

CATALYST
woodland
Church Plant Proposal

//May 2013//

OUR STORY

It all started in my first pastoral staff position at Ventura Community Church at the ripe age of 20. I joined the church in early 2004 just as it had celebrated its 2 year anniversary. I honestly never thought much of church planting at the time. Every few months, my lead pastor would bug me about church planting. He would say that I was built for it and that I should never say no to what God might do. Well, I made the mistake and said no to God in regards to planting. From my early perspective, I saw that church planting (and what I would later find to be just pastoring in general) was just a lot of work coupled with a lot of pain. Pain of people leaving and trying to take your vision down with them. I wanted none of that.

I was successful in staying under God's planting radar until the Spring of 2010 when a series of affirmations got me thinking about the whole church planting idea and on Good Friday, April 2, 2010, I went to bed thinking, "Maybe God is in fact calling us to plant a church". I woke up the next morning and came out to the living room to ask my wife a question that would forever change our lives, "So, babe, what would you think about planting a church?" Her response, "Oh FINALLY! I have been waiting forever for you to come to me and say that. Yes, I'm in." And so it began.



From there we began to look at church planting partnerships, networks and denominations. Long story short, we settled on joining up with Growing Healthy Churches or GHC. GHC required that we go through their Assessment Center so of course, we signed up and booked our trip in August of 2010. Assessment was amazing. It confirmed in my wife and I our call to plant a church in the coming years. When we left, we did with a "conditional recommend" which meant that we had some things to work on before GHC would back us entirely. We decided at this point, based on GHC's recommendation, that we would spend some time at a different church before launching to gain an additional perspective on church leadership and culture as VCC is all we had ever known.

Fast forward to the Summer of 2012. We had joined up with Catalyst in Ventura as they were an existing GHC church plant in our area with a lead pastor with whom I already had a friendship. While serving at Catalyst, Kirsten and I both felt that God was beginning to stir in us the desire to pick up the planting torch once again. So we began to pray and travel to a few locations, seeing what God might be up to. We were both born and raised in California. Therefore, we felt that it was best for us to stay here but see if God was calling us to move to another part of the state. We went to AAA and got a large wall map of California, taped it to our bedroom wall and began to pray.

Over the next 5 months, God affirmed to Kirsten and I that we are being called to plant a new work of the Gospel in Woodland, CA. We announced it to our Catalyst family on January 27, 2013 and started making plans to move to Woodland in the summer of 2013.

WOODLAND CALIFORNIA

Woodland is a town located about 15 miles North West of downtown Sacramento, just off the 5 freeway. Woodland has a humble beginning around 1850 when California gained statehood. Its roots lie in agriculture. Namely rice and tomatoes that can grow year round due to the complex systems of irrigation established all around the city. Woodland is a part of the Sacramento Metropolitan Area but it retains a "small town" feeling partly due to the mileage between the city of Sacramento and the neighboring towns of Davis and Winters.

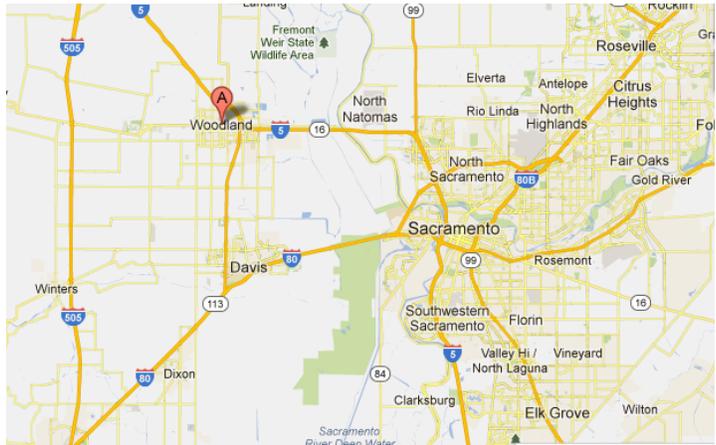


Woodland has been steadily growing in recent years with young families who are either moving out of downtown Sacramento or graduating from UC Davis and settling outside of Davis. Its close proximity to both Davis (8 mi) and Sacramento (15 mi) makes it a prime location for those who want to work in the city but not live in the city. Currently there are several large housing developments going into the South side of Woodland to make room for all of these new residents.

Woodland is still driven by its deep roots in agriculture but has, in recent years, become a hub for transportation. Wal-Mart and Target, among many other major outlets, have large distribution facilities located throughout the city.

