



# **THE BEAT CHURCH**

*Restoring His abundance, one heart at a time.*

**Planting a Big Impact Church, In a Place of Big Influence**

Austin, TX - Capital City of Texas, USA



**The Beat Church**  
**Life begins with Jesus**  
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## **Packet Contents**

Why Austin.....	Page 3
Fields Ripe With Harvest.....	Page 4
Our Story.....	Page 5
Our Vision.....	Page 6
Our Values.....	Page 7
Action Plan.....	Page 8
Timeline.....	Page 11
Financial Plan.....	Page 12
Partnering Together.....	Page 13
Statement of Faith.....	Page 14



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## Why Austin?

Austin is consistently one of the top growth cities in America.

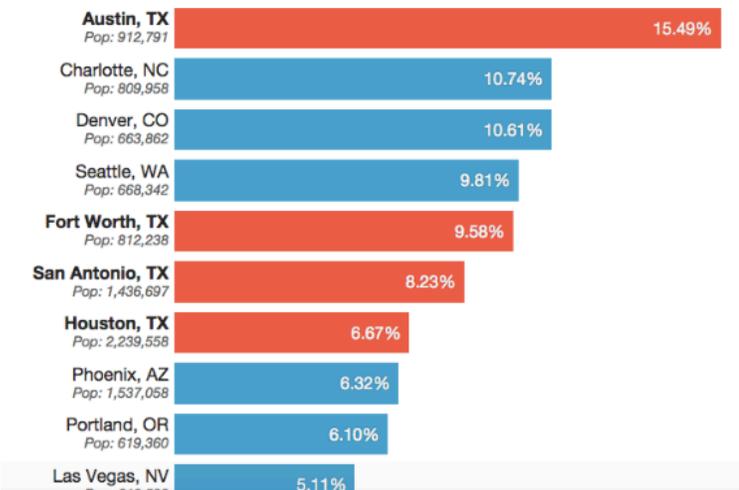
A hub of national influence in business, music, arts and politics.

Rising population rates bring spiritual opportunities in every demographic of the population.

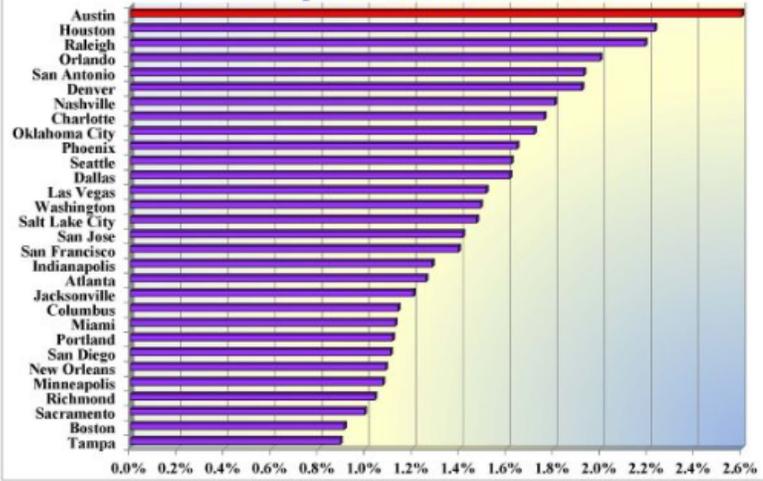
Known as the liberal armpit of the Texas, Austin is a key city in the fight to bring the culture to Jesus.

### Ten Fastest-Growing Cities in the U.S.

Between 2010 and 2014, four Texas cities were among the 10 fastest-growing cities in the U.S. for cities with a population larger than 500,000. Austin, the nation's fastest-growing big city, grew by nearly 16 percent.



### Top 30 Fastest Growing Large (1.0 million +) Metropolitan Areas: 2012 to 2013





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## **FIELDS RIPE FOR HARVEST**

Austin, Texas is consistently one of the fastest growing cities in America. Growth creates many opportunities for success but brings with it many life challenges which present an opportunity to bring the gospel by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

### **Business & Leadership**

The business & leadership opportunity is two-fold. First Austin, TX has become one of the leading business cities in America with a strong presence in technologies that will drive our culture. As believers we have the opportunity to build a gospel bridge to those who have climbed the ladder of success and influence, yet find themselves, still desperately poor in spirit. We will launch a School of Business & Leadership dedicated to developing Christian entrepreneurs and businesses for the growth of God's kingdom.

