

PREPARED BY
REV. J.P. VANDALSEM



NASHVILLE COLLECTIVE

ARE YOU OBSESSED WITH JESUS?

What in your life doesn't make sense, unless you say "Jesus has called me to do it"?

These questions cut deep into my being and continue to shake me to the core. They serve as an invitation to simultaneously reflect on my past, and move me forward into the future. An obsession with Jesus compels me towards radical obedience to Christ, and submitting my security and hopes to the Lordship of Jesus. A call to say "YES!" everyday.

It became clear to me as I wrestled to fully answer these questions that the Spirit was leading me into something new... planting a network of microchurches. My deep passion for the church, as the body of Christ, was growing rapidly alongside the robust conviction that a new expression of church is desperately needed. An expression that could build on the posture of missionaries while harnessing the power of decentralized networks.

The clarity of this new vision has gained focus as I reflect on how I have been uniquely prepared for this venture. I have traveled the world and worshiped with other believers in many cultures: the vibrant people of Kenya in mud-hut buildings.. the devoted people of apartment churches in creative access areas... the joy filled people of Haiti. I have discovered deep beauty in these unique worship expressions as I observe true worship of God and generous love of neighbor.

My time as a college pastor taught me the importance of not waiting for students to come through the doors of the church. I learned to utilize every sector of life to minister to students, best made possible when we resourced and empowered other students to reach their friends and discover their purpose. As a Lead Pastor I have witnessed the unique giftings of people and heard their God-given passions. Yet, too often they were waiting on someone to empower them for ministry in their natural rhythms of life. Each of these seasons of life has served as a great curriculum preparing me for this very moment.

The Kingdom of God is breaking in... heaven is invading earth. There is a new movement of the Spirit being released in our land. God is on the move to restore, renew, and transform. God is calling and looking for others to join this great movement. My deepest desire is to partner with God, lock arms with others whose hearts are being stirred by the Spirit, and together boldly enact God's good news where we work, live, and play. Will you join me on this great venture? Let's do this together!

REV. J.P. VANDALSEM



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THE CHURCH IN AN AGE OF LONELINESS

New realities for life in community and as individuals create unique opportunities for the Church to identify and respond with the Good News of Jesus in an ever-changing world.

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Your place in the commissioning of a new expression in the East Nashville region.



col·lec·tive

/kə'lektiv/

from Old French collectif,
-ive or Latin collectivus
from collect- 'gathered together'

The pit in your stomach grows heavier and deeper with every excruciating breath. Your fingers penetrate the lunch tray's outer surface as you squeeze the hard plastic searching for a familiar face and an open seat.

The recurring pain felt in every lunch room is unpalatable! We endured the lunch room hoping this pain was temporary. The assumption was it would be contained to a moment in our development and outgrown as we progressed through adulthood. Yet, we have seen adult loneliness rates skyrocket over the past decade, and, according to the U.S. Surgeon General, loneliness has reached epidemic proportions.

