



# IGNITE

## CHURCH PLANTING

Bringing hope to Chicagoland by starting churches

ISSUE EIGHT, 2020

ACCELERATING JESUS' MISSION BY STARTING CHURCHES

## Redeeming the Time

King Solomon penned these words at the beginning of Ecclesiastes 3, "There is a time for everything..." In this chapter, he details several things that are best determined by knowing the time.

Through the past six months, we have had our lives interrupted in many ways by a pandemic that has affected the entire world. I have been involved in several conversations the past couple of days with church planters and every one of us is looking ahead to when this interruption has been concluded. While it may seem to be never-ending, we know that God is in control and he is always at work. Thinking of time and timing, I know that we cannot afford to sit back and wring our hands, we must be at work. It was good to realize that we (Ignite) and our churches have not been standing still during this time. We are preparing for what lies ahead.

How are we redeeming the time as we prepare for the future?

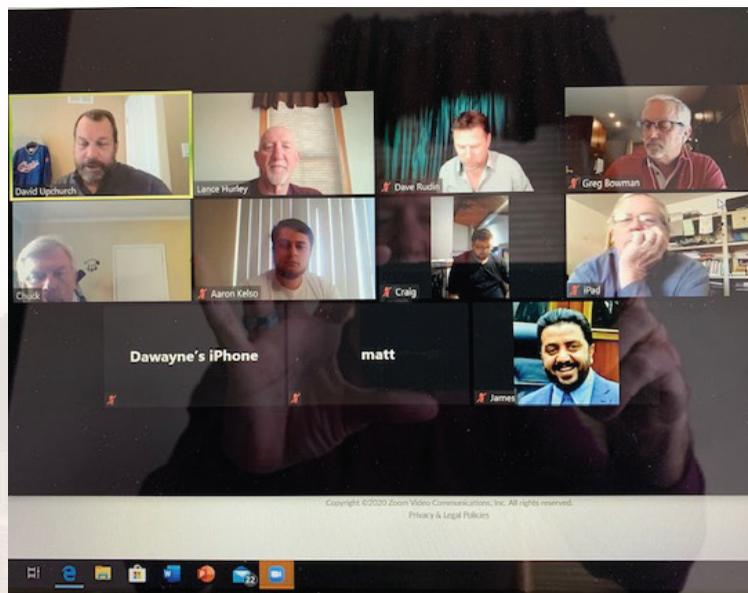
### *This is what has been happening*

**Planter Gatherings:** These gatherings have taken place virtually, but our church planters have had opportunities to talk together about best practices for streaming services online, seeking wisdom about racial tensions in our country and region, and things to think about when working toward regathering. We had a counselor talk to our planters about maintaining personal health during the pandemic and spent time praying together. We have seen the support that takes place when our planting teams gather together and these virtual meetings have been appreciated.

**Minister Meetings:** David Upchurch, Lincoln Christian University, led a roundtable discussion on "Staying Fresh in Ministry". This was a virtual meeting held via Zoom, but it was well-attended and those gathered were refreshed by Dave's insight into ministry and lessons for staying fresh in some pretty challenging times. We are planning for Dave to speak at an in-person minister's meeting in October.

**Prayer is taking place:** Ignite makes prayer a priority and every week, people gather to pray for things that matter. We have been praying for the city of Chicago, for different people groups we want to start churches for in Chicagoland and for more planters. Prayer works and it is a vital tool for our ministry.

**People are being disciplined:** I mentioned what our planters are doing together and there is another group of people growing together through the Non-Traditional Planter Training. Each month, participants view videos on key subjects and then meet via Zoom to discuss implementation of what they have learned. We are already seeing some church planting traction take shape through this effort.



**Interested in Church Planting? Contact Lance Hurley  
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## Things we are celebrating

**New Disciples being made:** RiverStone CC in Oregon, IL, Rise CC in Dyer, IN and Restore CC in Highland, IL have all had baptisms this summer (with more being planned). This picture comes from Restore and features a young man who received the mailer for the launch of Restore in October 2019. Ethan came with his father and brother and have been a part of the church from the beginning. Ethan has enrolled at St. Louis Christian College and will be attending there this fall.



**Churches Regathering:** Several of our newer churches have been able to regather on Sunday mornings. While most of them have not approached their pre-Covid 19 attendance numbers, Restore in Highland has actually grown since getting back together in-person. They began the regathering process with an outdoor service and are running about 50 each week currently.



## Things that are coming

**Church plant to a new people group:** We will have more information on this in an upcoming newsletter, but we are excited about an opportunity to plant a church that has come our way through a potential planter. Please be praying for this endeavor.

**Chicago Initiative:** This is one of the prayer mountains we have been asking God to move ahead of us this year. We have not planted many churches in Chicago, and we are planning on changing this reality. We are working on a plan to mobilize a church planting effort into the city through this initiative. Please be praying for this effort.

**New ways of starting churches:** We continue to pray for indigenous planters and for more "grass roots" church plants to spring up across Chicagoland. We are working on this plan through the Non-Traditional training mentioned earlier and will soon be adding a part-time staff position to help move this method forward.

There is a time for everything. What have you been learning through this time? We believe that this is a perfect time to bring the hope of Jesus to the many who are experiencing hopelessness. The presence of Jesus changes everything and that is why we start churches. Thank you for your help and prayers.



**For information on the next cohort, please contact Lance Hurley: (815) 685-1939 or [Lance@ignitechurchplanting.com](mailto:Lance@ignitechurchplanting.com)  
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