



Garden City

CHURCH

Making disciples to impact the city for Jesus

A new church plant in San Jose, the Capital of
Silicon Valley and America's 10th largest city

*A document for potential launch team members and supporters of
Garden City*





THE VISION

Dear Friends,

San Jose is California's first city. Founded in 1777, the early settlers of San Jose called their new home the "Garden City" because everything they planted grew and flourished in the city's good soil and temperate climate. This was a prophetic name for the city that's grown to become the "Capital of Silicon Valley." Silicon Valley is home to major global corporations such as Google, Apple, eBay, Cisco, and Adobe. Today, San Jose is America's 10th largest city—a flourishing city of over 1 million people whose innovation is impacting the rest of the world. San Jose is a strategic city that plays a pivotal economic and cultural role in our global world. What happens in Vegas might stay in Vegas, but what happens in San Jose impacts the world.

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If even ten percent of the evangelicals of our nation moved into the largest cities and lived out lives of love, truth, and servanthood, the culture would be fundamentally changed

-James Montgomery Boice

I love San Jose. It's a beautiful place to live and work. Yet San Jose is also a broken city teeming with busy people seeking meaning, hope, and glory everywhere except in the God who created them. The 8 million-person San Francisco Bay Area is the most un-churched region in America.¹ Forbes Magazine calls San Jose both "The most innovative city in America" and "The most sinful city in America."² San Jose needs not just one new church, it needs scores of new church plants. Things don't have to stay the way they are. My dream is for Garden City Church to pioneer a gospel movement, a church planting movement, in the Bay Area.

The story of the Bible starts in a Garden (Eden) and ends in a Garden City (the New Jerusalem). It's the story of God rescuing and redeeming broken people and renewing broken cities. I believe God has called me to plant something new in the Garden City—to plant a church that will impact a city that's impacting the rest of the world. Through Garden City Church we hope to make the gospel of Jesus Christ accessible to the people of San Jose in a new and profound way. Read this document to consider how you can join us and make a difference.

I'm a 5th generation Californian who has spent the last 9 years working as a pastor in the Bay Area. I've been dreaming about this church for years. It is finally time. My prayer is that San Jose will be a better city because Garden City Church exists.

Warmly,



Justin Buzzard



THE MISSION



Making disciples to impact the city for Jesus.

Gospel *Disciples of Jesus*

The gospel is the good news that we can enjoy a relationship with God and bring renewal to the world through the work, record, and performance of Jesus, rather than through our own performance. The gospel is how we both get in and grow in the Christian life. This message changes us from the inside out—first transforming our hearts, then our behavior. The gospel frees us to continually discover and say, “I am more broken and sinful than I ever dared believe, but in Jesus I am even more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope.” This provides a radically new orientation to life and work for the people of San Jose. The gospel frees us from the idols that drive us—frees us to live for God’s glory, not our own. Jesus changes everything. He gives his disciples a new identity, a new record, and a new future. The gospel is the driving center of everything we are and everything we do as a church.

Community *Disciples Together*

Through the gospel we gain a new community, a new family of deep friendship with brothers and sisters in Christ who come from all walks of life. We grow in Christ and put his love on display as we open up our lives to participate in community that’s built upon grace. The church is not a meeting you attend, it is a network of relationships you belong to—relationships that share a common confession and mission. As we do life together in community, with God’s Word at the center, disciples are made. Jesus changes us and uses us. He shrinks our pride and surfaces our gifts. We come to see that all people stand on equal ground at the foot of the cross, giving us a freeing humility that welcomes the messy and glorious work of church community. We experience community as a church in three crucial contexts: Sunday worship (large community), Neighborhood Groups (small community), and naturally formed friendships (micro community).

