

Northwest University

DEVELOPING A PLAN OF ACTION
TO PLANT A NEWLIFE CAMPUS
IN TRI-CITIES, WA.

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ABSTRACT

Tri-Cities, Washington, is one of the fastest growing regions in the country, but the Church isn't keeping up. What kind of church does the Tri-Cities need? Could newlife be part of the solution? I believe newlife can reach the unreached in the Columbia Basin area by focusing on the mission of Jesus Christ to help heal the world.

This project followed the Biblical and historical narrative of church planting and then compared these key insights with the methods and mission of newlife church.

The study focuses on four primary questions: How does a church that has worked in Kitsap County (where newlife launched) assert itself in another community? What parts of the church (theology and methodology) translate into a new context? What about the language of the culture? How do things like ethnicity, economics, and family structure affect the strategy of this particular newlife campus?

Finally, as insights were made, a plan of action including planting the campus was given.

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Statement of Problem

Recently I was approached by a friend about the state of the church in Tri-Cities, Washington. My friend, being blatantly honest, said, "There is no church for me here." Feeling the pain of seeing my friend falling away from Christ, I began to fast and pray about an answer. The idea of planting a church in the Columbia Basin for people who have no church became the solution. But what kind of church does the Tri-Cities need? When would the church need to be launched? And ultimately, how would the church contextualize itself into a community that is accustomed to traditional churches?

The Tri-Cities is a growing community made up of three cities, Pasco, Kennewick, and Richland, yet in 2000 only one in three attended a church.¹ It seems the problem isn't that people are leaving the region. The problem is that there are people coming but they have no place to make their home church. Furthermore, Tri-Cities isn't lacking churches; there are 178 churches to choose from.² The church isn't reaching the majority of these new people. From 2000 to 2009, Pasco alone grew 83%³, yet seventeen churches closed their doors over the same period.⁴

I am indigenous to the Tri-Cities. I was born and raised on a family farm just outside the city. I graduated from Pasco High School in 2005 and moved away to

¹ "Demographic Reports of United States 1790 to Present." Social Explorer. Accessed October 06, 2011. <http://www.socialexplorer.com/pub/reportdata/htmlresults.aspx?ReportId=R10110977>.

² Ibid. Report given in 2009.

³ Michelle Duplar. "Pasco Population Still Booming." Front | Tri-City Herald : Mid-Columbia News. Accessed October 06, 2011. <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/06/26/1070302/pasco-population-still-booming.html>.

⁴ Writer's note: a comparison of 2000 data and 2009 data from the Social Explorer reports.

attend Northwest University and serve at newlife⁵ church. As my journey continued, I came on staff at newlife in 2008 and served in a variety of roles, including apprenticeship, video venue, and youth pastor. The Jesus-centered focus of newlife has inspired me. It's all about Jesus, and it is producing results. newlife has been listed as one of the 100 fastest growing churches in the U.S. in 2009 and 2010.⁶ It is a young and vibrant church that was launched in 2004 and now reaches 2,800 people over five campuses on a weekly basis. There is a sense that this is how the church was created to be. newlife needs to be in Tri-Cities for people like my friend. Yet, the issues of timing, calling, and experience have held this church plant from happening.

newlife is part of the answer to the need in Tri-Cities. newlife is growing, and Tri-Cities is flourishing. How does a church that has worked in Kitsap County (where newlife launched) assert itself in another community? What parts of the church (theology and methodology) translate into a new context? How should things like ethnicity, economics, and family structure affect the strategy of this particular newlife campus?

Tri-Cities is a booming region with few growing churches.⁷ The scope of this research project is to create a contextualized blueprint to plant a newlife campus in Tri-Cities. This paper will discuss research topics like demographics,

⁵ Writer's note: newlife's brand is century gothic, all one word, in lower case lettering. I will refer to newlife church in this form from this point on.

⁶ "Largest and Fastest-Growing Churches in America." OutreachMagazine.com. Accessed October 05, 2011. <http://www.outreachmagazine.com/features/3769-Largest-and-Fastest-Growing-Churches-America.html>.

⁷ Michelle Duplar. "Pasco Population Still Booming." Front | Tri-City Herald : Mid-Columbia News. Accessed October 06, 2011. <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/06/26/1070302/pasco-population-still-booming.html>.

socioeconomics, facilities, budget, and team members to develop a strategy and timeline for action. The hope of this applied research project is to reach a community that is not fully being reached. Finally, as a result of research being gathered and processed, a finalized plan of action will be recommended to proceed with the church plant.

Literature Review

Definitions

On a recent trip to Tri-Cities I found myself at a middle school gym watching my nephew play basketball. As I panned the room I saw a variety of different faces: one was a first-generation immigrant, another was a person who had a tattoo on his head, and there were also farmers and middle-class Caucasians there. I wondered, “How can Jesus reach all of these different people? How can the gospel be presented to all of these unique individuals?” As I sat there pondering, I heard God’s voice. It was a simple small voice. What I heard was: “church.” There is something powerful when a group of diverse people comes together around one mission, one story, one God. It is why the church is the hope of the world. It is why we need more churches. It is why church planting is so powerful and so important.

Now, there are a variety of thoughts on church planting. It is something that is both urban and rural. It has become globally effective with new churches being planted around the world. It is truly how the movement called Christianity got started. Jesus cast a vision for his followers to “go and make disciples of all the nations.”⁸ Jesus saw church planting as an *imperative*, and that means we need a lot

⁸ Matthew 28:19 NLT

of churches all across the world. Since Jesus' time there have been many church plants. Every single church has a start. Many churches have an end. But Jesus' Church will not end. Jesus said this about the Church: "I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."⁹ So why plant a church today 2000 years after Jesus? Hasn't the gospel spread enough? Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears, in their book *Vintage Church*, simply believe that more people need to meet Jesus.¹⁰ Still, others believe that "an established church can enjoy the luxury of remaining stable; a church plant must grow or die."¹¹ Again, Tri-Cities is growing, and the church in Tri-Cities is primed to grow as well.

A simple definition of a church plant is that it is a new church in a given community. More specifically, "biblical church planting is evangelism that results in new churches."¹² Jesus has called Christians to live out this great calling to reach people with the good news of the gospel. This happens in a variety of ways, but results in more churches and more communities gathering to worship God. Just as there are many different types of denominations within Christianity, there are also a variety of different types of church plants. Ed Stetzer breaks this down into three types: there can be a team planting church, a founding pastor plant, and an apostolic harvest church plant.¹³ A team-planting church is where a group of people come together to launch a new work. A founding pastor plant is where one man or

⁹ Matthew 16:18 NLT

¹⁰ Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears. *Vintage Church: Timeless Truths and Timely Methods*. Google Books. Accessed October 05, 2011. <http://books.google.com/books?id=iXzgmAMpM8C>.

¹¹ S. Snook. 2010. Reaching New People through Church Planting. *Anglican Theological Review* 92, no. 1, (January 1) 111-116. <http://www.proquest.com/>. Accessed October 5, 2011.

¹² Jervis David Payne. *Discovering Church Planting: an Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Milton Keynes, U.K.: Paternoster, 2009. 4.

¹³ Ed Stetzer. *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2003. 49-69.

woman has a vision to see a church launched in an area. An apostolic harvest church plant is where a church sees an opportunity in a new area and plants there (much like a video venue plant). Stetzer also believes that the church must shift to become what he calls: “missional.”¹⁴ So often the church focuses on “missions” as a global endeavor and misses that it is both a global focus and a local necessity. If we only focus on who is across the ocean and not who is across the street we have missed the mission of God.

