# Belowing Find your place.

LifeSpring Church



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#### DERSTAN D HE Ν S f Å 1 ł 5 Ĭ 10 l k S н ï WHILE BUILDING ME.

### WELCOME

We want to take a moment to welcome you to our Belong class and to say thank you for making a decision to join the family here at LifeSpring Church. Our greatest desire is that as you join with us, you will truly discover your purpose in fulfilling His vision for your life and for our church. In this community, we believe you will find meaningful relationships, encounter genuine care, experience authentic growth and discover lasting purpose.

This "Next Steps" journey will help you get to know who we are and why we exist. As you learn more about where we've been and where we are going, you will find it much easier to connect your family, your heart and your life to this local church.

As we walk this journey together, and as you learn our principles and values, we encourage you to open your heart to receive, to be challenged, and to be changed. This is YOUR church and YOU belong!

Sincerely,

#### Bryan & Dyane Davis

Lead Pastors // LifeSpring Church

## SESSION ONE // VISION AND MISSION



## SESSION ONE // VISION & MISSION

#### I. WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

LifeSpring Church began as a dream in the heart of Pastors Justin and Kim Manzey in 2003. Five people gathered in a living room and began praying and preparing for what God might do. They launched their first public service in the ABC Convention Center with 12 people in June 2003 under the name Christ in Action Fellowship. As the church began to grow, Pastor Justin partnered with North County Christ the King Church and the church officially changed their name to Abbotsford Christ the King (or ACtK). The church enjoyed many years of growth and health seeing many lives changed by the power of the Gospel.

In 2012, the Lord began to speak to Justin and Kim about a change in their ministry. They began to sense that the Lord was leading them to travel and focus on building and planting churches throughout the nations of the world. They handed the church to Bob and Josephine Wong for a short season as they followed the call of God. In early 2015, Justin and Kim Manzey, along with the eldership team, invited Pastors Bryan and Dyane Davis to take the role of Lead Pastors on a permanent basis. The Davis' were officially ordained as Lead Pastors on Easter Sunday, 2015 and Pastor Bryan preached his first message then as the new Lead Pastor. In the summer of 2015, ACtK officially changed their name to LifeSpring Church with a fresh vision to bring life to people in the city of Abbotsford and beyond. You can have confidence knowing that you are joining a church whose future is bright with many stories yet to be written and many lives yet to be changed. Truly, the best is yet to come!

#### II. WHO WE ARE

#### A. UNDERSTANDING THE NAME

"...BUT WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE HIM WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY AGAIN. THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE HIM WILL BECOME IN HIM A SPRING OF WATER WELLING UP TO ETERNAL LIFE." JOHN 4:14 (ESV)

The name LifeSpring Church really represents a few ideas. First, the idea of ETERNAL LIFE. Our desire is that everyone who comes through our doors would encounter Jesus and have the opportunity to know and follow Him.

Secondly, the idea that this church would be a place of life where there is a passionate expression of our love for the Lord. We don't think church should be boring but that it should be a place filled with life!

And lastly, the word "spring" means "to be suddenly released from a confined place." It is our desire that people would be released from those things which have them bound, and that they would truly experience the freedom that is found only in Christ Jesus.

#### B. AFFILIATION AND STRUCTURE

LifeSpring Church is a non-denominational, independent charismatic church. We are a Bible-based, Spirit-filled, Acts 2 church that believes the basic tenets of the Christian faith and believes that the church of today will need the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power to impact our culture.

#### 1. AFFILIATION

We do not belong to any denomination, but we are considered a network church of City Bible Church in Portland, Oregon. We also belong to an organization called MFI, which stands for Ministers Fellowship International. The primary purpose of these two connnections are relationship and accountability.

#### 2. LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

LifeSpring Church is governed by a team of elders with the Lead Pastor being the executive overseer of the general vision and direction of the church. The Lead Pastor is accountable to the eldership team as they give direction to the overall vision of the church as well as doctrine and strategic decisions for the future of our church.

#### C. LIFESPRING CHURCH VALUES

Values are the non-negotiable, unchanging beliefs that answer the question of why we do what we do. Values drive everything we do. Our values are fixed even if our methods remain fluid. We want you to feel the heartbeat of LifeSpring Church, so we hope you connect to and own these values for yourself. When these values are understood by the whole congregation, there is strength of unity and depth of conviction and loyalty.

- Disciples that disciple. It's all about people, relationships, evangelism and growth
- Making His presence a priority. It's all about worship and prayer
- Doing things well and doing things right. Its' all about excellence and integrity
- 4. Not taking anything for granted. It's all about gratefulness and hard work
- 5. Not holding back! It's all about generosity and passion
- 6. Enjoying the journey! It's all about joy and celebrating the wins

#### III. WHERE WE ARE GOING

"NOW ALL GLORY TO GOD, WHO IS ABLE, THROUGH HIS MIGHTY POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO ACCOMPLISH INFINITELY MORE THAN WE MIGHT ASK OR THINK. GLORY TO HIM IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS FOREVER AND EVER! AMEN." EPHESIANS 3:20-21

As you join LifeSpring Church, you will be connecting to a local church that has a progressive and aggressive vision. We believe that God desires to move us forward with His great grace upon us. Whatever the Lord puts before us, we have the faith to believe He is able to bring it to pass. We have a great vision because we serve a great God who does great things.

You have a part to play in making the vision a reality. We believe that God has brought you here to both be equipped to fulfill God's vision for your life and to become an important factor in fulfilling the vision God has given to LifeSpring Church.

#### A. OUR MISSION

Our mission is built from two key passages found in the Gospel of Matthew. These two passages make up the "Great Commandment" and the "Great Commission."

