



VERGE14

March 27–29  
The Moody Theater  
Austin, Texas

Welcome to Verge 2014. We are so excited for the opportunity to serve you over the next few days.  
We hope that this event is a pivotal time for you, the leadership that God has entrusted to you, and the communities you work in and love. It is such an exciting time to be involved in the mission of God, and we hope that Verge 2014 inspires, encourages, and resources you to continue faithfully pursuing God's mission in community.

## VISION OF VERGE

As a network, Verge seeks to be an advocate and champion for movements of gospel-centered missional communities. Our vision is to equip everyday leaders—from church pastors to college students to artists and entrepreneurs—for the mission of God, in community and for the sake of the gospel.

To do this, the Verge Network seeks to provide resources that are both rich in content and practical in equipping God’s people for God’s mission. These resources range from events like the Verge National Conference and One-Day Regionals to timely and topical information, videos, interviews, articles, and ongoing dialogue about living on mission.

In addition to these resources, Verge seeks to catalyze movements of gospel-centered missional communities by connecting everyday people to seasoned missional thinkers and practitioners through a variety of networks, helping train and mobilize people to live on mission. Our prayer is that as the church is resourced and equipped, it will begin to have a greater impact in our neighborhoods, cities, and world!

## VERGE 2014 THEME

The mission of God is a high calling. But as great and challenging as this call happens to be, there is something that comes before it: God’s call to be His sons and daughters – kids of the King and children of our Heavenly Father.

Whenever Paul would write his letters, he would write to remind followers of Jesus that being comes before doing. Paul wrote then what is true about us now. He wrote about how we are to respond to that truth. Far too often when we’re on mission, we get things backwards. We get so bogged down in the mission that we forget that the mission of God is an overflow of the grace of God – identity comes before activity.

Verge 2014: Redeemed to Redeem is a clarion call to remember and live out the truth that we have been first loved by God, and it is out of this supernatural love from God that we can then supernaturally love others. It is because of God’s justice that we can now pursue justice. It is because God was first on mission that we can now pursue His mission. We have been redeemed to redeem.

In all of this we pray that Jesus would be our goal, our hope, our strength, our model, our value, our significance, our worth, and our passion.

With you for the gospel,

*Michael “Stew” Stewart*

Founder & Director of Verge Network

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WHEN

CRUMBLE

AND BREATH

IS

FLEETING

UPON THIS

ROCK

I WILL

STAND

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## NOTES

GLORY

MAIN CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

GLORY

NO OTHER

WE HAVE

KING

BUT

JESUS

LORD OF ALL

THE REDEEMER:  
JESUS IS BETTER

7<sub>P</sub>

---

THURSDAY  
MARCH 27

REDEEMED FOR  
REDEMPTIVE  
LEADERSHIP

9<sub>A</sub>

---

UNCONFERENCE TWO  
& DINNER BREAK

3:3<sub>P</sub>

---

FRIDAY  
MARCH 28

UNCONFERENCE ONE  
& LUNCH BREAK

11<sub>A</sub>

---

REDEEMED FOR  
INCARNATIONAL  
JUSTICE

7<sub>P</sub>

---

REDEEMED FOR  
GOSPEL COMMUNITIES  
ON MISSION

1:3<sub>P</sub>

---

REDEEMED FOR  
EVERYDAY MISSION  
AND DISCIPLESHIP

8:3<sub>A</sub>


---

REDEEMED TO  
REDEEM

11<sub>A</sub>

---

SATURDAY  
MARCH 29

\* are we really making disciples? 



\* so much need how can we focus?  
\* clean water  
\* lostness  
\* orphans



\* our neighbors and the nations?

We are in a battle, we are called to make disciples, the journey is rough and the barriers are real but God is worthy. JOIN THESE AND OTHER DISCUSSIONS ON

MISSION

[whiteboard.com](http://whiteboard.com)

CONTENDING TOGETHER...ONLINE

# Mission-Critical Support Raising

Need to raise financial support?  
Want more staff?  
planting a church?

We can help.

Contact us to speak to an experienced fundraiser.

[FUNDRAISING@GCMWEB.ORG](mailto:FUNDRAISING@GCMWEB.ORG)  
407.671.9700 | [GO.GCMWEB.ORG](http://GO.GCMWEB.ORG)





OUR

SOULS

MAPS

DECLARING

JESUS

IS BETTER

OUR SONG

ETERNAL

JESUS IS BETTER

# Downtown



## Key

COFFEE

RESTAURANT

HOTEL

VERGE

- 1 JUAN PELOTA CAFE  
400 NUECES ST  
512.473.0222  
HOURS: 7a-7p
- 2 AUSTIN JAVA  
301 W 2ND ST  
512.481.9400  
HOURS: 7a-9p (Saturday, -10p)
- 3 JO'S COFFEE  
242 W 2ND ST  
512.469.9003  
HOURS: 7a-9p (Saturday, 8a-9p)
- 4 STARBUCKS  
301 W 3RD ST  
512.391.1895  
HOURS: 5:30a-9p
- 5 HALCYON  
218 W 4TH ST  
512.472.9637  
HOURS: 7a-2a (Saturday, 8a-3a)
- 6 CAFFÉ MEDICI  
200 CONGRESS AVE  
512.827.2770  
HOURS: 6a-7p (Saturday, 7a-)
- 1 WHOLE FOODS  
525 N LAMAR BLVD  
512.542.2200  
HOURS: 7a-10p (coffee bar 6a)
- 2 HUT'S HAMBURGERS  
807 W 6TH ST  
512.472.0693  
HOURS: 11a-10p
- 3 WAHOO'S FISH TACO  
509 RIO GRANDE ST  
512.476.3474  
HOURS: 11a-10p
- 4 WALTON'S  
609 W 6TH ST  
512.542.3380  
HOURS: 7a-7p
- 5 BESS BISTRO  
500 W 6TH ST  
512.477.2377  
HOURS: 4:30p-11p (Thursday, -10p)
- 6 LA CONDESA  
400 W 2ND ST  
512.499.0300  
HOURS: 11:30a-2p, 5p-10p
- 7 LAMBERTS  
401 W 2ND ST  
512.494.1500  
HOURS: 11a-2:30p, 5:30p-10:30p
- 8 WHICH WICH  
259 W 3RD ST  
512.472.9424  
HOURS: 10a-10p
- 9 ROYAL BLUE GROCERY  
247 W 3RD ST  
512.499.3993  
HOURS: 7a-12a
- 10 ANNIES CAFE  
319 CONGRESS AVE  
512.472.1884  
HOURS: 7:30a-3p, 5p- (Sat, 8:30a-)
- 11 CEDAR DOOR  
201 BRAZOS ST  
512.473.3712  
HOURS: 11:30a-2a
- 12 GUS'S FRIED CHICKEN  
117 SAN JACINTO BLVD  
512.474.4877  
HOURS: 11a-10p (Thursday, -9p)
- 13 CHIPOTLE  
801 CONGRESS AVE  
512.391.1668  
HOURS: 11a-6p (closed Saturday)
- 14 IRON CACTUS  
606 TRINITY ST  
512.472.9240  
HOURS: 11a-11p
- 15 HOBOKEN PIE  
718 RED RIVER ST  
512.477.4256  
HOURS: 11a-3a (Saturday, 12p-)
- 16 STUBB'S BBQ  
801 RED RIVER ST  
512.480.8341  
HOURS: 11a-11p (Thursday, -10p)
- 17 MOONSHINE  
303 RED RIVER ST  
512.236.9599  
HOURS: 11a-11p (Thursday, -10p)
- 1 EXTENDED STAY AMERICA  
600 GUADALUPE ST  
512.457.9994  
extendedstayamerica.com
- 2 THE RADISSON  
111 E CESAR CHAVEZ ST  
512.478.9611  
radisson.com/austin
- 3 THE HAMPTON  
200 SAN JACINTO BLVD  
512.472.1500  
hamptoninn.hilton.com
- 4 THE HILTON  
500 E 4TH ST  
512.482.8000  
hilton.com/austin