Biblical Philosophy of Church Planting

The Mission of God, or *Missio Dei*, is to bring people back to Him. Throughout Scripture we see a picture of God who is personal¹⁵ yet distant.¹⁶ It is through the incarnation, the fact that God became a man in the form of Jesus Christ, that we receive a picture of the heart and the “mission” of God.¹⁷ The mission doesn’t end with Christ coming, dying, resurrecting, and leaving. It is much bigger than that. It presses on with God calling, equipping, transforming, and sending. Throughout the book of Acts, we see the Church emerging in cities, homes, and regions.¹⁸ Primarily, this story of the “mission” starts with a commission,

Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”¹⁹

The planter first receives *commissioning* from Jesus. It seems that every movement or church plant must first start with a calling. Dave Ferguson, author of

¹⁴ Stetzer. 15.

¹⁵ Genesis 3:8 NLT

¹⁶ John 1:18 NLT

¹⁷ John 1:10-12 NLT

¹⁸ Acts 8:1, 11:19,22, 15:41, 20:17 NLT

¹⁹ John 20:21-23 NLT

Exponential, argues, “Every movement starts with one person. When you and your friends become apprentices of Jesus, you will follow in his footsteps and say to others ‘come follow me.’”²⁰ Jesus, as he invites us to follow him, leads us to become a new creation.²¹ N.T. Wright, in his book, *Simply Jesus*, argues,

“There is a love, a deep, moving warmth that goes out from Jesus. But this love is strong, powerful, life-changing, life-directing. New Creation has begun; and its motivating power is love.”²²

Our movement starts with Jesus, but that is not where it ends. In his final words, Jesus says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”²³ Imagine what a group of tax collectors, fisherman, and ordinary people would be thinking when they heard Jesus’ final charge to go to the ends of the earth. Their thoughts must have been, “Wait, you’re leaving?” But Jesus’ dream and vision was for all people and all nations to be in relationship with God. Again, it is his “mission.” Because of that, Christians are empowered by the Holy Spirit to start new movements across the earth in the name of Jesus. As a Christian follows Jesus, it becomes his or her new nature to witness, so when a church isn’t seeing conversions, it is natural for a church plant or re-launch to happen in that area. Peter, in Acts 2, is filled by the Holy Spirit and can’t help but share (or witness) what God is up to. He says,

²⁰ Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson. *Exponential: How You and Your Friends Can Start a Missional Church Movement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010. 16.

²¹ 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

²² N.T. Wright. *Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters*. Harper One, 2011. 194.

²³ Acts 1:8 NLT

“Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God... Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.”²⁴

As a person gives his heart to Jesus, it always leads to conversations that invite others to follow and obey Jesus. And, as we see in the story of Peter, people are added to the church – growth happens.

Colossians 4 says, “Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”²⁵ The “living wisely,” seeing where people are, is what enables one to make the *most of every opportunity*. It is in the paying attention that one sees the opportunity to bring hope, God’s love, and the truth. As followers of Jesus, we create meaningful relationships with friends and neighbors and start by talking about everything under the sun, while watching and waiting for the opportunity to bring in God’s outrageous love. A Christian *creates opportunities* when he or she gently weaves the Good News into interactions and conversations with people. It’s the truth wrapped up in one’s life.

The Bible is clear about what it looks like to witness and make the most of every opportunity, but what do church plants look like in the Scriptures? In Acts 13 we observe the first missionary journey specifically designed to plant churches in new areas. As we read the Scriptures, we see two people being sent out for mission.

²⁴ Acts 2:38-39, 41. NLT

²⁵ Colossians 4:5-6 NLT

One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.²⁶

Saul and Barnabas went from town to town evangelizing the Jews and Gentiles with the message of Jesus Christ. Conversion happened, and then churches were formed. Through the transformation of the soul, community and worship are the logical next steps. Community happens because no one does the mission of Jesus alone. He always calls Christians to be united. Worship is how followers of Jesus get out of the center of their lives and put Jesus there.

During the first century, the Roman city of Colossae experienced its own church plant when an indigenous man named Epaphras began sharing the good news in his town.²⁷ Colossae was a trading town in the Roman Empire filled with diverse ideas, philosophies, and worldviews²⁸ (much like Tri-Cities.) In the midst of this cultural diversity, a church emerges, and suddenly these new believers are right in the middle of the culture. They are exactly the people Jesus would pick to be his disciples. How does the Gospel of Jesus, this good news that God is inviting people into relationship with Him, compete with other views? Here is what Paul writes:

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. *Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.* He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his

²⁶ Acts 13:2-3 NLT

²⁷ *ESV Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008. 2289.

²⁸ Tullian Tchividjian. *Jesus + Nothing = Everything*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011. 59.

fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.²⁹

A central viewpoint in church planting is to understand that Christ is the head. He is the lead pastor. This belief is the core of a biblical philosophy of church planting. This isn't the pastor's vision. It's God's vision. For a place like Colossae or Tri-Cities, diverse beliefs are answered with one simple statement: Jesus is Lord. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."³⁰ This simple statement centers everything on Jesus. As the Church focuses is on Jesus, we are led to go on the mission with him because he is the "author and perfecter of our faith."³¹

There is a general theme surrounding "the mission" in the book of Acts. It clearly appears in the Macedonian Call. As Paul was traveling, he had a vision. It was of "a man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us!'"³² Every church plants starts with an idea to come and help. There is also a Biblical emphasis on gathering together. In Hebrews it states, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..."³³ The clearest picture of Church in the New Testament is found in Acts chapter two. It says:

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper, and

²⁹ Col 1:15-20 NLT emphasis mine

³⁰ Romans 10:9 NLT

³¹ Hebrews 12:2 NLT

³² Acts 16:9 NLT

³³ Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.³⁴

This was a response to evangelism and transformation. As people respond to the Gospel, church plants emerge in their context. We've seen how church are planted and developed in the Bible. What are some of the key highlights of church plants throughout the Church's history? And how do these church plants point to what God is up to in Tri-Cities?

Church Planting Highlights

Darrin Patrick believes that the "church is part of God's plan from all eternity and is connected to God's mission from creation."³⁵ What are historical highlights of church planting? Although church planting is a relatively new term, it is usually interlinked with evangelism. "Historically, the church talked about evangelism, both as the Bible's mission as well as the means to that mission."³⁶ What is evangelism? Jack Stotts believes that "if evangelism means anything it means assisting the search for the regeneration of the central principle of one's life..."³⁷ It can be said that evangelism is like planting a seed in someone's heart and soul. Paul said this to the church he planted in Corinth:

"I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed

³⁴ Acts 2:42-44 NLT

³⁵ Darrin Patrick. *Church Planter: the Man, the Message, the Mission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. 185.

³⁶ "The History and Place of Church Planting." Biblical Foundations for Freedom (BFF) Homepage - View BFF's Material. Accessed October 06, 2011.

<http://www.foundationsforfreedom.net/Topics/Ministry/Wujya/ChurchPlant02.html>.

³⁷ Jack L. Stotts. 1985. "Evangelism as recovery of the gospel." *Austin Seminary Bulletin* (Faculty ed.) 100, no. 8: 5-13. ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials, EBSCOhost. Accessed October 6, 2011.

grow.”³⁸

Still others have said this about evangelism: “The seed always needs soil in which to grow - the Gospel always needs a culture in which to be planted, and Holy Spirit produces various harvests in each culture and in each of us.”³⁹ A planted church, whether in the early church or in the twenty-first century, historically is created to bring new people to Christ.

Saint Patrick, who himself was sold into slavery at sixteen in Ireland, found his way back to those who enslaved him when he experienced his own “Macedonian Call.”⁴⁰ He was sent to people who were seen as barbarians, yet it didn’t stop him on his mission to reach a nation. He was sent by God to preach the gospel and plant churches in towns where there was a need. The initial birth of a church plant is for someone to see a need and want to do something about it.

