

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

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INTRODUCTION

Citylight's vision from the beginning has been to see the gospel transform the City of Omaha and beyond through multiplying disciples and churches [Matt. 28:18-20]. The gospel has been bearing fruit [Col. 1:5-6] through Citylight since its inception two years ago. Day by day the Lord is adding to our number. 1,350 adults and kids gather at the Omar every Sunday to worship Jesus and over 600 adults scatter throughout the week in City Groups to grow as disciples of Jesus. Jesus is growing his church! Our leadership team has been asking the same question over and over again this past year: When can we plant a church?

Our desire from the beginning has never been to become the largest church in Omaha, but to become a church planting movement. Rather than multiplying additional worship services requiring people to commute long distances, we want to multiply churches that have a local presence in every neighborhood and suburb of Omaha. Planting new churches will allow us to provide better shepherding, serve local communities, and raise up and empower more volunteers and leaders.

Therefore, after a season of prayer, the Citylight Church staff and advisory team has unanimously decided that now is the time to reproduce ourselves. We desire to plant multiple daughter churches in the next 5-10 years that have the same name, vision, mission, DNA, dynamic preaching, inspiring worship, unashamed authenticity, and of course, free donuts!

A BENSON RENAISSANCE

As we have prayed over the city, we sense God leading us to plant a church in Benson.

What is taking place in Benson right now is being described as a “renaissance.” A renaissance literally means a “cultural rebirth or revival.” Benson is increasingly becoming a popular place to live for young adults, artists, and entrepreneurs. City Councilman Pete Festerson recently said, “[Benson] is one of the coolest places in town now to go out to dinner, see a show, experience live music and art.”

As a result of a growing desire to invest in Benson, \$1.3 million was secured to renovate the Benson Business District which will include replacing and widening sidewalks, new streetlights, new public plazas, new landscaping, and more. The Streetscape Project’s aim is to “help Benson’s renaissance keep progressing.” One of the biggest factors for this renaissance is its entertainment. Behind the Old Market, Benson has the most music and entertainment venues

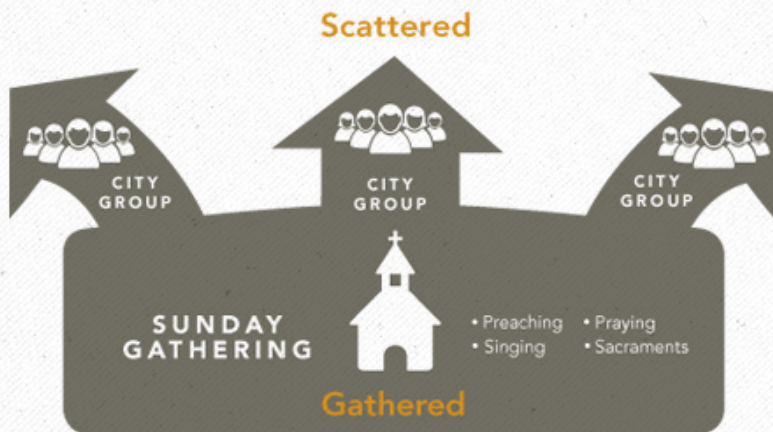
in the entire city. That’s why young people are moving into the condominiums, town-homes, and loft units currently being added.

We believe there are a number of unique reasons that make Benson a strategic place for a church. First, the neighborhood is young with an average of age of 33. If any church wants to reach a city they have to win the hearts and minds of young adults. Because a 1/3 of our church is made up of young adults, we believe that we will be able to have an immediate impact on that neighborhood. Second, the neighborhood is diverse. Benson sits on the border between affluent, upper-middle class Dundee and under-privileged North Omaha. It’s made up of blue collar workers and hipster musicians. It is exciting to think about the church’s opportunity to unite different kinds of people under Jesus who desperately need the gospel. Third, Benson is geographically central. The neighborhood is perfectly centered in the area of town bordered by I-80, I-680, and I-480. Everyone living within these borders is less than a 15-minute drive away.

