



Church planting is the nearest thing to  
a guaranteed method of evangelism  
known to man.  
- Lyle Schaller

PARTNERING  
INFORMATION

# A LETTER FROM JON

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I love San Francisco. I grew up here. I never left and I've never regretted it. We've got everything from great food to championship sports teams. We have

some of the best weather in the world.

But even more than these things, San Francisco is filled with interesting people. The

other day I sat on a bus with a woman in a hijab on one side and guy wearing nothing but daisy dukes and roller skates on the other. San Francisco is one of those hub cities where the world comes together.

I've been a Pastor here in the city now for about 13 years. Church planting has been on my

heart for a while and now Melissa and I are diving in. We are planting a new church in District 3 (the north east end of the

city). Our neighborhood (Nob Hill, Russian Hill, Chinatown, North Beach and Telegraph Hill) is filled with some wonderful people who

need to hear the gospel. They need to see the gospel lived out in the lives of followers of Jesus. They need to see that they were meant for more than chasing money and influence. They were created for more than rising to the top of their fields. They were meant to give God glory and be satisfied in him forever.



District 3 is almost half Chinese and half white. And this neighborhood has little crossover between these two groups. Part of our



vision is to see the gospel break down some of these barriers and bring these two groups together. We want to see the Holy Spirit invade this place and change the hearts of all kinds of people. Chinese. White. Rich. Poor. Educated or not. Whoever it is, we want Jesus to work here and we believe that a new church in this area could potentially have a huge impact.

This packet is filled with information for people who may want to partner with us. I've always felt weird about asking people for help/money. But a church planter/pastor buddy of mine told me the other day, "You aren't approaching

people with a hand out. You are approaching them with an opportunity to participate in what God is doing and what he is going to do.

So ask for people to partner, let them pray and see who God is leading to be a part of the work. If they are, great. If not, God's working with them somewhere else." I thank you for taking the time to read through this packet. I ask that you would do so with a prayerful heart and that you would make this work a regular part of your intercession as you spend time before the throne. And if you feel like including us in your giving or becoming a monthly partner, we'd love to have you on board. Thanks.

**-Jon Brackett**

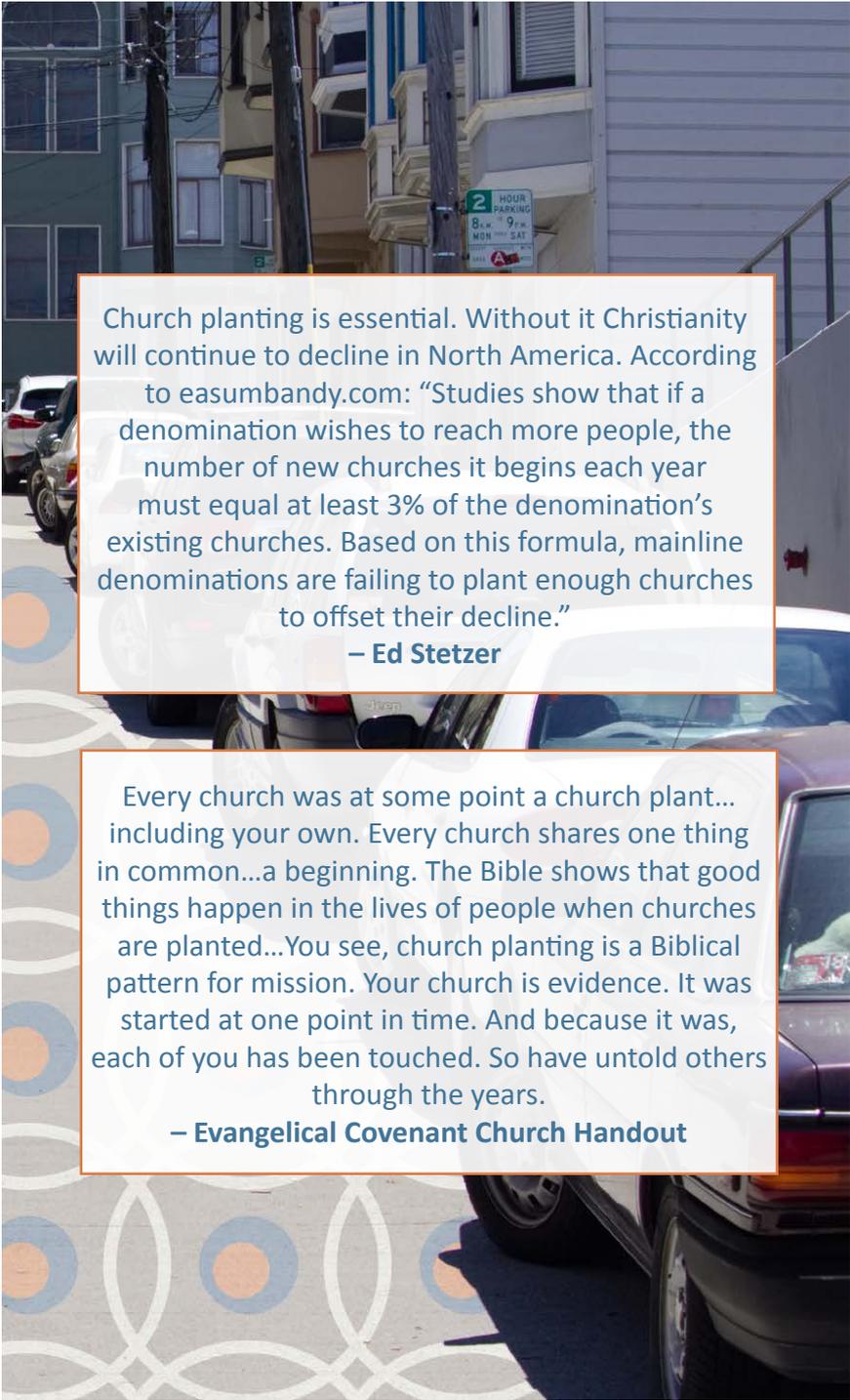
# WHY PLANT NEW CHURCHES?