In 1906, a historical shift in Christianity took place in one of the most unlikely places: a backstreet in Los Angeles. It was out of this revival, named “The Azusa Street Mission,” that full denominations (and church plants) were born. William Seymour, son of former slaves, led this movement. It had one basic idea, “They were expected to pursue God, and then to be overwhelmed and transformed by God in the resulting encounter.”⁴¹

Still, as America was experiencing a revival, across the Pacific Ocean there was something special happening in China. The people of China were coming to

³⁸ 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 NLT.

³⁹ Michael J. Oleska. 1997. “Evangelism and Culture.” *Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 42, no. 3-4: 531-538. ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials, EBSCOhost. Accessed October 6, 2011.

⁴⁰ George G. Hunter. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West-- Again*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010. 15.

⁴¹ Cecil M. Robeck, Jr. *The Azusa Street Mission & Revival: The Birth of the Global Pentecostal Movement*. Nashville: Nelson Reference & Electronic, 2006. 10.

Christ in masses. “A major reason for this was the dramatically altered climate of reception to Christianity in China.”⁴² There is no greater place that has felt the impact of church plants in the past 100 years than China. In 1949, when the Communists took power in China, less than 1% of the population was Christians.⁴³ Now over 130 million Chinese are Christians.

My own denomination, The Assemblies of God, saw tremendous growth in its first decade as it established itself as a movement.⁴⁴ As Edith Blumhofer put it, “Evangelism is part of its (the Assemblies of God) reason for being.”⁴⁵ And many denominations, including the Assemblies of God, are now focusing even more on church planting at home and abroad.

Church planting works. If we look back in our history, we see many highlights of movements that have begun as a church plant. Whether it is what God is doing in China, what he did in Ireland, or what he will do in Tri-Cities, Jesus sees church planting as an imperative. Because of this, we have seen more and more people taking the leap of faith and starting churches all over. But what do those models look like? Where are churches being planted? What is working, what should be avoided, what’s new and what’s traditional? The church planting world needs these answers to continue moving this initiative forward.

⁴² Edith L. Blumhofer and Randall Balmer, eds. *Modern Christian Revivals*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993.

⁴³ “Pew Forum: The Stunning Growth of Christianity in China.” Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Accessed December 05, 2011. <http://pewforum.org/Religion-News/The-stunning-growth-of-Christianity-in-China.aspx>.

⁴⁴ Edith Waldvogel Blumhofer. *The Assemblies of God: a Popular History*. Springfield, MO: Radiant Books, 1985. 59.

⁴⁵ Blumhofer. 73.

The Return of Church Planting

There has been a resurgence in church planting in the last twenty years. “Mainline Protestant denominations, after decades of worrying about steady declining and aging memberships, are making a new commitment to mission in an old-fashioned way: starting churches.”⁴⁶ Steven M. Pike, in a recent article in the *Enrichment Journal*, said, “Planting churches is the best methodology of evangelism, and planting new churches out of existing churches is the best methodology of church planting.”⁴⁷ Church planting has changed the perspective of most churches. Now, instead of growth, reproduction has become the goal.⁴⁸

Today there are many successful church plants. Observing what is already working is paramount to growth and discovery. Five different churches that are experiencing success are: Community Christian Church in Chicago, Illinois, Elevation Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, LifeChurch.tv in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Soma Communities in Tacoma, Washington, and newlife church in Kitsap County, Washington.

Community Christian Church in Chicago, Illinois, has become a church planting movement. Currently they have fourteen campuses in the Chicagoland

⁴⁶ David Briggs. n.d. "Mainline bodies return to church planting." *The Christian Century* 120, no. 17: ProQuest: Research Library (SRU), EBSCOhost. Accessed October 6, 2011.

⁴⁷ Steven M. Pike. "Church Planting and Evangelism: A Prescription for Reaching America." *Enrichment Journal*. Accessed December 05, 2011.

http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/200802/200802_096_ChurchPlanting.cfm. 3.

⁴⁸ Pike. 4.

area.⁴⁹ Each launched as a church and with gatherings. They also are networked together, operating under the same 501(c)3. Community also started a church planting network called “newthing.” Their mission “is to be a catalyst for a movement of reproducing churches relentlessly dedicated to helping people find they way back to God.”⁵⁰

Elevation Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, is one of the fastest growing churches in the United States.⁵¹ Steven Furtick, who is heavily involved in every aspect of the church, leads Elevation. The church has six campuses and utilizes live video to stream in five of the locations. They utilize momentum events (Easter, baptisms, Christmas) to grow their campuses and movement.

LifeChurch.tv is also a missional movement that uses video integration to grow their church and outreach. One of the significant factors of Life Church is their ability to stream video teaching into the rural parts of America.⁵² They also give away tons of resources through their ministries.⁵³ Their generosity has helped them not only gain influence amongst the church world, it has helped thousands come to Christ directly or indirectly through other churches.

Soma Communities in Tacoma, Washington, has their own style when it comes to church planting. They use the term “missional communities” as their

⁴⁹ “Locations” Community Christian Church. Accessed March 12, 2012.

<http://communitychristian.org/locations>

⁵⁰ “Mission Statement” newthing Network. Accessed March 13, 2012. <http://www.newthing.org/>

⁵¹ “2010 Annual Report.” Elevation Church Accessed March 13, 2012.

<http://www.elevationchurch.org/content/documents/2010AnnualReportElevationChurch.pdf>

⁵² “Life Church Network” LifeChurch.tv. Accessed March 13, 2012. <http://network.lifechurch.tv/>

⁵³ “Resources” LifeChurch.tv. Accessed March 13, 2012. <http://open.lifechurch.tv/>

philosophy for starting a church.⁵⁴ The church has grown but through a different and distinctive model. They are not Sunday gathering centralized, but rather they focus on meeting in homes and community first. They do meet weekly as missional communities come together to celebrate and worship. These services are not the primary goal though community is. This approach has led to Soma Communities launching all across the States as people embrace the idea of community over consumption.

newlife church has a unique approach to church planting. We do not do video venues. We plant campuses that have a clear leader and communicator. A campus launches when they reach “critical mass” (usually over 200 people ready for a new church). Our model emphasizes apprenticeship. It isn’t about one leader, although we do have a lead pastor for the entire church. Each campus also has a lead that oversees the campus (campus pastor) and also communicates weekly. One of the benefits of this model is that many people can become leads, but one of the difficulties is finding the type of person who can both preach and lead.

The beautiful picture of each of these models is that they all work in their own way. The gospel spreads through each type. What could happen as a new church starts in the Tri-Cities region? Could a movement emerge? Could newlife help ignite a missional movement in the area?

⁵⁴ “About Us” Soma Communities. Accessed March 13, 2012.
<http://www.somacommunities.org/about-us/>

Methodology

Rationale

My goal is to plant a newlife campus in Tri-Cities, Washington. I am from Pasco, Washington, but have been an integral part of newlife in Kitsap County, Washington, for the past six years. Through my research, I've found that there are clear ideas and modes from newlife on the Kitsap Peninsula that will translate at the church in Tri-Cities. Most of my research was answering these questions: what has worked in Kitsap that will transfer to Tri-Cities? What is cultural in Kitsap that isn't in eastern Washington? These questions formed my interviews, surveys, and study. Through qualitative research, I focused on two areas: surveys and interviews. These two areas provided the depth I was looking for from real people. I believe the more face-to-face interactions I had speaking with people who are desperate for a church, the more quality information I received. A church isn't something someone buys; it is a part of the fabric of a community. It is transforming, and sometimes quantitative data can't explain that. Furthermore, a budget also needs to be created for this plant to happen. I used an informed consent form for all participants aiding in the research of this project.

Sample

I selected 100 random newlifers to instrument my Survey Monkey survey, called "current newlifer survey." The criterion for the interviewee was that they must have been a part of newlife for at least six months and have been attending a gathering at least once a quarter.