#### THE GREAT COMMANDMENT - Matthew 22:37-39

"YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, ALL YOUR SOUL, AND ALL YOUR MIND.' THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT. A SECOND IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

#### THE GREAT COMMISSION - Matthew 28:19-20

"THEREFORE, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. TEACH THESE NEW DISCIPLES TO OBEY ALL THE COMMANDS I HAVE GIVEN YOU. AND BE SURE OF THIS: I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE."

The result of these passages is a statement which is the heart and soul of our church...

#### "LOVING PEOPLE TO LIFE IN CHRIST."

#### B. MISSION STRATEGY

"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." ACTS 1:8

Jerusalem - Represents our "city" responsibility.

Judea - Represents our "regional" responsibility.

Samaria - Represents our "ethnic diversity" responsibility.

Ends of the earth - Represents our "global" responsibility.

#### IV. HOW YOU CAN BE A PART

#### A. WHY MEMBERSHIP?

Membership is an important commitment that shows you agree with the vision and the values of this church and that you are dedicated to supporting those values in pursuit of the future. You are making the decision to move from being an ATTENDER to becoming a MEMBER. The biggest difference between these two ideas is commitment. An attender is a CONSUMER whereas a member is a CONTRIBUTOR.

At LifeSpring Church, we ask you to commit to membership due to the following four reasons:

1. BIBLICAL REASON

Christ is committed to the church and is the example we are to follow. "...CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIS LIFE FOR IT." EPHESIANS 5:25

2. CULTURAL REASON

We live in a day and age where very few people want to be committed to be committed to anything, whether it be a job, a marriage or even our country. This attitude has even produced a whole generation of "church shoppers and hoppers." Membership swims against the current of Canada's brand of "consumer religion."

#### 3. PRACTICAL REASON

Membership helps to identify who is in the family and is ready and willing to help the vision and the future of LifeSpring Church!

4. PERSONAL REASON

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

#### B. STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP

In order to become a member at LifeSpring Church, we ask you to fulfill the following six conditions:

1. SALVATION

You must know Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. Membership at this church is only meaningful if a person has first been joined to Christ.

- WATER BAPTISM You must be water baptized. Water baptism is an important part of a believer's faith.
- 3. PASTORAL MEETING You must meet with one of our pastoral leaders and complete the membership card. The primary purpose of this meeting is to get to know you as you plant yourself in this church.
- 4. MINIMUM AGE You must be at least 18 years of age.
- 5. CLASS COMPLETION You must complete all 3 sessions of the Belong class.
- NEW MEMBER WELCOME SUNDAY You must participate in a Sunday morning, new member welcome service. We will invite you up front to celebrate, pray, and receive you as a member of LifeSpring Church.

#### V. CONCLUSION

- A. TAKING THE NEXT STEP
  - 1. Read and Review the QUESTIONS & ANSWERS appendix found on page 48.
  - 2. Pray about how God might be leading you to be a part of this church!

## SESSION TWO // GROW



### SESSION TWO // GROW

Everything God creates is intended to grow. Whether it be a tree, a flower, a physical body, or a soul, everything should progress toward a more mature state. Your part in LifeSpring Church starts with your personal commitment to grow. And growth starts with you deciding to be fully devoted to Christ in mind, emotions and your inner person. Such devotion results in wise decision-making, favour, spiritual growth and passion to share Jesus' love with the world. God wants you to grow!

In the New Testament Scriptures, one clear example of growth is the church in the Book of Acts.

"THEN THOSE WHO GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED; AND THAT DAY ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS WERE ADDED TO THEM. AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE AND FELLOWSHIP, IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND IN PRAYERS." ACTS 2:41-42

#### I. GROW DEFINED

A. GROW DEFINED

To undergo a continual process of development that results in greater health and maturity.

- B. GROWING AT LIFESPRING CHURCH Growing is my PERSONAL responsibility, as I determine to live life with the goal of "loving people to life in Christ."
- C. MY GOAL

"I devote to growing consistently in every area of my life. My desire is to be more like Jesus."

"THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL FLOURISH LIKE A PALM TREE, HE SHALL GROW LIKE A CEDAR IN LEBANON. THOSE WHO ARE PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD SHALL FLOURISH IN THE COURTS OF OUR GOD." PSALM 92:12-13

#### II. INGREDIENTS OF A GROWING BELIEVER

#### A. SALVATION

1. A personal relationship with Jesus begins with acknowledging that you are a sinner and fall short of God's glory and that Jesus is the Son of God who died, was buried, and was raised from the dead and who lives fore-evermore. You then ask Christ to forgive you of your sins. This is what the Bible defines as being "born again." JOHN 3:3,16; ROMANS 3:23-26; 6:23; 10:9-10

- 2. Salvation is receiving a new heart. The Bible teaches that the heart encompasses our inner life—our soul, mind, will and emotions. Through salvation, God gives us a new heart and a new spirit—a new you! This is the new life created in you that has the power to produce new attitudes that will mold a new spiritual life. JEREMIAH 31:31-34 ; 1 PETER 3:4 ; PROVERBS 4:18 ; EZEKIEL 36:25-27
- 3. Sanctification Evidence of New Birth
  - a. I practice righteous deeds. JOHN 8:41; 1 JOHN 2:29
  - b. I have the love of God in my heart, expressed through worship and works. JOHN 8:42
  - c. I have a spiritual understanding of the Word of God and hunger for it. JOHN 8:47; LUKE 24:31-32; 1 PETER 2:2
  - d. I do not continue to live according to my old carnal habits and sins of the flesh. 1 JOHN 3:9; 5:18
  - e. I have a godly, sincere love for myself, others and even my enemies. *1 JOHN 3:16; 4:7-8,11-12*
  - f. I obey the commandments of Christ. 1 JOHN 5:1-3
  - g. I have a desire and God-given strength to overcome the world. *1 JOHN 5:4*

