

# ACTS 29 IS A DIVERSE, GLOBAL NETWORK OF CHURCH-PLANTING CHURCHES



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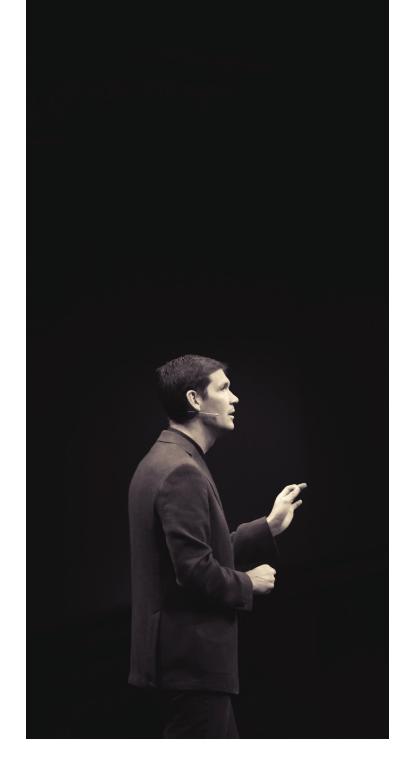
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# Message from The President

I became part of Acts 29 nearly 11 years ago. The Village Church came in as an existing church because we wanted to plant churches, and at the time our denomination had a failure rate of about 70% with their plants. I wasn't going to entrust our young men to what I perceived to be poor assessment, training and coaching. We sent our first church planter to a "boot camp" in 2004, and within a very short time I became a part of this family. So much has changed since then that it's hard to remember how things used to be. We were small (just under 200 churches), zealous for mission and loved to talk about the deep

2016: I'll be speaking at Acts 29 events in Turkey and Brazil; we've received applications from indigenous Pakistani, Malawian, and Nigerian men wanting to plant with us; and we're actively exploring opening up new networks all around the world.

As with any organization, rapid cross-cultural growth will create growing pains, and this has certainly been a year of those. We have had to make some staffing and structure changes that we believe will better serve what God has called us to, both now and in the immediate future. Some of these changes have left a few of us confused or startled. I want to thank you for your patience and grace and try to encourage you that the board of Acts 29 never takes your trust in us for granted, nor will your concerns be met with silence. I wish I could tell you that there

# OUR COMMITMENT TO THEOLOGICAL CLARITY, CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT AND MISSIONAL INNOVATION IS UNWAVERING

things of God. We were unapologetically theologically driven and had no desire to be a "big tent" network. Instead we were compelled by a desire to be both biblical and missional as we set out to make much of Jesus through the power of the Spirit.

What I loved most about Acts 29 is still here: a commitment to the Word of God, a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit and a zeal to plant churches that plant churches. Other than that, everything has changed. We are no longer 200 churches based almost entirely in the United States but are now fast approaching 600 churches on six continents. When we talk about Acts 29 as a "diverse, global network," we aren't talking merely aspirationally, but rather trying to truly describe who we are and what God has done and seems to be doing all the more. For example, in

would be no more changes, but I don't want to mislead you. Because we're an expanding diverse and global network, structural development is necessary to serve that reality and vision. And because we are a network and not an institution, we must have a higher tolerance for some "organizational messiness." But I can promise you that our commitment to theological clarity, cultural engagement and missional innovation – all of which are empowered by the Holy Spirit - is unwavering and as strong today as when I came into Acts 29 nearly 11 years ago.

# Matt Chandler President of Acts 29



# Message from The Executive Director

I have to be honest with you and admit that until recently, I would never have seen myself in this role. I'm a preacher, pastor and planter. Apparently, such "types" aren't ordinarily that interested in organization, structures and processes. That was certainly true of me when I was still "wet behind the ears!" In fact, I was scathingly dismissive of such things. I would talk about "organic" so often I could have been mistaken for a biologist. But I was wrong. Dead wrong. All life has structure to it. From cells through invertebrates to the human body, structure is essential to life. Any of us who have been at this game for any length of time know this. Sure you can start off meeting in your front room, with a group of friends, sharing a meal, singing some songs and

opening the Bible. And those are good days to be enjoyed and cherished. But growth means those carefree times have to be left behind. Issues that once seemed distant, and maybe even unpalatable, soon take on pressing importance: membership; who decides what and how; roles; responsibilities; giving; premises; processes. This is true no matter your preference of church size. A network of household churches have structural issues to face as significant as a megachurch. Getting older meant I also got a little smarter and not only accepted the inevitable but came to embrace it. My passion for church planting burns brighter and stronger than ever, which is precisely why I'm willing to give myself to helping build a "diverse, global network of church planting churches".

In his report, Matt wrote about the changes he's seen in his eleven years with Acts 29, and the inevitability of more changes. He's right. There will be. There has to be. We're about building structure that will serve what we currently are, but more significantly what we're becoming. But we're not insensitive to the cost of these necessary developments. Take brotherhood as an example. I know some are mourning the loss of that because you've told me. But I actually feel something of it too. In reality, it's a particular expression of brotherhood we mourn. It's the brotherhood of knowing everyone, hanging out together, regaling one another with tales of people and events from our shared history. We miss that, and we long for the "good old days". But isn't that what we preach to our people all the time in relation to church planting? We tell them there is a price to pay and a pain to endure, but it's more than worth it. It's no different for us as Acts 29.

Our camaraderie is to be found in our shared identity in Christ, our shared commitment to gospel truth and our shared engagement in the gospel task. We may be doing it in Omaha, Oman or Oban but we're doing it for the same reasons, for the same end, and by the same Spirit. This is a rich experience of brotherhood. It is the kind of familial affection Paul writes about in Romans and Colossians in reference to people he had never met. It's the kind of partnership he describes so powerfully in 2 Corinthians 8 in reference to the sacrificial generosity of the Macedonian churches for people they would never meet.

OUR CAMARADERIE IS TO BE FOUND IN OUR SHARED IDENTITY IN CHRIST, OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO GOSPEL TRUTH AND OUR SHARED ENGAGEMENT IN THE GOSPEL TASK

As we grow out, we have to build out. We're increasing our networks and building them as microcosms of the larger entity. This way, we enjoy the intimacy of a geographical focus at the same time as reaping the benefits of a global span. But even that intimacy can't last for long. At least, not if we cherish Jesus being more famous! Which means that we'll have to keep building, demolishing and building again. And then have eternity to remind one another of God's grace to us as we "shoot the breeze" and "chew the cud" together in the New Creation!

#### Steve Timmis

Executive Director of Acts 29

#### ACTION

Articulate

We are a global network with a global vision. God is the God of the whole world and has always desired to bless the nations. We are moved and inspired by the Lord of all creation who declared it in the Old Testament and demonstrated it in Jesus. He said it would be a direct consequence of his Spirit coming in power. He creates missionaries, it's what the Spirit does.

# This is Acts 29

Acts 29 is a diverse, global network of church-planting churches characterized by theological clarity, cultural engagement, and missional innovation.

