



VISION UPDATE

Another Antioch Moment

We have faced many Antioch Moments in the life of Converge MidAmerica.

What is an Antioch Moment? We find this principle in Acts 13:1-3, where we discover the leaders of the church in Antioch gathering for worship, prayer, and a season of fasting as they sought God's answer to this question: "Lord, what is our next step?" This thriving community of faith was a multi-cultural church impacting this secular city with great favor from God. Luke describes it this way, "The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord" (Acts 11:21).

These leaders were seeking God's divine direction so that they would continue to be right in the midst of God's redemptive mission. Every church and mission organization will come to a moment where they need divine insight collectively among their leaders. Insight on the critical decisions that will keep them vibrantly engaged in God's unfolding mission. The leaders in Antioch received God's answer through the Holy Spirit, who said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." God's next step for them was to release their beloved mentor and coach, Barnabas, and his protégé named Saul to advance the mission. The decision ultimately changed the course of history. It made Antioch a launching pad for a whole new movement of churches spreading throughout Europe and eventually touching each of our lives today.

In 2017, we set a bold ten-year vision of being "400 Strong Churches by 2027." Miraculously today, we are 568 churches in 15 states and 27 countries in just four years. One pastor commented to me, "I really thought this 400 churches goal was very aggressive." And then asked, "Did you have any idea that this merger with Southeast would happen?" I responded, "No, at that time, Southeast was moving in a positive direction with a new leader and adequate funding."

We believe this merger was a movement prompted by God and happened because of the courageous faith and radical generosity of the Converge MidAmerica

So today, we find ourselves at another Antioch Moment. Over the next year will be calling our pastors and churches from MidAmerica, Southeast, and the Caribbean to pray and fast with us, as we consider the same question, "Lord, what is our next step?"

The difference between leaders and followers is that leaders are constantly seeking the next step. The strategic decisions that will keep their organization squarely in the center of God's great redemptive work.

As we work hard to make this merger successful, raising the necessary financial support and developing the critical systems for starting and strengthening churches, we will continue to worship, pray, and fast together in humble dependence on God and wait for the Holy Spirit's answer for our next step.

Pastors, will you lock arms with us as we worship, pray, and fast together, just as Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul did in seeking their Antioch Moment?

May our God allow us to be in the center of his great redemptive work taking place in our world.

Converge MidAmerica | Southeast | Caribbean





20 capital campaigns

TOTALING \$20+M



IN 568 CHURCHES ACROSS 15 STATES & 27 COUNTRIES



99 churches

HAVE JOINED SINCE 2010



our budget

51% CHURCH PLANTING
38% CHURCH STRENGTHENING
11% ADMINISTRATIONS & FUNDRAISING





1800+ hours

OF COACHING & CONSULTING PASTORS



3372 compassion children

SPONSORED THROUGH CONVERGE CHURCHES



2078 churches

PLANTED IN INDIA & NEPAL SINCE 2017



10 language groups

BEING REACHED

BYTHE

CHURCH PLANTING

DANNY PARMELEE. VICE PRESIDENT OF CHURCH PLANTING

the globe, everyone recognized that this moment in history changed life as we know it. Many things came to a screeching halt. Our newly planted churches had to scramble and innovate to try and keep their young churches healthy and growing. We praise the Lord that most of our church plants survived and many of them even grew through the pandemic.

church planters in our pipeline heading into 2020, most of those interested in planting hit the brakes when the country went into lockdown. Prospective planters couldn't imagine how the process of gathering and can help them discern this call. starting a church could be accomplished in this "new reality." The amazing thing is that by the Summer of 2020, God stirred in the hearts of many to plant churches, even with an uncertain future. By 2021, we ramped

is to come alongside these planters and help them fulfill the call God has placed on their lives. Each planting couple, each community they are reaching, and each While we had a great number of prospective strategy they envision is unique. We praise God for the sacrifice of each of these planters as they reach new Kingdom territory. If you know of potential church planters, send them our way so that we

> Finally, thank you for being part of a movement that gives sacrificially so that these new works can reach their communities for Christ.









