

# TampaBay4Christ.org



**MISSION** - *We are a network of churches partnering together*

- **To mobilize and equip every Christ follower** in Tampa Bay **as a multiplying disciplemaker**

so that every man, woman and child in our region has **repeated opportunities**

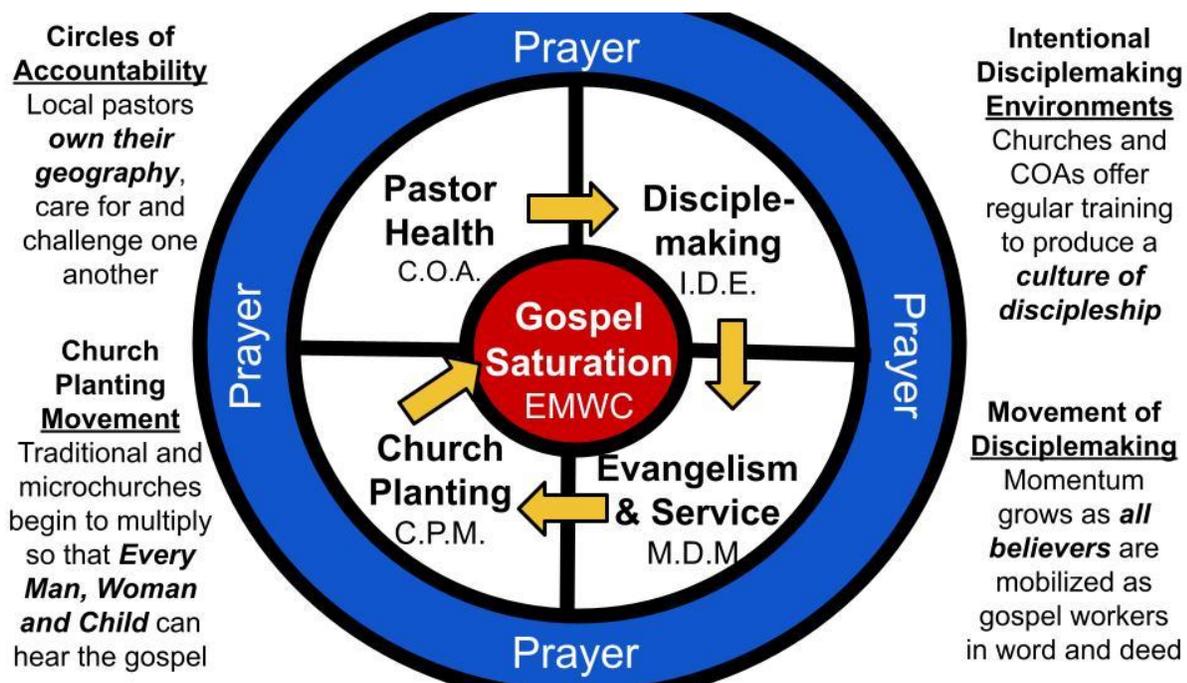
to see, hear and respond to **the gospel of Jesus Christ**

<p><b>VALUES -</b> <i>We believe in</i></p>	<p><b>STRATEGY -</b> <i>We are committed to</i></p>	<p><b>VISION -</b> <i>We long to see</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jesus</b> - He is the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Him</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pray</b> - knowing that we desperately need God, we call on Him to move mightily in our region through us</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Revival</b> - the Church of Tampa Bay awakened with a passion for the supremacy of Christ in all things</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Partnership</b> - to complete the Great Commission we desperately need each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gather</b> - bringing pastors together for regular prayer, fellowship and accountability in reaching their shared geography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unity</b> - believers from all cultural backgrounds and Gospel traditions working side by side to love and reach our city</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Gospel</b> - the clear and compassionate proclamation of the good news is central to God's work in the world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mobilize and Equip</b> - multiplying disciplemakers and churches to reach every part of Tampa Bay by the power of the Holy Spirit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transformation</b> - hundreds, thousands and millions of lost sinners finding new life in Christ - bringing renewal to families, communities and the whole region</li> </ul>

In pursuit of **Gospel Saturation** - that the grace and love of Jesus will fill our city through the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. "The knowledge of the glory of the Lord will fill the earth as the waters fill the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

## 5 Strategic Initiatives - 1 Vision

**Gospel Saturation** is our Operating System and vision. We pursue church growth but recognize that the O.S. of church growth has created a cultural resistance to discipleship, evangelism and multiplication (see *In the Way*, Damian Gerke). The American Church needs the original church O.S. (Acts 1:8) of bringing the gospel where it has not yet been heard. As this single mission and vision drove the Apostle Paul, it is what drives us (Acts 20:24). EMWC is the bullseye we are aiming for. Here are the five initiatives that the TB4C leadership team is promoting and coordinating (I.D.E. and M.D.M are from *The Starfish and the Spirit*, Ford & Wegner).