In the early 1900's there was a lot of church planting momentum in Benson. If you take a quick drive through downtown Benson, you'll see close to a dozen large church buildings within a mile radius of each other. Sadly, multiple churches have had to close their doors this past year. Though Benson is experiencing a cultural revival at the moment, a spiritual revival no longer exists. But, in this moment in time, we have the unique opportunity to put people and resources on the ground in Benson to bless this neighborhood with the love of Christ. We have the ability today to mobilize hundreds of people that would pray and work toward a "gospel renaissance" in the city of Benson and leave a lasting legacy for years to come.



OUR MISSION



THE MISSION OF CITYLIGHT CHURCH IS TO MULTIPLY JESUS' DISCIPLES AND CHURCHES.

OUR STRATEGY

To accomplish our mission, we will be structured as both a gathered and scattered church. We gather on Sundays. We scatter throughout the week.

CITY GROUPS [SCATTER]

City Groups are the heart of Citylight Church. Multiplying City Groups is our goal. They are not an optional program or a seasonal Bible study. We want everyone in the church to participate in a City Group. A City Group is a mid-sized community [15-40 people] that is growing as a spiritual family, being transformed by the gospel, and serving a specific neighborhood or network of Omaha. City Group leaders focus the rhythms of the group around three things: formation [up], community [in], and mission [out]. We envision City Groups that are small enough to care for each other's spiritual formation and big enough to dare to engage the culture around them. As disciples multiply at Citylight, so will City Groups and churches.

SUNDAY GATHERINGS [GATHER]

Sunday gatherings are a gathering of City Groups. Just as Christians have been doing for 2,000 years, Citylight will gather on Sundays to celebrate Jesus' resurrection, proclaim his word, worship him through music, and celebrate the Lord's Supper and baptism. Sunday gatherings will serve the broader mission of multiplying disciples and churches. As our gatherings equip disciples and inspire the ministry of City Groups, new churches will be planted.

OUR CORE VALUES

DOWN - Gospel

The gospel is the “good news” that God has reached down to us in his son, Jesus, to defeat sin and death and their effects in our world. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has initiated and accomplished what we never could. This gospel is the “power of God” [Rom. 1:16] to overcome the penalty of sin [past] the power of sin [present] and the presence of sin [future]. It is the power for personal salvation and transformation as well as the renewal of neighborhoods, cities, and nations. We never move past Jesus. We never move past the gospel. Who we are and what we do will be rooted in and empowered by God’s reaching down in the gospel.



UP - Formation

We have all been formed into a certain kind of person. The goal of the gospel is not just to save us from hell, but to renew our character and lives “until Christ is formed in you” [Gal. 4:19]. We are committed to proclaiming the gospel not just as the front door to Christianity but as the good news that we live by every day. We are committed to being a church that drives people to personal repentance and faith in Jesus for a changed and transformed life.



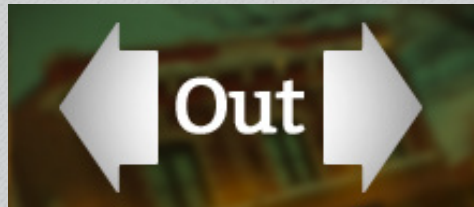
IN - Community

The church is not a place but a people. It's not just a weekly assembly of individuals, but a community committed to loving each other well and doing life together. Community is the context for gospel formation and mission. We will not settle for being a weekly service for people to attend, but will continually drive people to share their lives with others as "a people for [God's] own possession" [1 Pet. 2:9].



OUT - Mission

The church IS God's missionary agency to fulfill the great commission. Emil Brunner wrote, "The church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning." Therefore, "missions" is not one ministry within the church, but the very orientation of the church. The same gospel that transforms us also compels us outward on mission. We exist as a church on mission to be "a city on a hill" and "the light of the world" [Matt. 5:14]. We are committed to living as a scattered church during the week in City Groups and as a gathered church on Sunday as our City Groups come together.



OUR STAFF





Tyler Zach

PASTOR, CHURCH PLANTER

Tyler will provide leadership to Citylight Benson primarily through casting and communicating vision, administration, developing staff and lay leaders, providing member care, serving on the preaching team, and coordinating the upcoming Citylight Theology School in the fall.



