear repeated over and over in our gatherings it is the message of the atonement: Christ's act of saving us out of our sin and redeeming us by his sacrificial death on the cross.

### Bread+Wine

We also gather to take communion. We do this every time we gather. The bread and the wine are at the heart of our gathering. They remind us of the atoning death of Jesus on the cross for our sins. When we break the bread and dip it into wine we remember that everything we have, and are, and do is about Jesus.

### Setting Environment

Our goal is to create a sacred space for worship. In order to do this we will include art and design in our worship setting. Calling people into worship includes creating a space that allows them to authentically worship God. We are inspired by the designed spaces of the Ace Hotel, Anthropologie, and installation artists such as: Jean Michel Basquiat, Banksy, and Cai Guo Qiang.

## Dox Community

We focus on community groups. This is our way of creating community. If you are new to Doxology, or want to find deeper community here, then join a community group.

We create community groups because we model the Trinity. God is one God in three persons; which means perfect love and true community exists within God. He doesn't need to go outside himself to find love and friendship. In fact, he reaches out of his own community and shapes us to mirror him as we live out his image within our community.

### *Community Groups*

Community groups function like dinner parties. They meet once a week and are hosted by people and families within the church. The idea of a dinner party is a community that slows down and takes time to enter into real relationships and conversations with each other. These are generally pretty small groups, 20 people or less. The goal of these groups is to learn to live life together as a true community modeled after the Trinity.

We encourage you to choose a group that is local to the neighborhood you live in. Ideally your group would be close enough for you to walk or bike to. Also, we encourage you to join a group that matches you as a person or as a family. This will be a group that you will spend lots of time with and it should be a good, solid fit.

Remember the scene in *Fight Club* where Edward Norton Jr. is eating lunch on the patio of a restaurant and the waiter comes over to pour his water. The waiter looks him in the eye but doesn't say anything. Edward looks back at him and recognizes him as the guy who got destroyed in last night's fight. He notices the bloody wound on the waiter's eye and the bandage still holding it together. Neither of them say anything publicly but they both know they are part of something strong, subversive, powerful, and growing. The narrator of the film says that his people are everywhere: "we clean your sewers, haul your trash, fix your food; we're all around you, every moment of everyday."

This is how I want us to live in community.

## Dox Mission

### The mission of God

The mission of God is the redemption of the whole of creation. And our mission, as a church and as individuals, is to join him on his mission. This means that as a church we are constantly considering how God is redeeming the city around us and how can we be a part of his work. Lesslie Newbigin calls this living on mission for God: it's a calling into salvation that includes entering into community with our neighbor.

### Our Call to Live Missionally

We are called to live missionally and bring the gospel to our city. It's the call of the great commission in Matt 28:18-20. This means we live, work, and create alongside the people of our city. We eat at their restaurants, drink coffee at their coffee shops, have beer at their pubs, shop at their local boutique stores, and go see shows at their local venues. Rather than pull out of society into an isolated Christian bubble we intentionally enter into the real lives and communities of the people that surround us.

### God's Mission at the Core of Family

Living on mission for God begins in the home loving God with our families and community. We can't just run out and hug the homeless and call ourselves missional. Our call to live missionally begins with God in our homes. We need to read our Bibles and understand good, solid theology. It's God mission and in order to be on it we need to know who he is. And we need to care for our families and teach our kids to love Jesus. Too many pastors and lay leaders destroy their kid's lives out of a desire to live on mission in the community. Our call to live on mission is first a call to love and care for our families. God is asking us to spend time with our kids teaching them to love Jesus before we go out into our neighborhoods and teach someone else to. Mission begins at the center of the home with Jesus as the head of our households and moves from there out to our neighborhoods and our city.

### Gospel and Culture: Our Call to Innovate

There are two things always moving: our understanding of the gospel and the changing culture around us. The gospel never changes, but our understanding of it grows and matures over a lifetime. The gospel is deep, rich, and there is always more to shape our understanding of Jesus. In this we consider it a movement. Culture is constantly moving. It's always changing; new things are always being created and shaped by the people of culture. If we were to draw a line between our understanding of the gospel and our engagement with culture it would be a unique line, unique to our moment, time, and place in history. Because of this our missional call is a unique call, unique to the line God is drawing between our church and our city.

# Our Strategy

How will we reach people with the gospel?

## Target Area

Our target area is the Belmont neighborhood. It's home to Stumptown Coffee, the Dixie Mattress Company, The Pied Cow, Opposable Thumb Gallery + Café, Horse Brass Pub, Pine State Biscuits, Zupan's Market, and the Sunnyside Environmental School. The neighborhood is loaded with craftsmen style houses built twenty years after the turn of the century. It's just off the Laurelhurst neighborhood and is within walking distance to Laurelhurst Park. This neighborhood attracts us because it's largely unchurched, it's off the beaten path, and yet it's one of the best neighborhoods in the city. It's a perfect neighborhood to start a church plant.