1. **Prayer** - "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). God's work matters more than our work, so prayer must be first, ultimate and continual.
2. **Pastor Health** - "Love one another" (John 13:34). Healthy 5-fold leaders (Eph. 4:11) meet regularly in regional gatherings (COAs) to encourage, support and pray for one another.
3. **Disciplemaking** - "Make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey..." (Matt. 28:19). We train pastors to change fans into followers of Jesus.
4. **Evangelism & Service** - "You are the salt of the earth... the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-14). We mobilize all believers into a missional lifestyle.
5. **Church Planting** - "All the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord" Acts 19:10). We revitalize, plant and help churches of all kinds reproduce, focusing on areas with the greatest gospel need.

# What's it going to take to reach our city?

First, **a work of God**. No person, church or network – no matter how healthy and active – can transform a city. Only the Holy Spirit can do that as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed. And this only happens in response to the faithful and faith-filled prayers of God's people.

Second, **a unified team**. Our goal as a regional network is to help unify all the streams of God's work throughout Tampa Bay. We are one church, with one mission – to glorify the name of Jesus!

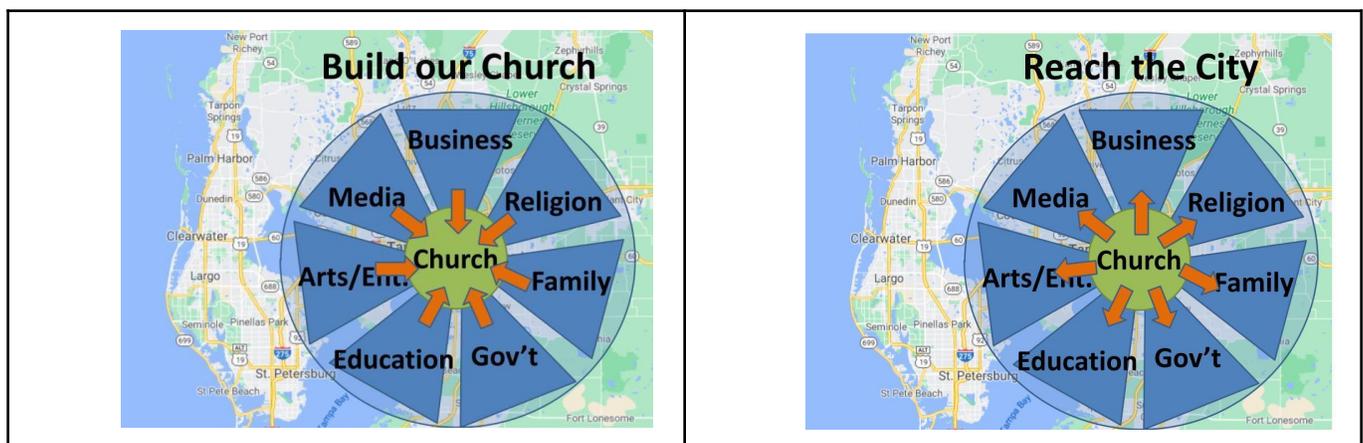
Third, **a common vision**. We need to get on the same page. If every church and every believer pulls in a different direction we will not see a movement. We need to align together around a common vision and strategy.

An excellent resource to get this process started is the **Gospel Saturation Primer** from Christ Together. All of their resources are available at [christtogether.org/resources](http://christtogether.org/resources). The Primer is designed to help us perceive the Operating System by which we approach ministry both in our individual churches and in our city. Most of us (if we're honest) are governed by the Church Growth O.S. We feel successful if, and only if, our own church is growing. (And the more it's growing the better we feel.) But is this the right O.S.? Is a growing church enough of a goal?

The phrase that unified and energized Christ Together over the last 15 years has been “every man, woman and child.” What would it take to reach every living soul in our city? Once we see the magnitude of the need and the mission, we quickly realize that one growing church – even a mega church – simply cannot get it done alone. So we need a change of mindset. In fact, we need a wholesale change of Operating System. That's what the Primer is designed to begin.

Grab 3-4 pastors in within a few miles of your church and spend 3 hours together over lunch every month for the next six months. The Primer will guide your discussion.

In short, it's the shift Eric Swanson describes in his excellent book, To Transform a City – the movement from a mission to “build our church” to the bigger vision “to reach our city.”



Most of us look at the seven sectors of society and seek to draw people from those sectors into the life of our church. This is a vital part of what it means to be and do church, but it is not the end, but the beginning of our larger mission. We gather so we can go!

We draw people in so we can send them back out! Yes, we bring in as many as we can, energize them with worship, train and encourage them – and then we send them back out as salt and light. We are not fundamentally *collectors* but rather *mobilizers*. The church is not a museum to display God's trophies of grace. It is a training center to prepare and send out proclaimers of His grace!

Here is an overview of what the Primer covers:

1. **Operating System** – When do you feel successful? How influenced are we by the church growth idol? To what extent are our churches (and leaders) aligned around this OS? What would it take to replace the church growth OS with the Gospel Saturation OS in our hearts, our churches and our city? 4 needed PRIORITY shifts:

- From collection to mobilization
- From attendance to transformation
- From competition to collaboration
- From addition to multiplication

These four shifts grow out of 4 core convictions: movement, kingdom, harvest and disciple.