Andrew Rutten

DIRECTOR OF CITYLIGHT U

Andrew will continue to lead our city-wide college ministry (CLU) but will serve on the Citylight Benson team to gain hands-on church planting experience. He will serve on the preaching team for Citylight Benson and assist in launching the Citylight Theology School.



Gabe Jasso

DIRECTOR OF
WORSHIP & ARTS

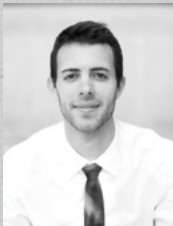
Gabe will become the primary worship leader in Benson, recruit and build a strong worship team, call people to worship every Sunday, disciple musicians, and reach the myriad of like-minded artists in Benson who need to know Jesus!



Alex Marquez

DIRECTOR OF CITYLIGHT HIGH

Alex will continue to lead our city-wide high school ministry (CL High) but will also serve on the Citylight Benson team and spearhead our outreach to families through the neighborhood schools. Alex will also serve on the Citylight Benson preaching team.



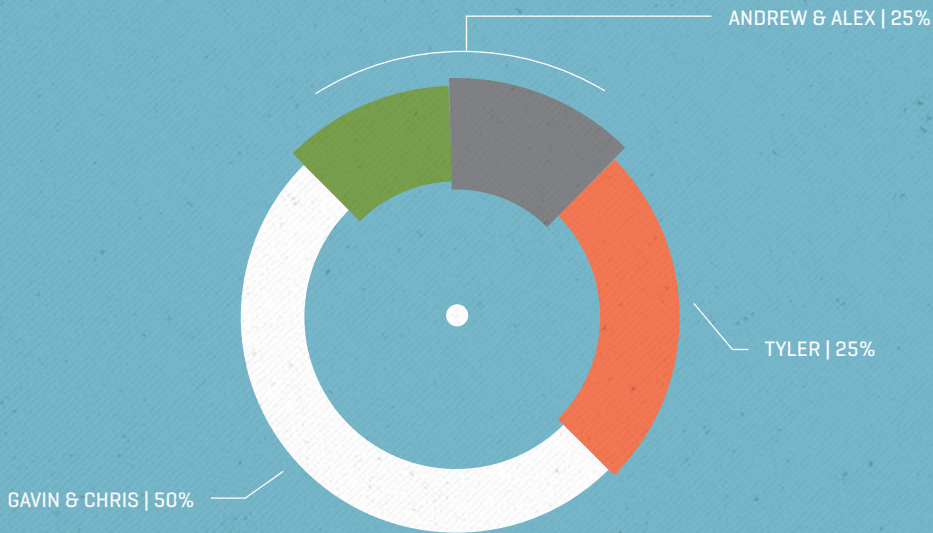
Zach Davy

CITY GROUP LEADERSHIP

Zach will continue working full-time as a Financial Analyst at ConAgra while leveraging his executive skills to provide the staff team with much-needed operational support. In addition, Zach will use his prior experience of leading City Groups to assist Citylight Benson in launching and coaching new City Groups.

OUR PREACHING TEAM

Gavin and Chris will serve on the Citylight Benson preaching team and between the two will preach 50% of the time. Tyler will preach 25% of the time and Andrew and Alex between the two will preach 25% of the time.





GAVIN JOHNSON



CHRIS HRUSKA



TYLER ZACH



ANDREW RUTTEN



ALEX MARQUEZ

OUR TIMELINE

TIMELINE	GOALS
Phase 1: Preparation March-May 2015	Informational meeting Recruit a prayer team Recruit additional staff and an advisory team Recruit 100 Core Team members Purchase a building
Phase 2: Formation June-August 2015	Begin weekly core team gatherings and meals Find and build strategic relationships in Benson Raise start-up funds Prepare building for public gatherings Host vision picnic in Benson park Host a “soft launch” preview Sunday
Phase 3: Launch September 2015	Launch Sunday worship gathering - open to the public Launch additional City Groups for new members
Phase 4: Growth and Multiplication Ongoing	75% involvement in City Groups Multiply City Groups Move toward having an autonomous preaching team Allocate 10% of giving toward future church planting Partner with Citylight Church in planting another church within 18 months

