

Sunday, January 10, 2010



Update: Road Map to Launch

Key issues and timelines for the Water's Edge Allen mission plant

Update:

Much has happened over the past year. This is an updated Launch Plan for the Water's Edge Allen Mission Plant. Our major goals in the next 12 months are 1) Gather, Train, and Release core families for the mission plant, 2) Prepare and Launch public worship in September 2010, 3) Identify and hire key staff people.

Mission:

Impact People with the Gospel Message of Christ

Jesus, as the head of the church, is calling together a people, new and seasoned in the faith, to worship in spirit and in truth, to become a body of believers, knowing, serving, and supporting each other and constantly looking for tangible ways to radically serve others that will proclaim Jesus as Lord.

Plan for connecting unconnected and de-churched:

We fully believe that God will reach the unconnected and the dechurched through the work of the Spirit as each of us lives out the Biblical Core Values (C.V.) and Core Lifestyles (C.L.) in the context that God has placed us. We will have meaningful and creative worship that will engage the family where they are at and allow the Word of God to stir them. We will not be program heavy but rather continue to encourage and train the families of Waters Edge Allen to be in their neighborhoods, serving in radical ways, and loving the people that God has already called around them. Because there are so many young families in the Allen area, we will focus on children and families as a key connecting point. We see the evolution to be focused more and more on Family DTX (Discipleship Training X-perience) rather than Children's DTX. What does that mean? While we will have some sort of Sunday School type experience for the children, we will also produce resources and train parents to live out the calling that God has given them, to be the main faith former in their kids lives. We believe this will help parents to grow spiritually as well. The Web Site www.WatersEdgeAllen.com will be a powerful tool in introducing our ministry to the community and the masses while providing timely and relevant Spiritual Grown Opportunities.

How do we get there? Starting in January, 2010, the core launching families will be training and learning to live out the C.V. and C.L. as a community. We will begin to worship together as a community once a month, building to worshipping every week starting in August and really starting to push for visitors and guests starting in September. Building up to and continuing past the worship launch weekend in September, we are constantly looking for creative ways to radically serve the community and the neighbors around us. Water's Edge Allen sponsored servant events will not only make an impact but be a large training tool in how to live out Radical Service through your personal and family life.

The foundation for all of this is prayer and engaging in God's Word beyond the weekly gathering experiences. We are excited to see where God will lead us as we continue to seek him in all that we do.

Water's Edge Frisco & Water's Edge Allen Partnership

Water's Edge Frisco (WEF) and Water's Edge Allen (WEA) have a wonderful working relationships and plans on continuing that relationship well into the future. The plan is that WEA will be an independent congregation with its own constitution, board of elders, etc. in the next five years. We are planning on moving toward this through the following process.

Phase One (Currently Taking Place)

In Phase One, we have established independent financial books through a Doing Business As (DBA) Account. This allows us to remain under WEF's 501-C3 Non-Profit Tax Status as we move forward and develop an independent constitution and Board of Elders (Spiritual Leadership Team). We are currently under the WEF Spiritual Leadership Team and their direction.

Phase Two (Next two to three years)

- Establish WEA's independent Spiritual Leadership Team who will be charged with refining the vision and developing the Ministry Action Plan (Budget).
- Begin work on WEA's constitution.

Phase Three (By year five)

- WEA's constitution adopted and approved by district and synod,
- Apply for independent 501-C3 status
- Set Up Financial books under new 501-C3 status.
- Continue Partnership with WEF
- Continue to look at the next church plant.

Tools:

Christ's Death and Resurrection
Holy Spirit
His Word
Worship
Each Other/The Body of Believers
Our Own Personal Story and Context

Core Values:

- Eternity Matters Most
- It's Not about me
- The Jesus "Lost Sheep" Filter applies to EVERYTHING
- True worship is NOT weekend worship, but our lives as living sacrifices
- Corporate worship is for fueling, renewing, empowering, and encouraging
- God's TIMELESS Law/Gospel, must always be presented in a TIMELY, ENGAGING way
- Proclamation leads to investigative study, always in that order
- Reproduction is a rule not an exception

Core Lifestyles:

- Lives of Daily Word (Daily Fuel), and Prayer
- Lives of Shocking Care
- Lives of Invitation
- Lives of First-Fruit Giving
- Lives that Honor Matthew 18 in everything
- Lives of Humble Witness (I'm no better...I especially need a savior)
- Lives of appropriate reaction, in light of the good news of a Savior
- Lives that echo movements and core values
- Lives of healthy relationships
- Lives that expect Amazing Mission to happen
- Lives that boldly encourage fellow missionaries
- Lives that are very much in the World, but not of the World
- Lives of Gospel Freedom

Place

During the Spring of 2009 we chose the community of Allen to be the location of the church plant. During the Summer of 2009, The Hartjen Family and the Manthe Family moved to the Allen Area to begin connecting with the community and the families that live there. Currently, our meeting and training space is the Hartjen's House. As we out grown this location, we will rent space at a school, church, movie theater, or other unknown location for worship. Our plan is to rent and lease as long as possible. We believe that this will allow us to be nimble in our finances as well as finding space that will fit our needs as we continue to grow in the next few years.