#### What We Want To Be Known For

ACTS 29 WILL ENSURE WE ARE KNOWN FOR:

- Planting churches that plant churches
- Pursuing holiness and humility
- Being a radically diverse and global community
- Praying for conversions through evangelism



#### What We Believe

ACTS 29 STANDS IN THE TRADITION OF HISTORIC EVANGELICAL CONFESSIONALISM. WHILE WE BELIEVE IT IS VITAL THAT THE ELDERS OF EACH OF OUR CHURCHES DETERMINE WHERE THEY STAND ON DOCTRINES OF SECOND IMPORTANCE, WE DO WISH TO MAKE KNOWN OUR CONVICTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING FIVE THEOLOGICALLY-DRIVEN CORE VALUES:

- · Gospel centrality in all of life
- The sovereignty of God in saving sinners
- The work of the Holy Spirit for life and ministry
- The equality of male and female and the principle of male headship
- The local church as God's primary mission strategy

# What Success Looks Like

ACTS 29 WILL SUCCEED TO THE EXTENT THAT IT:

- Recruits men dedicated to leading churchplanting churches
- Assesses men based on core competencies to lead church-planting churches
- Develops men who are planting or leading church-planting churches through coaching, training, and support

#### Our Priority For This Year

OUR PRIORITY AS ACTS 29 IN THE COMING YEAR IS HEALTHY LEADERS. IT IS A VITAL TOPIC AND ONE WE OVERLOOK AT OUR PERIL. IT'S TOO EASY FOR LEADERS TO BECOME UNHEALTHY, AND THAT WILL ALWAYS CAUSE COLLATERAL DAMAGE. OBVIOUSLY, NOTHING WE DO CAN GUARANTEE HEALTH, BUT GIVING IT APPROPRIATE PROFILE WILL ENCOURAGE US TO BE ALERT TO THE ISSUES.

We've tried to encapsulate the essential traits of a Healthy Leader as succinctly as possible, but the resources provided throughout the year will unpack each of them thoroughly and relevantly.

It is clear from both 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 that there is nothing extraordinary about leaders among God's people. The requirements for elders (a.k.a bishops or pastors) is that they live exemplary lives. They lead by showing others what it means to be a disciple in the everyday. The one distinguishing mark of a healthy leader is his ability to teach, i.e. explain how the gospel shapes and defines our lives as the people of God.

Therefore, Healthy Leaders are first and foremost examples to the flock of what it means to be a sheep! Here are 3 key traits:

- Healthy leaders are SECURE in the GOSPEL, finding their identity and rest in Christ.
- Healthy leaders are IMMERSED in COMMUNITY, joyfully blessing others and humbly serving the church.
- Healthy leaders are ENGAGED in MISSION, sharing God's love for the world & passion for Christ's fame.

# Celebrate

With just under 600 churches across 6 continents, we are a global network and as a global network we will become increasingly diverse: racially, ethnically and socially. This diversity is a glorious expression of God's grace among us. We are seeking to find more ways of celebrating, profiling and displaying this beautiful diversity.



# **Network Update:** Emerging Regions

## by Kevin Peck

Austin Stone, Austin, TX, USA

It is incredibly exciting to see all that God is doing through the churches of Acts 29 to spread His gospel around the world. I can clearly see us growing in numbers and maturity. His favor allows us to celebrate what He has done, but still, it also stretches us to imagine what He could do in the future. Our passion for the fame of Jesus grows and so does our vision. We want to see churches plant churches and we want to see them planted among all people. God is not in need of us, nor does He depend on us. But still, we ask and plead: God will you use us for your glory among all people?

Stepping into this role with Acts 29 Emerging Regions, I have been tasked with catalyzing and developing new networks in regions where Acts 29 has a small or non-existent presence. These are places like India, China, Central and North Africa, and the Middle East. Not only do these regions represent most of the world's population, but they also represent countless unreached people groups. There are millions upon millions of people with almost zero access to the gospel of Jesus.

In this update I want to share with you the strategy we have adopted for seeing our network join God at work in these regions. We work to assess planters, send planters, help existing churches and believers multiply churches, and develop new networks of church planting churches. We do all of this for the glory of Jesus and the good of His people. There are four main components to our strategy: connect, mobilize, launch and pioneer.



#### Connect

When the Emerging Regions team got started last fall, there were 7 members and 2 candidates spread across 7 countries, working in a wide variety of contexts. Now our network has 8 members, 2 candidates, more than a dozen working through the assessment process and dozens more working through pre-application. These men are planting in 17 different countries, representing populations of more than 5 billion souls. Our aim is to connect these men to each other and to the broader Acts 29 family. Our primary aim in connecting with these members is to communicate ongoing support and care as well as resource them with the assets, skills, and tools available from the global network.

#### Mobilize

The second element of our strategy is to mobilize established Acts 29 networks to engage in emerging, non-networked areas. We want to inspire mobilization by communicating the urgency and necessity of extending the mission of God through Acts 29 churches to these regions. We want to train existing Acts 29 members who desire to plant churches and evangelize beyond our current network areas (and leverage knowledge and experience of those who are trained). And finally we want to give opportunities to those with the desire to partner in mission meaningful contacts in non-networked areas of the world.

Several men have raised their hands already to serve as ambassadors for unengaged or undeveloped regions. We are actively praying for God to bring more men to partner with the Emerging Regions Team to work for gospel churches to be planted in Africa and Asia. If God is using your church to plant churches or train pastors in these regions, we want to work together with you. As God gives you and your church favor, consider working together with others in Acts 29 for the sake of the gospel and the sake of the nations.

We know that so many members are already working in emerging regions and it has been encouraging to see all the ways Acts 29 is being used to further the Kingdom. Whether you are doing short term trips or actively sending long-term planters, we hope you will work with our team or members of Acts 29 already in the context. It is our hope that we can provide clear and helpful pathways for action and cooperation.

#### Launch

The third component of our strategy is to launch new networks. The Emerging Regions team is working diligently to help single planters form networks of Acts 29 churches around them to work together for the gospel in a new region. Over the years we have seen Acts 29 churches plant churches across national, language and cultural borders. Our prayer is to see networks of church-planting churches grow wherever God allows us to preach the gospel.

Just this year we have seen God give us grace in launching Acts 29 India. The new 3-man leadership team of Acts 29 India will be hosting the first ever national conference in November. Pray for Pastors Arjuna, Sudhakar and Subash as they lead this effort. We are thrilled about the development of Acts 29 India and hopeful that several other networks will develop in the coming year. Our hope is to see regional Acts 29 Networks forming soon in the Middle East, former Soviet Union, East Asia and SouthEast Asia. God is at work around the globe. We are praying that God will allow us to be part of His Kingdom expanding across the globe.

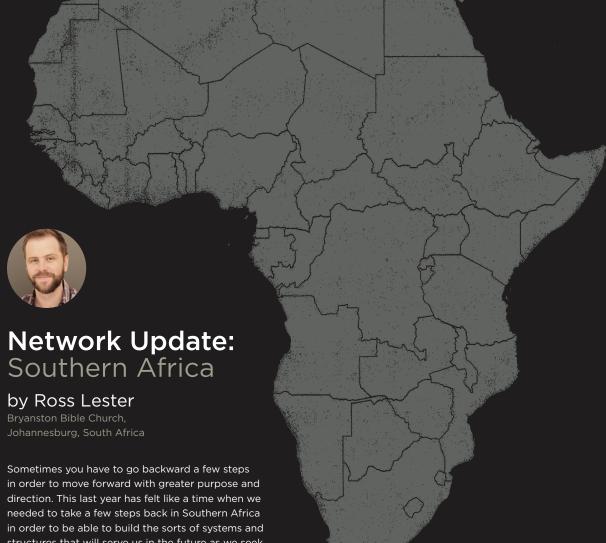
# WE WANT TO SEE GOSPEL-CENTERED CHURCHES PLANT CHURCHES WHEREVER THE GOSPEL IS ABSENT

#### Pioneer

Finally, the fourth element of the Emerging Regions team strategy is to pioneer. We want to see gospelcentered churches plant churches wherever the gospel is absent. Our team is working through strategic relationships and our existing churches who can leverage their networks of global contacts for potential strategic recruits. Also, as the world continues to be more and more connected through the internet, we are also seeing God send us great partners. What an amazing age we live in! One such application came from Pastor Shahbaz in Pakistan. He is now fully in the assessment phase and on his way to being our first full member in Pakistan. It is our prayer that in coming years applicants coming from Acts 29 churches all over the world can be sent as pioneers into current non-networked regions as God

If you are interested in learning more or helping us in one of these strategic efforts please don't hesitate to get in touch!