## Getting Started

How will we get into the neighborhood of Belmont to plant? We'll start Doxology in our home which is exactly 3.3 miles away. I can bike there in 10 mins. The church will eventually find, rent, and move into a space on Belmont. Most likely we'll use a store front space and rent for Sunday mornings until we find a more permanent space. As we grow we'll look for a larger space to accommodate our growth and send people out to church plant.

## Target People

Here are a few descriptions of our target people in Portland:

*Belmont-indie-rockers:* This town is full of hipsters: Bianchi bike riding, messenger-bag toting, tight legged jean wearing, stumptown coffee drinking, show going, guys and girls who are relatively happy with their way of life. They are poor, broke poor, riding the Max for free and walking an extra mile to save a couple bucks; and not because they don't have enough, but because they already spent their last five bucks on a used-but-good edition of the new *deerhoof* LP on vinyl. They work in coffee shops, restaurants, lounges, design studios, and print shops all over the city. Rather than make a career move for more money, they are concerned about staying connected with their community of friends in the subterranean underbelly of the city. Talking about religion might as well be saying something like, "Hey...you wanta go to Walmart?"

*Hawthorne-hippies:* Portland has changed, what used to be an eclectic city is now a regular urban city with eclectic neighborhoods. One of the mantras of the city is, "Keep Portland weird!" The people who created this phrase have migrated to the Hawthorne neighborhood and have houses and cars with more colorful flair than a South American soccer game. Old Volvos and Volkswagens tend to be the automobiles of choice. Their values are healthy living such as eating fresh whole foods, taking care of the environment at all costs especially

at the expense of keeping up with trendiness, and educating the world of actions that are destructive. Conversations about Jesus tend to start on a social gospel level, the environment and other social justice issues.

*Subaru-young-families:* There are so many young families in this town. Parents are professional career-oriented parents, in their low thirties to late forties. Most of these couples had kids late due to career choices or fear of committal and changing lifestyles. Many are married; some are still not. There are many lesbian and gay couples with kids. Families range from 1 to 3 kids, but rarely hit 4. Both parents work and are concerned about their kid's education, the environment, walking or biking to work if possible, and enrolling their kids in activities for the arts and community involvement. Access to the gospel is rare. Although research says that most people return to or find new faith during this stage of life, most of these young families have little or no connection to church. For example, we are in a coop with 40+ families from this group and we are the *only* Christians in the entire school. Access to this group is neighborhood relationships.

*Too-cool-for-school-Urbanites:* Downtown neighborhoods like The Pearl and Knob Hill are full of condos, martini bars, restaurants, coffee bars, and work out gyms. The Pearl ten years ago was a 1.5 square mile of one story garages and warehouse spaces that have since then been converted to hundreds of 8 to 12 story condo buildings. Once there was nothing, now there is urban life! Knob Hill is older houses and apartment buildings, but with the same sense of urbanity. These urbanites are young and single working professional jobs like Nike, Addidas, or Intel. They wouldn't think twice about switching jobs or locations as often as once or twice a year. It's rare to find a married couple in this group and even more rare to find kids. Their commitment is to their work and the benefits their work provides them such as knowing the late night martini spots or working out early before heading to the office. Their access to the gospel is limited, most people in this group have either been turned away from the gospel when they were younger or simply have no time or energy due to their focus on their career.

*Homeless-street-youth:* Portland has one of the highest per-capita populations of homeless and particularly street youth. Statistics say that most youth who end up on the street leave for abuse reasons. Their safety on the street gets worse: within 36hours they will be raped or paid into sexual activity. This cycle is nearly impossible to break and these youth remain on the streets. They are street smart with sever emotional and physical issues due to abuse, drugs, and street life. Their concerns are temporary, rarely thinking past the next couple days. Their access point to the gospel is through the people who take time to care for their immediate needs.

### **Here is our Strategy to Reach them**

The specific target group(s) our church plant will target are the young families and individuals living on the eastside of downtown, just across the water in the Belmont-Hawthorne area. It's a mixture of urbanites, young families, hippies, indie rockers, and street youth. This group, these tribes, tend to be people who are intellectually active and socially minded. They read everything from modern fiction to philosophy and regularly listen to Terri Gross from NPR. Their social concerns are finding new ways to take care of the environment and solve global warming, supporting self sustaining locally owned and operated businesses, and sponsoring local music and arts involvement.