The “Life Stage Interview” was given to current Tri-Citians with whom I had no previous relationship. These interviews happened at three local Starbucks. I approached anonymous individuals and offered a coffee for their thoughts on what kind of church they would like to see in Tri-Cities. This interview was “off the cuff” and did not follow a sequential interview format. I took notes from each interview after they had concluded. I aimed to interview four different life stages: a young adult, a young family, a family with teenagers, and an empty-nest family with children out of the house.

Instrumentation

As I began to collect information, I first started with what is working. newlife is a growing church, but why? I created a survey for current newlife congregants to explain why newlife has worked for them. (See current newlifer survey in Appendix 2)

I randomly interviewed three individuals about the possibility of a church plant. Although I wasn’t able to interview four different life stages, the data collected was substantial. Each interview happened in a community gathering place that attracts a variety of people. The interviews took less than fifteen minutes each and did not contain a set list of questions. I took notes based on how the conversation developed. I interviewed three different life stages: a young adult, a young family, and an empty-nester

Other Research

Facility Review

I researched theaters and school districts about the possibility of using their facility. The list included:

- ✦ Chiawana High School in Pasco, WA⁵⁵
- ✦ Fairchild Cinemas in Pasco, WA
- ✦ Maya Angelou Elementary School in Pasco, WA⁵⁶
- ✦ Richland Community Center in Richland, WA⁵⁷
- ✦ Columbia Basin College in Pasco, WA⁵⁸

Data and Results

Current newlifer Survey

I received 22 responses out of 100 surveys sent out to current *newlifer's* (see Appendix 2). The survey revealed how many *churched* people are a part of newlife. newlife exists to reach the unchurched in our area and many churched people are committing to that mission. This survey's purpose was to find what works with our campuses that can be translated to another campus and region. The survey clarified what newlife is all about: inviting. Every person, all 22, had invited others to a Sunday gathering before. Lifeway Research did a study on how many churchgoers invite and only 33% invited a friend to a church service or program

⁵⁵ "Facility Rental Rates." Pasco School District. Accessed March 14, 2012.
http://www.psd1.org/cms/lib4/WA01001055/Centricity/Domain/7/Facility_Use_Packet_-_Community.pdf

⁵⁶ "Facility Rental Rates." Pasco School District. Accessed March 14, 2012.
http://www.psd1.org/cms/lib4/WA01001055/Centricity/Domain/7/Facility_Use_Packet_-_Community.pdf

⁵⁷ "Richland Community Center Rentals." Richland Parks and Recreation. Accessed March 14, 2012.
<http://richlandparksandrec.com/index.aspx?NID=89>

⁵⁸ "Facility Use Form." Columbia Basin College. Accessed March 14, 2012.
https://www.columbiabasin.edu/eforms/forms/facility_use_public.aspx

over a span of six months.⁵⁹ This is part of the reason why newlife is growing. People are owning inviting to the church, and they trust the church so much that they are willing to bring new people to experience it. Here is why: they were invited themselves. Other descriptions of newlife were that it is inviting, friendly, and welcoming, and the messages are relevant. newlifer's are owning being church planters as half of the responders said they see themselves being a part of a new plant. As newlife plants across the Cascades, some things must change. One area is that we must reach minorities: Pasco alone is populated by many Hispanic people.⁶⁰ Another area is to be able to reach new people; we don't want to steal from other churches. We want new or dechurched people committing to Jesus. Who are the unreached? Who are the dechurched? And what can be learned from them through random interviews?

Life Stage Interview

As I began the random interview process, I decided to visit three different Starbucks in the Tri-Cities area: one in Kennewick, one in Richland, and one in Pasco. I realize that my results are already skewed because only a certain type of person will go to Starbucks. I understand that Tri-Cities is a very diverse area with many different views, these interviews gave me a start on the process of reaching this area with the good news of Jesus. I had three very different interviews take place (see Appendix 3).

⁵⁹ Jon D. Wilke. *Churchgoers Believe in Sharing Faith, Most Never Do*. Lifeway Research, Nashville, Tennessee. Accessed July 5, 2013. <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/research-survey-sharing-christ-2012>

⁶⁰ "Kennewick-Richland-Pasco, WA" Diversity Data. Accessed April 16, 2012. <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/Data/Profiles/Show.aspx?loc=732>

I was astounded by the first interview. This woman had lived in Tri-Cities for many years and had really never been to church. She had studied anthropology and was well educated, but had no desire to be a part of a church. When asked if she would consider going to church, she said, “Maybe.”

The second interview was with a woman, who is an empty nester, and she had much church background. She is involved in a reformed church and felt like there are too many large churches in the community.

My final interview was with an old acquaintance who randomly came in to Starbucks. He was a part of a church, but had since left and has been disconnected. He was so excited to hear I was launching a church that he was wondering how soon it was going to start. When I said 2014, he wasn't too happy.

All of these interviews gave me great insight on the Tri-City area. There are both churched and unchurched people in the community, and there is definitely room for one more church to reach the region with the message of Jesus.

Prospectus

The prospectus was very helpful in planning and preparing for the launch of a new campus (see Appendix 1). Although the prospectus is very basic, it does give some clear insight on what newlife is about and what we are planning on doing in the Tri-City area. The timeline is pretty premature, however, it does help to get something clearly lined out. The budget is simplified, but brings clarification to the team on what is most important and how we can launch with the most momentum.

An area that needs to be included is the culture we are trying to create. newlife gatherings are unique and need to be experienced to be understood.

Apprenticeship is also very significant to what we do at newlife. The church truly wants the 30-year-old fisherman (like Peter) to be able to move the mission forward. This isn't about professionals; it is about everyone doing something to contribute to the mission.

Facility Review

A few things that needed to be determined include, how many people does newlife expect to launch with and where would the ideal location be in the Tri-Cities. After conducting research, West Pasco is the ideal location for a new church and newlife would probably launch with around 300 people. West Pasco has grown 82% in the last ten years, and Pasco is where I have the most connections.⁶¹ The 300-participation number is based on prior newlife campus average launch sizes. To find the best location possible, newlife compared and reviewed five locations based on facility and pricing (See Appendix 5) at six hours of usage on a Sunday morning.

Fairchild Cinemas is currently being rented by Bethel Church as a video venue, thus it was considered, but not prioritized. Chiawana High School and Maya Angelo Elementary School are both new facilities in the West Pasco area with adequate space and affordable pricing. One unexpected location with reasonable rental pricing was Columbia Basin College: \$581/week for a great theater that seats 284 and good space for classrooms. The emphasis on non-profit use by the Richland Parks and Recreation could give newlife an opportunity to meet there. They charge

⁶¹ "Best Places to Live in West Pasco." Sperling's Best Places. Accessed April 13, 2012. http://www.bestplaces.net/city/washington/west_pasco

\$584/week for a church to use their facilities. Here are the facilities in order of best case scenario to worst case, first is Chiawana High School because of growth capabilities and location, then Maya Angelo Elementary because of location and pricing, followed by Columbia Basin College, then Richland Community Center, and finally Fairchild Cinemas. If Fairchild were to open up its facilities to a new church, it would move to the top because of its central location and ease of storage.

Implications

Jesus is for church planting. There is Scriptural, cultural, and philosophical backing throughout the movement of Christianity to garner more churches in more areas. It is the mission of Jesus' church. Tri-Cities is in need of more churches. Through research, it has come to light that, although Tri-Cities is growing exponentially, the majority of churches in the region are not. Something must be done. newlife is part of the answer. But the answer has to be bigger than one church. It has to be a movement. Through random interviews, it has become apparent that there are still people who aren't part of any church, who haven't attended church, or who feel church is too "big."