It has been a privilege to devote time and energy to these efforts. And my prayer is that God would grow us more and more into a truly global, diverse network. Thank you to those of you who are doing so much to see these emerging regions become established regions. May God continue to raise up workers for the harvest among every nation, tribe, and tongue.



Sometimes you have to go backward a few steps in order to move forward with greater purpose and direction. This last year has felt like a time when we needed to take a few steps back in Southern Africa in order to be able to build the sorts of systems and structures that will serve us in the future as we seek to become a truly diverse and global network. This has meant that we have lost a couple of full member churches as we have sought to really be honest and clear on the direction of the network going forward, but it has also created the space for clear vision and strategy so that many more church planters can join the network in the years ahead. It has been a time that has tested our patience but also a time that has given us a bold new vision for the possibility of church planting in the region.

In the next couple of months we will have our first ever assessment conference where four applicants will be assessed. The great news is that three out of the four applicants have come up from existing Acts 29 churches showing that this "churches planting churches" tagline actually has some real substance and meaning. In September we will host our first ever

Acts 29 Southern Africa conference in Johannesburg, and our deep hope is that many who are interested in church planting and multiplication would join us for that. We have called the conference Diverse City representing not only the city that it will take place in, but also the kind of city that Christ has called His church to be. In a region currently experiencing a great deal of racial and ethnic violence, our hope is that this conference will speak of the power of the gospel and the transformative nature of a people who live in the fullness of that gospel.

We would cherish your prayers.

Grace and peace.



Network Update: Europe

by Philip Moore

Eglise Baptiste, Lagny-sur-Marne, France

Antalya, Turkey. It is the most eastern and most southern of our churches in Acts 29 Europe. There are about 35 people in the church-service. In a town where Paul once took a boat at the end of his first church-planting journey (Acts 14), in an area that was once the center of everything church-planting, the number of Christians and churches is insignificantly small. Kerem Koç, the pastor, is encouraged and helped by Acts 29 Europe in his efforts to reignite this part of the world for the gospel, and from there, reach into the Middle East, the former Soviet Union and the increasingly Muslim parts of East Europe. Every first Sunday of the month, they pray for a different Acts 29 Europe church. And the Monday after, Kerem gets out his prized fountain pen and writes a letter of encouragement and gratitude to the Acts 29 church they have just prayed for.

A recent Pew Research Centre report projects that "Europe is the only region where the absolute number of Christians is expected to decline by 2050." We are committed in Acts 29 Europe, to reversing that trend in all of Europe's 51 countries. We believe that through rigorous assessment, skillful coaching, inspiring training and practical support we can have an impact all across Europe, and through Europe into the 10/40 window.

Take the story we told about Turkey. There is no reason we cannot multiply the stories of meaningful. impactful relationships from local church to local church across our continent and beyond. If it is true that individuals on our planet have about 6 degrees of separation - meaning that in 6 relationships you can connect any person to any other person - then the same can be gloriously true for churches. A church in England with a local and global churchplanting vision can be connected directly to a church in Val d'Europe, France which is connected directly to a Farsi speaking group in Paris, which is a window straight in to the Middle East. A church in Syria could be praying for and be supported by a church in Scotland a year from now if we all catch this global. church-planting vision and support each other in it!

So back to that Pew survey: their report, based on trends, could be wrong - "any events - scientific discoveries, armed conflicts, social movements, political upheavals, natural disasters and changing economic conditions" could change their predictions. Wouldn't it be great if their predictions were wrong because of a wild-fire spread of the gospel through joyful church-planting across this continent?



# Network Update: Australia & New Zealand

#### David Fandey

The Fields, Carlsbad, CA, USA

Do you remember the book *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell? That is exactly what our Acts 29 Network in Australia & New Zealand is feeling like right now. After several years of laying a solid foundation, we are right on the edge of seeing the network take great strides forward as we continue to execute the growth plan developed over the last four years. Through God's favor we are encouraged by the growth we are seeing with more and more planters being assessed and added to the team. The road has been difficult but new churches continue to be planted.

Can you imagine a network where over 75% of the planters work full time jobs to support themselves as they plant in a post-Christian context where less than 2% of the population are evangelical Christians? It's very hard ground, but slowly and surely these churches are getting established and growing toward maturity. People are being added to their numbers. Souls are getting saved. The planters are moving away from their tent making jobs as their churches grow and are able to support them financially, first one day a week until they are eventually supported full time for the work of the ministry. There has been great cost, but we are encouraged! If you are looking for a place to invest your 9% toward church planting, any of these men working outside jobs to support their churches are worthy of your investment.

As we continue to grow, one thing I find fascinating about directing a network is that the same skill set used to plant and grow a church is what is required to direct a network as it grows. Just like our own church plants, in order to facilitate growth we must always be resourcing, adjusting, morphing and organizing

to promote and accommodate growth. What was once a small group of planters in Australia & New Zealand gathering together four times a year and

connecting regularly through Skype, emails and texts,

has now grown into five separate regions within that

network. We now have five Regional Coordinators

for each of the regions: New Zealand, Queensland,

New South Wales. Victoria and South Australia. We

are looking to add Western Australia and Tasmania as

momentum builds. As we have grown, these Regional

Coordinators are now sharing my job; promoting,

recruiting, assessing and coaching the planters in

we were a smaller network. In addition to monthly

gatherings in each of these regions, we have twice

a year "mini conferences" in each region to promote

church planting. This year we also added an annual

Acts 29 retreat/conference where all the planters in

the network gathered for encouragement, training,

the Gold Coast to focus on Healthy Leaders.

equipping and reaching out to other potential planters.

We had a great turnout on the Gold Coast in February

and will do the same type of event in February 2016 on

these regions, much like I did in the early days when

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Another great asset we have going for us in this very egalitarian part of the world is the investment we make in the wives of the church planters. The wives are always invited and included in every training event and gathering we do. This strategy has blessed the wives, created healthier church planters and it has helped this part of the world understand the beauty of complementarian ministry and what it looks like in practice. It's husband and wife, acting as a team, each in their God given roles, to further the work of the gospel. All of this organization adds up to solid wins across Australia & New Zealand, We are optimistic about the future as we work towards planting more churches. True, we have turned away a lot of applicants who were not qualified, but the men and women we have are the right ones to get the job done to establish more churches that plant churches.



**Network Update:** Latin America

The past year was one of much grace as we officially kicked off the network of Acts 29 Latin America. which spans from Mexico down to Chile. It represents a huge challenge considering this region consists of over 600 million people living in 35 countries that speak at least 5 different main languages.