### **Here are the five ways our church plant intends to reach them:**

*Intellectualality:* Keeping up with the Jones'...or rather keeping up with the Portlanders. In order to understand and reach this group we have to read what they read, watch what they watch, and learn to think how they think. This is primarily through a NY Times, NPR, Arts and Philosophy based world view that takes seriously the social challenges of the day. As a congregation, we plan to read, watch, and think our way into their mindset and learn to share the gospel in a language they understand. As a lead pastor I will preach and teach with a language built from this cultural group. And as families and small groups around the city we will discuss the gospel and scripture in a language they understand.

*Local:* When you look at the church structures here in Portland we have small to smaller dying congregations near-in to downtown and larger mega churches pushed out to the suburbs. This matches the way we shop as well. Large stores like Walmart, Costco, and Home Depot are not built in the city or even near in, they are pushed out to the suburbs with the mega churches. Our goal is to start local instead of mega. We would totally miss this entire market by building a mega church in this area. Our goal is to start in local settings with local congregates who live in community by neighborhoods. Instead of one mega church that takes over all the neighborhoods we want to see church plants spring up in every neighborhood in Portland. It will be our attempt to bring the gospel with as much as possible a local organic church mindedness.

*Socially-Minded:* "So you're a Human?...on the planet?...that is warming and needs help... What you gonna do about it?" This is the mind set of most of the people in these neighborhoods. For them social needs are at the top of the day's agenda. And they live conscious of the issues at hand both globally and locally. For example, we're apart of a coop-preschool that our daughter attends and the group is seriously environmentally conscious. So conscious that when it came to the ice cream social event where we all got to know one another, everyone brought their own bowls and spoons so that there would be almost no waste. Also, when Nancy and I lost our baby and holed up in our house for a few weeks to mourn. This coop brought meal after meal, night

after night, flowers, cards, and bags and bags of groceries. Socially and environmentally conscious activities are the assumed hobbies of this group. Our church plant will need to at minimum match this concern and level of consciousness. Our services and gatherings need to be gospel-centered, self-sustaining, small-footprint activities that care for the social and environmental concerns of the neighborhood, community, and world.

*Music:* Eliot Smith is from here. The Decemberists and the Shins moved here after they became famous. We have more local music than almost any other city west of the Rockies. Any night of the week you can see a great show. Portland has great music and knows great music. It's rare to meet someone who's not in a band. It's virtually impossible to meet someone whose not musically conscious. Our plant will glean from the music culture that surrounds us and reflect back to the culture a form of worship through the music and language they understand.

*Arts:* The arts community in Portland is along the same lines as the music community. Although we don't have some of the big names represented in the art world, like Morris Graves or Stephen Jesse Bernstein previously from Seattle, our art-focused consciousness and activities is a priority. First of all, everyone is an artist. The joke is actually deciphering which Portland indie artists are actually working artist and which are just looking to use the title for popularity. There are so many working artists in this town - everything from pottery and sculpture to painting and performance art.

But its not just the artists who are art conscious, the urban core of Portland supports a vibrant arts community. For example: on first Thursday you can Art Crawl through the galleries of the downtown Pearl District, on last Thursday you can participate in the Alberta Arts District which is like an arts street carnival, and a few other neighborhoods have claimed the other weeks with their own arts events. As a church plant community the local arts scene is important for us to integrate into, to glean from, but also to contribute back to. It is our passion to facilitate and encourage young writers, painters, performers, and film makers as they contribute their perspective back to society.

## Our Plan

Portland needs gospel centered churches that are church planting churches. Our goal is to plant 15 churches in the next 10 years. Here's our plan to accomplish this.

### Timeline for Doxology's First Year

We'll start with Doxology and plant a core.

Aug '09	Create a Network of Support
Sept '09	Gather a Core
Jan '10	Transition to Launch
Feb '10	Soft Launch
April '10	Real Launch
Sum '10	Sustain and Grow

### Becoming a Church Planting Church

Our next church plant will be sent out of Doxology. Realistically it may take us 2-3 years before we stabilize and plant another church, but during that time we'd like to send out at least one church. In our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years we'd like to send out another church to plant each year. That brings us to a total of 4 church plants, including ours, within the first 5 years. For years 6-9 we'd like to send out at least two church plants each year. And during the 10<sup>th</sup> year it's our goal to grow to sending out 3 churches a year. If we are successful this will bring us to a total of 15 new church plants within 10 years.