Why plant a church?

IN 2015, 4,000 CHURCHES WERE **PLANTED**. IN THE SAME YEAR, 3,700 CHURCHES CLOSED THEIR DOORS.

> Five years later, our numbers aren't much better.

THE NUMBER OF CHURCHES **REPRODUCING IS ONLY 7% OF** PROTESTANT CONGREGATIONS IN AMERICA.

31% OF MILLENNIALS HAVE NO **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION.**

which is up from 22% a decade ago. Similarly, 33% of the portion of Generation Z that has reached adulthood have no religious preference.

IN 2050, THE U.S. WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY HAVE NO MAJORITY RACE.

Our churches need to consider the implications of the future for today and how to prepare churches for the new needs of this reality.

> Among new churches that practice one-on-one discipleship,

26% START A NEW CHURCH WITHIN THEIR FIRST 5 YEARS OF EXISTENCE.



Another Record Number of

NEW CHURCH PLANTERS



BRYANT & CHELSEA
APPLEGATE
LEXINGTON, KY



DANIEL & ADELINE BORTI GRAND RAPIDS, MI



SHAWN & CICILY
BUTLER
ORLAND PARK, IL



CHARLES & DONNA
BUTLER
CHICAGO, IL



STEPHAN & MONICA COBBERT ATLANTA, GA



STEFEN & NADIRAH GAGE WINTER GARDEN, FL



DWIGHT & KRYSTAL JAMES WESLEY CHAPEL, FL



BILL & REBECCA LAMOREY SARASOTA, FL



STEVE & KERRI MASON CHICAGO, IL



JUSTIN & STEPHANIE MCFARLAND MUSKEGON, MI



NATHAN & BRIANNA MEYERS HANNIBAL, MO



ZACK & ASHLE'ANNE
POTTER
WINTER HAVEN, FL



ROBERTO & MEDLEY
RODRIGUEZ
MEMPHIS, TN



DERRICK & DEANNA RUSSELL DAYTON, TN



PAUL & JILL SCOTT JACKSONVILLE, FL



DENNIS & LAKESHA
SPEARS
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA



TYLER & ALLISON TOON BOWLING GREEN, KY



TREY & LARUEN
WARREN
HARMONY, FL

NEW CHURCH CAMPUSES -



WALTER & PATRICIA ANGELICA ORLANDO, FL



ANDREW & JANAE GRIFFITHS NORTH AURORA, IL



MARVIN & DEBORAH JACKSON PALM BAY, FL



JESSY & MARILU PADILLA KENOSHA, WI



BRANDON & WHITNEY
TANKSLEY
GAINESVILLE, MO

08 2021 VISION REPORT 2021 VISION REPORT

CHURCH

STRENGTHENING

BRYAN MOAK, VICE PRESIDENT OF CHURCH STRENGTHENING

COVID and merger. These two words church strengthening directors. Andrew have marked the last two years in Church Ford in Michigan and Indiana, Kendal Strengthening. In regards to COVID, we Anderson in Florida and Georgia and were able to provide countless Zoom Gary Ricci in the Chicago Metro. Not only coaching calls to help each other figure have these three pastors been incredibly out ministry in this new environment, valuable as "boots on the ground" in these encourage one another through the places, they have helped me continue to inevitable conflicts regarding when and strategize how we can serve our churches how to open, and what "protocols" we even more effectively moving forward. lot! Because of COVID, we have instituted to get smaller, and our Together Groups what we call Second Tuesday prayer. Once are allowing us to do just that. Over 175 a month, we come together on a Zoom call from the Dominican Republic to Chicago to 16 different groups to encourage each pray for each other, our communities and other, learn with one another and dream our churches. It has been an incredible blessing to see God encourage us through expanded in their particular area. We these times.