# South Congress



## Key

COFFEE

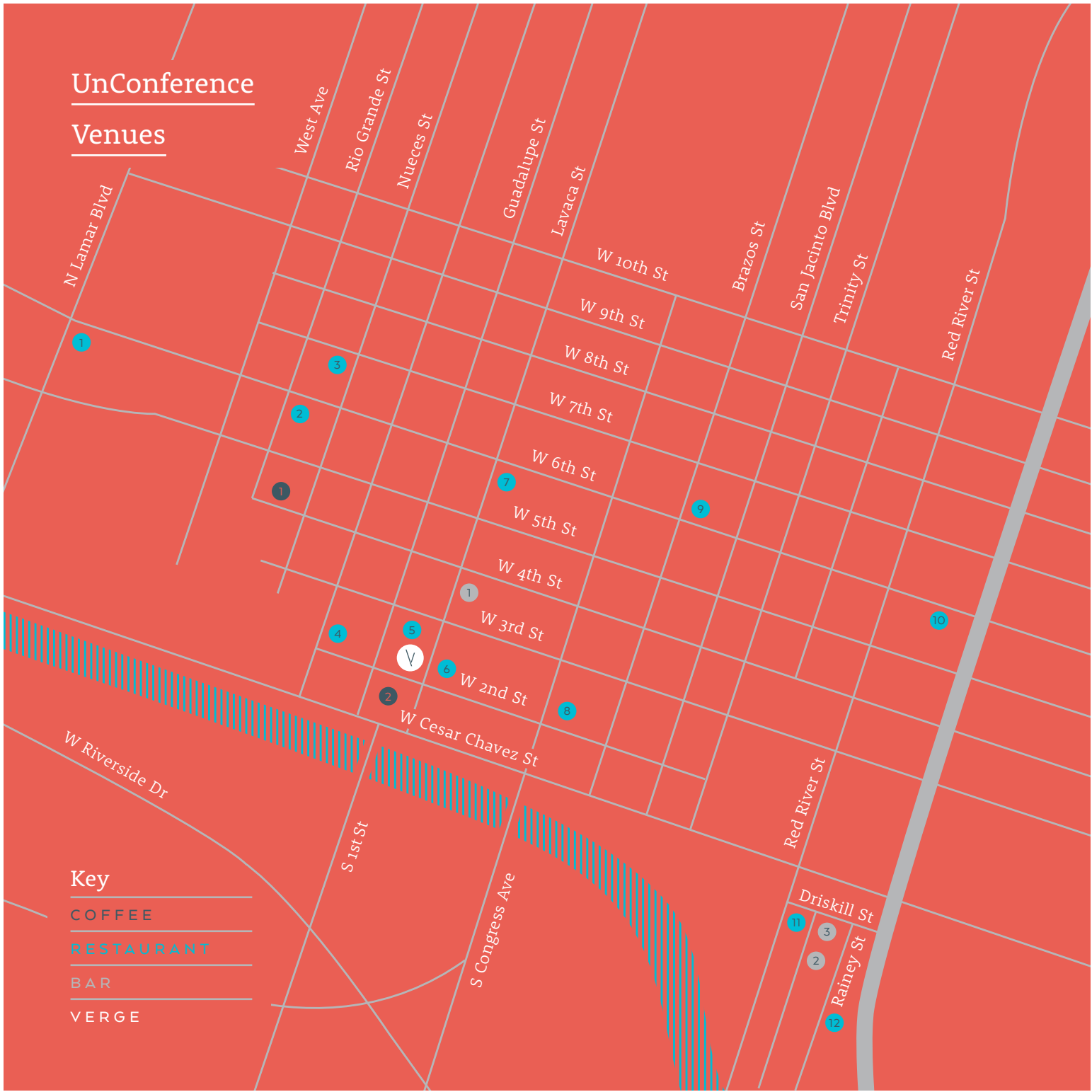
RESTAURANT

HOTEL

- 1 DOMINICAN JOE  
515 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.448.3919  
HOURS: 6:30a-11p (Saturday, 7a-)
- 2 JO'S COFFEE  
1300 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.444.3800  
HOURS: 7a-9p (Saturday, -10p)
- 1 SANDY'S HAMBURGERS  
603 BARTON SPRINGS RD  
512.478.6322  
HOURS: 10a-10:30p
- 2 THREADGILL'S  
301 W RIVERSIDE DR  
512.472.9304  
HOURS: 11a-10:30p (Thursday, -10p)
- 3 FREEBIRDS  
515 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.462.3512  
HOURS: 10:30a-10p
- 4 EL MERCADO  
1302 S 1ST ST  
512.477.7689  
HOURS: 9:30a-10p (closed Friday)
- 5 TORCHY'S TACOS  
1311 S 1ST ST  
512.366.0537  
HOURS: Th, 7a-10p; F, 7a-11p; Sa, 8a-11p
- 6 MELLIZOZ TACOS  
1503 S 1ST ST  
512.916.4996  
HOURS: 7:30a-9p (Saturday, 9a-)
- 7 AMY'S ICE CREAM  
1301 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.440.7488  
HOURS: 11:30a-12a (Thursday, -11p)
- 8 HOPDODDY BURGER BAR  
1400 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.243.7505  
HOURS: 11a-11p (Thursday, -10p)
- 9 GUERO'S TACO BAR  
1412 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.447.7688  
HOURS: 11a-11p (Saturday, 8a-)
- 10 HOME SLICE PIZZA  
1415 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.444.7437  
HOURS: 11a-12a (Thursday, -11p)
- 11 SOUTH CONGRESS CAFE  
1600 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.447.3905  
HOURS: 10a-10p (Saturday, 9a-)
- 12 WAHOO'S FISH TACO  
1722 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.358.6600  
HOURS: 11a-10p
- 13 MAGNOLIA CAFE  
1902 S CONGRESS AVE  
512.445.0000  
HOURS: 24-hour
- 1 EXTENDED STAY AMERICA  
507 S 1ST ST  
512.476.1818  
extendedstayamerica.com

