

Beyond the Horizon:

We believe life is best when lived rooted in a Gospel-centered community. Together, we are actively pursuing God, experiencing the life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit, deepening our love for Jesus and for one another, and ensuring the Gospel is made real to our neighbors in tangible ways.

By 2032, we envision each area of our **9-county region** of more than **1 million people** impacted by the transforming presence of Jesus through at least **1 Gospel-centered initiative**.

By 2032: 9-county region -1 million people -1 Gospel-centered initiative

Vivid Description:

All around us, people are living lives of quiet desperation. We pass them in the hall. We see them in our neighborhoods. We sit by them at Starbucks. They are scrolling through life on Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter), and Facebook, longing for meaningful connections. They are desperately seeking fulfillment and purpose through their families, careers, hobbies, or even their sports teams. Yet, most remain unsatisfied, silently asking, “Isn’t there more?”

We were created to connect, created for “community.” Our longings can only be satisfied when Jesus connects our lives to both God and those around us who are also pursuing him. We believe life is best lived when we are rooted in a Gospel-centered community.

A Gospel-centered community is a group of people actively pursuing God together. They are experiencing the life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit as they build their lives dependent upon the Word of God and empowered by the Spirit of God. In a Gospel-centered community, we are known, loved, and accepted. We are also on a mission together, joining God in his plan of rescue and restoration, making the Gospel real in the lives of our neighbors in tangible ways.

To effectively create Gospel-centered communities in this rapidly changing world, we need to think differently about what counts as “church.” It is not a location or a building. It is us - the community of believers wherever and however we gather. We must see ourselves as *being the church* playing a unique role in God’s grand story. Jesus is inviting us on an incredible journey of learning to respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading in our lives and reaching into the lives of others in order to *be the church*. This shift in thinking is critical to the vision God has given us.

God is calling us to saturate our region with Gospel-centered communities. For this to happen, we must be open to the new initiatives God is calling us to invest in. These initiatives have historically taken the form of campuses and groups. In the future, we see these forms

expanding to include church plants, partnerships with other churches and organizations, and other forms we have yet to imagine. Through these various types of initiatives, our region will become filled with people living lives connected to the empowering presence of Jesus, growing in love for Jesus and one another with God's glory displayed for all to see.

By 2032, we envision each area of our **9-county** region of more than **1 million people** impacted by the transforming presence of Jesus through at least **1 Gospel-centered initiative**.

(Updated 11/8/23)