#### B. WATER BAPTISM

- 1. Water baptism is the outward expression of an inward work that you are born again. It is a seal of the salvation experience. ACTS 2:41 ; LUKE 16:24 ; JOHN 13:26 ; REVELATION 19:13
- 2. Water baptism is a symbolic act that represents the death and burial of the sinful nature. When you go into the water of baptism, you identify with Christ's death and burial. When you come out of the water, you identify with Christ's resurrection. ROMANS 6:3-11
- 3. Water baptism was instituted by Jesus. Jesus himself was baptized in the Jordan River. He then commanded all those who follow Him to "go, make disciples, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." MATTHEW 3:13 ; 28:19

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- 4. Water baptism was practiced in the New Testament Church. The Apostle Peter told the 1st century followers, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." ACTS 2:38
- 5. Water baptism is for those who have repented of their sins and are now born again. Throughout the book of Acts, whenever people had accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour, they would immediately be baptized in water.
- 6. When you make the decision to be water baptized, there is evidence that you have buried your old sin nature.
  - a. You have committed to bury your old sin nature. ROMANS 6:3-10; GENESIS 8 AND 9; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-2
  - b. You are willing to identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. *ROMANS 6:3-6; JOHN 3:22*
  - c. You desire to obey Christ. JOHN 2:5; 15:14; MATTHEW 12:50
  - d. You have a change of heart. COLOSSIANS 2:11-12
  - e. You have a new boldness to live your life as a public confession to God, your church family and the devil that you are a follower of Christ. MARK 1:4

#### C. HOLY SPIRIT

- 1. There are three predominant Holy Spirit encounters in the life of a believer.
  - a. You are born of the Spirit, which happens at the moment of conversion. JOHN 3:5-6; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-17; 6:17
  - b. You are baptized in the Spirit after salvation, as an endowment of the power of the Holy Spirit.
     LUKE 3:16; ACTS 2:4; 8:14-17; 10:44-48; 19:1-6
  - c. You are filled continually with the Spirit as part of an ongoing experience of living a Spirit-filled life. ACTS 4:31; 13:5,9; EPHESIANS 5:18-19

- i. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is seen in the book of Acts as a vital part of the believer's experience. ACTS 2:1-3 ; 8:14-17 ; 10:44-48 ; 9:1-6
- To be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be immersed, submerged, and saturated with the Holy Spirit, resulting in an overflow of the Holy Spirit with the receiving of a spiritual language.
   ACTS 2:3-4,11,39 ; 10:46 ; 19:6 ; 1 CORINTHIANS 14:5,18,39
- 2. Benefits of living a Spirit-filled life:
  - a. The Holy Spirit brings strength to our inner person. EPHESIANS 3:16
  - b. The Holy Spirit sets us free from the power of sin. ROMANS 8:1-2
  - c. The Holy Spirit directs us towards God's will. ROMANS 8:27
  - d. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Helper. JOHN 14:16
  - e. The Holy Spirit renews our minds. ROMANS 12:1-2
  - f. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray. ROMANS 8:26
  - g. The Holy Spirit empowers us to spread the good news. ACTS 1:8
  - h. The Holy Spirit helps us with our infirmities. ROMANS 8:26
  - i. The Holy Spirit teaches us. JOHN 14:26
  - j. The Holy Spirit guides us. JOHN 16:13
  - k. The Holy Spirit gives us the gifts of the Spirit to do His work. ROMANS 12:6

#### III. HOW YOU CAN GROW

The Bible gives us clear instructions about how we can grow in Christ. Growth requires a willingness to align our behaviors to God's way of living life. Growth is not a one-time act but a continual process of living to become more like Jesus. Here are some great habits that you can incorporate into your life that will encourage your growth and relationship with God.

#### 1. READING YOUR BIBLE

ACTS 2:42 "...AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE..."

- a. The church was established upon the clear teaching of God's Word. PROV. 4:2; ACTS 5:28; EPH. 4:14; 1 TIM. 1:10; 4:6,16; 2 TIM. 3:10; TITUS 1:9
- b. The Bible is much more than a book; it is the perfect and inspired Word of God.
  1 THESSALONIANS 2:13; HEBREWS 4:12; COLOSSIANS 1:25
- c. Though God is the author of Scripture, He chose to use men to write it. Thus, the Bible is the product of God partnering with man. Its 66 books were written over a period of 1600 years by 40 different authors writing in three different languages.
- d. The believer should read and study the Bible daily. The growing disciple is one who listens to the preaching and teaching of God's word with an open heart and a hungry spirit.