# UnConference

## Venues



### Key

COFFEE

RESTAURANT

BAR

VERGE

1 JUAN PELOTA CAFE  
400 NUECES ST  
512.473.0222  
HOURS: 7a-7p

2 AUSTIN JAVA  
301 W 2ND ST  
512.481.9400  
HOURS: 7a-9p (Saturday, -10p)

1 WHOLE FOODS  
535 N LAMAR BLVD  
512.542.2200  
HOURS: 7a-10p (coffee bar 6a)

2 WAHOO'S FISH TACO  
509 RIO GRANDE ST  
512.476.3474  
HOURS: 11a-10p

3 RATTLE INN  
610 NUECES ST  
512.373.8306  
HOURS: 4p-2a

4 HOW DO YOU ROLL?  
454 W 2ND ST  
512.320.8400  
HOURS: 11a-9p

5 COAL VINES  
314 W 2ND ST  
512.473.2744  
HOURS: 11a-12a (Thursday, -10p)

6 TAVERNA  
258 W 2ND ST  
512.477.1001  
HOURS: 11a-10p

7 THISTLE CAFE  
221 W 6TH ST  
512.474.5222  
HOURS: 7:30a-2:30p (closed Saturday)

8 CEDAR DOOR  
201 BRAZOS ST  
512.473.3712  
HOURS: 11:30a-2a

9 B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB  
204 E 6TH ST  
512.494.1335  
HOURS: 11a-12a (Saturday, -2a)

10 EASY TIGER  
709 E 6TH ST  
512.614.4972  
HOURS: 7a-2a

11 G'RAJ MAHAL  
91 RED RIVER ST  
512.480.2255  
HOURS: 11a-2p, 6p-1a

12 BANGER'S  
79 RAINEY ST  
512.386.1656  
HOURS: 11a-2a

1 THE GINGER MAN  
301 LAVACA ST  
512.473.8801  
HOURS: 2p-2a

2 CLIVE BAR  
609 DAVIS ST  
512.494.4120  
HOURS: 4p-2a

3 CONTAINER BAR  
90 RAINEY ST  
512.320.0820  
HOURS: not posted

*Pursue advanced training at a Christ-centered, interdenominational university where heart-driven meets hands-on and prestigious meets practical.*

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**LETOURNEAU  
UNIVERSITY**

[www.letu.edu](http://www.letu.edu)



YOU'RE CALLED  
TO EQUIP.

**HOW?**

Equipping doesn't happen by accident or without focused effort. Equipping begins by engaging people, providing useful tools and empowering them to lead.

This is our passion as well.

To connect with our team here at Verge,  
text Jamie at 719.359.7086



CHURCH COMMUNITY BUILDER



TO

YOUR NAME

UNCONFERENCE

BE ALL

BLESSING

HONOR AND

GLORY AND POWER

PRAISE

FRIDAY / MARCH 28

# 12<sup>P</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

## UNCONFERENCE ONE

UnConferences are designed to create environments for pastors, leaders, and missional practitioners to connect, network, and learn from one another during Verge 2014. These will be held in a variety of restaurants and venues located in and around the downtown area. Each UnConference will be hosted by a knowledgeable and skilled guide who will help facilitate a conversation around a specified topic while you enjoy great food and drink.



FOOD AVAILABLE



DRINK



LOCATION

THE FUTURE OF EQUIPPING  
AND RESOURCING  
THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

*Matt Smay*

@MATT\_SMAY

---

Progress from missional conversations to missional movement. Learn the essentials needed to sustain a movement of discipleship and leadership development.

---

 WHOLE FOODS, 525 N LAMAR BLVD



STARTING AN MC FROM SCRATCH

*Caesar Kalinowski*

@CAESARKAL

---

God is calling his people to community. But for many, this calling is met with more questions than answers. Join the conversation and learn what it is going to take to create a community of missionaries in your context.

---

 D.B. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E 6TH ST



MAKING DISCIPLES WHO  
LIVE LIKE JESUS

*Hugh Halter*

@HUGHHALTER

---

What does it mean to make disciples? Get at the real issue of discipleship and learn practical tools to help you make disciples that live and look like Jesus.

---

 RATTLE INN, 610 NUECES ST



PASTORING A CHURCH  
IN THE CITY

*Rebuild*

@REBUILDNETWORK

---

The city exists simultaneously as a picture of the most impressive and depressive aspects of humanity. How can the church constantly multiply leaders and unleash them in urban contexts to recklessly love the broken and overlooked?

---

 TAVERNA, 258 W 2ND ST



## DOING YOUTH MINISTRY AS A FAMILY ON MISSION

*Dave Rhodes*

@DAVE\_RHODES

---

Shifting the focus of youth ministry to the family. What practical steps can you take with your youth ministry to begin to engage and equip the families of your students for the work of mission in their community?

---

 COAL VINES, 314 W 2ND ST



## WHAT MAKES A SMALL GROUP A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

*Lance Ford*

@LANCEFORD

---

How do you transform your small group Bible study into a community on mission? Discuss steps and methods to focus your small groups to think missionally.

---

 HOW DO YOU ROLL, 454 W 2ND ST



## SPARKING MISSIONAL IMAGINATION IN YOUR CHURCH

*Brad Brisco*

@BRADBRISCO\_KC

---

Spend time discussing ways to cast vision within your church for being a people on mission for Jesus. Learn practical steps for sparking your church's imagination for what Jesus could do in your local community.

---

 AUSTIN JAVA, 301 W 2ND ST



## MISSIONARY EYES FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

*Michael Frost*

@MICHAELFROST6

---

Do you see the world the way Jesus saw the world? How do you develop a missional mindset for the community where you live?

---

 THE GINGER MAN, 301 LAVACA ST



(LIMITED FOOD OPTIONS)

ORPHAN CARE: GRUELING,  
GLORIOUS, GOSPEL

*Orphan Care Network*

@THE\_OCN

---

The Church is called to care for the orphan. What does it look like to take this command seriously in our day and age?

---

 THE GINGER MAN, 301 LAVACA ST



(LIMITED FOOD OPTIONS)

MAKING DISCIPLES IN  
AN URBAN CONTEXT

*Rebuild*

@REBUILDNETWORK

---

Learn methods to establish and implement a wholistic discipleship culture to equip and multiply urban disciples.

---

 THISTLE CAFE, 221 W 6TH ST



FIVE ESSENTIAL PARADIGM SHIFTS  
FOR MISSIONARY FORMATION

*Ryan Hairston*

@RYANHAIRSTON

---

What structures do you have in place to find, train and send missionaries? Join the conversation in discovering what it is going to take to form the proper structures to prepare your people to be sent to your context and the nations.