Woodland Statistics:

2010 Census Population: 55,539
Median Age: 33.7
Males: 27,351 (49.2%)
Females: 28,188 (50.8%)
Median Household Income: \$57,681
Racial Makeup: Hispanic (47%), White (46%),
Asian (6%), Other (1%)
Households with Mom, Dad & Kids: 42%
Projected 2020 Population: 66,000



WHY WOODLAND

Woodland has a few of the key characteristics that we believe make it a great fit for us as church planters. As well, we believe these same characteristics make it a perfect fit for a Catalyst church..

First, The Call.

First, God has called us to Woodland. It is the intangible. Both my wife and I feel that God has called us to plant a church in Woodland, CA. We have been all over California searching after the heart of God and when we drove through Woodland for the first time with our Elder Board, we all left with a clear call to plant a church in Woodland.

Second, The Mission.

Second, from our observations and research, we don't know of any other church in Woodland that has been effective in reaching the younger 20 to 30 somethings with the Gospel message in a way that keeps them in mind. As far as we know there is only 1 lead pastor in the entire city under 40. There are about 30 Gospel preaching churches in the city. Only two of them are over 200 and from what we have heard, only 3 or 4 have grown in the last 5 years. As far as anyone knows, there has not been a church plant even attempted in Woodland for the last 10 years. For a city steadily growing among 20's and 30's, that opens a big opportunity for our style of ministry to be effective in reaching many people with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Third, The Location.

When we began to ask God to reveal a location, we felt that we would best fit in a community somewhere between 40-80K people. The primary reason is that we feel in a city of this size, a beginning congregation of 60-70 can quickly produce a dramatic impact on the culture and community. We have seen it ring true in our Catalyst campus in Santa Paula and have a passion to replicate the same impact for the Gospel.

THE TIMELINE

We fully understand that we are a "parachute plant" in the truest sense of the word. No, we aren't from Woodland. No, we don't know anyone there, yet. So, we understand this is going to take time and we are doing our best to stay flexible. Yet, we have to start with an ideal scenario. Here is our proposed timeline if everything were to go "to plan".

August 2013 - December 2013

Arrive on the ground in Woodland. Get our family settled and begin the process of investing in community and relationship building.

January 2014 - March 2014

At some point in early 2014 we aim to gather families in our home for a community group with hopes of developing into a launch team.

April 2014 - July 2014

Begin to develop home community group into launch team. Recruit key staff for worship, administration and next generation.

August 2014 - September 2014

Final push with launch team for Fall launch. Final staff hired (worship, administration, next generation). Four preview services every other week for the 8 weeks prior to launch.

October 2014

Begin weekly weekend gatherings, as well as public launches of other Catalyst ministries (next generation, community groups, etc.).

THE VISION

MISSION: Helping people far from God find life in Jesus Christ.

CORE VALUES:

- (1) Elevate the risk of following Christ on mission
- (2) Embody the Gospel in every generation

If we are ever going to impact culture with the truth of the Gospel then we have to be willing to structure our church in a way that provides a different answer. As you look throughout the life of Jesus, nothing about him was safe, compartmentalized or apathetic. In fact, just the opposite. He called people to a radical life of risk, to embody the Gospel at every moment and to live with an unyielding passion for the things of God. This truth has shaped the core values that make Catalyst what it is. The core values of Catalyst come directly out of Mark 1:17 - *And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."* (ESV) where Jesus calls his disciples to follow Him into a radical life of everyday, Gospel-living mission.

When Jesus called his disciples to follow Him, they gave him every excuse in the book *including* a desire to go back and bury their own parents! Following after Christ, and Him alone, compels us to leave behind everything we knew of our old life and follow Him wholeheartedly. Therefore, we want to be a community known for the large degree of risk that we take to follow Christ on mission. We want Woodland to look at us and see those crazy folks who will do whatever it takes to follow Jesus and tell them about life in Him.

Secondly is an embodying of the Gospel. The truth of the Gospel calls us to let the truth of redemption and restoration into every nook and cranny of our soul. Changing our desires, our thoughts and our actions. It is the lens through which we dream, we live, we decide and we act. To live in any other way is to only live by a partial truth provided by a partial Gospel. That is why we seek to embody the Gospel in every generation. We will dedicate our lives to embodying the life giving, transforming work, and sin forgiving power of the gospel so that the all may see Christ in us. We envision an incarnational community that lives in response to the redemptive work of the Gospel. What is more is having that same passion unleashed into every generation so that the work does not end with us but goes on for years after we are gone.

THE STRATEGY

Building upon our mission, vision and values, we have 5 "strategic anchors" that help us define success and keep a pulse on how we're actually accomplishing the mission we have set out to achieve.

(1) Develop a reputation for reaching the lost and caring for the least.