#### 2. PRAYING ALWAYS

ACTS 2:42 "...AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY...IN PRAYERS"

- a. Prayer is the act of heartfelt communication with God; the offering of adoration, confession, supplication and thanksgiving to God on behalf of you or others, both in private and public settings.
- b. The first commitment of the believer is to his or her personal prayer life. PSALM 10:17; 2 TIMOTHY 1:9; 2:1; DANIEL 9:10,20,23; EPHESIANS 3:14
- c. The second commitment of the believer is to corporate prayer; the praying together of the whole congregation. ACTS 1:4; 4:31; EZEKIEL 22:30; ISAIAH 56:7

#### 3. WORSHIPPING PASSIONATELY

- a. Worship is the passionate expression of love and devotion to God for who He is and all He has done. PSALMS 9:1-2; 111:1; 119:2,10; 138:1; JOHN 4:23; EPHESIANS 5:18-19
- b. Every believer is called to be a wholehearted worshipper: one who worships God with a fervent heart, voice and actions in an extravagant fashion of celebration, expressing deep love for God by freely pouring out praise and worship with affection. PSALMS 103:1; 117:1-2; 150:6; MARK 12:30
- c. Biblical expressions of worship include:
  - i. We worship with our singing. PSALM 47:6-7; COLOSSIANS 3:16
  - ii. We worship with our shouting. PSALMS 66:1; 78:65; ISAIAH 42:9-12
  - iii. We worship with our clapping. PSALMS 47:1; 98:4-8; ISAIAH 55:12-13
  - iv. We worship with our kneeling. PSALM 95:6; 1 KINGS 8:54; EPHESIANS 3:14
  - v. We worship with our standing. PSALM 134:1; NEHEMIAH 9:5
  - vi. We worship with the lifting of our hands. PSALMS 28:2; 119:48; 134:2; 1 TIMOTHY 2:8

#### 4. LIFE GROUPS

One of the best ways to be a part of the LifeSpring community and to ensure that you continue growing is by joining a Life Group. We have an expanding list of Life Groups that you can participate in to connect with others. Be sure to check them out online at www.mylifespring.ca!

#### 5. WEEKEND SERVICES

Attendance at weekend services will both energize and encourage you. At our services, you will meet other Christians in the church, be able to serve in places of ministry, hear the Word of God, worship with your whole heart and experience the presence of God. There is no replacement for regular attendance in our weekend services. MATTHEW 16:18; 18:15-22; HEBREWS 10:25

#### 6. SERVE SOMEWHERE

In the heart of every person is the desire to make a difference. This desire can be fulfilled only when you possess a genuine love for people and a passion to serve others. This mindset of serving others runs opposite of the world in which we live; but the Kingdom of God is based on a very different value system. The Bible declares that serving is the highest calling one can possess. MATTHEW 20:28; EPHESIANS 2:10; ROMANS 12:3-8

#### IV. CONCLUSION

#### A. TAKING THE NEXT STEP

- 1. Pick one of the six growth-points that you can personally improve on right now.
- 2. If you have not yet been water baptized, start that process now by talking to a leader or filling out the form online at www.mylifespring.ca

## **SESSION THREE // GIVE**



## SESSION THREE // GIVE

When we're passionate about the church and how God is using it to redeem the world today, we get involved! The Bible teaches that we should use whatever gift God has given us to faithfully serve others and so show the grace of God in its various forms (See 1 Peter 4:10). God has given each of us gifts of time, talent, energy, possessions and finances to faithfully steward them for the advancement of His kingdom. When we trust Him by freely giving our gifts and resources back to him through the local church, then, as members of His church, we will see His provision and grace in all areas of our life!

#### I. GIVE DEFINED

- A. GIVE DEFINED To present voluntarily and without expecting compensation.
- B. GIVING AT LIFESPRING CHURCH Giving is my PRACTICAL responsibility as I willingly surrender my rights and interests and dedicate my resources and energy to advancing the kingdom of God with others.
- C. MY GOAL

"I choose to be a giver and a steward of the time, talent and treasure God has given to me."

"GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. A GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER AND RUNNING OVER, WILL BE POURED INTO YOUR LAP. FOR WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU." LUKE 6:38

#### II. WHAT YOU ARE GIVING TO

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "I will build my church..." Therefore, in making the decision to join LifeSpring Church, you are participating with Jesus in building something extraordinary. He is building His church and He is using you and I to do it! It is our belief that the local church is the sovereign will of God and is central to His redemptive purpose on the earth.

A. AN ACTS 2 CHURCH

Christ is the one who instituted the church, so He alone retains the right to define what it should look like. Acts chapter 2 gives us great insight as to the kind of church we should strive to be building.

"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND TO FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO PRAYER. 43 EVERYONE WAS FILLED WITH AWE AT THE MANY WONDERS AND SIGNS PERFORMED BY THE APOSTLES. 44 ALL THE BELIEVERS WERE TOGETHER AND HAD EVERYTHING IN COMMON. 45 THEY SOLD PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS TO GIVE TO ANYONE WHO HAD NEED. 46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD IN THEIR HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINCERE HEARTS, 47 PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING THE FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED." ACTS 2:42-47

#### B. EIGHT ACTS 2 FACTORS

- 1. A Gospel-centered church.
- 2. A Spirit-filled church.
- 3. A generous church.
- 4. A joy-filled church.
- 5. A growing church.
- 6. A Presence-driven church.
- 7. A community-focused church.
- 8. A prayer-filled church.

When you understand the kind of church we are building, we hope it will give you a confidence to plant yourself here and give of the gifts God has given to you.

#### III. INGREDIENTS OF A GIVING BELIEVER

#### A. GIVING OUR TIME AND TALENTS

With all the activities pressing for our time, it can be easy to forget how serving the church through our time and talents is important to our faith and walk with God. A giving believer, though, recognizes the value of service and how serving is an important part to our discipleship.

#### 1. SERVING REMINDS US OF GOD'S GRACE

Things go wrong when we convince ourselves that we were born with our gifts or that our skills and abilities were acquired all on our own. The truth is, although we did participate in the shaping of our gifts and talents (often through much determination and hard work!), God is ultimatley responsible for the gift itself. He gave it to you. 1 Corinthians 4:7 puts it this way: "What do you have that you did not receive?" Our gifts and talents are testimonies to God's grace in our lives, changing our motiva tion from "have to" to "get to."