---

 BANGER'S, 79 RAINEY ST



THE THREE ESSENTIAL  
INGREDIENTS OF A HEALTHY  
FAMILY ON MISSION

*Mike Breen*

@MIKE\_BREEN

---

Our families need to transfer from nominal to missional. What is necessary for this transformation to take place in both your family and the families of your church?

---

 G'RAJ MAHAL, 73 RAINEY ST



TRUE IDENTITY FOR  
MINISTRY WIVES

*Traci Barrett & Shari Thomas*

@TRACIJO4 / @SHARILTHOMAS

---

As women in Christian ministry, we can easily find our value in terms of roles, responsibilities, and reputations. But is that really who we are? As ministers' wives, we must learn to look through the lens of the gospel in order to find our true identities.

---

 JUAN PELOTA, 400 NUECES ST



(LIMITED FOOD OPTIONS)

PURSUING PEACE WITH JUSTICE  
IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

*Amy Hadley*

@AMY\_HADLEY

---

Violence and chaos in the Middle East have left many in the region hopeless and helpless; as followers of Jesus, we cannot ignore these painful realities. Rather than disengage, the church must assume its call to be ministers of reconciliation in a broken world.

---

 WORLD VISION TENT, OUTSIDE OF THEATER

HOW TO SAVE YOUR  
YOUTH GROUP

*Doug Phillips*

@DOUGPHILLIPS5

---

There are unique dangers facing youth groups today, and as church leaders, we must address them. Hear innovative approaches and practical solutions to help you better serve the next generation of leaders.

---

 WAHOO'S FISH TACO, 509 RIO GRANDE ST



THE JUST CHURCH: BECOMING A  
RISK-TAKING, JUSTICE-SEEKING,  
DISCIPLE-MAKING CONGREGATION

*Travis Wussow*

@TRAVISWUSSOW @IJM

---

If the church is not fighting injustice, who is? What would it look like for you and your congregation to step up and stop the injustices being done in your area of influence?

---

 EASY TIGER, 709 E 6TH ST



WHY GOSPEL COMMUNITIES  
ON MISSION ARE KEY  
TO MAKING DISCIPLES

*Seth McBee*

@SDMCBEE

---

Is your community of believers focused on making disciples? For many, this is an area of weakness. What would it look like for your gospel community to live and breathe discipleship?

---



CEDAR DOOR, 201 BRAZOS ST



---

Interested in church planting  
& want to be equipped?

## Join the Austin Stone Church Planting Residency

---

This residency is for individuals who believe they have been called by God to pursue vocational ministry, have demonstrated gifts of leadership and preaching/teaching along with some practical experience in these areas, and desire further equipping to lead in the Church.



THE  
AUSTIN  
STONE  
INSTITUTE

Deadline for Applications is  
April 15, 2014

[austinstoneinstitute.org](http://austinstoneinstitute.org)

FRIDAY / MARCH 28

# 5<sub>P</sub> \_\_\_\_\_ UNCONFERENCE TWO

UnConferences are designed to create environments for pastors, leaders, and missional practitioners to connect, network, and learn from one another during Verge 2014. These will be held in a variety of restaurants and venues located in and around the downtown area. Each UnConference will be hosted by a knowledgeable and skilled guide who will help facilitate a conversation around a specified topic while you enjoy great food and drink.



FOOD AVAILABLE



DRINK



LOCATION



## MOMS ON MISSION

*Laura Hairston*

@LAURAHAIKSTON

---

Can you be a mom and be on mission? Join the discussion as we seek to find mission amidst the loads of laundry, screaming kids, and a never ending to-do list.

---

 WHOLE FOODS, 525 N LAMAR BLVD



## MAKING DISCIPLES AS A FAMILY OF MISSIONARY SERVANTS

*Caesar Kalinowski*

@CAESARKAL

---

The family unit is one of the most powerful, yet untapped, resources God has given us for mission. What would it look like for your family to take the posture of Christ, the servant, in your city?

---

 D.B. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E 6TH ST



## PEOPLE AREN'T PROJECTS

*Ben Connelly*

@CONNELLYBEN

---

The church is made of people, but often we view them as projects. What would it look like to lead and encourage those in your context in a genuine and personal way?

---

 RATTLE INN, 610 NUECES ST



## ENGAGING IN MULTI-ETHNIC MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

*Rebuild*

@REBUILDNETWORK

---

The city exists simultaneously as a picture of the most impressive and depressive aspects of humanity. How can the church constantly multiply leaders and unleash them in urban contexts to recklessly love the broken and overlooked?

---

 JUAN PELOTA CAFE, 400 NUECES ST



(LIMITED FOOD OPTIONS)

LIVING AND LOVING  
BI-VOCATIONAL OPTIONS OF  
MISSION AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP

*Hugh Halter*

@HUGHHALTER

---

As the church continues to decline, the future leaders of God's church will need to reposition themselves in the marketplace. In this session, we will have an honest conversation about money, mission, and how to enjoy leveraging all of your life for one purpose.

---



TAVERNA, 258 W 3ND ST

BUSINESS AS MISSIONS  
IN AN URBAN CONTEXT

*Dave Hackbarth*

@COVEREDINDUST

---

In most major metros, there exists an under-reached demographic of 95% unchurched people representing 50% of the population. What if we could leverage business value to transform their lives with the gospel? This is business-as-missions.

---



HOW DO YOU ROLL, 454 W 2ND ST



OPEN HOUSE: THE ROLE  
OF HOSPITALITY IN MISSION

*Brad Brisco*

@BRADBRISCO\_KC

---

For a missional movement to last, it must display hospitality. As we continue to seek the welfare of our contexts, we must begin to see hospitality as a necessary component to advancing the gospel.

---



AUSTIN JAVA, 301 W 2ND ST



INCARNATE: THE BODY  
OF CHRIST IN AN AGE OF  
DISENGAGEMENT

*Michael Frost*

@MICHAELFROST6

---

In an age of disconnect, unity shines bright. Join the conversation to see what it would look like for the unified church to engage the individualized culture in which it finds itself.

---



THE GINGER MAN, 301 LAVACA ST



(LIMITED FOOD OPTIONS)

CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH  
MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

*3DM*

@WEARE3DM

---

Church planting is more than a Sunday service. What would it look like to plant a church on the backs of missional communities in your unique context?

---

 EASY TIGER, 709 E 6TH ST



MULTIPLYING URBAN LEADERS

*Rebuild*

@REBUILDNETWORK

---

Leaders produce leaders. What would it look like to train, equip, and multiply leaders in an urban context?

---

 CEDAR DOOR, 201 BRAZOS ST



MINING THE RICHES OF  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

*Lance Ford*

@LANCEFORD

---

God has put you in the place and context in which you find yourself in order to make His name known. Learn how to best identify and utilize the resources and opportunities in your neighborhood as unique missionary tools.

---

 BANGER'S, 79 RAINEY ST



OVERCOMING THE THREE MAIN  
OBSTACLES TO BUILDING  
A FAMILY ON MISSION

*3DM*

@WEARE3DM

---

Taking your family from nominal to missional is a grand calling, but it is no easy task. Join the conversation to see what the common pitfalls are and how they can be avoided.