And then, there is the merger! What an amazing adventure that has been, as we Southeast and Caribbean. I believe God has used this merger to help us be even more effective in Church Strengthening. I am blessed to have added three part -time communities!

would institute. Most of all, we prayed a As we get bigger, we need to continue pastors participate all over our region in about how they can see Christ's Kingdom are even now talking about adding more groups, to connect more of our pastors. That is what Better Together is all about!

have expanded our ministry to include the I can only imagine what the next two years will bring as we help see our churches become increasingly strong, healthy, gospel saturated and multiplying



ASSISTANCE PROGRAM











CHURCH

PARTNERSHIPS

I am blessed and excited to be in this seek common grounds with each other new role with the merger of MidAmerica as believers. Converge is a great name and the Southeast which includes the for our movement since we are coming Caribbean. This is now a huge district and together under the banner of the Cross we are growing rapidly. We are all learning to fulfill the Great Commandment and the how to be better together at a faster pace. Great Commission. My dream is to fulfill our mission and vision with like minded churches partnering together as a family of churches from MidAmerica, to the Southeast and to the Greater Caribbean. This is congruent with our history of Converge starting with Swedish immigrants who reached their fellow people and eventually reached out to the broader community going worldwide. Another interesting aspect of Converge is that we have been an Irenic movement. What does that mean?

word ειρήνη (eirene) which means peace. Irenicism is described in Christian theology since Jesus started only one church. We supreme authority in all matters.

We are affiliating partner churches with this in mind. We look for churches who affirm our affirmation of faith which is based on our interpretation of the bible in addition to affirming our mission, vision and values. We believe in believer's baptism by immersion and for the congregation to have a voice in the governance of the local church so we ask these churches to do the same. We encourage them to participate with us in prayer and to use their time, talent and treasure to be involved in the life of The word Irenic comes from the Greek our movement and our ministries. Our aim is for peace and unity in the essentials so we can align and converge together as a as the attempt to use reason to unify movement. As we learn and grow together our apologetics. The aim is peace and in regards to the non-essentials, we help reconciliation. In other words, we value the each other continue to better align to importance of unity in the Christian Church what the bible teaches because it is our

BAHAMAS	CUBA [[DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	HAITI 187	SURINAME
BELIZE	BRITISH WEST INDIE	ES GRENADA		VIRGIN ISLANDS

CURRENT CONVERGE CARIBBEAN CHURCHES



2021 VISION REPORT 2021 VISION REPORT

CONVERGE CARIBBEAN

ACTIVE & GROWING

passion of the movement.

Over the past two years the drive and passion to see the gospel advanced and Caribbean.

Converge was actively involved in the response of hurricane Dorian, as pastors were financially assisted, homes repaired by a disaster response team, containers of supplies and food were not just sent but

We are learning from The Timothy distributed to those impacted. Hot meals Initiative model of church planting to were served for over a year to those who help us develop a contextualized plan of did not have a home or kitchen. Most of action to plant churches throughout the all the love and practical application of Caribbean. There are 34+ countries and the gospel was center stage as Converge 285 million people with Spanish, English, churches from across America supported French and Ductch being the official the Dorian response and the Converge working languages and 38 other spoken. Caribbean team served for over a year languages. From the house church to the helping daily with the recovery. Due to major sanctuary and many in between Covid, we assisted and trained those models that fit the evangelistic planting leaders who had no knowledge of using social media, to continue to connect with their members and followers using zoom, Whatsapp, Facebook and YouTube.

a multiplication of disciples has resulted The Caribbean is a microcosm of the in church planting, church growth, church world and presents many opportunities affiliations, kingdom conferences, and to plant churches, send missionaries and leadership seminars. With the gospel we strengthen the many who are called and are are active in relief efforts throughout the yet to be properly equipped. Converge's focus is to reach, impact and serve those here, near and far. Those across the street and those across the world. The Caribbean is the "near" component of this facet of the movement.