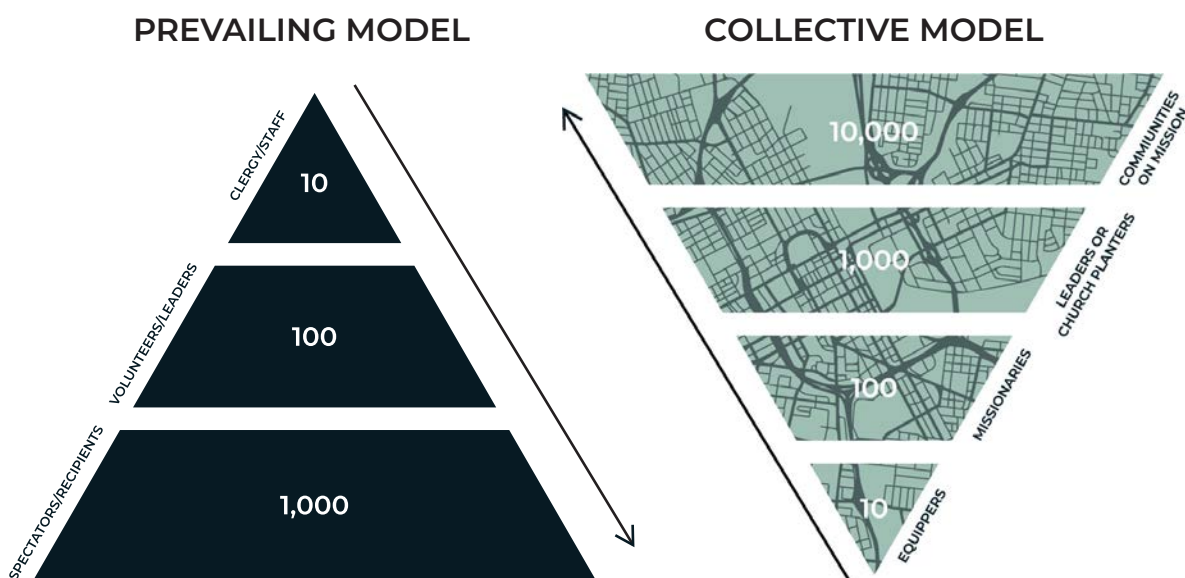
The discomfort of the lunch room has given way to complete isolation leaving a growing number of adults desperate to be gathered with others.

The pain of isolation is compounded by the loss of an identified purpose for one's life. What should I do? Who should I be? How do I make a difference?

During this loneliness epidemic the church has continued to hemorrhage people at alarming rates. "Dones" are leaving the pews with an indictment of being done with the institution. Simultaneously, the "nones" (those who have no religious affiliation) are becoming one of the fastest growing religious segments in the US.

The sum of these factors is providing us with a generational opportunity to advance the Kingdom of God. No longer can the church perch on it's doorsteps waiting for the masses to file into the pews. Make no mistake, this opportunity requires shifts and a gospel infused imagination willing to go, to experiment, to love boldly.

The Nashville Collective will be gathered together by the Holy Spirit in order to be sent out and gather others. The collective will invert common church structures of leadership and permission giving in order to release and send everyday missionaries through a decentralized network. The structure of the network seeks to incubate missional enterprise, serve, resource, and champion these missionaries as they discover their God-given vocation while living a lifestyle of mission.



MISSION

To create a movement of missionaries in Nashville,

ENGAGED IN A NETWORK OF CONTEXTUAL EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH, RADICALLY PURSUING JESUS AND TOGETHER BRINGING HEAVEN TO EARTH.

VISION

The Nashville Collective has a vision for a missionary living on every block and a microchurch, actively practicing the way of Jesus, located within every neighborhood.

CORE DISTINCTIVES UNIQUE TO OUR MISSION AND VISION.

RADICAL LORDSHIP > CULTURAL ASSIMILATION

REPRODUCTION > SCALE

PRACTICE > COGNITION

LABORATORY > LECTURE HALL

EMBODIMENT > MEMORIZATION

BELONGING > BELIEF SYSTEM

PARTICULAR > GENERIC

PROTOTYPE > PERMANENCY



STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION

Inspired by missional strategies deployed in creative access countries and taking seriously the priesthood of all believers, we seek to help people discover their personal calling from God on their lives and connect them with a micro-church; whereby, they are inspired for spiritual growth, equipped for multiplication through a ministry hub, and sustained through a decentralized network. The synergy of replicating missionaries, micro-churches, hubs and networks culminates in a movement of missionaries engaging all spheres of influence throughout the Nashville area.



MICRO-CHURCHES ON MISSION

We affirm microchurch as the most basic expression of the church. Our ecclesiology is simple. When believers work together in sincere *worship* and genuine *community* to accomplish part of the *mission* of God, they are the church.



NETWORK

A decentralized network which utilizes a ministry hub to serve everyday missionaries and micro-churches. The focus is on resourcing the needs of the missionary and providing connectedness.