### **State and National Politics**

Austin is the capital of the largest and one of the most influential states in America. This positions Austin as a key cultural and political hub and a city that models the key cities of the Apostle Paul's church planting ministry.

### **Music and Arts**

Known as "The Live Music Capitol of the World", Austin is also a fast-growing center for the film and arts industries. These key areas have literally been instrumental, in the spread of death and demonic influence throughout our culture. There is a need for believers to rise up by claiming both music and the arts back for Jesus and using their influence to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and bring glory to our infinitely creative Father. We will be launching a School for the Music & Arts, we will also open a world class recording studio for the development of the many gifted Christians in Austin.

### **Poor and Outcast**

Rapid growth always leaves some behind. Austin, TX has a rapidly growing population and suburban poverty rate. Like Jesus, we feel the call to bring the gospel to the poor and outcast of society. With God's grace, we will do this through actions of love and service along with the preaching of the good news of hope in Jesus Christ.

### **Bringing the Love of Jesus to the LGBT Community**

Austin, TX is rated as one of the top 10 most LGBT-friendly cities. The LGBT population is one of the most challenging fields for the church to witness in. We want to change their minds about God and replace bondage and despair with the love and hope of the gospel.



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## OUR STORY

Having grown up in Portland, Oregon we've spent the last 4 years assisting in a Bend, Oregon church plant. We're now ready to pack up and take the gospel to Austin, TX. An amazing journey and a long way from where we started.

My wife Keri and I got married at 18, owned our first deli at the age of 19 and nearly divorced by the time we hit 22. Born and raised in the church I took a hard turn toward alcoholism and pornography. Underlying it all was an immense struggle with social anxieties. My anxieties were so bad that I would literally hide in our bedroom closet when people came to our home.

A close friend had the courage to drag me to the pastor's house at 3 am to expose my double life and plead for help. To make a long story short this led to an encounter with Jesus where I truly gave Him my brokenness and received a new heart. My new heart gave me a deep desire to do right but my habits still worked to drag me down the wrong roads. This is where I learned about God's plan for discipleship. I walked with a strong mentor, Wayman Steele, and a great pastor, Phil Harris, who became my closest friend. It was through his mentorship that I learned to live out my faith, be a good father and love my wife as Christ loves His church.

As I learned to be a disciple I felt the constant calling to give my life fully to God's service through the ministry. We started with baby steps and have kept saying yes to Jesus. His call led us to build community and share his love through the work of small group pastoring, which we have been doing for 17 consecutive years. Through the years there has been a consistent inner calling to plant a church, reach the lost, raise leaders and grow God's family. The call to pastor has been confirmed through several prophetic words including multiple occasions where we were pulled out of the crowd and called to pastor.

While we have waited, served, explored and prayed it became clear our first major harvest field will be Austin, TX. God has given us the vision, drawn an incredible team of leaders to join us and opened doors to make the move possible. We believe we are being called to work hard, depend on God and reap a harvest that is waiting for workers. We are answering His call to be those workers, raise leaders and plant churches that bring light to the darkness and grow God's family.

## OUR VISION

Is to seek and save the lost for Jesus, disciple them in a true lifestyle of faith, develop their God-given potential, empower them to fulfill His calling in their lives and to enjoy abundant life in Him.

### Key Communities

We will do this by bringing the light of the gospel into five strategic communities:

- Business & Leadership Community
- Music & Arts Community
- Political Community
- Poor and Outcast Community
- LGBT Community

### Reaching Out, By Standing Out

“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” Romans 1:30

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27

As believers, our lives are the greatest witness to both the existence and character of God.

Over the years I have found every area of our lives present an opportunity to bring God glory or to push people away from Him. As a business owner, I have found, like Joseph and Daniel, that excellence in my work is an incredible witness which opens doors of influence for the gospel. With this in mind, we will have a deep commitment to developing a spirit of excellence in Austin's business, music and arts communities. As we develop the gifts of God and train our people to use every opportunity to share their faith, we will trust Him to open doors of favor and influence to win souls and grow His family.