---

 G'RAJ MAHAL, 73 RAINEY ST



STARTING A MISSIONAL  
COMMUNITY FROM SCRATCH

*Seth McBee*

@SDMCBEE

---

God is calling his people to community. But for many, this calling is met with more questions than answers. Join the conversation and learn what it is going to take to create a community of missionaries in your context.

---

 CLIVE BAR, 609 DAVIS ST



TRANSCEND: THE FUTURE OF  
EQUIPPING AND RESOURCING  
THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

*Matt Smay*

@MATT\_SMAY

---

Every missional leader is challenged to build a framework that establishes a pathway for making disciples and developing leaders. Join the conversation and move from missional talk to missional action.

---

 CONTAINER BAR, 90 RAINEY ST



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN THE  
ERA OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

*The Karis Group*

@KARISGROUP

---

Christians have widely divergent views on the goals and impact of the Affordable Care Act. But the law has actually paved the way for a specifically Christian movement, as protected by the law, to become mainstream. Dr. Tony Dale will discuss the implications.

---

 COAL VINES, 314 W 2ND ST



HOW TO TELL STORIES OF  
GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

*The Austin Stone Story Team*

@STORYTEAM

---

Learn from the Austin Stone Story Team as they answer your questions and share practical ways for artists and church leaders to work together to tell powerful stories of gospel transformation.

---

 WAHOO'S FISH TACO, 509 RIO GRANDE ST



# SENT NETWORK

EQUIPPING CHURCH PLANTERS  
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## FREE EBOOK – BE THE CHURCH: DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION MADE SIMPLE

by *Caesar Kalinowski*  
& *Seth McBee*



Sometimes the simplest things can get lost in tradition or become over complicated due to confusion or lack of practice. Sometimes we are just too smart for our own good. The reality of who we are as Christians, as the Church, and as disciples – while having historical and eternal importance – has become somewhat muddled in our modern understanding and dialogue.

As the conversation around being “missional” has recently come front and center within certain church circles, it seems that many of us struggle to grasp and/or explain the basics to others. This short book of simple pictures and conversations is meant to offer a starting point – a way to get, or keep, the dialogue going around some of the key issues surrounding who we are as the Church and what our mission really is.

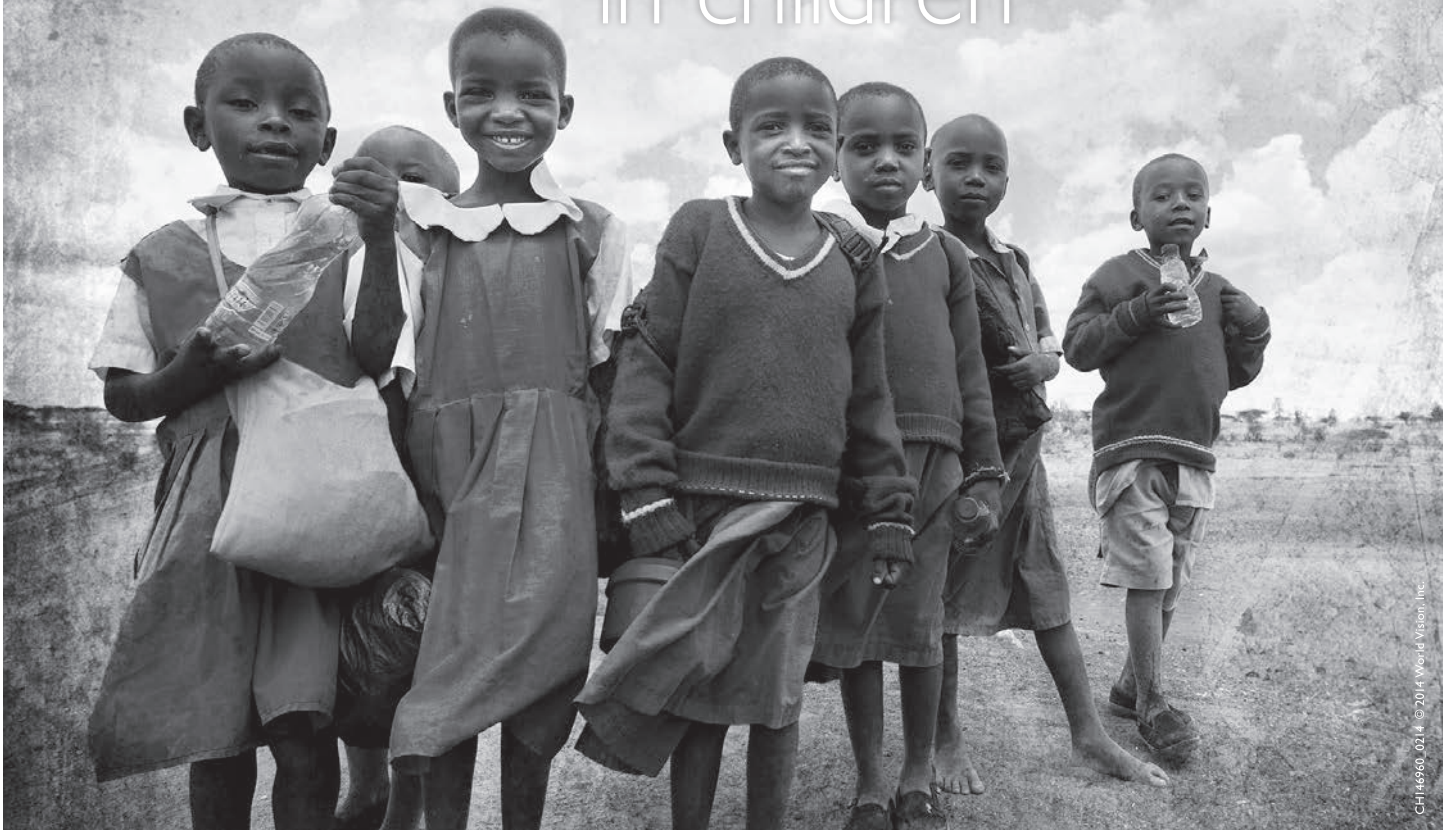
Drawing from Seth McBee’s *Napkin Theology*, you can use this free resource to understand, explain, and illustrate the simplicity of discipleship and mission.

### THIS FREE RESOURCE INCLUDES:

- × 10 drawings about discipleship and mission
- × 10 conversations about discipleship, mission, and why
- × Discipleship stories that illustrate everyday mission

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we  
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in children



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"And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."  
—Matthew 18:5 (NIV)

Several years ago, I spent quite a lot of time going in and out of South Sudan during the decades-long civil war that ravaged the nation and its people. I took part in different missions to deliver much-needed food and life-saving medicine, encouraging the local Christians as we preached the gospel whenever we could.