We held our first-ever Latin American assessments in October in Rio and in March in Guatemala. As a result, we've welcomed our first new full members in the Latin American Network. Up to this point, the Latin America application and assessment process has been open only to English-speaking candidates. It is now in Portugese and will soon be in Spanish. Our expectation is that the number of applicants and candidates will grow significantly.

We encourage you to pray for us for Gospel fruit. Some of the challenges we see in the Latin American Church include the infiltration of prosperity theology. an institutional mindset and approach to church planting, as well as difficulty in collaborating with existing denominations, institutions, and seminaries, as there is often suspicion of anything new.

God is faithful and is building His church throughout Latin America, in cities like Mexico City, Guatemala, Lima, São Paulo and Santiago. Pray with us that the Gospel continues to advance in Latin America for Jesus' fame.

THIS REGION CONSISTS OF OVER 600 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN 35 COUNTRIES THAT SPEAK AT LEAST 5 DIFFERENT MAIN LANGUAGES



# Central America

#### Francisco Bendfeldt

Iglesia Casa de Libertad, Guatemala City, Guatemala

In Central America, we held our very first conference ever in Guatemala City entitled Plantadores in March. annual conference in May, Missional, where 240 We wanted to help men to discern and obey God's calling for their lives, to think biblically and wisely, and not only to plant churches but to plant healthy churches, as is our desire in Acts 29.

Over 90 men participated representing eight different nations at this first conference. We're already seeing a strong flow of applicants from both Guatemala and Mexico. We've also started a church planting training course with around 15 men who are participating to share knowledge and experience about planting churches in our context.



## Brazil

#### Jay Bauman

Igreja do Redentor, Rio de Janeiro. Brazil

Our work in Brazil continued strong with our men gathered to consider the implications of planting a missional church.

In Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo we have started two church planting residencies called *Projeto* Plantador. The purpose of this church planting collective is to train pastors who will start 10 new churches in each megacity.

Our regionals in Rio de Janeiro are going strong in terms of participation and interest in Gospelcentered movement. We've been averaging over 100 men present at each meeting. Gospel leaders have asked us to expand these meetings to other cities in Brazil, and so we've started new regionals in Brasilia and São Paulo.



# Network Update: North America

#### Noel Heikkinen

Writing on behalf of the US Regional Directors Riverview Church, Holt, MI, USA

Since the Day of Pentecost, the church has faced the ongoing challenge of getting smaller while Jesus builds His church larger. Big groups can be exhilarating, but they can also be overwhelming and a barrier to community. So when the fruit of Peter's first sermon was 3000 souls, the infant church began to meet not just in the temple but also in homes. When the Gospel brought an influx of needy people into the church, deacons were added to the org chart to handle the growth. Growing simultaneously larger and smaller isn't a new problem for the church, but one that is nearly two thousand years old.

Counter-intuitively, churches often hit "growth ceilings" they are unable to break precisely because they can't figure out how to get smaller. With the addition of small groups, multiple services, or new sites many find they can reach more people with the Gospel. These transitions are sometimes smooth, sometimes jarring, and most of the time somewhere in between.

As a network, Acts 29 North America is in a similar situation.

We are growing at a breakneck pace. We had 55 new members gaining full membership since the retreat in Miami last year, and were able to enjoy a great conference in Dallas in November with over 1300 leaders representing 44 states and 4 countries. Because we are getting bigger, we need to figure out how to get smaller at the same time. If we don't do this, we may limit our opportunity to reach more people for Jesus. A lot of talk around our network has been around increased globalization (getting

bigger) but in North America, we have been having lots of conversations about decentralization (getting smaller). Just as Mombasa and Tokyo require differing missional strategies, so do Los Angeles and Wichita. That's one reason we have begun the process of transforming the Acts 29 North America network into five distinct US networks.

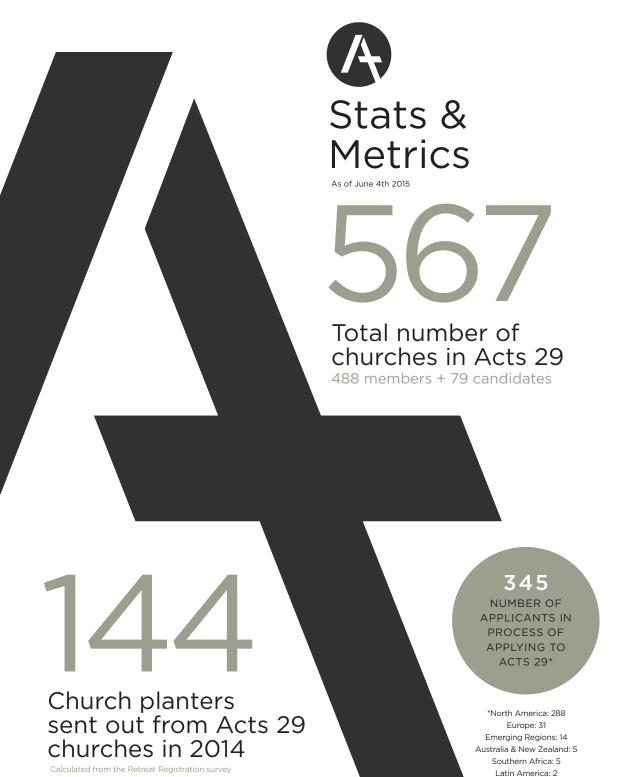
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This move has the potential to be one of the most strategic in the life of our young movement. Each of these smaller networks will have the potential to be more nimble, more geographically and demographically aware, and more relationally connected than we can be if we remain one large network. Like a multi-site church, we will enjoy the benefits of a larger organization with the camaraderie of a small network. At the same time, like transitions in a local church, this one will certainly have a few bumps along the way but the Gospel fruit will be worth the journey.



# Treasure

Multiplication is costly, our global vision impacts our budget, assessments, partnerships and where we invest our resources. We need to think carefully and plan strategically as to how we can best use the resources we have to do all we can to see the expansion of God's gloriously diverse kingdom.





New Applicants in 2014

New Candidates in 2014

New Members in 2014

96

Assessments in 2014

13 (14%)

Number of applicants Recommended

54 (56%)

Number of applicants Recommended with Conditions

21 (22%)

Number of applicants Potential with Strong Conditions

8 (8%)

Number of applicants Not Recommended



Church Statistics Calculated from the Retreat Registration survey

455.3

Average gathering attendance

Average number of church planters in training

19.4

Average number of baptisms in 2014

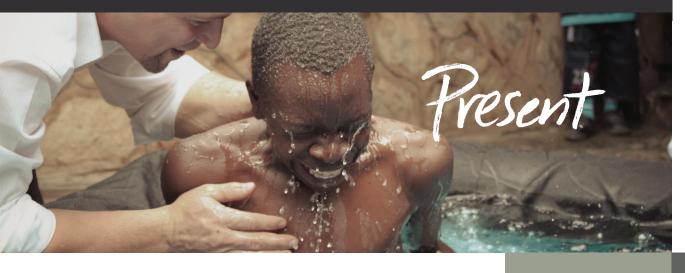
Average number of paid staff

4.1

Average number of elders in training

10.7%

Average % of money budgeted for church planting in 2014



Assessment Review (2006-2014)

Total Assessments in 2006 - 2014

152 (15%)

Number of applicants Recommended

477 (47%)

Number of applicants Recommended with Conditions

259 (25%)

Number of applicants Potential with Strong Conditions

Number of applicants Not Recommended

#### Candidates

North America:	54
Europe:	16
Emerging Regions:	2
Australia & New Zealand:	5
Southern Africa:	0
Latin America:	2

#### Members

Ν	lorth America:	437
Е	urope:	24
Е	merging Regions:	8
А	ustralia & New Zealand:	12
S	outhern Africa:	3
L	atin America:	4

#### **Full Members Review**

The number of churches Acts 29 welcomed into Full Membership in:

2006:	9	2011:	100
2007:	24	2012:	52
2008:	34	2013:	83
2009:	59	2014:	78
2010:	61	2015:	<b>28</b> (as of June 4th 2015)

# **Budget for** 2015-2016



#### Overview

Starting Balance	\$1,000,000
Total Income	\$3,000,000
Total Expenses	\$3,137,500

**End of Year Balance** \$862,500

### A Costed Vision

A budget is how we marshall our resources to realize our hopes. It is a costed vision. Used rightly and presented well, it helps people know what they need to give and why they need to give it. Even more importantly, it helps create a sense of desire: why they would want to give!