### Bringing Light into the Darkness

“The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” Matthew 11:5

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5

"Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21

We have the experience of being the ones wasting away in the torment of our own darkness. Our gratitude for what He has done demands we go back to find others. We will follow Jesus into the darkest places of Austin to be His heart, hands, and feet for the broken, poor and outcast of the city.



## OUR VALUES

### **Presence of Jesus**

John 15 makes it clear we must abide or die. Jesus did not simply save us, He sustains us. His grace and presence empower us to live for His purpose and enjoy the abundant life He came to give.

### **Gospel of Jesus**

We value the saving work of Jesus through the cross and resurrection. No matter how long we walk with Jesus we will continue to be grateful for the work He has done to make our relationship possible.

### **Community of Jesus**

In an age of “personal faith,” we value the plan Jesus modeled which is for us to share in true community. Mutual love, service, and sacrifice are all part of the intimate community we value.

### **Passion and Excellence of Jesus**

Believers are the clearest image of Jesus our world sees. We don't want to show Jesus as apathetic, uncommitted or mediocre. We value excellence in all we do because we want our lives to be a witness of the amazing Creator who has truly made all things with passion and excellence.

### **Multiplication of Jesus**

We value multiplication because it's a core value of our heavenly Father. The Great Commission is the spiritual realization of God's original plan - be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. These are realized through the continued multiplication of believers, disciples, leaders, and churches around the world.

### **Fun Faith of Jesus**

Faith should fun. Life with Jesus is an adventure and it's meant to be enjoyed. Jesus was anointed with the oil of gladness more than His companions. Joy, laughter and good times show the world we have an amazing Father who gives the abundant life He promised in John 10:10.

### **Generosity of Jesus**

Jesus was generous in every way. He gave away goods, served with His time and ultimately gave His life for those who hated Him. Jesus showed the way and we are committed to following His lead by giving of our time, treasure and talent to the world He gave himself up to save.



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## **ACTION PLAN**

“We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.”  
Proverbs 16:9 NLT

With our background as business owners and entrepreneurs, we know the value of a good plan and a commitment to hard work. As followers of Jesus, we know the greatest value is obedience to His direction. As we follow Him, we will plan the work, work the plan and hold it all with an open hand.



### **Pre-Launch: Building Our Team**

#### **Stewards of Abundant Blessing**

God has blessed us with an incredible launch team. Our team includes former youth pastors, worship leaders and small group leaders along with multiple entrepreneurs and business owners. Most importantly it is filled with people who are in love with Jesus, passionate for the lost, and willing sacrifice of themselves to extend His kingdom. We understand the rarity of this blessing and will use every tool at our disposal to develop, equip and support each member of the team.

#### **Weekly Team Gatherings**

Beginning in July 2017 we will be hosting weekly meetings with our launch team. We will use this time to pray for Austin, deepen our faith, strengthen our relationships, develop our leaders and implement the vision.

#### **Team Scouting Trips**

Beginning in July 2017 we will coordinate a series of scouting, planning, and prayer trips to Austin with the members of our team. These opportunities will allow us to prepare in advance and hit the ground running when we arrive in summer 2018.

#### **Continuing Education and Development**

Our background in business has taught us the value of continuing education and skills development. As pastors, we will work with our team in areas of spiritual growth. As multiplication minded leaders we will work with them on continuing to learn, develop and minister in their specific areas of gifting.

## **Pre-Launch: Community Bridges**

### **Business Training Workshops and Networking Events**

Beginning in January 2018, I will use my experience as a business trainer and my certification as a John Maxwell speaker and trainer, to line up and host business training workshops. I will also begin attending business networking groups in Austin. These workshops and networking groups will give me the opportunity to establish strong networks in the businesses community.

### **Faith Based Business Small Group**

With God's favor, I will use these activities to gather unchurched and like-minded business people into a small group exploring the impacts of faith in business life. This small group will be our launching pad of influence into the larger business community and a place where they can taste and see that God is good.