These experiences were life-changing for me in so many ways, but one of the biggest things that stuck out—and began to stick to me—was how different “church” was in Sudan compared to the life I was living as a Christian, father, and pastor in the United States.

It seemed that whenever I was over there in Africa with the Sudanese believers we were the Church. Me and them. Together, we were the Church.

They didn’t have buildings or any resources to “do” church. No elaborate Sunday services with lights and sound systems. They just are the Church. Loving each other, sharing what very, very little they had, literally laying their lives down for the sake of the gospel. And these Christians who owned nothing (no-things) were so filled with joy. Seriously.

One day, while we were distributing food in a refuge camp near the border of

Uganda, I met a young man who looked to be about twelve years old at the time. “Who are you?” I asked him. His name was James. He was tall, super thin, and just like everyone else in this camp, he had lived through near-starvation and brutal attacks by militant rebels that had decimated his village. I noticed that his left hand and arm were pretty scarred and disfigured, and he had a large patch of hair missing that seemed to have been burned off at some point in the past. I asked our translator if he knew what had happened to the boy. He asked James to tell me his story.

James shared that a few months earlier he and his two brothers were walking with their parents when radical, Islamic soldiers hacked his parents to death with machetes, right before their very eyes—because they were Christians. The soldiers then threw him and his two brothers onto a large pile of burning garbage. His brothers died in the fire that day, but James somehow managed to crawl out of the fire and escape with his life. He then went on to tell me how grateful he was!

I’m not kidding. He was thankful that God had spared his life against all odds that dreadful day, and he knew that he would one day see his family again in heaven and that they were in a safe place now with Jesus. I was blown away. I wept like a baby.

As I spent more time with James and other Christians in the refuge camp that day, I couldn't help but notice that they exhibited a joy that was unbelievable. They were the happiest people I had ever been with in my life.

Amid the war, horrible famine, and persecution they suffered on a daily basis, these brothers and sisters in Christ were filled with a sense of peace and joy that I had never personally experienced. Shouldn't I, with all of my American health, wealth, and comfort be happier and more grateful than them?

I remember crying out to  
God, saying, "I would trade  
everything I have to experience  
the joy they find in you!" And  
God replied, "Then do."

Ouch. It sort of felt like what Jesus had to say to the rich young ruler in Matthew 19. Paraphrasing, here's the story: "A young man came up to Jesus and asked, "What good things must I do to get into the Kingdom?" Jesus replied, "God is the only one who is good. Follow his commandments." The man said, "I have obeyed his commands—what else must I do?" "Go sell everything you have and give the money to the poor and you will have heavenly treasures. Then, come and follow me."

Did I need to get rid of all of my personal (and my family's) possessions in order to find true joy and purpose in my Christian life? Did I need to move to Africa to really be the Church?

The point of this story Jesus told wasn't to get us all to go and sell our stuff; it was for us to see where our true treasure, hope, and delight is found. Do we find our happiness, security and purpose in our stuff and from what we do—or in who we are because of who He is?

James and the other Sudanese Christians that I spent time with had no possessions, no country, no homes, and in some cases no earthly families—nothing left to put their hope in. But they had found the only thing that truly satisfies our hearts: Jesus. They didn't have or need material possessions to be happy, and there was nothing profound for them to do.

They had found their very  
life—their identity and  
purpose—in Jesus.

As Christians they (and we) are a part of a family whose father is God himself. Jesus is our brother. And we have been sent by the Spirit on a life-altering mission to see more and more people come to know Jesus, and find eternal life and the same peace that he offers.

It is Jesus who pursues, secures, and maintains our position in the family of God. He died that we might be restored to a right relationship with his Father, back into the family we were originally created to be a part of. Jesus, our servant king, gave us his indwelling Spirit and sent us out on his mission. It's all about Jesus.

The Bible teaches that if we are in Christ, we have become part of a family of missionary servants, sent as disciples who make disciples. This is who we are. This is our new identity. The more we understand and believe this to be true, the more our lives will be transformed—and the more peace, joy and purpose we will find in life. So who are you?



\* This article is an excerpt from Caesar's new book titled, *Transformed: A New Way of Being Christian*.

What if Christianity were less about doing and more about being? In *Transformed*, author Caesar Kalinowski shows you that when you became a Christian everything about you changed in an instant. You received a new identity based on who Jesus is, not on who you were. As a believer, you literally become part of God's family of missionary servants. This is who you are—not what you do.

Drawing on stories from Caesar's own journey and life in community, *Transformed* looks realistically at the identity you have been given in Christ and how it reshapes everything about you. Set free from performance-driven spirituality and guilt, you will draw closer to God, allowing him to radically change the well-worn rhythms and patterns of your everyday life and transform your relationships from the inside out. *Transformed* is for those who yearn for a deeper, more authentic faith, one that empowers you to live out of the truth of who God now says you are.

Question:

# HOW WILL YOUR CHURCH MINISTER TO THE POOR?

Answer:



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-DHATI LEWIS, LEAD PASTOR, BLUEPRINT CHURCH.



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WITHOUT THIS YOUR MISSIONAL  
MOVEMENT WILL FAIL

*by Kevin Peck*

From all my experience leading my church and working with other churches, I've seen in us a tendency to play this either/or game with discipleship of our own and evangelism of the masses. We'll either spend all our time developing our own, shutting off outsiders, or open our doors wide to the world and keep it shallow with our training. But what do the Scriptures say?

The Scriptures show us a glimpse of heaven in the future. What we see there is multitudes upon multitudes of people from every tongue, tribe, and nation worshipping Jesus (Rev. 7:9). That is our end. All of the world will be reached, and the evangelists' wildest dreams will come true.

They also show us how we'll get to that end. Just look at the history of Jesus' ministry.

Jesus comes to earth, grows to an adult, begins His earthly ministry around 30, and dies around 33. During those critical three years, He spends a disproportionate amount of time with 12 men. Investing in them, living with them, correcting them, teaching them, and showing them how to advance the Kingdom.

Of course he preached, but he didn't only preach. Of course he healed, but he didn't only heal.

He spent the majority of his time preparing a rag-tag group of men to continue His ministry and take His message to the ends of the earth after he left.

So let me get this straight. Not only will the evangelist guys get what they want, but from what it looks like, the all-development-no-outsiders guys are also right?

The reality is that yes God has the end in mind, and yes He also gave us the means. Not only did God destine the world to bow at the feet of Jesus, He also designed how it will come to pass.

The fundamental way that we are going to see Jesus save people across the globe is through discipleship.

That's right, the good-old-fashioned, life-on-life, person-to-person, dirty, messy process of teaching people to obey all that Jesus has commanded. Showing people with our words and our lives how to follow and magnify the Risen Savior.

That's it – it may not be sexy, it may not sell books, but it is how God designed His redemption plan.

We've all heard this before, I know. But think about it. To most of us it seems nuts. The Son of God comes to earth and rather than staying and preaching for forty years, he spends three years investing in 12 men and then He leaves!