OUR BUDGET

\$	FIRST YEAR EXPENSES
\$150,000	Staffing
\$50,000	Building Costs and Utilities
\$50,000	Ministry Expenses
\$250,000	

\$	START UP COSTS
\$27,500	Audio/Visual and Band Equipment
\$4,000	Sunday Morning Ministry Supplies
\$2,000	CL Kids Rooms
\$9,000	Sanctuary Chairs
\$50,000	Sanctuary & Office Renovation
\$2,500	Adult Classroom Supplies
\$5,000	Office Furniture & Supplies
\$100,000	

\$	FUNDING
\$250,000	Member Contributions
\$100,000	One-time start-up costs to raise
\$350,000	

OUR DENOMINATION

THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

The C&MA is a missionary and church-planting movement that has a rich history of planting churches in the United States and all over the world. A Presbyterian pastor, A.B. Simpson, started the C&MA in 1887. Simpson had an evangelistic heart and helped his church in New York City reach out to prostitutes and the homeless. The C&MA initially started as a missionary society and became a denomination later on. Currently, the C&MA has 500,000 people worshipping in 2,000 churches in 37 languages across the globe.

Citylight Benson Church will become a “developing church” within the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination [C&MA]. We are accountable to the leadership and doctrinal statements of the C&MA. You can view our doctrinal statement and learn more about the C&MA at www.cmalliance.org.

In addition, maintaining a commitment to gospel-centered ministry, we also gladly affirm the Gospel Coalition’s foundation documents which can be read here: <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/about/foundation-documents/preamble/>.







OUR BUILDING PROSPECT

BENSON PRESBYTERIAN

We've always said, "The church is a people, not a place." But people do need a place to meet! We'd like to move forward in purchasing the Benson Presbyterian building located on 56th and NW Radial Highway. Once we know that there is a large enough group interested in going to Citylight Benson, we will make an offer on the building.

The Benson Presbyterian building is accessible, affordable, has sufficient parking, contains multiple kids' rooms and classrooms, and has a sanctuary that can seat 300 people. Because of its age, it will need a proper face-lift before we open it up to the public.

The building is advantageous for additional reasons. Two blocks to the northeast you'll find 1,200 high school students enrolled at Benson High. Across the street to the south is Rose Hill elementary school where 340 students are enrolled. This means that our church family will have the strategic opportunity to reach over 1,500 students and their families with the gospel!

OUR INVITATION

We would love for you to partner with us in seeing the Citylight Benson vision become a reality. In order to continue multiplying disciples and churches, we need people who can provide prayer, financial resources, and leadership!

PRAY

Jesus said, "I will build my church..." He is the church planter. The most strategic step is to commit ourselves to prayer. Will you join us in asking God to use Citylight Church to multiply disciples and churches? If you'd like to get monthly updates on Citylight Benson and be in prayer for this church please email tyler@citylightomaha.org.

GIVE

We've seen 150 people baptized at Citylight Church over the past two years! This happened because a few faithful people went all in and made a sacrificial investment with their time and resources. Would you consider giving financially to invest in the work of church planting in the city of Omaha? You can give a one-time contribution or give monthly. There are a few ways you can give a tax-deductible gift. You can put a check with "**Benson**" in the memo line in the giving box on Sunday or mail it to our office. You can also give online by clicking the "**Give**" tab at www.citylightomaha.org.

Citylight Church Office
1023 N 40th St.
Omaha, NE 68131

JOIN

Does the Benson vision resonate with you? Are you interested in joining us over the summer to plant a new church? If so, we'd love to talk with you. **Please contact tyler@citylightomaha.org.**

Q&A

What do you mean by planting a “daughter church” and how does it differ from a traditional multi-site and autonomous church plant?