### **Community Business Startup**

In February 2018 we will begin the launch of a local Austin furniture store which will double as a source of income as well as a bridge into two key church plant demographic; people who are moving into the area and people going through life crisis such as divorce or death of a loved one. We have already proven the validity of this model by launching a thriving furniture store along side of a church plant in Bend, Oregon. The Bend furniture stores have been blessed financially, providing jobs to several church members, led to several salvations and brought dozens of people into the church. We know we have God's favor and with hard work and dependence on Him, we will look to duplicate the same model in Austin.

### **Neighborhood Block Parties**

We have a passion to share the joy of God's plan for true community. The field is white with harvest and we plan to put ourselves right in the middle of it. Block parties will be a key tool to gather the local community together and give us the opportunity to connect through fun, food, and friendship.

### **Neighborhood Small Groups**

The connections and friendships we make through our block parties will be used to gather the unchurched into neighborhood small groups. These small groups will be a place where all are welcome to explore the Christian faith and experience the love of Jesus.

## **Launch: Sunday Gatherings, Outreach & Multiplication**

### **Sunday Gatherings**

Every Sunday we will open our Sunday Gatherings to the community and invite them to experience dynamic worship, faith empowering messages from the Word, Holy Spirit presence and the joy of Christian community.

Our Sunday Gatherings will be preceded with prayer, planning and a commitment to offer our service to God's house with passion and excellence.

The environment will be driven by our love for Jesus and love for the lost. Everyone will feel welcomed and loved regardless of race, social class, economic status or any other line drawn by culture to divide the people God is calling to himself.

### **Community Outreach**

We are committed to moving beyond the status of a "seeker friendly church" by committing to be a "friendly seeking church." Jesus called us to bring a message of reconciliation to lost. We will do this consistently by engaging our community through block parties, small groups, women's groups, music and the arts, business and leadership events, addiction support groups, LGBT support groups and ministry to the poor.

### **Multiplication Through Discipleship and Development**

Multiplication means we can't just throw the harvest in the barn and count our blessings.

Multiplication takes intentionality and we are committed to disciple new believers, equip them, and empower them to use their God given giftings to fulfill the Great Commission.

## **TIMELINE**

### **July 2017**

Several members of our team will be making the first scouting trip for housing and ministry locations in the Austin area.

### **September 2017**

Several members of our team will make a follow-up trip to Austin in order to finalize housing and ministry locations.

### **January 2018**

As the lead pastor, I will begin booking and hosting business training workshops in Austin along with attending key networking groups to establish a faith-based business small group.

### **February 2018**

The first members of our team will move to Austin and open a local furniture store which will double as an income source and bridge to the local community.

### **April 2018**

We begin hosting monthly block parties and gathering our new connections into a neighborhood small group where they can explore the faith and experience the love of Jesus.

### **July 2018**

The remainder of our team will make the move to Austin and we will begin hosting Sunday Service in our home.

### **October 2018**

We will launch our Sunday Preview Services in a dual-use building using the income to offset facility expenses.

### **January 2019**

Having taken the time to get settled, establish businesses, network in the community, and develop our Sunday Service ministries we will capitalize on the momentum by mass marketing our official grand opening service for the first Sunday of January 2019. This service will be followed up with consistent outreach events that engage our community with the love of Jesus and invite them to “taste and see that the Lord is good.”

### **July 2022**

We are “planting pregnant” with an excellent couple who feel called to plant a church. From day one we will be committing money to a future church plant savings fund. We will also be working to identify and develop future leaders to join their team.

## FINANCIAL PLAN

### Building Financial Stability

#### **Blessing Through Faith & Obedience**

Our financial stability first comes from God's blessing and favor along with our team's commitment to tithing and generosity. We believe God is faithful to His Word and as we give generously, He will supply our needs according to His riches and glory.

#### **Establishing Local Austin Businesses**

Our pre-launch plan includes the launching of a local Austin furniture store which will help provide jobs to some members of our team and financial support for our new church. As we get settled in Austin we plan to launch several "for profit business arms" which will provide jobs and income for the church along with creating bridges into key areas of the Austin community.

#### **Dual Use Facility**

We plan to use our business building and real estate experience to position our church facility as a dual use facility, operating as a business during the week and a church in the evenings and on weekends. This strategy will allow us to create another source of connection in the community while freeing our ministry money to extend God's family rather than paying for facility costs.