MOVEMENT

Keeping the organic (micro-churches) and the organization (network) connected, tilted toward multiplication, and agile in order to address emerging Kingdom opportunities and micro-church needs.



**Helping
people
discover
their
personal
calling.**

ACTION PLAN

Support Raising // MONTHS 1-6

Pre-Fundraise (May - July 2020)

- Establish 501c3 to receive charitable giving.
- Create landing page and on-line giving pathway for donors.
- Create support-raising prospectus.

Initial Support Raising Campaign (Aug - Dec 2020)

- Seeking to raise 3 years of salary.
- Initial ask to family, friends, and institutions with similar passions.

EXPLORE AND LAUNCH // MONTHS 1-24

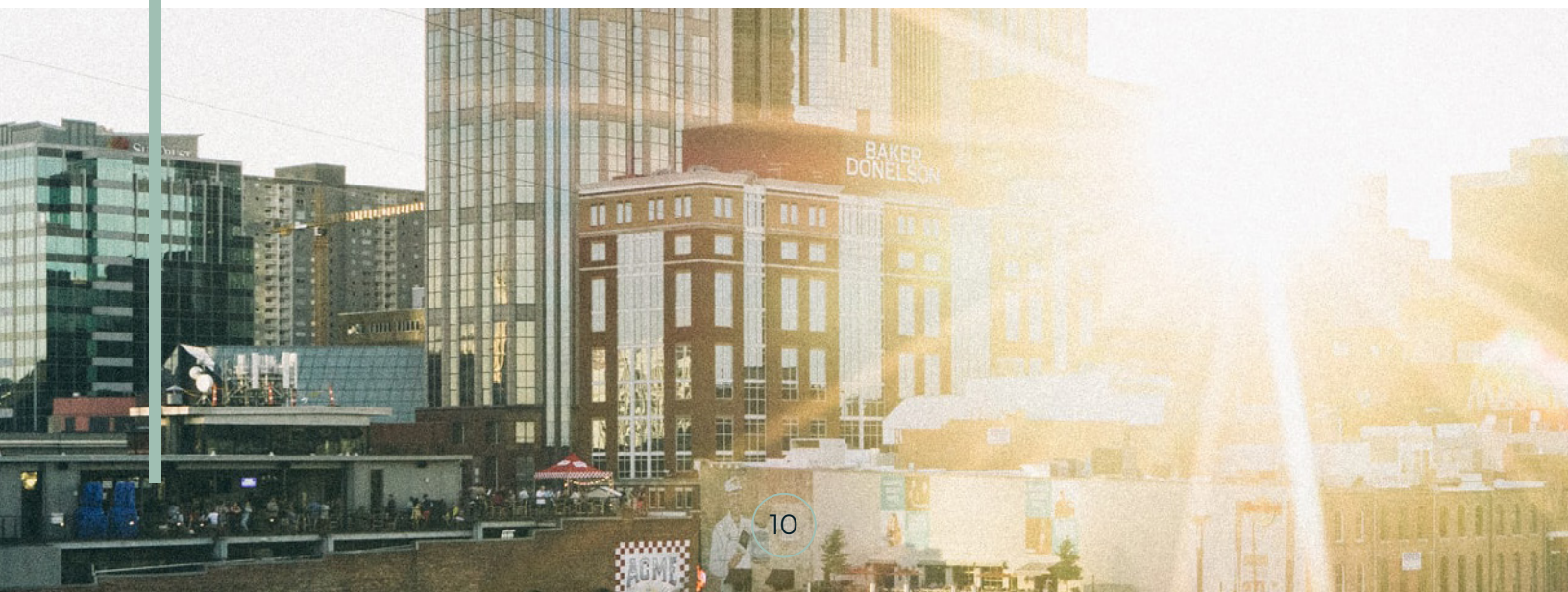
Explore where the Holy Spirit is at work in East Nashville

- Daily Rhythms of prayer, discernment, mini-sabbath observations.
- What good work, justice, mercy is already happening?
- What are some of the problems as stated by people living in East Nashville?
- Who are the lonely and isolated?
- What are the hopes for the neighborhood and for their lives?
- More listening than talking is required the first year.