Scripture is very clear about our charge to both proclaim the Gospel to those who are far from God as well as serve those who are the left behind in our society. Catalyst does both in a variety of ways. We make it a point to intentionally remind ourselves that we exist to help people far from God find life in Christ by:

- a. Structuring our weekend worship gatherings with the atheist in mind. That does not mean that we compromise the Gospel in any way. We simply understand that it needs to be explained and presented in a context that respects the fact that they, in many ways, have no idea what we're talking about.
- b. Making prayer for those who are far from God a routine part of our weekend gathering and weekly group discipleship.

- c. Taking off one Sunday a quarter from our normal weekend gathering to participate in a Sunday of Service where we gather as a community, in our community, to make a difference for those far from God and left behind by society.
- d. Structuring the rhythm of our group discipleship to include weeks of going on mission and living in inclusive community with those far from God.
- e. Weekly, sharing stories in our gatherings about how God is at work in the lives of His people as well as celebrating stories of mission no matter how great or small the impact may seem to us.

(2) Create a community of disciples that balance the different aspects of Kingdom life.

Group discipleship (community groups) is the focal point of ministry, mission, fellowship and discipleship at Catalyst. It is the primary way we live out our mission with those that God has called us to live it with. We believe that discipleship is most effective in community. If our goal is to produce disciples that live out the call of Mark 1:17, then we need a holistic approach to our spiritual formation. Therefore, our Community Groups seek to balance 3 values: Communion, Community, & Mission

Communion -- is simply how we connect with God and His church. Most small groups are really good at this component, and it is usually the sole focus of group Bible Studies. Communion consists of: Scripture reading and discussion, prayer, fellowship, worship, and accountability. Communion is essential for growing in our relationship with Christ and with one another and should never be neglected. Similarly, if communion is all that is done, we run the risk of neglecting the call of Christ to live out the entirety of Mark 1:17.

Community -- or more specifically, Inclusive Community, is how we interact with relationships in our life. The community of faith should be inclusive and invitational. It should be highly relational and enjoyable. Community is found in and out of our homes, with friends and family. It is also inclusive, which encourages us to live hospitable lives. Hospitality is the act of welcoming those outside of the faith to interact and become friends with those inside the church. Community nights are the nights to bring friends that normally wouldn't come to church, but would come to a BBQ, a night of bowling, or wine tasting event.

Mission -- for the purpose of our groups, can be best described as Benevolent Action. Group times of mission are our opportunity to serve in the community, give of ourselves sacrificially to the needs of others, and to be available for God to use us in ways we never thought possible. Each community group decides how, where, and when to serve the community. We encourage community groups to build an intentional and ongoing relationship with the people or organizations they serve with.

(3) Create and dwell in 3rd spaces where those both near and far from God can engage with the Gospel.

Most of us would agree that the "church" as it is defined is not simply what exists within the church building but the collective gathering of God's people coming together to live on mission with Him. Yet so often we relegate the mission of Jesus to what happens inside the four walls of a building. That is why we desire to see ministry happen outside of the building in how we gather, serve and even worship. We will gather for pub nights, park days and community events to live in and among the community we desire to reach with the Gospel.

If we are blessed to gather in a facility that we can occupy beyond the weekend, we will leverage that kingdom resource as a gift to the community and a gathering space for kids, youth and families. Lastly, it is our goal to lead a community of people that see themselves as on mission with Jesus when they go to work, drink coffee at the local shop, play in the park or eat dinner at a neighbor's home. It is taking the Gospel of Jesus wherever you are to whoever you are with.

(4) Utilize our resources for maximum Kingdom impact.

At Catalyst, we want to be known as a generous people that take what we have and yield maximum Kingdom impact both individually and corporately. We use the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 as our foundation for our generosity.

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should **give what you have decided** in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful giver**. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your **generosity** will result in thanksgiving to God.” -- 2 Corinthians 9:6-11*

Catalyst will be known as a church that intentionally, cheerfully and generously leverages it's resources to make a big impact for the Kingdom. This principle will bleed down into each and every resource we have at our disposal - staff, facilities, finances and anything else given to our stewardship. We will be fully transparent in our financial dealings giving quarterly stewardship updates in our weekend gathering, letting our community know of the Kingdom impact of their resources.

(5) Encourage a culture of reproduction

The Gospel of Christ is about reproducing disciples and the multi-site movement is all about that. We have observed through Catalyst and our partnership with GHC how unleashing 100-150 disciples into a new community has resulted in multiple layers of reproduction: converts, disciples, servants, local impact, spiritual fruit and much more. As the Bible says from Genesis to Revelation, "Be thankful and multiply." This is a call for marriage as well as for the church.

That is why we desire to reproduce at every level. For our staff & leadership, this is a challenge to apprentice new leaders while giving them the platform and authority to develop their God-given gifts and passions.