Can you imagine that strategy meeting? King Jesus chatting it up with the angels in heaven? "So, Lord, what's the plan?" "Well I'm going to be born a child, grow up as a blue-collar worker's son for 30 years, spend three years ministering to less than 1% of the world's land mass, and then entrust 12 men with world evangelization."

What?! Surely we could come up with something new, maybe more efficient, maybe even as a back up plan? No. There isn't a plan B and there doesn't need to be one. Discipleship is God's choice plan for redeeming the world.

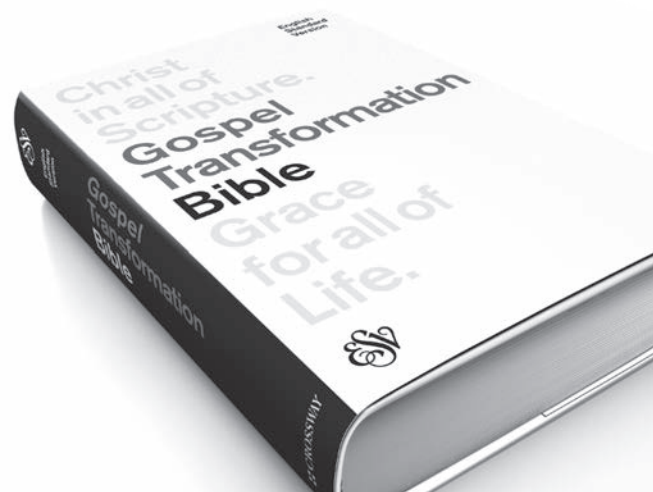
This is not profound. It's not new. It's simply not finished. And most of us simply refuse to accept it. When it comes down to it, for most of us being as successful as Jesus was at developing leaders would feel like a wasted life.

See how that's a problem? To think little of this model and to reject this model is to reject God's ordained means to accomplish His mission.

The reality is if you reach only 12 in your life, it's a win. It will probably feel like you're spending too much time with a few and neglecting the many, but this is precisely how God will redeem every last one of His own!

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What is culture? Before you're quick to answer that, know that every expert that I've studied has at least admitted to there being historical confusion when it comes to pinpointing a definition for the term (my doctoral studies involve me engaging in extensive research over the subject).

I'm actually relieved that the experts are confused, because I've personally been ambiguous to the whole matter as well. Malcolm Gladwell, acclaimed writer, points out that there's an old yiddish expression that says to a fly in horseradish the whole world is horseradish.

The same could be said of a fish in water, and of each of us as individuals. Culture is just so much a part of who we are that it's really the house we live in. So trying to define culture is like asking the fly to define horseradish.

As people who don't live in horseradish or water we can describe these two entities quite well, but why? Don't dismiss the question so fast, because it's our ability to answer this question that we can begin to at least thoughtfully engage the culture question.

We can accurately discuss the properties of water, and it's uniqueness, pointing out its strengths and weaknesses because we have experienced its counterpart – land. To a fly who knows nothing other than horseradish, we can point out its bitter properties, because we've experienced other things, sweet things.

In each of these cases, what allows a person to speak intelligently about another person's culture, is having experienced both their "culture," along with a different one.

When the fly never ventures out of horseradish, and the fish remains in water, they not only are blinded to the culture of others, they are blinded to themselves.

A recent study reveals that the majority of African-Americans still believe that race is a huge issue in our society, while the majority of whites do not think that race is a significant factor. I'm not here to affirm or dispute the report, but at the very least, what these findings reveal is the continued chasm that exists between these two ethnicities.

What's more is that I posted this on my facebook page and the responses were interesting. Many of the white respondents suggested that race and culture is being made too much of, while many of the blacks said that it's still an issue. Ironically, the comments to my facebook status supported the findings of the report.

All of the white people I know who have genuine, authentic friendships with minorities will tell you that race is still

very much a factor in this country. And all of the whites that I know who push back, or bristle at such a statement don't have genuine friendships with minorities. The difference? One of horseradish.

Those who confine themselves to their own culture, and never come out to richly taste and engage in others will unfortunately remain completely unaware to life's not so sweet realities, and in the process will become unaware of themselves.

What's true for one ethnic group, is true of another. Too many of the blacks that I know who are of your Public Enemy, rage against the machine, Malcolm X types, who speak in broad suspicious generalizations of whites don't have truly authentic white friendships.

While those who have compassion for our white brothers and sisters, have had the bitter edges buffed off of them only by the joyful sweet experience of coming out of their own personal horseradish to do life with whites, and in the process of engagement they've not only come to appreciate another culture, but themselves more fully as well.

Culture only has meaning in relation to other cultures.

God understood this  
profoundly, and that is why  
Jesus came not to eradicate  
culture, but to establish a

“Master Culture” if you will,  
called the body of Christ.

This new “Master Culture” does not demolish my human culture, it simply redefines it.

Horseradish should never be eaten by itself, but when a touch of it is applied to such meats as lamb, now it takes on a whole new meaning. Likewise, Paul's sentiments in Galatians 3 when he says that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, he is not advocating the dismissal of culture, how could he?

After all this was the man who was called to the Gentiles, planted multi-ethnic churches, had one of his disciples submit to the cultural act of bodily circumcision, continue to engage personally in Jewish cultural customs, and boldly proclaimed to the Corinthians that to the Jew he became a Jew. Any suggestion that Paul was anti-human culture is at best biblically naïve and irresponsible.

What Paul understood is that culture by itself is as meaningless as being served a plate of horseradish for dinner, with nothing else. Culture only finds meaning when submitted to Jesus Christ, as I take part in the new master race called the body of Christ. When culture is un-tethered from the cross and made a lone entity, I've just committed the sin of idolatry.

The reality is that our nation is trending towards diversity. The church

has no option but to maintain the same trajectory, not so much forward, but backward to her first century roots where the normal was ethnic diversity. A failure to do so will put us perilously close to being irrelevant to the changing face of our society.

As leaders, we must come out of our horseradish. Engage others who look and think different from you, but do so to the glory of God. Don't be ashamed of your culture, but don't revel in it either—let God sanctify and redeem it. In the process what you'll discover is a greater affection for Christ, others, and a greater awareness of who He's created you to be.

**\* Want to learn more about living and doing mission in a multi-ethnic culture? Want more resources on leading multi-ethnic ministries? Check out [Kainos Movement \(kainos.is\)](http://Kainos Movement (kainos.is)) for additional resources, events, residencies, and more!**

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**3 WAYS TO KILL**  
**A MISSIONAL CULTURE**  
*by Todd Engstrom*



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Rather than present a polished vision, values, and practices, Todd Engstrom takes a little different approach – he candidly talks about putting all the “missional” ideas into practice in a real church. His gut-wrenching honesty about their failures in the transition to missional is full of lesson after eye-opening lesson.

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- × Give you the 3 Biblical passages that saved their butts

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*by Fabienne Harford*

Last year was the first time I spoke at The Verge Conference. The topic assigned to me: making disciples of women in a post-Christian world.