Vocation *Disciples on Mission*

God gives his people unique vocations. He calls each of us to unique roles and unique work that we fulfill in order that others may flourish. God wants us to thrive in our vocations, and minister through our vocations. As we carry out our callings with excellence and joy in the homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces where God has placed us, we carry out God’s mission. We are a church of missionaries, a church where every disciple is on mission to both declare and demonstrate the gospel. We do our most fruitful mission work by living out our ordinary lives with gospel intentionality, not through attending a busy schedule of religious activities. As we learn to love God and do what he has called us to do with our distinctive vocations, it is there that we find ourselves engaged in work that makes San Jose a better city.

THE VALUES



Why the City and Why Plant Churches?

The city is more important than it's ever been. Right now, more people live in cities than at any other time in human history. Never before has the majority of the world's population been an urban population.

Cities have always played a central role in human history and in God's redemptive plan for the world. Cities have long stood as powerful places of cultural development, influence, and invention—offering hope, refuge, and new beginnings. But never before have cities been as populated, powerful, and important as they are today.

The world is changing. Our world is experiencing the largest movement of urban growth in history. Our world is now predominately urban, and there's no going back.

This new reality, this new world, presents a historic opportunity for Christians.

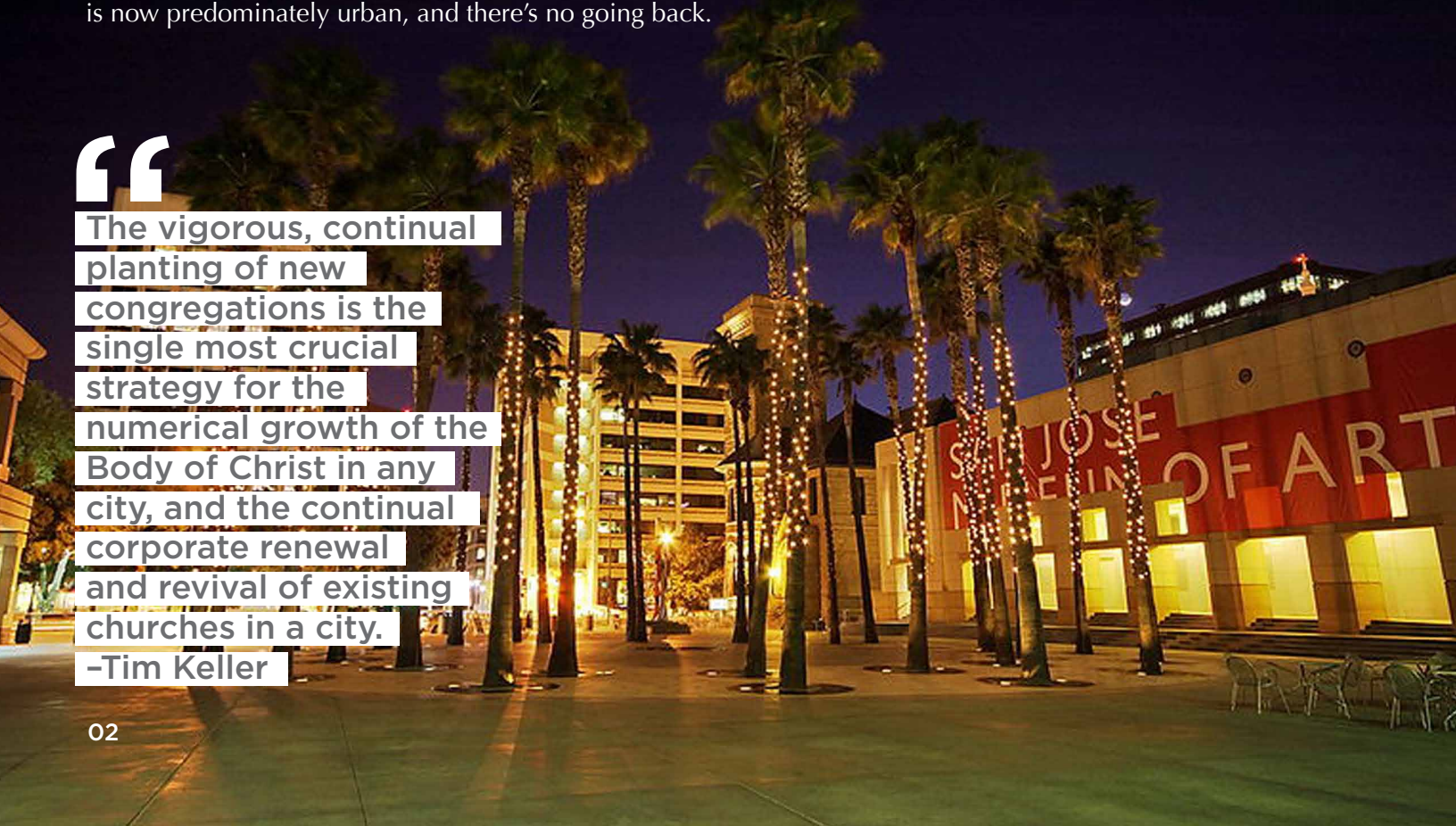
At no time in history has our world looked so similar to the setting of the early church. Read the book of Acts and you read about a world that looks much like our own—an urban, pluralistic, cosmopolitan, diverse, dynamic, rapidly changing, and fast-developing world. Two thousand years ago, God built his kingdom through planting churches in cities. The book of Acts is a story about the geographic expansion of the gospel through city church planting. Jerusalem, Ephesus, Corinth, and Rome are where churches were planted, the gospel was preached, and disciples were made. These cities became healthier communities because Christians were there.