#### 2. YOUR GIFT MATTERS TO THE CHURCH

No matter how big or small you believe your contribution is, it matters to the church. The Bible compares every member of a church to different parts of the body. Just as the body cannot properly function without every part doing its part, so the body of Christ cannot function properly without every member doing their part. In fact, the Bible stresses that the parts we deem the most insignificant are, in fact, the most important in God's eyes.

"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?" 1 Corinthians 12:14-17

#### 3. FINDING A PLACE TO SERVE

Every member of LifeSpring Church should serve somewhere! Regardless of where you serve in the church or in the community, you represent Jesus and His church. Serving is not defined by position, time or location; and a servant is always ready to serve and fill in wherever there is a need.

a. Serve wherever there is a need.

If you love the house (i.e., the church), it doesn't matter what room you're in! At LifeSpring Church, our primary motivation is to serve God's house rather than fulfill our personal ministries. In fact, we believe God's call on our lives comes through being open and available to serving wherever there's a need.

b. Serve in the area you are passionate about.

Maybe you already have an area of ministry you've been hoping to get involved in—great! Or maybe you're unsure about what you might be good at. Well, that's OK too! 4. STEPS TO GETTING INVOLVED.

#### a. CONSIDER

Consider an area in which you would like to serve. Use the appendix at the back of this book to review all of our current ministries.

#### b. CONNECT Connect with the team leader currently overseeing the team you'd like to get involved in.

d. COMMIT Commit to being faithful and showing up ready to serve.

#### B. GIVING OUR TREASURE

At LifeSpring, we believe that God calls us to give not only of our time and talents, but also of our treasures—our finances! In doing so, we believe we are honouring God with everything He's given to us.

We can give financially in one of two ways:

- 1. TITHES A tithe is a tenth part of anything. It is the first portion of our income, of all we earn, and it belongs to God already. GENESIS 28:22; DEUTERONOMY 26:10,12; PROVERBS 3:9-10
  - a. Tithing is a biblical principle seen throughout the Scriptures and first mentioned in the life of Abraham. GENESIS 14:20
  - b. Tithing is not an exclusively Old Testament teaching. MATTHEW 23:23; 6:1-4; 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7
  - c. Tithing is a sacred portion of our income that we set aside for the Lord. DEUTERONOMY 26:13; LEVITICUS 27:26,30,32
  - d. Tithing acknowledges that all we have belongs to God. GENESIS 28:22; DEUTERONOMY 26:10; 28:11-14
  - e. Tithing is an act of worship and an offering of rejoicing. DEUTERONOMY 26:10; 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7; JOHN 4:23-24
  - f. Tithing is an act of spiritual obedience. DEUTERONOMY 26:14
  - h. Tithing provides for the release of ministry in the local church and beyond. NEHEMIAH 13:10-12; 1 CORINTHIANS 9:9; ACTS 28:10

2. OFFERINGS – An offering is an undesignated, unlimited amount given as a free-will love gift to the Lord. Offerings are above and beyond the tithe.

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-15; 23:23; LEVITICUS 22:29; GENESIS 28:22

- a. We are encouraged to give cheerfully and willingly. 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7
- b. We are promised that God responds to our generosity by giving us divine provisions both directly and indirectly. MALACHI 3:9-10; PROVERBS 10:22; ACTS 3:5; MATTHEW 7:8
- We are blessed with surplus so that we have more than enough to give liberally.
  1 CHRONICLES 4:10; PROVERBS 3:9-10; 22:4; 3 JOHN 2

#### IV. CONCLUSION

#### A. TAKING THE NEXT STEP

- 1. Consider where God might be calling you to serve His church!
- 2. Review all the serving options in the church and consider a ministry area that might best fit you and what you are passionate about.
- 3. Make a heart commitment that you will be generous with the resources the Lord has given to you.

# SESSION FOUR // GO



### SESSION FOUR // GO

At LifeSpring, we take seriously Jesus' commission to "*go* and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19-20). Being a disciple mean we weren't just save *from* something but that we were saved *for* something.

Discipleship is foundational to Christianity. But at its core, it's a simple concept. In fact, it's so simple that 2,000 years ago Jesus explained it to a group of fishermen in one sentance: "Come, follow me ... and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). To be a disciple is to follow Jesus, reach the lost and engage in this process with other believers in the church.

### I. GO DEFINED

- A. GO DEFINED To move or proceed; to keep or be in motion.
- B. GOING AT LIFESPRING CHURCH Going is my POTENTIAL responsibility, as I share the love of Christ with others and develop the potential in myself and others I encounter.
- C. MY "GOING" GOAL "I choose to follow the command of Christ and be a disciple that disciples."

"THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS..." MATTHEW 28:19 (NIV)

### II. INGREDIENTS OF A GOING BELIEVER

Here are some practical ways in which you can engage in active discipleship here at LifeSpring Church.

A. DISCIPLESHIP IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Our aim is to build a culture of evangelism and growht and to incorporate that into everything that we do (versus the traditional idea of having an evangelis ministry). Our ultimate goal would be to have every event, weekend service, a Life Group be an opportunity to help people grow closer to Jesus.

Alongside this, however, we are also actively engaged with our community through:

- 1. Invite cards
- 2. Community outreach events
- 3. Community serving projects

### B. DISCIPLESHIP IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

A big part of discipleship is having the opportunity to disciple one another in the context of Christian community. In the book of Acts we see that there was a tremendous sense of community that existed within the early church...