Honestly, preparing was sort of a train wreck. I have lots of thoughts on the topic, but too much for one talk so, I tried to zoom out and just say the thing that I think matters most.

### We are never going to be or make disciples if we aren't willing to be uncomfortable.

We love to be uncomfortable in the areas we are comfortable. I like to be challenged theologically because I'm comfortable with that. Some of you are willing to leave your homes and move across the world and be 'uncomfortable' because that's the kind of discomfort that seems exciting to you.

But for us to become disciples of Christ it means that we have to be willing to actually be uncomfortable, in the ways that make us the most uneasy. To be a disciple we must be comfortable with the terribly uncomfortable sensation of being weak.

Our postmodern world has issues with real weakness. Don't get me wrong, we are all cool with our life being hash-tagged #raw and #vulnerable. We'll blog or teach about our weaknesses and then pat ourselves on the back for being so comfortable being weak. But

really, we only want to talk expose the vulnerabilities that we control. We want to wage war on our faults, but only the ones that don't really threaten the places or people that are most precious to us.

Coming face to face your deepest weaknesses in a real way is terrifying. It feels awful. So we hide. We are willing to be challenged in huge rooms where we can be anonymous or behind our computer screens, but our hearts tremble when our spouse or friend says: 'I see something in you that might need to be challenged'.

But true discipleship must happen in the spaces where we have no room to eject when our dearest idols are threatened. It may feel horrible in the moment, but for us to be changed by the Spirit, we are going to have to open ourselves up to the discomfort of true vulnerability.

To make disciples we must be comfortable with the terribly uncomfortable sensation of exhorting the weak. Us sneaky postmoderns have found a way to exhort the weak without discomfort. We'll challenge others behind our keyboards or behind their backs. We let prayer for others replace exhortation. We send our spouse a link to listen to someone else speak over them the things we are too afraid to say.

But here's the deal: the command to make disciples wasn't given just to an elite group with specific communication gifts. It was given to each of us. God's

Spirit is the one who will meet your community in their weaknesses. And He will do that through His Word. But guess who He has chosen to administer that change agent? You.

The good news is: Christianity is the worldview that says your weakness is what qualifies to you to be a disciple. You are weaker than you ever dreamed. That's why you need a Savior.

And Christianity is the worldview that says you don't need the perfect words or right teacher to change the people around you. You just need His Spirit bearing His sword and He will work through the weakest to change the weakest.

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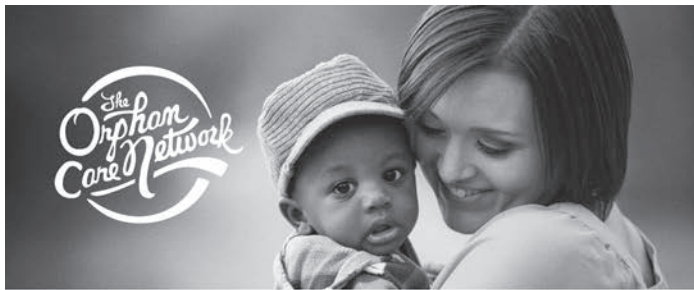












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Not only do we "believe" in community, we insist on it. Orphan care can be extremely intimidating and isolating so we help people gather, learn, encourage, celebrate, and move forward with one another. We launch community groups open to any with a heart for the orphan.

## VISIT OUR BOOTH

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## FREE EBOOK – IN PLAIN SIGHT by Dhati Lewis

American evangelicalism has been blindsided. Our cities and our world have changed. In our missional focus to reach the city, we have realized our inability to reach the entire urban context – specifically the individuals that don't fit into the majority culture. Somehow it has been accepted to do ministry and create disciples, while ignoring certain portions that aren't as accessible; they were quarantined and unseen.

Now, however, it's impossible to ignore what is quickly taking over. This new urban – the dense and diverse – is transforming and shaping our culture, society, and neighborhoods. As leaders, we'd be foolish to make our mission anything other than the city in its entirety—beautiful and complicated parts. There's no more looking the other way.

That is why *In Plain Sight* seeks to develop a holistic strategy for discipling America's true urban: those in plain sight.

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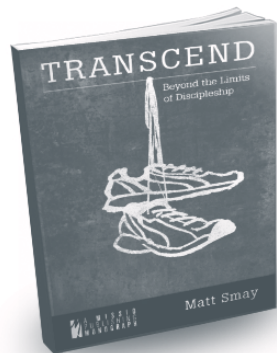
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**TRANSCEND:**  
**BEYOND THE LIMITS**  
**OF DISCIPLESHIP**  
*by Matt Smay*



## Stuck?

**Be a disciple...Go make disciples...**

**Become a church full of disciples.**

Everyone makes it sound so easy, but it's not. We feel guilty about our own ankle-deep discipleship, and even worse about our ability to develop the life of Jesus in our friends. We know there's a problem, but the answer seems out of reach, too regimented, or unrealistic for the world we live in.

### **THIS 141-PAGE FREE RESOURCE WILL GIVE YOU:**

- × A simple framework for discipleship
- × Real life stories of discipleship in action
- × Next steps for how to get unstuck in discipleship
- × A clear pathway for disciple making

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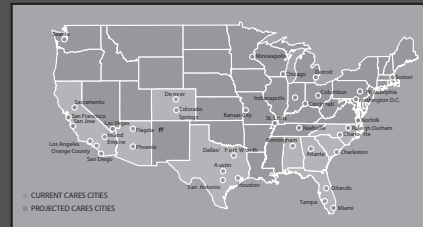
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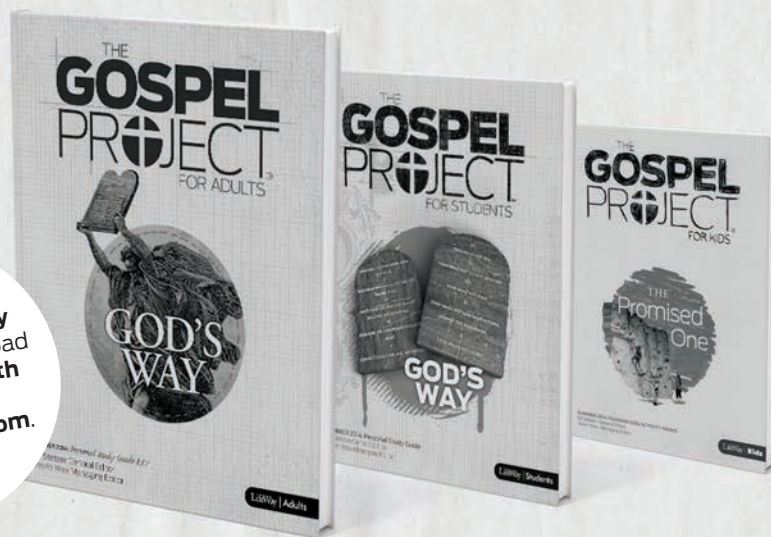
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