

# ignite church planting chicagoland

ISSUE ONE, 2019

ACCELERATING JESUS' MISSION BY STARTING CHURCHES

## ***Introducing Ignite's Director of Partner Development***



One of the prayer mountains we asked God to move in 2018 was to lead us to a Director of Development. God moved that mountain at the end of the year and we want to introduce you to Jared Mehrle, who joined Ignite's team in January.

Jared grew up in the suburbs of St. Louis and felt the call to go into ministry while in high school, so upon graduating, he attended Johnson University in Knoxville, TN. He met his wife Amy at Johnson. He has served a number of different churches and came to know Ignite while serving Suncrest Christian Church from 2005-2012.

While at Suncrest, Jared felt the call to plant a church and did so in Auburn, GA, a suburb of Atlanta. After 3 years of tireless work and prayer, they unfortunately had to close Story Church. Most people are surprised to learn that this experience didn't dampen Jared's passion for Church Planting, but in fact, stoked the fires of his passion for planting.

Jared has a desire to help people plant churches, encourage church planters, and build bridges with partners. On a more personal note, he is an avid sports fan following football, baseball, and soccer. His favorite soccer team is Liverpool FC, and he loves their anthem, "You'll Never Walk Alone." He feels this song embodies how the church should support one another.

In addition to sports, he enjoys a good cup of coffee, sitting around a bonfire with friends, and grilling large amounts of meat for friends and family.

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## ***Reaching out to Partners***

Ignite recently phoned every person on our data base to tell them our story, ask for prayer requests and invite their participation in starting churches in Chicagoland. Here is an excerpt from one of people who participated in the campaign:

"This has been wonderful to do. The people I talked to were wonderful. I had some long conversations as people talked about things they were dealing with and in need of prayer. I even talked to one gentleman who wanted more information on Rise (Ignite's new church in Dyer, IN), because they hadn't been to church in a long time but had been discussing looking for a new church. He said the call came at just the right time. Thank you for the chance to help Ignite and minister to some of the people I had the privilege to talk with." Kathy Walker

Thank you, Kathy, for making the difference you did for our partners. God is at work through Ignite.

**Interested in Church Planting? Contact Lance Hurley  
at 815.685.1939 | [lance@ignitechurchplanting.com](mailto:lance@ignitechurchplanting.com)**



## ***Prayer Mountains for 2019***

Every year, we ask God to move in some large ways for our church planting ministry. We call these large requests “mountains” as we reference Matthew 17: 20, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Believing that statement, here are the “BIG” things we are asking the Father to move ahead of us during 2019:

- 1. Plant 5 churches in Chicagoland:** We are specifically praying that we start two in urban areas and two in suburban areas (and trusting God to lead us to where #5 will be);
- 2. Partner with 3 plants outside Chicagoland:** We are currently working with Heartland Evangelizing Association to help with the Highland, IL plant in fall 2019 and are praying for two other opportunities to partner in planting;
- 3. Identify 20 church planters for Ignite’s pipeline:** We continue to pray that God brings us workers for the harvest. Specifically, we are praying for one planter to come to us from each of the four people groups identified in Chicagoland;
- 4. Raise up 100 new individual donors for Ignite:** Here is where we want to be praying for Jared Mehrle as he helps develop more partners for our ministry;
- 5. Develop a matching fund for planting:** In August, we will be receiving \$100,000 for church planting. We want to match that with another \$100,000 that will provide the funding for at least four churches;
- 6. Multiplication for the future:** We have several different initiatives that will begin this year – the Parent Church Network, Freelance Planter Academy (for training non-traditional church planters), along with several opportunities for the development of other “arms” of Ignite that can be of benefit to the Kingdom.
- 7. Open to surprises from the Father:** God surprised us several times during 2018 in exciting ways, we want to pray for open eyes and hearts to respond to surprises this year.