COUNTRIES & NATION STATES

LANGUAGES

CHURCHES IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

CARIBBEAN TEAM



Raoul Armbrister Converge Caribbean Director



Steven Storkel Converge Caribbean Missions Director



Tom Frakes Missionary & TTI Trainer to the Dominican Republic



CONVERGE

CARIBBEAN.

"BUILT-IN

MISSION FIELD

WITHIN OUR REGION."

> The Converge MSC executive team recently had the opportunity to visit the Bahamas and fellowship with local pastors while strengthening the relationships with Converge pastors. This is a testimony of the commitment and drive to impact the Caribbean by planting and strengthening churches, and sending missionaries to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2021 VISION REPORT 2021 VISION REPORT

015



MINISTRIES

We believe that ethnic and racial diversity are part of God's creative genius and reflect God's redemptive desires; therefore, we highly value the nations of the world, especially as represented in the region we serve, and we stand against racism and bigotry while seeking to build a unified, loving portion of His Kingdom in our work here and abroad.

(PSALM 127:1, REVELATION 5:9, EPHESIANS 2:11-22)

AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES

FRED OBLETON

As African-American (AA) coordinator for Converge, I am excited about the potential we have to influence new churches and strengthen existing churches. Part of the strategy we have started and will continue is to initiate more touching points in the district with African American pastors and wives to gather for the purpose of being ministered to and empowered through gathering in order to be more effective. One such event happened on July 20th with the African American pastors and wives in the Detroit metroplex area at Moody Theological Seminary where a dinner was



served along with an inspiring message on how to handle stress after a pandemic. It was an evening of encouragement and hope.

In addition, I am looking forward to reaching out to African American youth pastors and African American millennial pastors in our district to both develop relationships, establish community and identify how to more effectively reach Millennial, Gen Z and the Alpha Generation.

40
CHURCHES IN MIDAMERICA

CHURCHES IN THE SOUTHEAST

016 2021 VISION REPORT 2021 VISION REPORT



HISPANIC MINISTRIES

JESSY PADILLA

a pastor and a leader, I realize that we are facing and the community of Round Lake. a new reality that is complicated and demands a number of changes and adjustments like never before in our generation. That being said, one thing must be clear. Our focus should be that our

Casa de Oracion is a young church, pastored by Pastor Abram Delgado. In October of 2014, Iglesia Emanuel sent Pastor Abram along with 40 other members of the church on a journey to plant a new church in Round Lake, Illinois. They launched in March of 2015, and three years later, they were organized as a church. They didn't have a building, they rented for many years and moved a couple of times.

Through the generosity of Converge MidAmerica and many churches in the Lake County Together Group God, opened the way so that they could have a home of their own. On May 2, 2021, with the generosity of Converge MidAmerica and

God is alive and gives life to the church! Despite many churches in the Lake County Together the difficult times that the church has been Group we made the dedication of the temple through in this pandemic, God is still at work. As and this has become a great blessing for them

Mexico Mission Trip - Mexico is a country of great challenges on the subject of the gospel. The evangelical Christian church is less than 2% of its population. I have had the privilege of going on God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. mission trips for more than 25 years to Mexico. We have worked with different missions, and as a result of this, we have planted two churches. One church is in the state of Michoacán. Every year we regularly take a team of people to work in this region.

> For many years, we have talked and prayed with the leadership of our Converge MidAmerica district about the possibility of incorporating churches from outside the United States. This was a mutual feeling, for many years it was something that both sides desired. This year our prayer, and the beginning of affiliating partner churches, is starting to become a reality in Mexico. Through this partnership we can work together to plant more churches.





Reasons to Praise

Iglesia Oasis, a young church in Cystal Lake, Illinois pastored by Alex Aguilar, purchased their first building in August.

Iglesia Emanuel of Waukegan, Illinois launched a new site in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Opening day was October 3.

Ignite, a Latino Leadership Program has the vision of "shaping the future of Latino churches and its emerging leaders to create a movement of healthy, growing and reproducing churches and leaders."

A new generation of young couples are about to finish the two year program.