The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for (1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city and (2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow-raising statement, but to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.

– **Timothy Keller**

Church planting puts mission at the heart of church and church at the heart of mission.

– **Steve Timmis**

A background image of a city street scene. In the foreground, there's a white car with a blue and orange circular pattern on its side. In the background, there's a multi-story building with a parking sign that reads "2 HOUR PARKING 8x MON 9x SAT".

Church planting is essential. Without it Christianity will continue to decline in North America. According to easumbandy.com: “Studies show that if a denomination wishes to reach more people, the number of new churches it begins each year must equal at least 3% of the denomination’s existing churches. Based on this formula, mainline denominations are failing to plant enough churches to offset their decline.”

– Ed Stetzer

Every church was at some point a church plant... including your own. Every church shares one thing in common...a beginning. The Bible shows that good things happen in the lives of people when churches are planted...You see, church planting is a Biblical pattern for mission. Your church is evidence. It was started at one point in time. And because it was, each of you has been touched. So have untold others through the years.

– Evangelical Covenant Church Handout

# WHO WE ARE

## Jon and Melissa Brackett

Jon is a native San Franciscan with 13 years of ministry experience here in the city. He has a deep love for the people here. He is very excited about what Jesus is already doing in this city and can't wait to see what's coming next. He and his wife Melissa (she's not a native – she's from Daly City) have been married for 12 years now and are committed to serving God in this next phase of ministry.



## Affiliation: EFCA and Acts29

*The Evangelical Free Church of America* is a denomination with 1,321 churches and 177 church plants in the works.



Our mission statement is, “We exist to glorify God by multiplying transformational churches among all people.” [EFCA.org](http://EFCA.org)

are committed to planting like-minded churches across denominational lines all over the world. [ACTS29.org](http://ACTS29.org). We are currently an Acts29 candidate church.

*Acts 29* is a diverse, global family of church-planting churches. We



## What's The Name About?

After Pentecost, the church exploded in size. They grew from 120 frightened disciples to thousands of believers. This early church would gather together to hear the Apostles teach (Acts 2:42) at a place called Solomon's Porch (Acts 5:12) and then break out into homes for small groups. Solomon's Porch (or Solomon's Portico - depending on the translation) was a large colonnade area on the Eastern side of the temple mount. It was a shaded area in the court of the Gentiles where anyone could come and worship. It was the perfect place for the early church to meet. It was large, cool on a sunny day, and everyone was welcome.