This implies that Tri-Cities doesn't just need more churches; it needs a different kind of church. newlife.tricity must be more than one campus, and the Gospel must be communicated in more than one language. Over the last ten years, the population in Tri-Cities has grown from 21% Hispanic to nearly 29% Hispanic in

2012.⁶² Put another way, nearly one in three people in Tri-Cities is from a Hispanic heritage. The church must be bilingual, multi-cultural, and campus driven.

The church needs to start as one campus with the dream of being across Eastern Washington with several venues. This vision will be completed three ways: by newlife being a Gospel-centered movement, establishing a culture of apprenticeship, and constantly utilizing public spaces.

Gospel-centered

Everything begins and ends with Jesus. He is the author and initiator of our faith.⁶³ When asked what is the most important commandment, Jesus said,

“Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”⁶⁴

Everything hangs on loving God and loving others. It is the mission of Jesus to heal the world. It starts with us restoring our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and it continues with Christians living out their faith by showing love and grace to their community, neighborhood, and family.

The church must always go back to Jesus. We have this tendency as human beings to point the arrows in and make it about ourselves, selfishly choosing our way over God’s. Through the Holy Spirit, we are reminded daily that it is all about Jesus. This enriches our hearts and gives us another chance to choose to obey Jesus

⁶² “Kennewick-Richland-Pasco, WA” Diversity Data. Accessed April 16, 2012. <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu/Data/Profiles/Show.aspx?loc=732>

⁶³ Hebrews 12:2 NLT.

⁶⁴ Matthew 22:37-39 MSG.

in our everyday life. This is what newlife calls “arrows out living:” always pointing others to Jesus.

Apprenticeship

Jesus seemed to give the least likely leaders the most opportunities. newlife needs to do that same. It’s looking for the fishermen, tax collectors, and zealots to be on the team. This is the Jesus way, and it is powerful. Everyone has a chance to plant a church. newlife doesn’t close the doors on people. We open them wide to give more people opportunities. Jesus did require sacrifice though. What did it cost to be on the mission with Jesus? It required giving up your life. Jesus said, “If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.”⁶⁵ The people who receive the most opportunities are the ones who sacrifice the most.

From day one, newlife will encourage every leader in every ministry to have an apprentice. For this to be a movement, it is going to take a lot of people who are committed to Jesus and are willing to serve His mission.

Often times, people only need to be asked. Apprenticeship starts with affirmation. Jesus commissioned his followers to go. Leaders attract apprentices when they affirm something they see in them: a talent, work ethic, or skill. By affirming this, they call out greatness in others and evoke a sense of commitment in the apprentice. This breaks down ethnic lines, because often what draws those proverbial lines is what makes you different (skin color, background, socioeconomic status), apprenticeship is about what makes you similar. Apprenticeship is doing

⁶⁵ Mark 8:35 NLT

something similar (kids ministry, youth ministry, media) for the glory of God. It erases lines and brings people together as one Church.

Public Spaces

Finally, to be a movement, newlife must utilize public spaces (theaters, schools, colleges) to reach many people with the Gospel. Buildings are not horrible. Most the world lives in buildings. They are great for cover and shelter. Most businesses are held in buildings. Jesus came so that God wouldn't have to dwell in a building anymore. He now lives within human hearts. We are now the Temple. We are where the Spirit dwells. People are the church. Yet, for these people to gather, there needs to be a space for worship and fellowship.

newlife has decided to allocate most its funds so that more people are reached. This philosophy leads us away from building campaigns and more toward outreach. Public spaces like schools, community centers, or theaters are ideal locations for a church to gather. One, because they are already readily known locations in the community, and two, because they are usually used the least on Sunday mornings.

Many times the community will ask the question: "Will newlife ever build?" newlife rarely answer the question with a definite answer because one never knows the circumstances and possibilities that may emerge. It is unwise to write something off completely. Yet, as the campus and movement launches, it is newlife's strategy to use the most affordable locations possible to continue to grow.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the following steps take place to plant a newlife campus in Tri-Cities, WA: cast vision, build the team, secure the location, and launch the campus.

Casting vision is paramount for the church's mission and strategy. People need to see and understand what newlife.tricities is all about. Communication about newlife is given multiple ways: through the prospectus, through conversation, and by sharing stories of life change. Dave and Jon Ferguson believe that need plus vision equals inspiration.⁶⁶ However, they argue, need minus vision equals desperation. Tri-Cities has a need (more churches) and when they hear the vision of people becoming the church, we hope they will be inspired to live out the mission Jesus is calling them to.

No one person can grow a church on his own. Church growth is only brought about through the work of Jesus. He uses His Church to grow His Kingdom. Jesus uses ordinary people to build His Church. newlife.tricities should be a team of people who are becoming the church God intended it to be. They are on the mission with Jesus, and that mission is to help heal the world.

Throughout the New Testament the church gathered together to celebrate the Lord's Table, to listen to teaching, and to build community. newlife must secure the right location for this type of gathering to occur. West Pasco is the place, and Chiawana High School is the right size, in the right location, with the best facilities

⁶⁶ Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson. *Exponential: How You and Your Friends Can Start a Missional Church Movement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010. 59.

possible. Now, the Church is people, the facility is where we gather. newlife will always be looking for public places to create more gatherings and campuses for the church to gather and celebrate.

Finally, as vision is cast, the team is built, and the location is found, the campus can launch. Launching is all about timing and can sometimes be forced. The newlife team will need to find the right circumstances, but every action requires a step of faith.

Conclusion

Jesus is on a mission to heal the world and He is using ordinary people to carry out his commission. There are many unchurched, dechurched, and multiethnic people groups in Tri-Cities that need a place to gather and meet Jesus. newlife is ready to engage and reach out to these people. The team is already forming, this is Jesus' movement, and it will continue to grow in Tri-Cities, WA, through newlife church.

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Abbreviated Human Subjects Review Application

Please submit to Kevin Leach (11220 Bldg. 237)

Name: Mark Middleton

Telephone #: 3604341989

Address: 3507 Rasmussen Lane Bremerton, WA 98310

Email: mark.middleton06@northwestu.edu

Department: College of Ministry

Section I: Please circle the correct response. *To receive an expedited review procedure you must be able to answer no to all of the following questions.*

- 1) Will participants be identifiable to anyone other than the researchers (i.e. will records be available to anyone outside the project)?
No
- 2) If responses became known beyond the research project, could participants be at risk of criminal or civil liability, damage to employment, financial loss or undue embarrassment?
No
- 3) Are sensitive areas (illegal behavior, drug/alcohol use, sexual conduct) dealt with in this project?
No
- 4) Does this project involve any kind of deception (i.e. subjects are unaware of the true purpose of the experiment, or other important details of the procedure)?
No
- 5) Are children under 18 years old participating in your project?
No
- 6) Does the research involve participants who are not mentally, physically, and emotionally healthy adults?
No
- 7) Does your project involve any medical or dietary procedures?
No
- 8) Does your project involve prisoners, pregnant woman, developmentally disabled adults or any other special population?
No

Section II:

Write a summary of your proposed project, including the purpose and procedures which will be used. Consent forms, questionnaires etc. must be included with your application. Use additional pages as necessary.

I am planning on planting a church in Tri-Cities in the near future. The purpose of this project is to collect information on what the Tri-Cities needs. I am going to use SurveyMonkey to survey current congregants of newlife church (who I will be planting with) to see what they like about the church. I also plan to create four “life stage” groups in Tri-Cities to interview on what their wants are for a new church. I will also interview current leads at newlife to learn from their experience of planting a church. I have attached all three interviews in the appendices.

I certify that the above information is true and that I will follow the research procedures and method for obtaining consent as approved by the Human Subjects Review Board during the duration of this study. I will also submit any further changes to the Board for review.