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 they sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising god and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:44-47

Moreover, there are over 100 "one another" verses in the New Testament alone, calling us to love, accept, bear with, forgive, encourage and build up one another. While our weekend services provide us with a great sense of community, the truth is a one-hour service is not enough for us to obey the many "one another" commands.

One of the best ways we encourage people to pursue this kind of community the New Testament offers us is by committing to joining a Life Group.

### III. COMMUNITY AT LIFESPRING CHURCH

#### A. TYPES OF LIFE GROUPS

At LifeSpring you will find all types of Life Groups. There are prayer groups, service groups, generational groups, groups based on hobbies, Bible-study groups and more.

Our hope is that as you join with us you will find the right Life Group for you! And if that group doesn't exist yet, why not consider starting one and making it happen!

#### B. FINDING THE RIGHT GROUP FOR YOU

1. PRAY

Ask the Lord to help you in your search to find the right group.

2. REVIEW

Review the list of Life Groups that are available. Our groups are listed on our website at www.mylifespring.ca

- CONTACT
  Once you have made a decision to try a group, contact the group leader.
- 4. COMMIT Make a commitment to show up no matter what!

Relationships take time and require some risk. However, the effort you are willing to put into relationships will directly result in the fulfillment you receive from those relationships. Connecting with others in the LifeSpring family is central to all we do. Take the risk. You won't be disappointed.

#### C. PASTORAL CARE AT LIFESPRING CHURCH

One of the most important responsibilities of this church is to care for those God has entrusted to our care. We believe every person matters to God; therefore they matter to us. The health of every LifeSpring family member is important to us as we all work together to meet the needs of those around us.

#### 1. PASTORAL CARE IN THE BIBLE

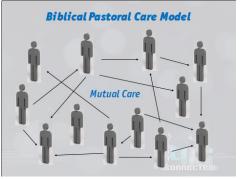
The Bible is very clear as to how pastoral care took place in the New Testament church. Most needs were met by the members of of a local church and not the professional clergy.

ACTS 2:40-47



#### IMBALANCED PASTORAL CARE

#### BIBLICAL MUTUAL CARE MODEL



### 2. CARE BEGINS IN THE LIFE GROUP

- a. The best way to receive care is through your Life Group.
- b. The majority of pastoral issues are fairly common issues.
- c. If the need is beyond the Life Group's ability to handle, those needs can be directed to the pastoral team.

### 3. RECEIVING CARE THROUGH THE PASTORAL TEAM

If you are facing a serious situation or are unable to find the care you need, the pastoral team is available to gladly assist you with your needs. Whether your need concerns marriage, pre-marriage, finance, organizing funerals or weddings, or managing an emergency situation, please feel free to contact the church.

- a. Contact the church office and ask for pastoral assistance.
- b. Talk to any pastor during any public service or meeting.
- c. Send an email to a pastor by going to our website and on the staff page, click on the appropriate email.

### IV. CONCLUSION

### A. TAKING THE NEXT STEP

- 1. Review the list of Life Groups and find one that fits you best
- 2. Once you've done all three classes, set up a time to have a meeting with someone from our pastoral team. (But don't worry, if you forget we'll be sure to contact you!)

## THE APPENDIX // MORE INFO ABOUT LIFESPRING CHURCH



### **APPENDIX A // NEXT STEPS**

Throughout the Belong journey, you have learned the history of LifeSpring Church, our vision, values, and our three goals for every believer: To GROW, GIVE and GO. Now, in order to complete the class, there are a few simple steps that need to be taken:

- 1. Review the Membership Card listed on the next page
- 3. Read through Questions and Answers Sheet (see Appendix C).
- 4. Read the LifeSpring Statement of Faith (see Appendix D).
- 5. Select a Life Group that you hope to attend.
- 6. Choose an area where you can serve.
- 7. Set up an appointment with a pastoral team member.
- 8. If you need to be water baptized, sign up for the next available baptism.
- 9. Participate in our NEW MEMBER WELCOME during the fourth Sunday of the month.
- 10. Continue your journey as a new member of the LifeSpring family.

Thank you for choosing to become a member of the LifeSpring Church family. We are truly privileged that you have walked this journey and are committing to join your heart and your life with this community. We look forward to serving with you and helping you fulfill your God-given potential in the local church. Thank you!

Blessings,

Bryan & Dyane Davis Lead Pastors // LifeSpring Church

### APPENDIX B // THE MEMBERSHIP CARD

The purpose of including the membership card in the appendix is to give you an opportunity to review the membership questions. Prayerfully consider your answers as you prepare to meet with a leader and/or pastor at LifeSpring Church.

I am at least 18 years of ago

I have accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour

I have been baptized by water in immersion

I am willing to come under the pastoral care and leadership of LifeSpring Church

My life is in alignment with God's Word as it pertains to moral purity and Christian living

I have left previous churches in a biblical manner and free of offense

I have read and support the Statement of Faith

I want to be a part of making our church's God-given dream a reality

As a born-again Christian, belonging to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, I publically identify myself with this local church, embracing the responsibilities and discipline of a committed member. By God's grace I will support and champion the vision and values of LifeSpring Church. I agree to be loyal, to serve and to live my life according to God's Word.

Member name:

Member signature:

Pastoral team name:

Pastoram team signature:

Date:

### APPENDIX C // SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

### LIFESPRING KIDS

LifeSpring Kids demonstrates God's love by providing care for kids as they learn more about God through fun and exciting activities. There are several opportunities to get involved as either a Sunday school teacher or helper in the following positions: Nursery (6-24 months), Explorers (2 Years), Adventure Kids (3-K), and Thrive Kids (Grades 1-5). We also have opportunities in other areas, such as our Check-ins booth! Be sure to contact our Kid's Director (ariana@ mylifespring.ca) for more information!