This is the Budget for 2015/16 and it is appropriately ambitious for what and where we are. The income necessary to fund these ambitions is not guaranteed. We need prayer and action to secure it. But the principles articulated last year remain, and we're excited to set this vision for gospel growth before you.

It is clear that things have developed since last year. By God's grace we are seeing our aspiration to be a diverse, global network realized. But we cannot rest here. We need a holy discontentment, befitting who we are as church planters. There remains a world, both local and remote, full of Gospel Priority Areas. This budget is one small means of helping us penetrate them for Christ.

As we all know, growth brings new demands and new challenges. We need more than oral tradition for our practice and something other than word-of-mouth for our communication. Structures have to be built and systems maintained. Over this last 12 months we have made huge strides in both. These are a necessary cost. They are also the means to an exhilarating end.

We want to resource each part of our global family to invest in building gospel-centered networks which will raise up godly leaders to plant missional churches so we see the nations discipled for Christ.

Being a network with gospel ambition, brings opportunities and challenges. People are the answer to both. The growth we are experiencing around the world also means that the ratio of staff to volunteers needs to change, and that takes investment.

# **Total Expenses**

Places			
Australia & New Zealand Latin America Emerging Regions Europe Southern Africa India	\$147,000 \$80,000 \$125,000 \$298,000 \$55,000 \$32,500	US West US Central US South East US North Atlantic US South Central	\$100,000 \$100,000 \$100,000 \$100,000
Central	\$1,900,000	Total Places Budget	\$3,137,500

# **Expenses Break Down**

Procedures	
Australia & New Zealand Latin America Emerging Regions	\$41,000 \$20,000 \$78,000
Europe Southern Africa India Central	\$28,000 \$17,000 \$7,500 \$450,000
Procedures Budget	\$641,500

Projects	
Australia & New Zealand	\$71,000
Latin America	\$35,000
Emerging Regions	\$7,000
Europe	\$15,000
Southern Africa	\$31,500
India	\$15,000
Central	\$100,000
Projects Budget	\$274,500

People Budget	\$1,721,500
Central	\$1,350,000*
India	\$10,000
Southern Africa	\$6,500
Europe	\$255,000
<b>Emerging Regions</b>	\$40,000
Latin America	\$25,000
Australia & New Zealand	\$35,000
People	

BY GOD'S GRACE WE ARE SEEING OUR ASPIRATION TO BE A DIVERSE, GLOBAL NETWORK REALIZED

<sup>\*\$500,000</sup> for the Retreat

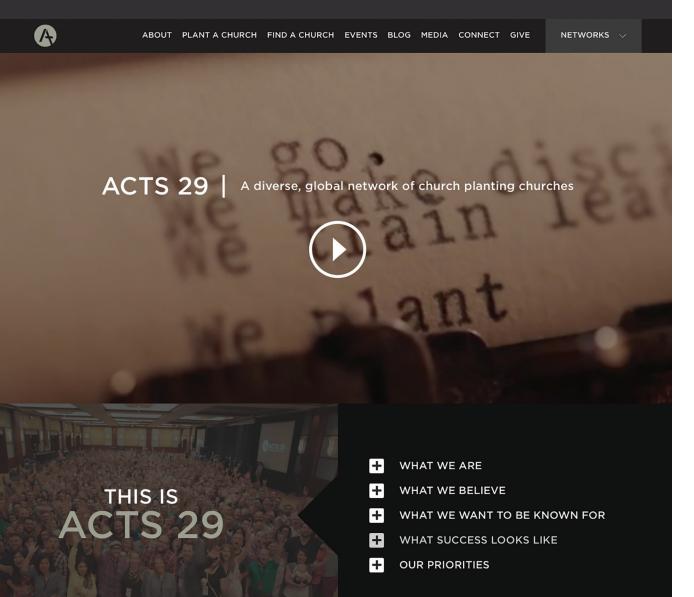
#### ACTION

# Imagine

Language doesn't merely describe reality, it creates it. Jesus consistently demonstrated this in a cross-cultural manner. This means that following Jesus involves caring about people whose cultural backgrounds and problems are nothing like our own, highlighting different countries in our public conversation and praying for other countries facing difficulties.

# Website Relaunch

The new Acts 29 website has been built from the ground up to reflect our developing identity as a diverse, global network of church-planting churches.





From the moment you hit the home page a video montage plays in the background including footage taken from our churches across the globe. Our hope was to celebrate, in a very visual manner, the many ways God is working through Acts 29 for the advance of the gospel.

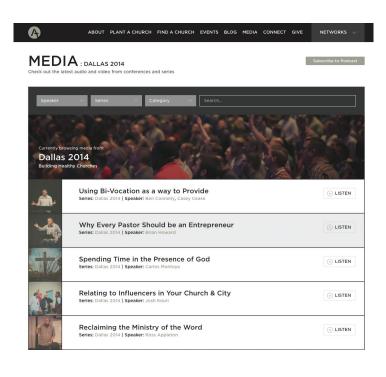
Each network has been given its own page allowing them to showcase their network-specific events, blogs and media. As networks develop and grow, so too will their library of resources, equipping future planters for the task before them. Translation software threaded throughout the website will also allow planters to access much of the material in their own language.

Connecting people with churches is a key feature of the website. As such we put a great deal of thought and attention into our new "find a church" page which now features a full scale interactive map. A network selector along the side allows the user to smoothly navigate to a particular area. Selecting a church is quick and easy and includes key information such as contact details, service times and locations.

The assessment process is instrumental to seeing new churches being planted by men who prioritize and embrace theological clarity, cultural engagement, and missional innovation. The "plant a church" page has been expressly designed with this in mind. Alongside a more robust filtering system to get people into the application system more efficiently, we have also placed key information, such as our membership covenant and competencies videos, front and center, allowing people to see

upfront what it means to be part of Acts 29.

Each event now has its own micro-site with all the information needed to prepare for events such as schedules, speakers, location, prices, hotels and parking. This allows for events to be promoted easily and to a much wider audience. Our hope is that more people will be able to connect with Acts 29 and be equipped by the great teaching received at events across the globe.



# Urban Church Planting Residency Program

In the United States, there is pressing need among African-American and Latino people groups for solid theological formation.

All too often the churches and contexts we are trained in are comprehensively alien to where we will actually minister. Jesus did not disconnect context from discipleship. Rather He made disciples in the context they would do ministry in. We want to do something about the absence of biblically qualified leaders in the urban context.