We also desire to continue the Catalyst culture of reproduction through sites, campuses and churches. Yolo county is ripe with opportunity for new churches and campuses. It is our dream to see Catalyst churches in each of the 4 cities of Yolo county (East Sacramento, Davis, Winters and Woodland) in the years to come.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

When it comes to issues of doctrine, traditions, lifestyles, politics, behavior, culture, etc., Catalyst takes a closed hand/open hand approach.

The closed hand holds tightly to the non-negotiables of the Christian faith: We are all sinful and broken, faith in Jesus brings forgiveness and a new life, the Bible is true and worth following, and everyone spends eternity somewhere.

The open hand, however, allows room for differences when it comes to secondary matters. We liberally allow freedom of conscience and wisdom to guide the individual where the Bible is silent. This approach fosters unity within the diversity found in the Catalyst community: Democrats and Republicans, computer geeks and surfers, carnivores and vegans, soccer moms and corporate executives. Our goal as a Christian community must always be to honor God, to follow the way of Jesus, and to love and serve all.

In this way, we seek to make the gospel relevant to those that find it irrelevant (1 Corinthians 9:22, Matthew 28:19-20), to have a solid Biblical foundation (1 Timothy 4:16; Titus 1:9, 2:1), to love one another (John 13:34), and to avoid unnecessary divisions (1 Corinthians 1:10, 12:25; Titus 3:10).

The “Closed-Handed” Doctrines

GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22, Psalm 90:2, Matthew 28:19, I Peter 1:2, II Corinthians 13:14

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Matthew 1:22-23, Isaiah 9:6, John 1:1-5; 14:10-30, Hebrews 4:14-15, I Corinthians 15:3-4

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every believer from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 19:6, 2 Corinthians 3:17, John 16:7-13; 14:16-17, Acts 1:8, I Corinthians 2:12; 3:16, Ephesians 1:13, Galatians 5:25

SALVATION

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 14:6; 1:12, Titus 3:5, Galatians 3:26, Romans 5:1

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to all men. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 1:13, Psalm 119:105,160, Psalm 12:6, Proverbs 30:5

HUMANITY

Man is made in the image of God. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Although God designed man to have fellowship with him, man became alienated from God through disobedience. As a result, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and choose to sin against God. Man is incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through his own efforts. Genesis 1:27, Psalm 8:3-6, Isaiah 53:6a, Romans 3:23, Colossians 1:21, Isaiah 59:1-2

THE CHURCH

When people choose to follow Jesus, God plants inside of them all that is needed to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach their friends, family, neighbors and co-workers how to love God. As people go on the mission with Jesus, churches emerge and God changes the world heart-first. Matthew 16:18, Acts 2:42-47, Acts 16:5, Hebrews 10:25

ETERNITY

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God, through forgiveness and salvation. When you die, you will either spend eternity in Heaven or Hell. Eternal separation from God happens in Hell. Eternal union with God occurs in Heaven. John 3:16, I John 2:25; 5:11-13, Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:15

FINANCIAL PLAN

	Pre-launch (1yr)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Income				
Personal Support	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
Catalyst Support	12,000	12,000	12,000	6,000
GHC Partnership	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
Church/Network Partnerships	20,000	68,000	57,000	52,000
One time gifts	10,000	0	0	0
Tithes/Offerings	5,000	62,400	78,000	88,400
Attendance (\$20/per)	30 (2 mo)	60	75	85
Subtotal Income	110,000	195,400	200,000	194,400
Expenses				
Staffing	67,000	112,200	114,700	121,200
Admin	3,950	9,300	9,300	9,300
Worship	16,700	40,500	40,500	40,500
Discipleship	1,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
Mission	16,900	21,000	16,000	11,000
Next Generation	3,700	5,000	5,000	5,000
Subtotal Expenses	109,700	193,500	191,000	192,500
Net Gain	300	1,900	9,000	1,900

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The last 3 years for our family has been quite the adventure and it feels, in a lot of ways, like it was just waiting in a long line to get on the roller coaster; meeting a lot of nice people, waiting far longer than we wanted and feeling like we worked a lot harder than our position in line might indicate. Yet we know that the crazy is only just beginning.

Our family has adopted a new family verse in this season that I know will serve us well going forward.

“ *Many are the plans in a person’s heart,
but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.* ”
Proverbs 19:21

I can honestly say that we have done our best to yield our human plans to the will of God but in the same breath I can tell you countless stories of our frustration at our broken plans, dashed hopes and unmet expectations. We know what we’re getting into. We trust that we are going in with eyes open as wide as they can be, knowing that there are some things that you never fully know about until you do it. Church planting is one of those things. We are fully ready to give our plans over to the One who makes all things perfect and enjoy the ride. All to the glory of God that more may call Him Savior.