### **FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

The First Impressions team creates a friendly atmosphere for people to meet God at our church by welcoming them from the street to their seat! We do this through a number of different positions, including our Connect Team, who welcome our first-time guests; Door Greeters, who greet people with a smile at the door; Parking Security attendants, who both keep watch over the cars during the service and greet people as they come in; Seaters and Greeters, who find and accommodate seating; and our hospitality team, who provide us with our morning coffee! Contact Jackie Mitton (jackie@mylifespring.ca) for details on how you can get involved!

### **STEWARDSHIP & FACILITIES**

Our Stewardship & Facilities team serve by collecting and counting the tithes and offerings on Sundays during the service. They also assist in making our church look presentable to people driving by and ensuring the building is locked up after the service. Contact Steve McIlravey (steve72@shaw.ca) for more information!

### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

The Production team provides consistent sound and visual representation in worship for our Sunday services. There are opportunities to get trained as both a sound technician and a visual media producer. Lyndon Dueck (lyndon@mylifespring.ca) is our sound and media guru, and he would be more than happy to talk about your involvement in this key ministry area.

### **WORSHIP TEAM**

The worship team leads our church into a corporate expression of worship and praise through song and singing. This is an exciting team to be a part of that includes all sorts of instruments: guitar, bass, drums, voice, and percussion.

If you have a passion to play and, more importantly, a passion to worship God through music, contact Landon Lucas (landon@mylifespring.ca).

### YOUTH MINISTRY

The Vibe is our youth ministry led by Jarius and Trisha Trelenberg who are devoted to leading, pastoring and loving our students to life in Christ. There are many opportunities here including The Vibe worship team, small group leadership (for both Junior and Senior high students), or as a general youth leader, which typically consists of serving food and leading games. They meet on Wednesday nights between 6:00 and 9:00pm at LifeSpring church. Contact Jarius and Trish (jarius@mylifespring.ca) to find out about how you can get involved!

### YOUNG ADULTS

If you're a young adult, you need to check out our fantastic group of Young Adults! There are also occasional events where you, as a member of this group, would be able to contribute! Contact Bryan at bryan@mylifespring.ca if you're interested in getting involved with our group of Young Adults!

### **EVENTS**

Events are a way for our church to be a presence in our community. LifeSpring Church hosts a number of events throughout the year, and you can play a part in hosting them! Whether you'd like to get involved setting up or even decorating, there are always plenty of opportunities to serve! Contact Landon Lucas (landon@mylifespring.ca) for more details.

### APPENDIX D // Q & A

### HOW IS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH STRUCTURED?

The eldership has the accountability of the overall vision, doctrine and major structural changes. The church in the book of Acts provides a biblical pattern of eldership rule. Elders are chosen and ordained according to the qualifications found in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3 and are the legal directors of the corporation and the spiritual governing body of LifeSpring Church.

### TO WHOM IS THE LEAD PASTOR ACCOUNTABLE?

The Lead Pastor is the executive overseer of the general vision and direction of the church. He works within the LifeSpring Leadership Organizational Structure in giving direction to the overall vision and future of the church and is accountable to the eldership. The Lead Pastor is also part of Ministers Fellowship International (MFI), an independent fellowship of pastors.

### WHAT PROTECTS LIFESPRING CHURCH FROM PREACHING HERESY AND EXTREME DOCTRINES?

Acts 17:11 says that each believer is responsible to diligently search the Scriptures themselves and prove the teaching they are receiving. However, leaders are also responsible to God for what they teach. As stated above, the Lead Pastor is accountable to the eldership for the doctrine that is being taught. The Lead Pastor also is accountable to other apostolic ministries who speak into his life.

### WHY DO SOME PEOPLE SPEAK IN TONGUES IN THE SERVICE?

The Bible says we are to pray both with our understanding and with our spirit. When we pray in the spirit, speaking in tongues, they do not need to be translated as we are praying directly to the Lord. The gift of tongues is different and requires interpretation.

### IS LIFESPRING CHURCH A PART OF A DENOMINATION?

No. We are an autonomous local church that is self-governing and self-supporting. We are in fellowship with MFI for accountability and relationship.

### WHAT THEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND DOES LIFESPRING CHURCH HAVE?

We are a Bible-based, Spirit-filled, Acts 2 church that believes the basic tenets of the Christian faith and that the church of the 21st century will need the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power to impact our culture.

### WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DOES LIFESPRING CHURCH HAVE WITH OTHER CHURCHES?

We believe there is one Body of Christ with many expressions as seen in the varied local churches in our area. We fellowship regularly with city pastors from various denominations and theological backgrounds.

### WHAT DOES LIFESPRING CHURCH BELIEVE ABOUT WOMEN AND MINISTRY?

The Bible teaches that both women and men are called to develop their spiritual gifts and to use them as stewards of the grace of God (1 Peter 4:10-11). Both men and women are divinely gifted and empowered to minister to the whole Body of Christ, under His authority (Acts 18:26, 21:9; Romans 16:1-7, 12-13, 15; Philippians 4:2-3; Colossians 4:15).

### HOW IS THE MONEY OF THE CHURCH HANDLED?

The tithes and offerings that are given are given to the Lord and are entrusted into the hands of the church. This is a responsibility that is taken very seriously. There is a very strict accountability in the handling of all monies, from the counting process through the accounting process. Financial decisions are recommended by the stewardship team and confirmed by the eldership. A financial report is reviewed monthly by the eldership team and the stewardship team which is produced by a third party accountant that specializes in serving non-profits.