Principal Investigator Date

Faculty Advisor Date

Appendix: 1

Prospectus



Vision:

newlife is a movement of people becoming the church on the mission with Jesus to help heal the world.

It starts first with Jesus. He is at the center. He is leading the Mission. He gets the final say. This is what we call **“On The Mission with Jesus.”**

It then shifts to people. People are why Jesus came. Not buildings, not programs. People. So that’s what we focus on. People. People are everywhere, and so is newlife. No matter what your background is, there is a place for you. Hence the *becoming* in **“People Becoming the Church.”**

We are always changing to become more like Jesus. We want to get involved, we are arrows out, we care for our community. It isn’t about us. We point to Jesus. It is all about living as Jesus’ apprentice to **“Help Heal the World.”**

So where does that put us? Who are we? It’s Simple.

1. It’s all about Jesus
2. We are people becoming the church
3. We are on the Mission with Jesus to help heal the world

Here’s an easier way to put it:

1. Jesus
2. People
3. Mission

Mission:

Our mission is to reach the 180,000 people in the Tri-Cities region who are not a part of any church.

Autobiography:

Mark and Rachel Middleton both grew up in the Tri-City area and graduated from Pasco High School. They, with their son Jacoby, have been dreaming of raising a family in Tri-Cities near family and friends. They have been serving in Kitsap County, WA with newlife church since 2005. During that time they have helped launch various ministries and campuses across the peninsula. Deep in their heart, they've always felt God's leading them back to home in Tri-Cities. This plant is a dream come true for Mark and Rachel as they've always hoped to have a church for their friends and family to attend.

Church Plant Timeline:

We take our launch strategy from Jesus. Jesus had an inner team of 3, a group of 12, a large group of 72 missionaries, and finally a crowd. This layout will help newlife strategize our plant.

Summer 2012: Vision Meeting with the launch team. (the 3)

Fall 2012: Vision Meeting with the 12

- Start with our hotlist (who are we planting for?)
- Begin missional communities (invite people to your home)
- Dream big (what do we want to see?)

Winter 2012: Strategy meeting with the lead team. (the 3)

Spring 2013: Vision meeting with the 12

Summer 2013: Start financing (the 12)

- Finalize budget
- Create fundraising strategies
- Assign roles

Fall 2013: Finalize facility and location

Spring 2014: Create team roles and place the 72 on teams.

- First Impressions

- Mobile Team
- Music
- Kids
- Early Childhood
- Youth
- Finances/Admin
- Follow up
- Groups
- Media

Spring 2014: Mark and Rachel move to Tri-Cities.

June 2014: First preview gathering. (the 72)

August 2014: Second preview gathering. (the 72)

September 2014: Final preview gathering. (the 72)

Fall 2014: Launch weekly gatherings at Chiawana High School (the crowd)

Launch Strategy

We are launching with full weekly gatherings on Sundays and groups that meet throughout the week.

We have a two-fold strategy: **Excellence and Apprenticeship**. It is hard to have excellence when you have apprenticeship. Our idea of excellence isn't that we are the best, but that we have growing people who are doing the best they can.

We are a church of apprentices. Jesus had 12 apprentices who He said were going to do greater things. He believed in his disciples. We believe in our apprentices. There is no way we can reach the 180,000 in Tri-Cities on our own. It is going to take everyone taking a part and owning the mission. We want to raise up leaders who will take the mission of Jesus further than we can.

Location:

We are targeting Chiawana High School as our facility. They are brand new and have state of the art facilities. We would love to support our local schools and gather in our communities facilities.

Our second option is Columbia Basin College located at a major junction of two highways in Tri-Cities.

newlife terminology

As you experience newlife, you'll quickly see we have our own words and phrases, let me help you understand them:

On the Mission with Jesus: We aren't on our own mission, we are continuing the mission God started with his son Jesus

People Becoming the Church: The church isn't a building, it's people.

Help Heal the World: We are intentionally joining Jesus in his mission to help "make all things new"

Arrows Out: We are constantly turning the arrows out to selflessly focus on others.

180,000: We are called to those in our community who aren't part of any church.

One of the Twelve: At newlife, we believe Jesus is asking you to be one of the twelve disciples. He is calling you to go on the mission with him.

Truth and Grace: We live with 100% truth and 100% grace.

Closed Fist: The theological issues we don't budge on.

Open Hand: The theological issues that we don't get off mission arguing about.

Jesus Apprentice: Everyone gets the chance to follow Jesus. We are all looking to him for direction.

Belong Before You Believe: We don't pressure people to believe what we believe. People need to figure things out on their own and we are ok with that. God does the heavy lifting, we just point to Jesus.

Gathering: We gather together to worship God, grow, and connect. This usually happens once a week.

Budget:

Our target launch budget is **\$75,000**

Operations: Business Licensing, Legal Stuff, and Staffing	\$12,000
Mobile Church: Sound, Media, Lights, and Trailers	\$45,000
Kids and Early Childhood: Gear, Organization, Upkeep	\$10,000
Rent: First 2 Months	\$8,000
Total	<hr/> \$75,000

Appendix 2:

Current newlifer survey
1. How long have you been a member/attender at newlife?
2. Why did you first come to newlife?
3. What is your church experience?
4. If you could describe newlife to a friend in three words, what would you say?
5. What has been the one thing that was unexpected at newlife?
6. What area do you feel needs to be improved at newlife?
7. Describe the type of person newlife attracts most? Least?
8. Have you invited someone to newlife before? Why or Why not? If yes, how did you invite them?
9. Do you see yourself being a part of newlife plant in the future? Why or why not?

Results from Survey
22 Responses out of 100 sent.

SUMMARY

1. How long have you been a member/attender at newlife?
Answers ranged from 1 year to from day one. The average responder had been attending newlife for 5 years.
2. Why did you first come to newlife?

Almost every person was invited by a friend to come and experience newlife.
3. What is your church experience?

The majority of respondents grew up in church, but a few responded that newlife was their first church experience.

4. If you could describe newlife to a friend in three words, what would you say?

Responses ranged from “on the mission” to “adult youth group!” Many said open, welcoming, inviting, accepting, caring, and friendly. Some responding “big or megachurch.”

5. What has been the one thing that was unexpected at newlife?

Three areas were emphasized: the growth, the messages and content, and the clear mission to be involved in the community and with missions.

6. What area do you feel needs to be improved at newlife?

The key area that responders mentioned was organization, specifically within the leadership team.

7. Describe the type of person newlife attracts most? Least?

The words “young at heart” or “new” were a constant in the “who” newlife attracts most response. The least attracted people group was minorities, traditional Christians, and the poor.

8. Have you invited someone to newlife before? Why or Why not? If yes, how did you invite them?

Many said yes and they invited through face-to-face conversations.

9. Do you see yourself being a part of newlife plant in the future? Why or why not?

This was split right down the middle. newlife has created a culture of church planting, but others who are living in a location with a campus aren't wanting to leave their area to plant somewhere new.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES⁶⁷

Responder 1:

1. 4 years
2. Left previous church due to personnel restructuring.
3. Joy, growth, serving, disillusion, disappointment.
4. Adult youth group!
5. No building turned out to be the wisest thing ever!
6. Organization chart and consistency in key leadership positions. When I was serving there seemed to be a lot of herding of cats. Kind of unorganized and chaotic (no offense).
7. Young at heart. Traditional people.
8. Yes. Face to face.
9. I don't know.