We are eight months into the creation of an initiative to address this, beginning in September.
We are leaning into established Residency Programs at Epiphany Fellowship, Fellowship Memphis and Fellowship Associates for 2015-2016, while continuing to build out our Acts 29 Urban Church Planting Residency experience for the future.

The foci are Gospel Priority Areas. We are intentionally targeting contexts devoid of viable gospel witnesses. As an outworking of 2 Timothy 2:2, we come alongside our residents to nurture, train and equip them with the necessary tools to enable them to plant healthy churches in the urban context. We want to develop both viable urban missionaries and an appropriate theological framework for the urban context.

We are excited to report that we have identified up to thirteen church planters who will take part in our initial Urban Minority Church Planting Residency. When the cohort is finalized we will announce who the planters are and where they are planting. Let's thank God for His provision of resources and planters and ask God to continue to flourish this new initiative for His Glory!

Join with us in celebrating that this year the Epiphany Urban Church Planting Residency Program are planting 3 churches from their homegrown residents. Each of these men have finished their 24-month residency and are heading to their respective locations. They are taking on

5 - 8 new residents in the next 2 years, and are planning to create a Merged Residency Training Center at Epiphany Philly and Camden. They are developing specific Cities of Interest for strategic planting and expanding urban church pilots for new residencies across the US. The plan is to expand the already existing Thrive Frequency Conference. This annual conference will act as the net for new church plants and their teams, as well as continuing education in this field.

God has been opening up immense doors to do all that is happening. Please keep these Urban Church Planting Residencies lifted as we continue to join God in the places of great challenge but great opportunity.

Glory be to the Living God For His great work.





Eric Mason & John Bryson Acts 29 Board Members





# Academy

In November 2014 we announced our global initiative to launch academies across the world to serve church planting. Below Dr. Jonny Woodrow introduces the first of these academies, launching in Septermber 2015:

"Acts 29 and Oak Hill College have entered into a partnership to establish an academy to train people for ministry and church planting in Europe, and the 10/40 window. Most European nations are less than 2 percent evangelical. We also have unprecedented access to many of the people groups of the 10/40 window, through immigration to the continent. The church has new challenges and opportunities. The re-evangelization of Europe has strategic importance for reaching some of the most unreached peoples of the world.

The Academy has established a management board made up of Acts 29 and Oak Hill representatives. The combined We want to launch several theological, missional academies to help in the planting of churches worldwide.

skill set of the board comprises, training, leadership development, operations and organization building, theological and academic, pastoral and church planting, accountancy and marketing expertise. The board has already met to get the project under way.

We are set for a soft launch in September 2015 with a curriculum, over 30 students, two part time faculty members and administrator, along with Oak Hill teaching support. The academy will appoint a project director to work alongside Dr Tim Chester and Jonny Woodrow to develop the academy. We are aiming to offer a fuller suite of courses, including accredited courses beginning in September 2017.

The academy aims to train planters and gospel workers for Europe through a combination of distance learning curriculum, in-context seminar day support and short residential teaching

programs. We are thrilled that in the first intake we have students from Czech Republic, Romania, the Netherlands and Italy, as well as the UK. We also have Acts 29 Europe planters in Germany, France and Italy who are ready to help establish Academy seminar tutor groups in Berlin, Paris and northern Italy.

Praise God for bringing together the key projects and persons to make this academy a reality and for good progress."

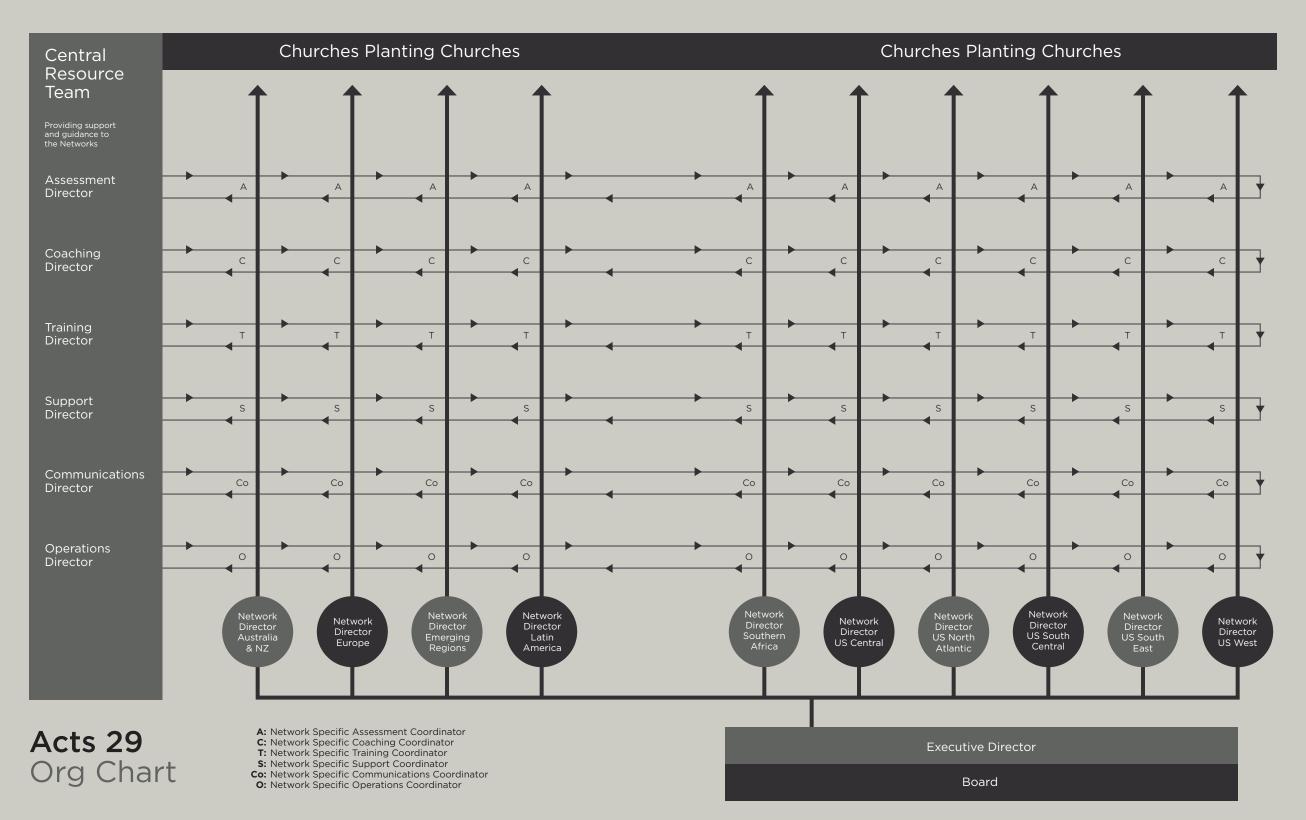


Jonny Woodrow Academy Director for Online Learning

#### ACTION

# Organize

Everything works better when it is all working towards the same goal. We want to build out everything from our leadership structure to our communication strategy in a distinctive, informative, and practical way to help see this vision become a reality.