These cities were strategically engaged so that surrounding regions could be reached. Today's world is similar, only today if you reach a city then you reach the world. Never before has the majority of the world's population been a city population. Never before have urban centers held such significance and power. What we're witnessing is both similar to and grander than the world inhabited by the early church. The opportunity is staggering. What God did two thousand years ago is something that God can do again today. In fact, God can do something even greater in our day—for he is God and our cities offer tremendous potential for gospel growth. The dream behind Garden City Church is rooted in these biblical convictions.

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The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for the numerical growth of the Body of Christ in any city, and the continual corporate renewal and revival of existing churches in a city.

-Tim Keller



Target Area

Our target area is downtown and midtown San Jose, a rapidly growing and revitalized region that reflects the vibrancy and diversity of the city. Bordered by San Jose State University and Santa Clara University, downtown/midtown is home to thriving businesses and diverse neighborhoods. The population represents the broader population of San Jose: 31.9% Hispanic; 31.8% white; 30.6% Asian; 2.9% African-American. More than one-third of San Jose residents were born outside the U.S. The median age in the city is 33. The economy is innovation-driven: San Jose leads the nation in production of patents, receives double the venture capital funding than the national average, and boasts the highest median income of a large U.S. city (\$103,500 for a family of 4). The cost of living in San Jose is among the highest in the nation. The population of San Jose continues to swell, and the fastest growing region is downtown/midtown—home to an unchurched, upcoming generation. Our Sunday worship services will be held in the heart of downtown, at the historic [Theatre on San Pedro Square](#).



In the United States there are over 200 million unchurched people, making the U.S. the third largest mission field in the world.
-Barna Research



Justin Buzzard – Planting Pastor



Justin Buzzard is a 5th generation Californian who has spent the last 9 years living and pastoring in the San Francisco Bay Area. Justin’s ministry and preaching has especially focused on the rapidly growing demographic of twentysomethings and thirtysomethings in the Bay Area. Justin has been married to the woman of his dreams, Taylor, for 7 ½ years. Justin and Taylor are raising 3 little warriors age 4 and under—Cru, Hudson, and Gus.



Justin’s passion is enjoying and communicating the good news of Jesus. He’s especially passionate about what God will do through Garden City Church and he feels a particular burden to reach Bay Area men. Justin blogs regularly at [BuzzardBlog.com](#), is the author of [Consider Jesus](#), and is working on two book projects. You can find Justin running on Bay Area trails, wrestling with his sons, dating his wife, and hanging out with friends old and new. B.A. Communication Studies, Westmont College, 2000; M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary, 2006.