Responder 2:

1. Five years of sporadically attending
2. My brother goes there, wanted to check out the place that had had such an impact on him
3. Grown up in church all 22 years of my life, all in the same C&MA church except for several years away at college attending another church. My church experience is that it is and should be a family. Not all churches have that.
4. Contemporary. Big. Insightful.
5. Good, honest, deep messages even at a big, "popular" church - messages that aren't afraid (generally) to challenge people
6. Female leadership. Diversity of all types in leadership and congregation.
7. Most: White, middle-class, nice looking / decently well presented / stylish, business people, families, young, people who seem to "have it together" Least: Old; homosexual; non-white; "uncool"
8. Yes. So they could see what the church was like that my family goes to sometimes; because it is a prominent church using interesting methodologies/marketing/programs; because the messages are good; because I know and enjoy people there.
9. Probably not but you never know. My faith is unsure. I'm not sure what my future in the Church will be. I love the Church, but I don't know how I could honestly be part of planting one at this point.

⁶⁷ Please note: These are word for word responses from respondents.

Responder 3:

1. 10 yrs
2. Alternative to CMC
3. 35 yrs
4. On the mission
5. So many people met and connections made
6. Organization. Changing way to fast where no one is ever established anywhere. No continuity.
7. New believer, least = person that wants a small family connection
8. Yes, just asked them and told them how contemporary it is & how engaging Wes is..
9. No... Hasn't been on the radar or Gods plan for me

Responder 4:

1. 6 years
2. My family was going
3. learning
4. open, modern, inviting
5. getting to know so many people
6. small groups support and guides.
7. most-wealthy, caucasian least-any other ethnicity, the poor
8. ya but i don't do it enough, because i feel that i am not devoted enough to portray a true member of the church
9. yes, i want the church to succeed and spread the word of God

Responder 5:

1. 6 years
2. I heard it was a Bible-believing church with a relatively young crowd.
3. Grew up in the Church
4. megachurch, skimming, trendy
5. I always felt like it was a church for new believers, and not for people who grew up in the Church.
6. Go deeper at gatherings. Focus less on the showiness.
7. Young people looking for a trendy church. Old people who like hymns.
8. Yes. When I was a regular attender, I wanted some of my friends and family to go. I asked them in person.
9. No. The megachurch aspect has pushed me away. I also feel like I don't

learn anything new at newlife anymore. Sorry, but I feel it is beneficial if I'm honest. I know some of the leaders at newlife, and I do believe they are good people who mean well.

Responder 6:

1. 5 years
2. Invited by my sister.
3. This is the first Church I have ever attended regularly.
4. Fun. Relatable. Convenient.
5. The growth.
6. Since NLC attracts new christians it would be nice if they taught the basics and sermons relating to everyday life more often.
7. People who want to learn about Jesus, maybe for the first time, or coming back to Church after not attending anywhere.
8. Yes. I have personally invited friends, family, and coworkers.
9. Not sure. I feel like it has really changed in the last year or so. Ex: cancelling a service due to the Superbowl. No services when Christmas fell on a Sunday, etc.

Responder 7:

1. 8 years
2. Kids didn't like our previous church. We tried Newlife. Kids liked it.
3. Constant learning and hopefully growth.
4. Energy, Accepting, Fun
5. The energy level from Newlife leadership.
6. Newlife has improved and is doing well in all aspects.
7. Newlife will appeal most to people who are young or young at heart. Newlife is also the best place for someone new to the word. Newlife will appeal least to those who don't like to try new things and hate loud music.
8. Invited family and a couple of people from work. I put fliers out at the office. A co-worker came and tried it out. She thought there was too many young people and too much noise. She found a more traditional church...
9. Probably not. We live in Silverdale and enjoy involvement here.

Responder 8:

1. October 3, 2000 (and some of the meetings prior)!
2. Something new and fresh. Wes was actually our entrance interview pastor for membership @ CMC. We were reluctant at first being new members at a church, but were on board from the first gathering
3. Southern Baptist - followed Jesus from a very young age
4. Inviting, Alive, GRACE
5. The great friendships that we would make
6. No Response
7. Unchurched, or hurt from church experience.
8. Yes. Did so to reach out to unchurched employees. With a brochure and verbally.
9. Never say never. Considering Poulsbo. To continue to move the mission forward

Responder 9:

1. 5 years this coming Easter
2. A friend invited me and I was hooked
3. always learnign something new and meeting new people everytime I go!
4. Come and See
5. Being accepted by so many people knowing that I am not a perfect person.
6. Leaders need to have more understanding and knowledge and patience with special need kids/teenagers
7. Least I would say those who won't accept GOD into their lives and the most I would so anyone who wants to be connected to GOD and those who have the same mission.
8. Yes I did and I always invite anyone who asks about newlife.
9. I am not sure at this time. There is always a possibility

Responder 10:

1. 2 years
2. Our 18 yr old began attending and was treated well
3. Since 1971 in Presbyterian, Luthern and Covenant denominations
4. Open nuturing scirptual
5. How few of the worship songs I've ever heard before
6. No Response
7. Most - younger, newer Christians and pre-Believers who are hearing God's voice Least - Older Christians from traditional denominations who would find the music too unfamiliar and loud and also miss a formal Adult

Sunday School

8. Yes, because either I knew they were young in their faith and would feel comfortable, or because they were older and I knew seeking a stronger scriptural teaching and sense of daily mission than they are receiving at other churches. Personal invitation.
9. Yes, because God has pointed me there as the best opportunity to coach/mentor/disciple pre-believers and newer Christians

Responder 11:

1. 4 years
2. Wanted to be part of a church that was committed to serving our community through Christ.
3. We have lived being a part of Newlife. Always something to do!
4. Christcentered, welcoming, non judgmental.
5. The growth. While we expected it, the rate of growth has surprised us.
6. Hubby says there is no golf team and the music is too loud. I am ok with both.
7. Everyone, except my very old Southern Baptist inlaws.
8. Yes! We often invite people. We just ask them to join us and then take them to lunch!
9. We can't move. Hubby works at the Naval hospital in family practice and I work for the school district. Have for kids in high school. Own home. Of course after we retire that is another story!

Responder 12:

1. Attended for about a year in 2009, currently attending another church.
2. Friends suggested, had a bad church experience elsewhere and found a refreshment at newlife.
3. non-denominational, stuffy
4. milk, brief, MUSIC
5. That so many people want the experience over knowledge of truth
6. Longer and deeper sermons
7. Younger(than me) people searching for meaning in their lives.
8. Yes, for the same freshness and lightness of spirit, for healing of bad church experience.
9. Absolutely not. Need to learn more than is taught at newlife.

Responder 13:

1. 6 years
2. to support our son, Ben, as he was leading worship
3. active church member since 1974
4. culturally relevant faith
5. baptisms performed by members
6. going deeper in our personal faith and walk with Jesus. More opportunities to dig deeper into God's Word. Greater emphasis on Spiritual Disciplines.
7. seekers. Unchurched. People who are discouraged with the typical country club cliques at most churches.
8. all the time....
9. quite possibly. newlife Sequim?

Responder 14:

1. 6 years
2. My wife invited me
3. pretty much, only newlife
4. great beginners place
5. Video podcast
6. giving and serving
7. Most - beginners. Least - "deep divers"
8. Yes, invited to easter
9. Yes, but in east bremerton. I am excited for all new newlife plants!

Responder 15:

1. 4 years
2. friend brought me
3. kinda was so so on it at first. now i love it. i even serve there.
4. loving, careing, friendly
5. even though its so big, it feels like everybody knows and cares about you. it was a pleasant surprise.
6. orginization/ communication.
7. Most: people looking for peace, or who are curious about god and want to know more. and people who need love from a community.
Least: closed minded/ old school church goers.
8. i've told people about it but never have really invited anyone.
9. you never know but right now it's something i can see myself being involved in. The reason being is because i want to be a part of my friends/ church family accomplish their dreams of planting a church.