WE BELIEVE WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER THAN WE COULD EVER BE APART.

2021 VISION REPORT 2021 VISION REPORT



FILIPINO MINISTRIES

RICK DOGUILES

We are in the process of a new construct for the Filipino Ministry in this new season with our enlarged district. The Filipino pastors in the Southeast have been meeting regularly to encourage and edify each other for many years, but now a new opportunity has arisen to connect with the Filipino pastors in MidAmerica and grow together. Our district now has the most Filipino churches in Converge. We have the opportunity to build a collaborative team of churches that will put into action the mission and vision of our district.



Filipino pastors at the installation of their new pastor at Point of Grace International Church, Joseph Jimenez passing the torch to Norbert Manzano.

OUR VISION: TO ENCOURAGE FILIPINO CHURCHES' PASTORS AND LEADERS TO **RE-EVALUATE** AND **REASSESS** THEIR CHURCHES' HEALTH LEADING TO **REVITALIZATION** AND **REPRODUCTION**.

HAITIAN MINISTRIES

STEVE STORKEL

A new network of churches just joined in Haiti. They will be using the The Timothy Initiative to plant more churches.

As of July 2021, we have 2 TTI training centers. One just outside of Hinche and one in Cap-Haitian. Hinche TTI has 6 Paul's and about 65 Timothy's. They have been meeting for about 3 months and have about 12-15 new believers. Cap-Haitian TTI group has been meeting for about 7 months. There are about 50 Paul's involved in the program and about 400 Timothy's. There have been 324 salvations in the last 4 months and 49 baptisms.

"We are happy to join Converge and be a partner for the gospel. We have been working on the Timothy Initiative since March. Each week we get together with about 60 Timothys. Right now we have 15 people who have accepted Christ into their hearts."



SIMILUS SAINCOIS NETWORK LEADER)

"Thank you for the Timothy Initiative. [It] is a wonderful program to bring people to Jesus Christ and bring them into the church. In a short time, we have 15 new believers in the church."



ACCALIAN AROLD NETWORK LEADER)



NEWLY AFFILIATED CHURCHES IN HAITI IN 2021

187 **CHURCHES** IN HAITI

WE CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF OUR REGION. 63% OF OUR CHURCHES ARE PRIMARILY CHURCHES OF **COLOR** OR **ETHNIC** IN MAKE-UP.

> MULTICULTURAL IN **MIDAMERICA**

MULTICULTURAL IN THE SOUTHEAST

DIVERSITY IN OUR DISTRICT AFRICAN AMERICAN **ETHIOPIAN** FILIPINO BRAZILIAN 2021 VISION REPORT

2021 VISION REPORT

SUPPORTING PASTORS FAMILIES

We are devoted to caring for our pastors and towards mental health. their families.

percent of pastors' wives responded that they wives via Leading and Loving It Ministries. This enjoy or are happy in their role as a pastor's group helps pastors' wives connect via video wife. They also reported that "the single calls with others that are in the same season of biggest problem facing pastors' wives is that ministry. of friendship. Fifty-six percent said they do not have close friends in the church. For some (28 percent), this is intentional."

offers the following support, mentoring and love and appreciation for our ministry couples. gatherings to encourage our pastors' wives in their unique role and to foster friendships outside of their church.

countless hours meeting one-on-one with many to rest, enjoy a top-notch speaker and connect pastors' wives in our region. This is confidential and happens face-to-face, as well as phone forward to our upcoming retreat in November calls, texting and emails.