# **New Members**

#### Since Miami 2014

#### Australia

#### Kyllum & Karly Lewis

Lawnton, Queensland, Australia Life Centre Church

#### Don & Rebekah Reddin

Adelaide (Glenela) CityLight Church Adelaide

#### Matt & Tash Sparks

Sydney Anchor Church Sydney

#### Sam & Meeya Wright

Melbourne, Victoria Redemption Church

#### Brazil

#### Joao & Mariana Costa

Rio de Janeiro Greja Vineyard Central

#### Sérgio Augusto & Samara Rocha de Queiroz

João Pessoa Igreja Cidade Viva (Living City Church)

#### Canada

#### Karl & Naomi Fortin

Plessisville, Quebec Connexion Church

#### Chile

#### Daniel & Ellelein Kirk

Valparaiso Iglesia Pablo Apóstol (IPA)

#### New Zealand

#### Michael & Candice Beck

Wellington Gracenet Community Church

#### Turkey

#### Kerem & Naciye (Buse) Koç

Antalya Antalya Protestan Kilisesi (Antalya Protestant Church)

#### United Kingdom

#### Dan & Anna Martin

Newcastle/Gateshead, England Tyneside Church Central

#### Matthew & Rebekah Spriggs

Loughborough, England The Crowded House, Loughborough

#### USA

#### Jim & Emily Angehr

Collingswood, NJ Liberti Church Collingswood

#### Josh & Stephanie Arnett

Houston, TX LifeHouse Community Church

#### Brandon & Amanda Barker

Houston, TX Sojourn Heights

#### Will & Amanda Basham

Milton, WV New Heights Church

#### Paden & McKenna Behrens

Brady, TX

Redeemer Brady

#### **Kyle & Lindsay Black**

Copperas Cove, TX Watershed Church Central Texas

#### Mike & Susan Boyett

Starkville, MS Redeemer Church

#### Jonathan & Stephani Brooks

Bryan, TX Restoration Church Bryan

#### Kris & Jennifer Brossett

North Hollywood, CA Refuge LA

#### Jake & Lindsey Chambers

San Diego, CA Red Door

#### Jason & Christy Conner

Arlington, VA Portico Church Arlington

#### Justin & Sarah Cosby

Florence, AL Ransomed Community Church

#### Aaron & Danielle Currin

Clearwater, FL BLDG 28 Church

#### Kevin & Samantha Deyette

Yakima, WA Restoration Church

#### John & Janell Elliott

Champaign, IL Christ Community

#### Rich & Katie Essman

Bakersfield, CA Crosspoint Community Church

#### Luke & Marianne Evans

University City, TX Christ Church San Antonio

#### Justin & Rachael Fordinal

Cypress, TX BridgePoint Community Church

#### Craig & Lisa Marie Greatman

Real Life Communtiy Church

#### Jeff & Bronwyn Hensley

Medford, OR Heritage Christian Fellowship

#### Nathan & Audrey Hornback

Elko, NV Living Stones Church

#### Casey & Angela Johnson

Madison, WI Redeemer City Church

#### Matthew & Dina Kyser

Irvine, CA Village Church

#### **KC & Kinsey Maddox**

Lawrence, KS Free City Church

#### Kort & Morgan Marley

Atascocita, TX Providence Community Church

#### Ryan & Megan Johnson

Lawrenceviile, GA New City Church

#### Watson & Kelli Jones

Philadelphia, PA Restoration Church Philly

#### Matt & Amanda Kessler

San Antonio, TX Grace Fellowship San Antonio

#### Ryan & Jenni Kwon

Fremont, CA Resonate Church

#### **Bryan & Tracy Lair** Saint Paul, MN

Trinity City Church

#### Mike & Abby Littleton

Twin Falls, ID Taproot Church Twin Falls

#### Devin & Amanda Lorraine

Cusick, WA Crossview Pasco

#### Chris & Maryse Martin

Littleton, CO Fathom Church

#### Toriano & Natalie Mayo

Austin, TX The Well

#### Michael & Melanie McCracken

Alamo Ranch Community Church

#### Tony & Kimberly Merida

Raleigh, NC Imago Dei Church

#### J.P. & Joanna Morris

Dawsonville, GA Church of the Apostles

#### Andrew & Raelyn Munneke

Fayetteville, AR The Hill Church

#### John & Kristen Murphy

Fayetteville, NC Veritas Church

#### Matt & Kelly Murphy

North Brunswick, NJ Element Church

#### **Todd & Brooke Perkins**

Durham, NC East North Church

#### Scott & Heather Prentice

Gibsonia, PA Advance Community Church

#### **Derrick & Kaley Puckett**

Chicago, IL Renewal Church of Chicago

#### Chris & Tara Rich

Marysville, WA Damascus Road Church

#### Kolburt & Kellie Schultz

Falcon, CO Missio Dei: Falcon

#### Matt & Siobhan Slack

Sarasota, FL Bridgeway Sarasota

#### Joe & Ashley Swords

The Exchange Church

Sam & Dina Ticas

Santa Clarita, CA Soma Santa Clarita Church

#### Jason & Kara Tippetts

Colorado Springs, CO Westside Church

#### **Bob & Joyce Towell**

Kingwood, TX CrossWay Community Church

#### Jason & Susie Tucker

Bluff Park Community Church

#### Alex & Melissa Tunnicliff

Kingsford, MI Redemption Hill

#### Jason & Karey Vance

Suprise, AZ Valley Life Church

#### Joel Webbon

San Diego, CA The Response Church

#### Pete & Kristy Ziolkowski

Milwaukee, WI Image Dei





# **New Candidates**

#### Since Miami 2014

#### Australia

#### Wayne & Virginia Harrison

Adelaide Significance Church

#### Luke & Evanna Nelson

Melbourne City on a Hill West

#### Adam & Kristina Ramsey

Gold Coast Liberti Church

#### Canada

#### Garth & Patty Leno

Windsor, Ontario
The Gathering

#### France

#### Jean-Remy & Sonia Otge St. Louise

Eglise de la Bonne Nouvelle

#### Germany

#### Christoph & Kristina Funk

Potsdam Kirche für Potsdam

#### Guatemala

#### Justin & Jennifer Burkholder

Guatemala City Iglesia Reforma

#### Oscar Morales

Mixco

#### Nigeria

#### Olufemi & Oluwatosin Osunnuyi

Lagos Lagos City Church

#### Spain

#### Stephen & Naíme Philips Barcelona

Església Evangèlica de Vilassar de Mar

#### United Kingdom

#### Peter & Jody Comont Oxford, England

Trinity Church Oxford

#### Paul & Bonnie Elms Liverpool, England

Cornerstone Church Liverpool

#### John & Julie Ervine

Belfast, Northern Ireland Cornerstone Church

#### Caleb & Crystal Jones

Trevethin, Wales Hill City Church

#### Ben & Sarah Parker

Leeds, England Redeemer Leeds

#### Peter & Anne Rennie

Inverness, Scotland Living Hope Church

## **Jonny & Anneli Richards**Birmingam, England

The Gate

## **Nigel & Joanna Stokes**Epsom. England

Emmanuel Epsom

#### David & Marion Varney

Co. Down, Northern Ireland Gilnahirk Baptist Church

#### Josh & Aneliese Walsh

Liverpool, England Cornerstone Church Wirral

#### USA

#### Eric & Leah Baldwin

Pittsburgh, PA River City Church

#### Joe & Elizabeth Basso

Felch, MI Felch Mountain Bible Church

#### David & Marie Baum

Colubmbus, GA Fountain City Church

#### Dan & Lauri Coke

Lincoln, NE Restoration City Church

#### Shaun & Melissa Cross

Washington, D.C. Union Church

#### Braden & Christy Greer NE Columbia. SC

Riverside Community Church

#### **Hunter & Becky Hall** Plano, TX

The Village Church

#### Steve & Julie Hardin

Dallas, TX The Village Church

#### **Chris & Mindy Hemmelman**

Arlington , VA Coram Deo

#### Bryan & Erika Henson

Austin, TX

#### **Beau & Kimberly Hughes**

Denton, TX The Village Church

#### Ryan & Andrea Ingold

Bryant , AR Crosspointe Saline

#### Dan & Caroline Ko

Sioux Falls, SD

Malden, MA Seven Mile Road

#### Jonathan & Shelby Land

Connection Church

#### Michael & Tanya Landrum Charlotte. NC

The Line Church

#### Aldo & Rebecca Leon Miami. FL

Reconcile Church Miami

#### Jared & Meredith Lyda

Post Falls, ID All of Life