#### **Preaching the Word on Finances**

We will preach His word from a place of passion. A passion that comes with the personal experiences of fulfilled promises. We have spent twenty years living the benefits of following God's plan for tithing and giving. We will challenge our people to follow our lead and invest generously to fulfill the Great Commission.



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## **PARTNERING TOGETHER**

The Great Commission is a communal calling, and we are excited to partner with you in reaching the lost for Jesus.

“If you want to go fast go alone.  
If you want to go far go together.” African Proverb

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”  
Ephesians 4:16

It gives us great confidence to step into our calling knowing we are not alone. In His perfect wisdom God has given each member of the body their role to play. Whether your role is go with us or to help with financial support the key is to be faithful to fill the role God calls you to.

### **What We Bring to the Partnership**

Our team brings a deep level of personal sacrifice and commitment. We are made up of “new testament believers”, people who are literally selling their homes, businesses and possessions to transplant their families to Austin in order to spread the gospel, grow God’s family, develop leaders, and multiply churches to fulfill the Great Commission.

### **We’re a River Not a Reservoir**

As you invest in partnering with us you can be sure we share your strong desire for multiplication. We are committed to “paying it forward” by being generous in our support of future church plants. Our generosity will include finances, training and ongoing support as we work along side them in the harvest.

### **What We’re Asking You to Bring**

#### **Your Life**

If you feel called to Austin, TX we ask you to join us. Lay your life down to spread of the gospel in one of the most influential cities in America. Jesus has promised that those who lose their life for Him, will truly find it. Be a faith jumper, take the leap and join our adventure with Jesus.

#### **Your Money**

Simply put, mission takes money. Even Jesus had a traveling treasurer. If you’ve been blessed financially there is no greater investment than empowering the church to extend the kingdom of God. It is the only financial investment that will continue to pay dividends throughout eternity. We ask you to give generously, even extravagantly, and joyfully to support our team in doing the work of God’s mission.

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” 2 Corinthians 9:7



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## Statement of Faith

### Authority of the Bible

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26).

### Trinity

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (1 John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11).

### Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory (John 1:1,14, 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:5).

### Virgin Birth

Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (Matthew 1:18, 25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 23-25; Luke 1:27-35).

### Redemption

Humanity was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell, subsequently all humanity is born in sin; humanity's only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen. 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

### Regeneration

For anyone to put their faith in Jesus Christ, they must first be drawn by the Father through the working of the Holy Spirit (John 6:44, 65).

### Salvation

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

### Repentance & Forgiveness of Sins

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives, to forgive those who have sinned against us and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His forgiveness, redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit to live a new life in Jesus Christ. Thus, through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21, 3:19; 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Matthew 6:15).



## **Sanctification**

Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11).

## **Jesus' Blood**

The Blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse mankind of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; John 1:29).

## **Jesus Christ Indwells All Believers**

Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to him thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (John 1:12; John 14:17, 23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelations 3:20).

## **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

Given at Pentecost, it is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His Ascension, to empower the church to be His witnesses, preach the Gospel and make disciples throughout the whole earth (Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6).

## **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:5-16, 4:14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10).

## **The Church**

The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23), which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-47).

## **Healing of the Sick**

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the Cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit (Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29).

## **God's Will for Provision**

It is the Father's will for believers to become whole, healthy and successful in all areas of life. All believers should seek God for the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to better serve others.

- 1 Spiritual (John 3:3-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10).
- 2 Mental and Emotional (2 Timothy 1:7, 2:11; Philippians 4:7-8; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3).
- 3 Physical (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24).
- 4 Financial (Joshua 1:8; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 34:10, 84:11; Philippians 4:19).
- 5 Relational (Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:2-3; John 13:35)

## **Resurrection**

Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation (Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21).

## **Heaven**

Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all who believe, accept and put their faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4).

## **Hell**

After living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to Hell where they will be eternally tormented with the Devil and the Fallen Angels (Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8).

## **Second Coming**

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7).

## **Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual calling to reach the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him, each other and their neighbor with their time, talents, and material possessions for the glory of God. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of His kingdom on earth. Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

## **The Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

## **Water Baptism**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12.

## **The Lord's Supper (Communion)**

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby true believers as members of the church, through partaking together of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21, 11:23-25).