This is the model that we want to follow: meet as a large group and gather together in homes for more intimate fellowship. So even though the temple is long gone, I thought the name was excellent. It not only ties into church history but also into the theology of how the church is to be organized.





# MISSION

To make and grow disciples of Jesus by teaching and living out the gospel.



# VALUES

**Story.** We want to know the Bible as the story of Jesus.

**Community.** We want to live life together as Jesus' people.

**Growth.** We want to be more like Jesus.

**Sharing.** We want other people to know Jesus too.

**City Transformation.** We want to love the city like Jesus does.

**Multiplication.** We want to help church startups that teach the gospel of Jesus.

# ROAD MAP

## **Phase 1 (Winter 2016-2017)**

Reach out to partner churches  
Community Outreach  
Complete EFCA Assessment  
Complete Acts29 Assessment  
Set Up Legal Status  
Launch Website  
Launch Social Media

## **Phase 2 (Summer 2018-Spring 2019)**

Recruit Core Team Members  
Prayer Walks/Meetings  
Launch Missional Families  
Neighborhood/Community Building  
Core Team Vision Meetings

## **Phase 3 (2019)**

Find a meeting space  
Launch Sunday Services  
Multiply Missional Communities  
Work towards giving away 10% of income to  
new church plants



San Francisco is a very tough place to start up a new church. This is not like planting a church in the suburbs in Texas. This probably won't be like taking an easy walk down the sidewalk. We will move along more like dragging through deep snow. It's gonna be tough. Here are the three biggest challenges we can foresee in our neighborhood.

**Hard Soil.** San Francisco is not only a place without a lot of believers, it's a place with a lot of people who are hostile to the gospel. There are a lot of wealthy people in our neighborhood and they don't think they need Jesus. There are also a lot of people here who moved to San Francisco to get away from the legalistic faith they grew up with. The good news? We've got the Holy Spirit on our side. If He can cause revival in Ephesus or Antioch He can do it here.

**Racial Tension.** Our hope is to let the gospel break across racial lines. Our neighborhood is made up of mostly White and Chinese people. Historically, the White folks here have been very oppressive to the Chinese population. There has not been much unity between these two groups. The good news? The gospel brings all kinds of people together. It levels the playing field. Our prayer is that our church can model this sort of unity.

**Income Inequality.** The average income outside of Chinatown per family in our neighborhood is \$138k. Inside Chinatown it is less than \$40k. So not only is there racial tension between these two groups, there is also a huge income disparity. And historically, you don't see people coming together across economic lines. The good news? Again, the gospel is a story that brings people together. Our hope is to see people use what God has blessed them with to bless others around them to live out the idea of gospel renewal.

# RISKS

# HOW WE WILL GATHER

Most evangelical churches focus on the Sunday gathering and attracting folks who are already followers of Jesus. Most of the “growth” in the American Evangelical church is really simply church hopping. We, obviously, will welcome believers into our church. But we also want to build a church that isn’t designed to appeal to church people. We want to build a church that is designed to take the transforming power of Jesus to the people of San Francisco. We want **The Porch** to be a community where believers are equipped to be the kind of people who live out the gospel in every area of their lives. We want to be a

community where folks who aren’t believers yet can see what the gospel looks like in the lives of a real family of God’s kids.

What does this look like? We want to give our weekly smaller groups as much attention/weight as we do the Sunday service. We are calling these groups **Missional Families**. These groups will meet weekly like normal small groups do but they will have a focus on missional living. Here is what that means: **in our missional families we will grow together**

**as disciples and reach out together to take the gospel to our city.** We will grow up so that we can reach out. So each



group will have a specific mission focus here in San Francisco and they will encourage and equip one another.

Missional Families will meet weekly but rotate the

focus between two kinds of nights. One week will be very churchy (prayer, bible study etc...) and the second week will be a big family dinner to create a safe space to invite friends, coworkers and neighbors to get them around the community. The hope is to wait until we have at least two of these groups meeting and thriving before we launch Sunday services together. So we will still have Sunday church like every other church but we will put as much effort into our Missional Families as we do into our Sunday gatherings.

There are several **advantages** to this model:

**It fits San Francisco.** This city is not the kind of place where you can put on a great Sunday



service and reach the lost. Sunday gatherings are important but church should involve way more than an hour and a half once a week. People in San Francisco are longing

for deep community and these Missional Families can provide an avenue for them to experience that in the context of God's people.