People

The traditional model for church planting is to take one guy, place him in a predetermined location, support him with funds and resources and pray for a positive outcome. In recent years, this model has changed greatly with the exception of one element, it still starts with one guy. This is where I think the new model falls short and believe we have a chance to do something different, something better. I would like to see this mission plant have three key players lined up early in the life of the mission plant

Point	Partner	Planter
This is the point leader of the church	Shared leadership	Next guy who will plant in two years
Casts and protects vision	Key refiner of ideas	Called to plant
Face of the mission plant	Filling in Gaps in Point Leader	Seasoned in the faith
two years out from launch	one year out from launch	within the first year of launch
Growing key leaders in the church plant	Defender of Vision and mission	

One key issue with this new model will be funding. While I don't have an answer to how a church plant could afford two full time employees, i believe the issue of having a partner in the mission plant is key and needs to be wrestled with. There is a great amount of precedence in scripture to the partner paradigm. You have Jesus seeking and calling key disciples at the start of his ministry. In three of the Gospels, Jesus sends out his disciples two by two (Matthew 10, Mark 6:6-12, Luke 9:1-5, Luke 10:1,17). Paul traveled with a partner on many of his missional journeys. In fact, he traveled with Timothy before encouraging him to stay and help shepherd a church. I believe the partner model would help give the mission plant the best possible chance to succeed.

Partner Update: During the winter/spring months of 2009, a possible Partner in the church plant was identified and invited to consider moving to the North Dallas area to help plant the church. After much prayer, conversations, and God filling many gaps, the Manthe family moved to the Plano/Allen area in July to be partners in the church plant. Since their move, I have become more and more convinced that the Point/Partner Church plant model is essential to success of future mission plants. Jason Manthe (who has a Masters and Teaching degree from Concordia, Irvine) is currently working at Chili's and Chick-fil-a to make ends meet. His servant heart to do what ever it takes is an inspiration to many. We look forward to the time that the church plant can financially support him as well.

Target Dates for September 2010 Launch

There are many things that will need to happen between now and the launch date. Listed below are milestone dates building up to the Mission Plant.

2009

1. PLACE & GATHERING SPACE

1. Prepare home for training and meeting space **(September - October)**
2. Begin to research facilities that can be possible worship locations (Schools, Hotel, Current Churches open to a partnership, Store Front) **(September -December)**
3. Continue to connect with local schools and school leaders **(September - December)**

2. PEOPLE: KEY LEADERS AND FAMILIES

1. Continue to connect with current supporter of the church plant and actively search for new donors
2. Have conversations with key families who may be a part of the mission plant **(September)**
3. Host two family explore nights to lay out core values and attitudes and discuss commitment to the mission plant **(October & November)**
4. Develop plan and funding for mission plant Point and Partner **(October)**
5. Two weekly Podcasts begins 1) Walk through the book of ACTS-Jason 2) Training and reflections on Core Values and Core Lifestyles-Travis **(October)**
6. Pull together Team to develop ministry that meets a need in our community **(December)**
7. Have plan approved by district for Point and Partner funding **(November -December)**
8. Monthly gatherings with key plant families to connect, grow, pray, and refine vision for the mission plant **(December)**

3. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Develop third source funding for mission plant **(October -December)**
2. Develop Logo and Launch Water's Edge Allen Website **(October)**
3. Begin SMP Training **(September)**

4. Acquire funding for SMP Training (**October**)
5. Submit a Mission Action Plan to district to begin to request funding for the Mission Plant (**October**)

2010

1. PLACE & GATHERING SPACE

1. Begin searching for a location that will be able to house worship for 200-300 (**January-March**)
2. Sign Contract for Worship Location (**March-April**)
3. Start weekly worships in new worship site to work out kinks with Tech and move in/out stuff (**August**)
4. Officially start worship in new location (**September**)

2. PEOPLE: KEY LEADERS/FAMILIES

1. Key Families commit to the following: (**January**)
 - Training/Preparing twice a month on Core Values, Core Lifestyle, and connecting with community
 - Commitment to worship at WEA (Building toward Sept. 2010 Launch)
 - Praying God will give a passion for Neighbors & Friends
 - Two year commitment of Time, Energy, First fruit Giving and Resources.
2. Begin monthly worship services in a home near launch location to build community.(**January**)
3. Develop an ongoing ministry that meets the needs of community (possible Mom and Toddler gathering (**January**))
4. Identify and pull together the church plant's Spiritual Leadership Team (**January - February**)
5. Worship Twice a month. (**March**)
6. Begin monthly SLT meetings (**March**)
7. Key leaders are identified, Hired and trained in key ministry areas; Childcare, Worship, Family DTX. (**March - May**)
8. Core Launch Families begin weekly worship at public gathering place as practice for public launch (**August**)
9. Develop 101 class for guests and others looking to join the movement (**August**)
10. Public Worship is Launched (**September 12, 2010**)
11. Begin lunches/dinners/coffees with visitors and Guests (**September**)
12. Look and see if there is someone poised to join the WEA team to begin preparing next church launch (**August-October**)

3. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Ramp up hosting gatherings for friends and neighbors to build relationships with dechurched and unconnected **(March)**
2. Start to get the word out through Community Touch Points **(May-August)**
3. Develop two year Ministry Action Plan with SLT **(March-May)**
4. Open Up Website for Visitors and Guest **(May)**
5. Identify and begin training on Church Database Software (Web Based Ideal) **(May)**
6. Purchase tech gear, child care gear, family DTX gear, and software along with other items needed for public worship **(July)**
7. Order Signage **(August)**
8. Begin lunches/dinners/coffees with visitors and Guests **(September)**
9. Attend Catalyst 2010 in Atlanta, GA **(October)**
10. Present 2 year Ministry Action Plan to District **(October)**.
11. Throw a GREAT Christmas Party for core families and guest to celebrate what GOD is doing **(December)**