Minister's Assistance Program (MAP): We are Connect: At our triennial Connect Conference, pleased to offer a counseling referral program we offer several breakout sessions just for to our pastors and their families. All full-time pastors' wives. These are designed specifically pastors, pastoral staff, spouses and children to provide insight and encouragement for them (college age and under) are eligible to receive as well as to make introductions with other nine sessions per calendar year with one of our pastors' wives to encourage new and ongoing qualified counselors. Each session requires a relationships. \$25 co-payment paid directly to the counselor by the pastor or family member. Converge MidAmerica pays \$70 per session to help offset the cost. In the past year, 84 pastors and families have utilized MAP, totaling \$57,500+ spent

Leading & Loving It Groups: We offer help in A survey by Christianity Today reported that 90 getting connected with a wider range of pastors'

Regional Area Dinners: We have special Regional Area Dinner gatherings with pastors and wives to create an opportunity to connect To help with that reality, Converge MidAmerica with other pastors' wives and for us to show

Pastors & Wives Retreat: Biennially, Converge MidAmerica greatly subsidizes the Pastors & Wives Retreat to provide a getaway in a One-on-One Care: Mary Rohrmayer spends beautiful setting for Converge ministry couples with other couples from our region. We look 2022 in Clearwater, FL.

Monthly Newsletter: We send out a monthly email newsletter called Encouragement for Ministry Wives that goes out to over 400 pastors' wives.

COUNSELING **SESSIONS AVAILABLE** **FAMILIES SERVED**

\$57,500+

ON MENTAL HEALTH

CONVERGE

Pastors & Wives

October 31 -November 2, 2022

Clearwater Beach, FL





at the beach for three days of rest, marriage enrichment and encouragement. It's time to **encounter** God and reconnect with your spouse. We want you to leave feeling restored and encouraged as you return home to continue in your ministry.

023

2021 VISION REPORT 022









Center Lake Bible Camp is a year-round Christian camp and retreat center in northwest Michigan working to strengthen spiritual, personal, and professional relationships for children, adults, and families through camps, retreats, and leadership training opportunities. In the beautiful north country of Michigan, Center Lake Bible Camp creates experiences that allow youth, families, and individuals to focus on Christian values and reconnect with their faith.

Center Lake provides quality Christian camping experiences for guests of all ages through summer camps, year-round retreats, and community events. The ministry at Center Lake Bible Camp also includes hosting groups from schools, secular groups, and other youth organizations.

Even in these challenging times, God has blessed Center Lake Bible Camp. We are excited to announce the opening of our new adult retreat lodge. This hotel style facility allows us to host adult retreats, workshops, and training opportunities in a comfortable, relaxing environment. Center Lake looks forward to hosting churches, groups, and individuals at our new Lodge.



WHO IS CONVERGE MIDAMERICA?

Converge is a missional network of gospel driven churches, and we at Converge MidAmerica are one of 11 regional missional arms of our partner churches. For 167 years, we have served as 'state missionaries' who coordinated regional church planting and ethnic work. Today we are not only active in starting new churches, but are fully engaged in strengthening our partner churches through consulting, training and coaching. We are committed to starting and strengthening churches that will impact the world with the message of Jesus. We are fully engaged in supporting pastors' families as well as sponsoring vision trips to help our churches touch the world.

HOW DOES FUNDING WORK?

We live at the will and the funding of our partner churches, making us financially dependent on our churches to assist with the staffing and ministry programs we provide. Because of this, we recommend the following funding structures for our churches:

- 3% of church budget for Converge MidAmerica
- 1% of church budget for Converge National

The rationale for these percentages is that Converge National has access to all of the churches in Converge, while Converge MidAmerica only has access to the churches in our region. It is our hope that our churches will also generously support regional church planters, international missionaries, benevolence and world relief projects.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONVERGE NATIONAL (AND CONVERGE MIDAMERICA?

Converge National has a national and international focus, deploying international missionaries and establishing national and international partnerships. Converge National provides international and national disaster relief programs, national chaplaincy program, Converge Retirement Plan and Converge Cornerstone Fund for church loans and investments.

Converge MidAmerica has a local and regional focus, deploying regional missionaries and church planters and establishing regional partnerships. Converge MidAmerica provides pastoral care, regional fundraising, pastoral placement and interim services, local church consulting and coaching and global vision trips for pastors and key leaders.

2021 VISION REPORT 2021 VISION REPORT 7