**It builds the mission of God into the DNA of the church.**

Over time it is really easy for a church to drift into an inward focus. These groups will help build the Great Commission into the very fabric of the church.

**It helps prevent the cult of personality.** We don't want the Porch to revolve around Jon's personality. This model spreads the leadership around.

**It's easier to share the gospel with other believers next to you.**

Even Paul worked with a team. These communities are teams of people moving towards the same goal – proclaiming the gospel to the lost.

# WHO WE HOPE

## San Francisco City Statistics

Population: 870,887

Median Age: 38

Median Income: 103k

According to Wallet Wise, San Francisco has the highest rent in the world.

More babies are aborted than are born in SF each year.

SF has the second highest homeless rate in the country (795 out of every 100,000).

Despite an economic boom, 13.8% of San Francisco residents live below the poverty line.

San Francisco has the highest per capita property crime rate in the country.

# TO REACH

Recent **Barna Studies** (2015) have shown something striking. San Francisco is the least Christian metropolitan region in the US. These numbers are even a little high because they are counting any church - not just gospel preaching churches.

## **San Francisco Church Attendance Stats**

Unchurched – 61%

**Ranked #1 in the nation**

That's 6% higher than the next closest city Burlington, VT

**De-churched – 28%**

Ranked #1 in the nation

That's 4% higher than the next closest city, Seattle.





# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Goals

- Raise 100+k/year for 3 years.
- Move towards financial stability after 3 years.
- Move towards a goal of giving away 10% to other church plants.

## Estimated Costs

Sound System  
Building Rent for Sunday Services (Probably our largest expense)  
Storage Space  
Liability Insurance for church  
Health Insurance for Jon and Melissa  
Outreach Events and community building  
Office Costs  
Marketing



**What we are praying for:**

40 people @ \$25/month

30 people @ \$50/month

20 people @ \$100/month

10 people @ \$250/month

4 partner churches to become sponsors at some level.

**Accountability**

- There will be financial accountability from our denomination (EFCA).

- The books will be handled by an outside accountant.

- All gifts are tax deductible.

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

## PRAY

Planting a successful church doesn't happen because the pastor is awesome and has a great plan. It only works because Jesus is at the helm. So please pray:

- That God's glory would be made known in San Francisco (both through the efforts of our new church and the dozens of awesome churches already here)
- For our core team gathering. One of the hardest parts of church planting is getting from 0-30.
- For our protection from spiritual attacks. The last thing the devil wants is more gospel proclaiming churches in San Francisco.
- For Melissa and me. Church planting is hard on marriages. Pray that we would find a great balance.
- For finances. We are church planting in an area where the cost of living is 92% higher than the national average. Running out of money is the main reason church plants don't succeed here.
- Most Importantly, for the people we haven't met yet but need to hear the gospel. Ask that God would prepare a path for our team as we seek to let people know what an awesome savior Christ is.



## STAY UP TO DATE

Website: [porchsf.com](http://porchsf.com)

Newsletter. Sign up at the website

Instagram - [@porch\\_sf](https://www.instagram.com/porch_sf)

## REFER OR JOIN

If you are a disciple of Jesus, love the people of San Francisco and are interested in joining the core team – please email Jon ([jon@porchsf.com](mailto:jon@porchsf.com)). We are looking to gather a core team of 15-30 folks.

And if you aren't interested yourself, please keep an ear out for anyone who might be and send them our way.



## DONATE

- Consider giving one time gift.
- Consider becoming monthly partner.

### *How To Give:*

You can give online at [PorchSF.com](http://PorchSF.com).

You can venmo us [@Porch-SF](https://www.venmo.com/Porch-SF).

Mail a check to 1225 Clay St #8. San Francisco, CA 94108 (Make Check out to "The Porch").

## PARTNER CHURCHES

We are looking for churches to become partner churches to pray, donate or make us a part of their kingdom outreach. If you are a church leader and are interested please get in contact with us. If you aren't a leader in your church but think your church might want to help, go have a conversation with your leaders and tell them about what's going on.

## CONTACT JON

[jon@porchsf.com](mailto:jon@porchsf.com)



[Porchsf.com](https://porchsf.com)



Donate