2. **Movement** – What is the “win” for your church? What is the “win” for The Church in Tampa Bay? Are we content with a program that grows our church or are we ready to pursue a movement of God that will impact our whole region? What is God's WHY? What is His big picture purpose? How can we align around that purpose (the gospel saturation of cities, regions and the world!)? What might we need to let go of or adjust to start making the priority shifts above?

3. **Kingdom** – How do you distinguish YOUR church from THE Church in Tampa Bay from The Kingdom of God in Tampa Bay? What does The Kingdom look like in Tampa Bay? What if all of God's people and all of our collective resources were unleashed, not to build local kingdoms under church names but to build The Kingdom, together?

4. **Harvest** – Is your assignment primarily WITHIN your church or primarily OUTSIDE your church? What is your responsibility to EVERY man, woman and child (EMWC) within a minute's walk of your house? What is your church's responsibility to every man, woman and child within 3 miles of your property? How can we redirect our vision as leaders and as churches from only internal to also (or primarily?) external – to the harvest? What if several churches that shared geography committed to OWN the lostness of that community? What if we created a “circle of accountability” and developed a plan to reach EMWC in it, together?

5. **Disciple** – What would it take to reach EMWC in Tampa Bay? How many new churches? How many new ministries? How effective are we NOW at making disciples who make disciples? To what extent are we seeing MULTIPLICATION v. addition in our churches and

ministries? How could a discipling movement transform our churches and our city? “If we are not seeing evangelism in our people then we have a discipleship problem.”

6. **Convictions** – How can we connect the vision of gospel saturation in the Bay to reality in our churches? How can we apply the convictions above to implement the 4 priority shifts? What are the next steps in your church, with your leadership team? What are the next steps for us in our shared geography? What about in the city at large?

## Pastor Connection → Circles of Accountability

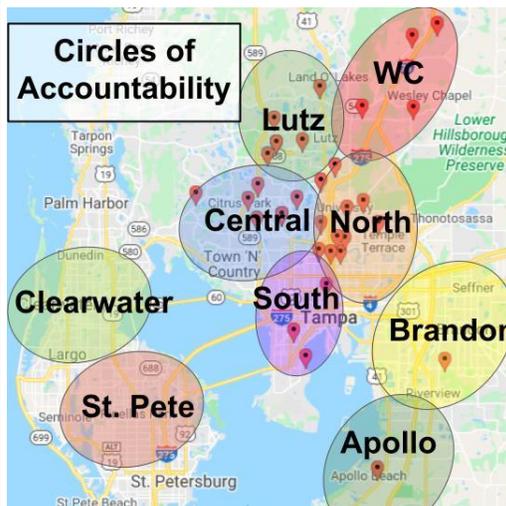
We long to see Jesus’ prayer in John 17 fulfilled.

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” John 17:20-23

We currently have four **Pastor Connection gatherings**, bringing pastors and leaders together for prayer, mutual encouragement and support. These are safe places where leaders come together monthly to eat, receive some practical training and then break into smaller groups for fellowship and prayer.

From these larger gatherings we are assembling “**Circles of Accountability**,” (C.O.A.s see the video at [tampabay4christ.org/connect](http://tampabay4christ.org/connect)) in the geographic regions of Tampa Bay. These are small groups of pastors within a few miles of each other who come together regularly for prayer, fellowship and opportunities to collaborate to reach their shared geography together.

Central - Darin@oakwoodfl.org
WC - pastorjeffolsen@gmail.com
Lutz - cyasmart@hotmail.com
North - paul@missionhillchurch.com
South - lennoxamore@gmail.com
Brandon - pastorlenharper@gmail.com
Apollo - david@seaglass.church
St Pete - Guymglass@gmail.com



## Tampa Bay 4 Christ

Bringing pastors together to:

1. **Pray**
2. **Fellowship**
3. **Mobilize & Equip** our people in pursuit of a movement of multiplying discipling makers, so that every man, woman and child in Tampa Bay has repeated opportunities to see, hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt. 28:18-20

"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20-21

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." Rom. 1:16

## Our statement of Faith

1. **The Bible is the Word of God** - inspired, infallible and authoritative, Scripture is the foundation for all we believe, say and do.
2. **Jesus is the Son of God** - the fully divine Creator and sovereign Lord, eternally one with the Father and Holy Spirit, Jesus became fully human so he could give His perfectly righteous life as a sacrificial substitute for sinners like us.
3. **The Gospel is the way to God** - all people are sinners by nature and by choice but to all who personally commit to Jesus, trusting in His atoning death and victorious resurrection to save them, Jesus promises forgiveness, freedom and everlasting life with Him.
4. **The Church is the people of God** - made up of all believers in Jesus everywhere there is one church with one mission to make disciples of all nations, laboring together in cities and regions to glorify Jesus by proclaiming the gospel and demonstrating His love.