

## **New Song's Vision and Strategy** **February 2018**

The purpose and vision of New Song Community Church is:  
*to help unchurched people become fully devoted followers of Christ.*

It's a simple restatement of Jesus' Great Commission. How do we fulfill that Commission?

### **Local Strategy**

The way we fulfill that locally is by each one of us reaching one other person and helping them grow as a Christian. We call this *"Each one reach one and teach one."* Or, *"Each one reach one"* for short.

In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* The first word in His commission is "Go." The word is a participle in the original language. A clear translation of "Go" would be "Having gone your way." In other words, "Wherever you find yourself... make disciples."

### **Jesus' Mandate**

This is every Christian's mandate: wherever we find ourselves, we are to do our best to "make disciples" by helping others come into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. Once the relationship begins, we are to do our best help our newly-believing friend grow to be like Christ. Ideally, we will help them grow and reach one of their friends as well. This is the pattern that has grown Jesus' Church from the original 120 disciples in Acts 1 to over two billion followers today.

"Having gone your way," not only means that we should reach people wherever we find ourselves, but we should each reach them *our way*. That is, according to our unique personality, gifts, interests, background and experience.

### **Biblical Examples**

In Mark 5:18-20, Jesus told an enthusiastic recent-convert to go home reach his friends and family by telling them about how he had been set free by the Lord.

In John 1:46, Philip reached his friend by inviting Nathanael to "come and see."

In John 9, when a formerly-blind man came to Christ, he didn't have the background or experience to give an in-depth explanation of what it means to become a Christian. So when asked, he simply gave his testimony: "I was blind, but now I see," he said.

In Acts 2, Peter, who has been walking with Jesus for over three years, is able to give a much lengthier explanation of the gospel to a large crowd. Peter used his gift of teaching as well as his background with Jesus and the people he was addressing, to give a compelling call to faith.

In Acts 9, Dorcas, a simple woman of the village of Joppa, used her ability to make things and serve people to draw them to Jesus.

In Acts 17, Paul, a super-smart and well-educated man used his reasoning skills to explain the "unknown god" to his audience in Athens.

Each approach was natural for the person who used it.

That's our strategy: to help each New Songer figure out how they can naturally reach out to the people around them, according to their unique gifts, background and experience.

## **Global Strategy**

Healthy living things reproduce, and they reproduce in kind. Horses give birth to horses, humans give birth to humans. Believers produce new believers, and churches produce new churches.

Church planting is the most effective means for reaching people under heaven. The way we fulfill our vision globally is by planting churches. In Mark 4:8 and 20, Jesus says that the best of soils produces thirty, or sixty or a hundred times itself. We hope to produce one hundred churches in our lifetime. As of 2017, we have planted fourteen.

## **How We Plant**

The primary engine for every church plant is a gifted and called church planter. We will support 100 church planters in a variety of ways in reaching 100 communities in the locations to which God calls them.

## **Principles We Adhere To**

1. We will go with those we know.

Church planting is both relational and organizational. As we look for planters to support, we will work within our network of friends (DCPI, World Team, DJJ, etc.) to find them.

2. We will support gifted and called planters.

Sometimes zeal can over power objectivity, so that an enthusiastic person can believe they are called to be the primary leader of a church plant, when they are actually called to participate as a member of a church planting team. To minimize failure and pain, we require an approved assessment of each planter we support.

3. We will evaluate the harvest field.

In Hal's experience, every planter needs a call to plant, and a call to a specific location. New Song will exegete the planters potential location for its suitability for both the planter's abilities and personality, and the viability of a new church in that specific area.

4. We will have an on-going relationship with the planter.

Every planter needs a mentor. And every planter needs supportive friendships outside of their church plant. In some cases our Pastor, or a staff member or volunteer will formally mentor the planter. In all cases, someone at New Song will have some type of on-going friendship or relationship with the pastor, for the first three years of the plant.

5. We will have an on-going relationship with the church.

Members of New Song will be encouraged to build relationships with members of the new church plant, for prayer support, encouragement, possibly training, and, when possible, visits to the church site.

6. We will teach what we've learned.

Paul tells Timothy to entrust to reliable men the things he has seen and heard from his mentor (2 Timothy 2:2). This is the global extension of our "Each one reach one and teach one," strategy. Each church planter we partner with will be required to go through DCPI's CPE and CPC trainings, and encouraged to experience DCPI's other trainings as well. Along with this, when possible, we will train the new church's leaders in our *Building Healthy Teams* course.

## **Requirements**

1. We believe that every church's purpose is to reach people for Christ.

Occasionally a potential planter will believe that a church's primary purpose is growing believers. This is part of the Great Commission, but without reaching new believers, there is no harvest. We will only support planters with a heart to harvest.

2. We will plant autonomous, self-supporting, reproducing churches.

Our definition of a “church plant” is “a group of believers in Christ who meet for biblical worship, learning and mission.” This definition includes house churches, which are especially important in hard-to-reach and developing countries. Churches we support will be ones that intend to be self-governing (independent of outside governing), self-supporting (financially independent), and self-propagating (reproducing daughter churches). We will work with churches that plan to become “Three self” churches within their first five years.

3. We expect regular progress reports.

Without unduly burdening the new church leaders with paperwork, we expect on-going communication about successes, challenges and prayer requests. These can be monthly or quarterly.

4. We believe planting churches forty-five minutes or more away from Oceanside and Carlsbad makes most sense for us.

Nearby daughter and sister churches can develop unhealthy relationships with the mother church. We’ve already planted our share of nearby churches. We believe our best strategy is to plant churches in “Temecula, Tennessee and Timbuktu.”

### **Things We May Do**

1. If possible, we will send teams to visit, train, encourage and serve alongside each church plant for its first three years.

2. If possible and appropriate, we may contribute financially to church plants. This is increasingly more likely once we build preschools with revenue streams on our properties.

3. We may establish prayer teams for specific church plants.

4. We may contribute a few team members who feel called to move to the location of the church plant.

5. We may raise up and send out church planters from within our own congregation.

6. We may use our network to help find resources for a church plant.

7. We may provide an experienced leader to serve long-distance on the new church’s Advisory Board.

8. We may partner with a denomination or mission agency in a regional church planting movement.

9. We may provide mentoring in the areas of mens ministry, womens ministry, youth, children, creative arts, tech, first impressions, financial peace, military, campaigns, fundraising or other areas of competency.

### **Things We Won’t Do**

Lessons learned have led us to see the downside in sending out a large core group from our midst and in asking New Songers to make large financial sacrifices towards a new church plant. We will not ask either of those things of our members from now on.

### **Teaching Other Churches**

As we refine our church planting strategies, we purpose to teach what we have learned to 100 other churches who we hope will also plant 100 churches in their lifetimes. We will do this by

reaching out to our networks of churches and sharing our heart, skills and knowledge with like-minded church leaders among them.