Responder 16:

1. ten and a half years
2. attending Christ Memorial Church at the time
3. Assembly of God members
4. casual, inspiring, attractive
5. how fast it has grown
6. more teaching on giving and on meaning of communion
7. someone ready for a change from traditional church; someone who loves ritual and hymns
8. Yes, because we like it; oral invitation
9. Yes, because we have done this before

Responder 17:

1. Sep-11
2. Trying to find a church we identified with for our family.
3. Grew up Methodist attending weekly. As an adult I have been inconsistent
4. Welcoming, Inclusive, Caring
5. The way the sermon applies to my life every week.
6. Involvement in members' lives during the week.
7. People who want church in their life but don't care for the dogma or routines of other churches. Least: people who prefer church to be by rote or more traditional.
8. Yes. It has been such a blessing in our life we want to share it. We just asked.
9. No. We don't foresee leaving Bainbridge Island anytime soon.

Responder 18:

1. 7 yrs
2. First, Invited by a friend. Second, Looking for a place where nobody knew me. Thirdly, Practical; and the pastor was real, said I am still learning, and still messing up and could be a better example for his kids.
3. Vbs, as a kids, youth retreat in je. High, camp in high school, Christian college, hope international NA in dynamic of church growth & mfcc, work with youth for 20 yrs.
4. Practical, opportunity, groups
5. Honestly, the lack of contact and connecting with other newlifets ;-(
6. Members connecting and feeling connected/appreciated/cared about/for.
7. Most, those looking for a positive environment, a person that can make friends and desire to grow spiritually Least, these looking for a traditional, close-knit, small community.
8. Yes, environment. A place for them to connect with and see others from the neighborhood. Just, asked them to come with us.

9. Not at this moment; too many challenges in our family to work / through over come.

Responder 19:

1. 8 years
2. referral
3. 12 years
4. is this a lead in to "ON THE MISSION"
5. No Response
6. To slow growth and slow turnover of staff
7. curious seekers. Traditional Church folks
8. yes,. easy to do it. There is continuity with each service and a first timer can slip in and out virtually unnoticed if that's their desire.
9. Yep. Had a good time with the Island and looking forward to NK with Peter. Whatch out Tri Cities!! Mark, Rachael and ...are coming.

Responder 20:

1. 3 years
2. Moved to the area and searched for a progressive church.
3. Childhood and later adult
4. Dynamic, inspirational, family
5. Involvement by middle school and high school students with the elementary kids. It is the best model going
6. Lower the music volume
7. Most: people who are loving and want to be on the mission to heal the world. Least: fundamentalist and ideologues.
8. Yes. It's a great place to worship and serve. I talked it up.
9. No, I no longer live in the area.

Responder 21:

1. 3 yrs
2. BJ Geisbrecht was the drummer
3. Saved since 1972, attended charismatic and pentecostal churches since then
4. Lots of energetic young people
5. emphasis on missions
6. more emphasis on gifts of spirit
7. Most: younger people, and young at heart people Least: traditional "churched" people

8. Yes, several times. Just asked them to come
9. Maybe - my wife and I considered Gig Harbor, but have just stayed at South; my job takes a lot of time and I travel on business quite a bit, so steady attendance is not always practical for me on Sundays.

Responder 22:

1. 7 years
2. Got invited to be an apprentice here
3. Grew up in an AG church
4. unexpected, missional, home
5. The clear mission to help heal the world.
6. Discipleship
7. newlife attracts dechurched the most. I would say newlife attracts minorities the least.
8. Yes. Because it is what we do. I told them to come to church with me on Sunday.
9. Yes. It is what we do at newlife!

Appendix 3:

"Life Stage" Questions
1. What church experience, if any, do you have?
2. Do you feel Tri-Cities needs a new church? Why or Why not?
3. What kind of church would excite you?
4. Have you found that kind of church already?
5. Current newlifers are energized by helping others, are you currently being activated to help others?
6. What kind of church would work for you in your current season of life?
7. What are your hopes for Tri-Cities? If you could envision a great church, what would it look like?

Life Stage Results

Interview 1: Family with teens

The first interview took place at Starbucks at the Columbia Center Mall. The interviewee was a woman with teens who was waiting to meet up with a friend. I asked her open ended questions to gauge her church history and involvement. To my surprise she had only been to church a handful of times. She was not interested, going as far to say that she should be interviewed about "religious things" because she is not religious at all. She considered herself more of a "wine and cheese" type of person. I asked if she would ever consider being a part of a church, and she responded, "I am not looking to get involved at a church." She said she studied and had a degree in anthropology and is fascinated by people. She also mentioned she loved Tri-Cities and found it to be a friendly community. I was so encouraged meeting with her because it affirmed two things for me: there are great people in Tri-Cities, and there are many who aren't a part of any church.

Interview 2: Empty Nester

The second interview took place at Starbucks in Richland, Washington. The surrounding area is an affluent region that is highly influenced by the government

jobs in the area. It is both a very educated and wealthy area. The fastest growing population in this area is empty nesters, so I didn't find it coincidence that I had a conversation with an elderly woman. This woman was from a local church and felt that denominations are growing in the area. She mentioned that 'big churches are popular here.' She was very surprised that there were so many unchurched people in the area. She is from a reformed background and appreciates a traditional church. She lives by a mountain trail and said she can't believe how outdoorsy Tri-Cities is. "People worship the mountain" were her exact words. She said Sunday church isn't a priority for people. As I began to reflect on this interview I was encouraged by our plan to plant campuses and not be a mega-church model.

Interview 3: Young Adult

The final interview took place at the Starbucks in Pasco, Washington. There are a lot of young families and first-time homebuyers in the area. I ran into a young adult that I knew from high school, but haven't been able to connect with since. He said he hasn't been involved in any church regularly since high school. He attends on Easter and Christmas and rarely other than that. He said, "I'm committed to Jesus, but can't find a church that I like." This is why we are starting newlife.tricities. It is about this guy. I want my disconnected friends and family to be at a place where they can connect. As I told him about the dream of newlife in Tri-Cities, he responded by saying, "Let me know when you start."

Appendix 4:
 Facility Use Comparison
 7:00a-1:00p on a Sunday

Facility	Areas Used	Total (6 hours)
Chiawana High School	Auditorium, Mall, and 4 Classrooms	\$1004
Columbia Basin College	Auditorium, 4 Classrooms	\$585
Maya Angelo Elementary School	Gym, Cafeteria, 4 Classrooms	\$620
Fairchild Cinemas	3 Theaters	\$1500
Richland Community Center	Riverview room,	\$591

Appendix 5:

Survey/Questionnaire informed consent form: Current newlifer survey

I am conducting research to plant a church in Tri-Cities, WA through newlife church. If you participate in this research you will be giving me great information on the future of this movement. This questionnaire contains nine research questions and should take you around fifteen minutes.

This survey involves personal disclosure through your honest answers. Everything you share will be kept in confidence. This information will only be used for research purposes and will not be shared beyond the confines of this project. I am not asking you to share your name, just your experience. This useful information will help newlife contextualize the message and mission of the church to a new area of Washington State. Participating in this study is your choice, and there are no consequences for choosing not to do so. If you decide to participate in this study, you have the right to remove yourself at any time for any reason.

This project has been approved by the Human Subject Review Board at Northwest University.

If you have any questions or comments about this study please contact me at 360-434-1989 or at mark.middleton06@northwestu.edu. You can also contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Review Board, Dr. Kevin Leach, at Northwest University at 425-889-5248 or kevin.leach@northwestu.edu

You will receive your own copy of this form,

Sincerely,

Mark Middleton
Master of Arts in Missional Leadership Grad Student at Northwest University

I have been made aware of my responsibilities as a participant of this survey. I have also been made aware that I can qithdraw myself from this study at any time without any penalty whatsoever.

Print Name

Date

Signature