Accountability Partnerships



Garden City Church is being planted in partnership with [Mercy Hill Church of San Jose](#), [Acts 29 Church Planting Network](#), and the [NorCal Network](#). The elders of Mercy Hill Church will provide oversight, along with Justin Buzzard, of the people and money of Garden City until elders are raised up for Garden City Church.



Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.
-William Carey

Doctrine

Garden City Church is a non-denominational church that affirms the historic Apostle’s Creed and the Acts 29 Network [Doctrinal Statement](#). Our statement of faith is The Gospel Coalition [Confessional Statement](#).

Timeline

FEBRUARY 2011

- The Buzzard family moves to San Jose and gets settled.
- Justin continues to network in the city, gather launch team members, and fundraise.

MARCH 2011

- Garden City informational meeting at Theatre on San Pedro Square for anyone interested in the church: **March 9th, 7pm.**
- Garden City launch team begins meeting weekly as a “Neighborhood Group” for training, community, prayer, and mission.

APRIL 2011

- Additional Neighborhood Groups are formed as God grows the launch team.

SEPTEMBER 2011

- Launch Sunday worship service.
- Launch additional Neighborhood Groups.
- Begin holding quarterly Cultural Engagement Seminars.
- Plan for first annual Garden City Church Retreat.



I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

—Jesus

How You Can Help Make It Happen

For a church plant to come to life, many people need to help. There are 3 ways you can play a key role in bringing Garden City Church to life: **Give, Join, Pray.**

GIVE

We are seeking \$150,000 in external funding over two years to launch this project and make it self-sustaining. This is a modest figure considering the enormous expense of living and working in San Jose. We are seeking individuals, churches, and organizations to partner with us in starting Garden City Church through financial giving. Gifts can be given as a one-time donation, or spread over two years.

—2 Year Budget—			
	Year 1	Year 2	TOTAL
EXPENSES	125000	175000	300000
INCOME			
Outside Giving	75000	75000	150000
Congregational Giving*	50000	100000	150000
* Estimate			
Attendance Assumptions			
Adult	70	130	
Children	15	30	
Total	85	160	



GIVE (continued)

At this time, gifts are being received by our sponsoring church, Mercy Hill Church. Checks can be mailed and payable to:

*Mercy Hill Church,
6455 Almaden Expwy Suite 207,
San Jose, CA 95120*

Note that the check is designated for Garden City Church/Justin Buzzard. All funds will go to Garden City and you will automatically receive a receipt for each tax deductible gift. Your giving will support salary, insurance, development, administration, staffing, and rental expenses of Garden City Church.

We are asking those who have the resources to give boldly to this project through a large one-time gift or through gifts spread over a two-year period. We are asking those with lesser resources to give what they can, either through a one-time gift or ongoing giving. In the life of a young church plant, every single dollar makes a difference. If you want to talk further about making a contribution, please contact Justin Buzzard at 650.787.5464 or justin@gardencitysanjose.org.

JOIN

Right now the launch team for Garden City Church is forming. God is bringing together a diversity of people from San Jose and to San Jose to be part of Garden City Church. If God is putting a fire in your belly to join this team, if this is something you've prayerfully considered and if you believe in the vision and values of this exciting new initiative, contact Justin Buzzard justin@gardencitysanjose.org and be sure to attend our informational meeting on March 9th.

PRAY

Prayer is the number one means to any movement of God's Spirit. Please be praying for Garden City Church, our mission, and the city of San Jose.

We are dreaming big and praying big, believing God can use Garden City Church in mighty ways.



...there are no organizations that can parallel the potential long-term, holistic, transformational impact on the world like healthy, growing, reproducing churches.

-Steve Childers



Scripture tells us the story of how a Garden is transformed into a Garden City, but only after a serpent had turned that Garden into a howling wilderness...which lasted until an appointed warrior came to slay the serpent, giving up his life in the process, but with his blood effecting the transformation of the wilderness into the Garden City. -Doug Wilson



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