Launch the First East Nashville Micro-Church (4th quarter 2020)

Launch exploration network for local core team members. (Jan 2021)

- Who are the people who have had a stirring within them to start something and aren't satisfied with the prevailing model?
- Actively recruit potential core members and invite into first micro-church.



SYNERGY AND COLLABORATION // MONTHS 25-36

Synergy of Core team

- Gathering people regularly who responded to the call of Christ as Lord, experienced a liminal moment in which they must do something, and are restless with the stirrings of the Spirit leading them into a call of possibility.

Begin living into BLESS: An experience to develop a lifestyle around five incarnational rhythms that equip you to live as a missionary where you live, work, study, shop, and play.

- BEGIN with prayer: I will pray for the people in my life and the places
- LISTEN: I will listen to and discover the needs of others and the places where God is at work.
- EAT: I will share meals and spend time with people in my life.
- SERVE: I will respond to the needs of others and help them in practical and impactful ways.
- STORY: I will share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in my life with others. that I'm in.

Gathered to be scattered

- The core team will be gathered for training but with intent of sending them out as missionaries and church planters.
- Gatherings are focused on: Prayer, Lordship, Calling, Liminality, Discernment, Sending. Practicing Together:
 - » Parties: learning how to throw great parties.
 - » Serving pre-Christians on the edges of the Kingdom of God.
 - » Calling: what is God calling us into...I MUST answer this calling!
 - » Entrepreneurship
 - » Bible Study

Collaborate with others in the East Nashville area who are on mission, and looking for a network. Including existing churches.

- Is there anything we have learned in the first three years that could be useful to existing churches? We want to be a resource for others.

COMMISSION // YEAR 3

Commissioning our first missionaries from the Core team.

- Sending out our best people to answer God's call on their lives.
- New micro-churches and communities on mission are launched.

NETWORK // YEAR 5

Replicating the DNA established in the core group to new micro-churches being birthed.

Serve the microchurches by developing concrete services designed for diverse missionaries.

Design programs, events, and services our diverse missionaries are asking for and will need.

- Coaching and Care
- Co-op Working Space
- Financial Services
- Media Services
- Ministry Training.

MOVEMENT // YEAR 10

The micro-churches have multiplied to the fourth generation and the network is giving birth to new networks.

Attention must be given to the ongoing network in general and the microchurches particular in order to keep the organic (micro-churches) and the organization (network) connected, tilted toward multiplication, and agile in order to address emerging Kingdom opportunities and micro-church needs.

Working with existing churches to integrate network participants.

- We could see the desire of some people to integrate and engage existing churches at different stages of their family's development.

FUNDING THE COLLECTIVE

Your partnership with the Nashville Collective will allow us to boldly explore the new frontier standing before us and search to the edges of the kingdom bringing heaven to earth. It is important for us in these first three years to be able to discover, experiment, and develop the movement.

NEIGHBORHOOD DISCOVERY

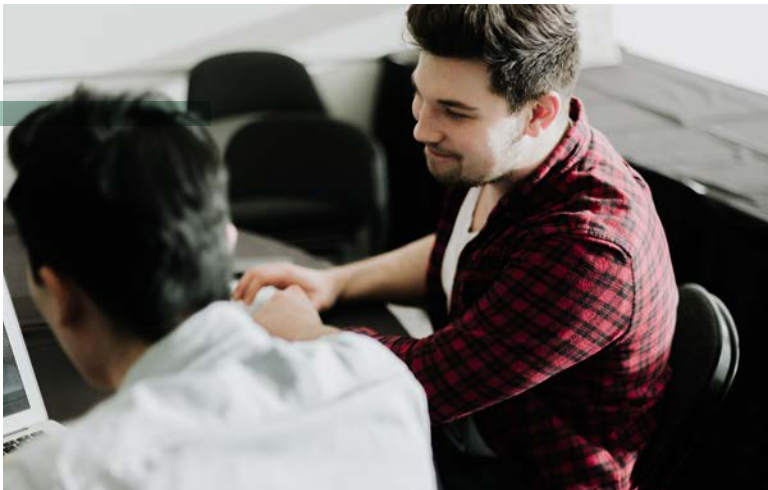
Allowing our family to move into the East Nashville area to discover unique culture(s), hopes for the neighborhood, areas of brokenness, and meet new people.

