

Episode 1: Year End, 2019

The Adventure Begins

Hello, friends!

We have exciting news—we believe God has revealed to us the ministry He has called us to after Jeff graduates from seminary this coming May with his [Master of Divinity](#).

Simple answer...

We'll be building a church in our living room full of neighbors who come to know Jesus through radical hospitality and love. Where? Somewhere near where Jeff grew up (and his parents still live) in Southern Illinois, near St. Louis. When? We plan to move this summer and launch the church in September. How? Well... keep reading.

Longer answer...

We have spent many hours and dollars learning about, praying about, and talking about planting a house church network. I know—crazy, right? We've read books, listened to audio messages, and attended training in San Francisco on the topic. We (mostly Jeff) have repeatedly met with close friends, our church's elders, professors at [TEDS](#) (Jeff's seminary), and our denomination's church planting leaders to discuss what we feel God is calling us to. But, most significantly, we've been meeting with the Lord, a lot. And, both Jeff and I know that we know that we know that this is what God has for us next. And not just for us, but for several friends who we invited to join us in uprooting our families and moving to ... the Illinois side of St. Louis (Gasp!)

The plan is for four families to move into the same neighborhood with a missional mindset of leading neighbors to Christ and discipling them. We will be tentmakers—working normal jobs but living simply so we can devote more time to ministry. We know it's going to be the hardest thing we've ever done, but we are so excited! And praise be to God that we aren't doing it alone!

So, Jeff, being the entrepreneur that he is, and being experienced in the business world, combined with his love for Jesus, God's Word and the Church, has been busy planning how best to launch a house church network. We eagerly desire to be under the authority of our denomination ([the Evangelical Free Church of America](#)), to be led by a balanced board of elders, to partner with other area pastors, and to launch a network of house churches that will multiply from home to home, then city to city. You can see our vision and mission here, but we also have scripture passages that serve as "pillars", a 100-year dream goal, and more. We don't know what God will do, but we know it will be immeasurably more than we could ask or conceive (Eph 3:20). Our desire is to trust Him ruthlessly and to obey Him "riskfully." ☺

Our Vision

We want to be multiplying disciples creating multiplying churches in the neighborhoods.

Our Mission

Both as individual Christ-followers and as a church we seek to...

- To **love God**, which means:
 - **Walk** with God – we spend time with Him in Bible study, prayer, and spiritual discipline
 - **Obey** His word – we do what God commands, even when it's hard
- To **love our neighbors**, which means:
 - **Serve** our neighbors sacrificially – we give our time, talent and treasure to love and serve well
 - **Invite** them into our lives – we don't just share the gospel, but our very lives (1 Thes 2:8)



So, ***we desire to cultivate a personal discipleship and a church culture of spiritual intimacy, obedience, service and radical hospitality.*** This is our ultimate goal in planting churches in our homes and neighborhoods. And we're extremely excited about it, because we believe that God will powerfully impact our neighbors, coworkers, and others in our spheres of influence as we really seek to proclaim the gospel and live it out among them.

Partnering with Us

First, this is crazy talk! So, we need your prayers! God hasn't yet revealed to us the neighborhood where we will settle. Our friends need jobs and to sell their homes and buy new ones. Our kids are struggling with the idea of moving away from friends; please pray that they catch the vision for what God's doing. We need unity. And, most importantly, please pray for our future new neighbors, that God would prepare the way for the gospel in their hearts.

Second, if you'd like to receive these reports periodically, which will share what God is doing and communicate both prayer requests and ministry opportunities, please sign up at <https://report.projectsoil.net/signup>.

Lastly, we'd love to hear from you. If you have ideas you'd like to share, want to pray with us, or just want to chat at greater length about what God is doing among us, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In Jesus' name,

Jeff and Faith Block

The eyes of the Lord roam throughout the earth to show himself strong for those who are wholeheartedly devoted to him. (2 Chronicles 16:9a)