### IS IT ETHICAL TO SOLICIT BUSINESS IN THE CHURCH?

The church is a place for fellowship and spiritual growth, not a place for business recruiting or to make money. It is wrong to use the relationships built here for personal gain. Likewise, it is wrong to hire someone from within the church and not compensate them fairly for their work simply because they are a fellow believer.

### IS LIFESPRING CHURCH INVOLVED IN WORLD MISSIONS?

Our vision is to reach the nations with the gospel. We support local pastors and ministries in countries around the world. We have sent short-term missionaries in the past and plan on doing so in the future as well.

### APPENDIX E // STATEMENT OF FAITH

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs, and we believe the Bible itself speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of humankind and is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of LifeSpring Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our eldership team is LifeSpring's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

We hold to the teachings reflected in the following clear statements concerning the nature of...

### THE BIBLE

We believe in the plenary-verbal inspiration of the accepted Protestant canon of the Scriptures as originally given and that they are infallibly and uniquely authoritative and free from error of any sort in all matters with which they deal. (II Timothy 3:16; I Corinthians 2:13).

### THE GODHEAD

We believe in the Eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself as ONE God existing in THREE persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14).

### THE WORK OF CHRIST

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of humanity, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin, Mary, fully God and fully man (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6).

We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day, and personally appeared to His disciples (Acts 1:20; I Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 4:25).

We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation and personal, literal and bodily coming again for the second time for His Church (John 14:2-3; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

### CREATION, HUMANITY, AND THE PLIGHT OF HUMANKIND

We believe in the literal, special creation of the existing space-time universe and all of its basic systems as indicated in Genesis. (Genesis 1; Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 42:5; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17).

We believe in the creation, test and fall of humanity as recorded in Genesis; our total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness (Romans 5:12, 18).

We believe that sin is a transgressing of or falling short of God's standard in action, thought, and character. All individuals are born with a sin nature that affects their motivation, affection, volition, and actions. The results of sin include separation from God and death. (Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23; 14:23; James 4:17; I John 5:17).

### **SALVATION & JUDGEMENT**

We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross of Calvary by which we obtain remission of sins (Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:12, 22; Romans 5:11).

We believe in eternal life for believers (John 5:24; 3:16) and eternal punishment for unbelievers (Mark 9:43-48; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15).

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and eternal judgment of Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15).

### **BAPTISM & THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe in the necessity of water baptism by immersion for believers only in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that baptism fulfills the command of Christ and is the mark of our new identity in Jesus. When baptism is enacted with faith, the Spirit of God performs, ascribes, and accomplishes the very meaning of baptism—the forgiveness of our old self is made real, and we are created anew in Christ Jesus for his purposes (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38 39; 19:1-6; Rom 6:1-6; Col 2:10-12).

We believe in the Table of the Lord, commonly called Communion or the Lord's Supper, and that it is reserved for believers only (I Corinthians 11:23-32).

### LIVING A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a distinct aspect of the Christian experience with the primary evidence of speaking in tongues as well as other evidences such as empowerment to witness, to conquer sin and to live a holy life (Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 19:6).

We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world and the perfecting of holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith (Ephesians 5:18; II Corinthians 6:14; 7:1).

We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as manifested in the Early Church and enumerated in I Corinthians 12-14 (Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:8-12).

We believe in the healing of the body by Divine Power, or Divine healing in its varied aspects as practiced in the Early Church (Acts 4:30; Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14).

### THE CHURCH

The church of Jesus Christ is the last instrument that God is using to extend His kingdom prior to the second coming of Christ (Ephesians 3:10; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:20-23).

We believe in the public gathering of the church together for prayer, worship, teaching and preaching of the Bible and the administering of the sacraments of the church (Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 11; Hebrews 10:25).

The local church is intended to be completely autonomous, that is, it is self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating in its mature state.

### **CHURCH GOVERNMENT & AUTHORITY**

We believe that the biblical form of church government is to contain within it a plurality of elders with the Lead Pastor serving as the chief among elders who all qualify on the basis of I Timothy 3 in spiritual life, character, domestic life and ruling ability.

We believe that every believer in Christ must be subject to God's authority in a specific local church for spiritual protection and long-term fruitfulness (Hebrews 13:17).

### MARRIAGE, SEXUALITY, AND GENDER

We believe that the Bible defines marriage as the covenant relationship between a man and a woman. The importance of this union to the Bible and the benefit we believe it brings to society requires that we support and protect marriage as the Bible does. We also believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only within the confines of this definition of marriage (I Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4) and that no sexual activity is to be engaged in outside of marriage.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Thus, we believe that a rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person and that God desires all people to express their gender in accordance with their sexuality.

### APPENDIX F // STAFF & ELDERS

Current LifeSpring Church Staff:

Bryan Davis Landon Lucas Jarius & Trish Trelenberg Ariana Behm Nicole McIlravey Lyndon Dueck Lead Pastor (Full-time) Worship Pastor (Full-time) Youth Pastor (Part-time) Kids Director (Part-time) Church Administrator (Half-time) Sound & Media (Part-time)

Current LifeSpring Church Eldership team:

The eldership team is responsible for the overall vision, doctrine and decision-making of LifeSpring Church. The elders are the legal directors of the corporation, and the eldership team is the spiritual governing body of LifeSpring Church. The legal directors are the individuals named below, however, both husband and wife serve on the eldership team and take part in the governing of the church—its vision, doctrine and decision-making—together. The Lead Pastor directs the edlers' meetings, presents proposals and introduces topics of discussion

Bryan Davis Warren Koop Tim Wiebe Darryl Shaw