It would be ideal to send churches out into Portland placing new churches in every neighborhood in the city. Here are 15 areas of Portland that need gospel centered churches:

Downtown	Irvington	Ladd's Addition
The Pearl	Lloyd	Clinton
Alberta	Mississippi	Laurelhurst
Beaumont-Wilshire	Belmont	Sellwood
Hollywood	Hawthorne	Woodstock

Our goal is to start in the Belmont neighborhood and work our way into the other neighborhoods of the city as we grow.

# What We Believe

## The Text

The text of scripture is the word of God - inherent, infallible, authoritative, clear, necessary, and sufficient and comes to us as God's revelation, written by men and guided through the power of the Holy Spirit, and is used for instructing and teaching. The Bible comes incased in human language and context; and it is our role as pastors and lay leaders to exegete, to interpret, the message of the Bible for our families, for our churches, and for the world. Matthew 5:18; John 16:12, 13; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

## The Godhead

God exists as one God distinct in three persons in the form the Godhead called the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit. He is the creator and sustainer of all of creation, existing for all of eternity before the creation of the world and time. Within the relationship of the Godhead is perfect love and community, as a model of true love and relationship for all of creation. Gen 1:26; Psalm 110:1; Matthew 3 16-17, 28:19; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2.

## The Person and Work of Jesus

Jesus Christ is God and came to earth as fully God and fully man. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life though he was tempted in everyway, was crucified on the cross bringing the atonement for the sins of every human who has ever lived, and rose from dead to eradicate sin and judgment ushering in the redemption of the world. He is now exalted sitting at the right hand of God as the ruler of the universe waiting to bring full redemption and judgment when he comes a second time. Matthew 1:18, 24-25; John 12:27, 13:21; 1 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:24, 8:34; Ephesians 1:7; 2 Timothy 4:1; Hebrew 4:15, 7:25, 9:24;; 1 Peter 2:24, 4:5.

## The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God as a member of the Trinity. He was sent to be with us after Christ's ascension into heaven. We see his work in the growth and sustaining of the Church. The Holy Spirit calls us to repentance and salvation, calls us to living our lives missionally within the kingdom of God, to find our calling and mature in it, and he works to develop the Church around the world. Matthew 28:18; John 14, 26, 16:7-11; Acts 8:29, 13:2; Romans 8:9, 26-27.

### **The Church**

The Church is the body of Christ. It mirrors the Trinity as a community of love and as it reaches out into the world with the message of redemption and hope. The church is made up of one Church with smaller, local churches functioning autonomously. As a church body we are called to gather together to hear the word of God preached and worship him, participate in the church ordinances of communion and baptism, and take the message of the gospel to the world. Matthew 16:18, 28:19; Acts 2:38, 9:31, 14:27; 18:22; 20:17; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, 16:19; Ephesians 1:12, 22-23.

### **Humanity and Sin**

Human beings were originally created perfect in the image of God as male and female. Our original mandate was to care for all of creation. Because of Adam's disobedience our image became tainted with sin and we, as all humans who have come from Adam, live in a state of total depravity. Our sin separates us from God and brings with it the penalty of death, judgment, and separation from God for eternity. Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:22, 23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12

### **Grace and Salvation**

Jesus death on the cross is the single most important event in human history. Through his sacrifice on the cross our sin is forgiven and we are brought back into relationship with him. We call this the atonement and because of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins we enter into salvation and find mercy instead of judgment. Through Jesus we are redeemed and instead of separation we get to spend eternity giving glory to God in all honor and praise. John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19

### **The Mission of God**

The mission of God is the redemption of the whole of creation. And our call into salvation, as a church and as individuals, is a call to join him on his mission. This means that as we mature as Christians we are constantly considering how God is redeeming the world, calling other people to him, and asking us to be a part of his work. Matt 28:18-20; Ephesians 1:4-10, 2:8-10.

## Supporting Doxology

We welcome you to join us in our mission of seeing lives transformed by Jesus in the neighborhoods of Portland. Here are a few ways you can help:

### Give Monthly

Choose an amount to give monthly by mail or online [DoxChurch.com/Give](http://DoxChurch.com/Give)

### One Time Gift

Choose an amount to give one time by mail or online [DoxChurch.com/Give](http://DoxChurch.com/Give)

### Give towards Items

1. Choose an item/s you want to help purchase [DoxChurch.com/List](http://DoxChurch.com/List).
2. Go to [DoxChurch.com/Give](http://DoxChurch.com/Give) and start an online donation.
3. Use the comment box to let us know what items you are helping purchase.

### When Should I Start Giving?

We are accepting support as soon as August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

### How Long Should I Plan On Giving?

Our goal is to raise enough support to sustain the initial start-up phase of Doxology, 2-3years. This will allow us to quickly move towards a self sustaining financial model and also help resource other new church plants.

Thank you for your support as we accomplish our mission.

## Doxology Church

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