A multi-site church is one church that meets in multiple locations. They share the same vision, DNA, mission, budget, and staff. They fall under the leadership of the central campus and are centrally resourced. About half of all multi-sites out there are video venues that stream the preaching from the main campus. The benefit of starting a multi-site church is that it allows you to launch a church quicker, creates a leadership vacuum for leaders to be raised up, share overhead expenses and resources, and preserves a sense of unity and accountability. The downsides to the multi-site model may include lower ownership and dependence on the main campus.

Traditional autonomous church plants differ from multi-sites in that they receive blessing and affirmation from a sending church and are launched with their own vision, staff, preaching team, and budget. The benefit of starting an autonomous church, as in Citylight’s case, is that it allows you to have a high level of ownership from the beginning. The downsides to

planting autonomously may include a higher risk of failure, lack of support and resources, and having to reinvent the wheel.

As we have studied Scripture, assessed our currently reality, and taken staff inventory into consideration, we have decided to plant a “daughter church” that will start out with some overlap but eventually move towards full autonomy. The main area of overlap will be the preaching team. We are committed to launching Citylight Benson with a high level of preaching excellence while younger preachers strengthen their gifts. Strong preaching is a non-negotiable to us. The second area of overlap will be our shared high school and college ministries. We will work together on reaching students in the city until we feel the need to duplicate our efforts. In terms of autonomy, from the beginning, Citylight Benson will have its own budget, core team, advisory team, and unique missional focus.

What are we naming the two churches?

Our desire is to create a “family of churches” with the same vision and DNA. In light of that desire, we want to give the Citylight surname to all of our future daughter churches. Citylight has a positive image in the city of Omaha and

Q&A (CONTINUED)

we believe that preserving the name will give us more church-planting momentum. Moving forward we will use Citylight Midtown and Citylight Benson as the names of these two churches.

Where will the student ministries be located?

All the student ministries will be shared by both churches. Citylight High will meet in Benson, Citylight Club will meet at the Omar building, and Citylight U is still yet to be decided.

Why plant so close to Citylight Midtown?

It may seem counter-intuitive to plant a church so close to the Omar location. There are three main reasons why we are planting in Benson. First, through our prayers, we sense the Lord leading us to that neighborhood because he wants to win people to himself there! Second, because the majority of our church lives in midtown, we are confident that a strong core team of leaders will rise up and band together to get another church nearby off the ground. Lastly, because we are relocating Citylight High to Benson and will be a few blocks away from Benson High, we think there is great potential for the high school ministry to grow and for

families to be reached for Christ.

Will Citylight Midtown and Citylight Benson have their own City Groups?

Yes, the goal is to have autonomous City Groups. But we envision this being a timely process. New Benson City Groups will be launched right away as new members are added but we will allow much flexibility on when or how quickly people transition to those groups from their current City Group.

Are we going to sell our chapel building once we plant Citylight Benson?

The answer is “no” at this point. Because of our growth we may need the chapel for additional Sunday gatherings. In addition, the building has served us well in the area of weddings and funerals.

How will the pastors’ roles change as a result of planting another church?

Gavin will continue to focus primarily on vision and preaching. Chris will transition away from City Group leadership so that he can preach more and focus on becoming a catalyst for city-wide church planting. Doug will continue

to oversee our family ministries but also move into the City Group leadership role. Because of Tyler's transition to Benson and launching the Citylight Theology School and Doug's focus on City Groups, we'll likely be adding to our pastoral team to cover some gaps left behind in the transition and to serve our growing congregation.

Do I have to live in Benson to be a part of Citylight Benson?

No, but we will ask you to commit yourself to being on mission in Benson and the surrounding area with the rest of the church so that we can have a large impact on that community.

How will Citylight Benson be led?

Tyler is leading the church planting effort which includes raising funds, recruiting a launch/core team, building a staff team, and assembling an advisory/elder team. After the summer core team phase the church will be led by a plurality of elders autonomous from Citylight Midtown. Gavin and Chris will continue to leverage their preaching gifts for at least 1-2 years while a strong local preaching team is established.





Join us in multiplying disciples and churches.

tyler@citylightomaha.org | www.citylightomaha.org/benson