#### Ben & Amanda Luethy

Howell, MI Anchor Church

#### Joe & Christy Marino

Hastings, NE The Well Church

#### Charles & Kari Miles

Irving, TX Urban Hills Church

#### Lance & April Nicholson

Mobile, AL South City Church

#### Joel & Peggy Ninley

Scottsburg, IN

#### Bryan & Abbey Padgett

Stillwater, OK Redeemer Church

#### Jose & Kristine Prado

Miami, FL Christ City Church

## Derrick & Rachel Phillips St. Petersburg, FL

Aletheia St. Pete

#### Alex & Shannon Santisteban

Orlando, FL Hospitality Church

#### Bliss & Shelby Spillar

Frederick, MD Redemption City Church

#### Trey & Kylie Teape

Shawnee, OK Frontline Church

#### Paul & Heather Torrez

San Bernardino, CA Redeemer Inland Empire

#### Brandon & Ty Watts

Brooklyn, NY Epiphany Church Brooklyn

#### Jeremy & Emily Wellman

Boston, MA Salvage Church

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# GVOVA 10

# Assessment Review

Hunter Beaumont Regional Director Rocky Mountain For the past year, a team has been reviewing the Assessment process, considering how we can improve and develop it.

#### Why this review? It acknowledges three exciting realities:

- We're getting older. By God's kindness and mercy, a bold & brash group of young but passionate planters have not only survived but also thrived. This means we now have a history from which to learn.
- During this time of maturation, our theological vision, while staying true to our original convictions, has developed. We've also nailed our colors to the mast for some distinctive values, namely churches planting churches, holiness and humility, evangelistic growth and radical diversity. These need to give texture to our process.
- God is opening some significant doors for us all over the world. Our description as a "diverse, global network" is becoming less rhetoric and more reality. We want to ensure that we are in a position to capitalize on these opportunities

We have taken the opportunity to take stock and review where we are at with Assessment, addressing some of the following questions:

- What can we learn from our Assessment history?
- How can Assessments best serve a diverse, global and growing Acts 29?
- How can we better serve the many different languages and cultures that now comprise the network?
- How can the role of the planter's wife, the core team and the wider church family be better understood and helpfully integrated into Assessment?
- How can we use our conferences around the world to aid Assessment?

We have discovered that the most critical factor in the accuracy of an Assessment is the assessors themselves. There's no substitute for putting our wisest, most fruitful leaders and their wives on our Assessment teams. We have poured over 1000 assessments since we began, and this gives us an enormous wealth of experience to lean on.

Looking forward, we are confident that the process is still dependable, but some of the ingredients can be updated to better serve a diverse and globally growing network. Putting it all together, we're creating a new Assessment process that will call our best men and women to the table, train our emerging leaders to be highly competent assessors, and give them the best tools available to do the job.

It is our prayer, that all of this will be mixed with a dash of cultural flexibility and humility to ensure we stay in step with the Spirit.

#### ACTION

Nassate

From the beginning of time, storytellers have proclaimed with power what needed to be heard, learnt, and remembered. This is why we need to be sharing our networks' stories from all round the globe, from places like Madrid, Melbourne, Morocco, Montana and Montreal.

# Acts 29

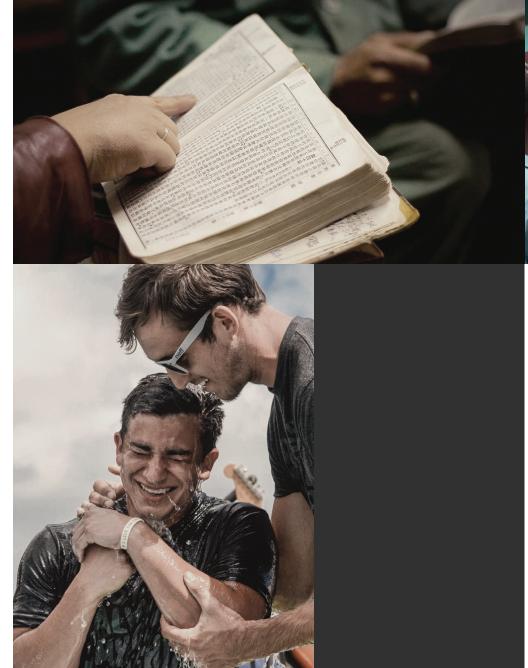
# Podcast and Blog

In September of last year, Alex Early undertook the task of getting the Acts 29 podcast off the ground as a regular and useful feature. We had an excellent start with several thousand plays and hundreds of subscribers. Alex interviewed different pastors, church-planters, theologians, authors, people that are engaging and influencing culture and asking them questions relating to their particular area of expertise. Some of the interviewed were Pastors Bryan Loritts and John Bryson from Fellowship Memphis on the importance of scheduling and leading a racially diverse congregation; Jerome Gay spoke about the importance of physical fitness in pastoring; Brad House on community groups; Justin Holcomb on creeds, liturgy and heretics; Joseph Turner on "how do you plant a church?"

So what's next? Alex will be handing over responsibility for the podcast to board member Darrin Patrick who will be working to bring the best content to share the stories, experiences, teaching, and advice from contributors from around our global family. All formed around church planting based on Theological Clarity, Cultural Engagement and Missional Innovation.

We are also currently undertaking a re-vamp of our blog. We want to make it the go-to blog on church planting. We are in talks with some great regular contributors to bring quality, gospel centered, church planting content, and are also looking for some non-regular and semi-regular contributors that will bring that same quality and broaden our base and influence.

For more information or to suggest ideas please get in touch with andrew@acts29.com.





Acts 29 is full of stories, stories that are global and diverse, stories about church-planting churches, stories that give all the glory to God. We want to share these stories.

We don't want to merely talk about planting churches but be about churches that plant churches that in turn plant more churches. This project seeks to both celebrate and demonstrate this: from the hard graft of church planting in urban minority groups; to the challenges of gospel ministry in a large minority-Christian post-Islamic country such as Turkey; to the story of planting through a radically counter-cultural multi-racial partnership in South Africa, a nation still reeling from apartheid. These stories, and many more, are testament to God's Spirit working throughout Acts 29 in diverse communities all around the globe,

"Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!" - Psalm 105

making Jesus more famous and bringing glory to His name by the planting of gospel-centered churches.

We are producing short videos to tell these stories. We hope they will both encourage and challenge Christians globally to think about church planting. We hope they will be useful resources for you to show in your churches - to give a sense of God's heart for the nations through our global family of churches. And we hope that God will be glorified through the telling of these stories that point to Him alone and His amazing grace, made possible through the life, death and resurrection of His Son.

For more information or to suggest ideas please get in touch with tim@acts29.com

 $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{A}}$ 

Acts 29
Conferences