MINISTRY EXPERIMENT GRANTS

Grants will provide seed funding for ministry opportunities in the neighborhood.

MOVEMENT

Developing replicable tools and best practices for missionary identification, development, and coaching.



SUPPORT RAISING

Through a community of committed supporters, the Nashville Collective will build a community of donors that will form the core of our funding. I am pursuing a fundraising coach and am committed to raising support full-time in my first 6 months. As our first micro-churches are launched, my fundraising will begin to include mission specific fundraising. We will continually seek alternative streams of revenue during the network's development.



MIDSOUTH NAZARENE DISTRICT SUPPORT

The MidSouth District of the Church of the Nazarene has approved the creation of the Nashville Collective and offered initial financial support within the first year of its development.



VISION FUELING GIFTS

- 16 @ \$100/mo for 3 years
- 8 @ \$250/mo for 3 years
- 4 @ \$500/mo for 3 years
- 2 @ \$10,000 year for 3 years

CONVERSATION PARTNERS

STEVE WEBER

Former Nazarene Missionary to Haiti.
Founder of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries.

FREQUENCY: weekly

ED DEAN

Director of Church in Action (Germany):
A network of communities on mission led by Nazarenes.

FREQUENCY: bi-weekly

RYAN FASANI

Founder of the Salt Collective in Bellingham, WA.

He is 18 months into planting a decentralized network of micro-churches. Working with WAPAC District

FREQUENCY: monthly

BRIAN WARDLAW

Founder of the Homestead in Seattle, Wa.

He has been co-vocational church planting for 10 years.

FREQUENCY: bi-monthly

JEREMY STEPHENS

Translocal Planting Director for Tampa Underground:
A decentralized network of micro-churches.

FREQUENCY: finishing year long movement school with Jeremy. It is cohort based.



DISTINCTIVES EXPANDED

RADICAL LORDSHIP > CULTURAL ASSIMILATION

Helping everyone in our spheres of influence respond to a Lordship encounter with Jesus. Subsequent to a Lordship response it is imperative we curate environments enabling an individual to experience liminality and given an opportunity to discern God's particular calling for their lives.

REPRODUCTION > SCALE

We desire to tilt our micro-churches toward multiplication instead of seeking one body getting larger and larger. We recognize not all microchurches should multiply; yet, we highly value multiplication in our network's DNA.

PRACTICE > COGNITION

We will resist the temptation to reduce the way of Jesus to primarily a cognitive pursuit and/or its initial pursuit.

LABORATORY > LECTURE HALL

The way of Jesus necessitates life on mission and a follower's missional pursuits must be experienced firsthand in environments curated for discovery and exploration into the mystery of God.

EMBODIMENT > MEMORIZATION

The Lordship of Jesus compels us to daily surrender every pursuit and action of our life to Christ; thereby reducing compartmentalization as we pursue to perfectly love God with equal pursuit of loving our neighbor.

BELONGING > BELIEF SYSTEM

Creating environments in which people are invited to belong and encouraged to participate on mission before they believe.

PARTICULAR > GENERIC

Micro-churches and communities on mission must design contextual ministries that engage particular contexts, address unique community needs, and translate into particular tribal cultures.

PROTOTYPE > PERMANENT

We must be willing to experiment, seek continual failure, and agile enough to address current contextual needs without being burdened by legacy fears.



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