



**ENGAGE**CHURCH | BARTLESVILLE



# THE NEED:

## why plant another church in bartlesville?

Eastern Heights Baptist Church exists to bring glory to God as we engage Bartlesville and the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In order to live this purpose in our community we know that we must reach those living in special needs areas. Over the last several years we have worked to reach those living in poverty through partnership with other churches and ministries strategic in location and ministry. Over the last year we believe God is calling us to take a larger step in reaching those living in poverty in Bartlesville. It is our conviction that the current model of "church" in America makes it very difficult to reach those living in poverty.

Very few church plants target the poor and when they do they set themselves up for failure from the beginning because those they are trying to reach could never afford their own facility and are not able to support a pastor. New models, like house churches, fail because our culture has a preconceived expectation of what constitutes a church. The need for a building and trained pastor is real, especially in the Bible Belt.

The churches in Bartlesville most strategically placed to reach those in poverty struggle mightily. They cannot keep up basic maintenance on their facilities and they have bi-vocational pastors struggling to lead older congregations which do not look like the neighborhood around their building. Facilities, salary of the pastor, as well as the age of their congregations have become a financial burden that makes it difficult for them to afford basic ministry tools to reach their community. There are five Southern Baptist churches that exist within the target geographic area of Engage Church. These five churches all together average less than 140 in worship. They baptized a total of 2 in 2017. It is believed that half of those attending these churches do not come from the neighborhood around the church.

THE CHURCHES AROUND  
**THE MOST LOST AREA OF OUR CITY**  
ARE NOT REACHING THEM.



# OUR TARGET:

who are we aiming to reach with the gospel?

The Target is to reach those living in poverty on the west-side of Bartlesville. The most desperate live west of the railroad tracks. There are approximately 5,400 people who live in this area. 40% of Bartlesville's population has a household income of less than \$40,000. the large majority of these households are located in this geographical area. The size of households in this area are multi-person, comprising families made up for 3 or more persons. The average education attained for the households in this geographical area is high school diploma or lower.

## Small Town Shallow Pockets

Small Town Shallow Pockets are older, unmarried empty-nesters. Their neighborhoods are quietly deteriorating, most of their houses are small and home values are only a third of the national average. This population segment is predominantly lower-income, and education levels are low: some 40 percent of household heads didn't finish high school. More than three quarters are renters, nearly four times the national average. Small Town Shallow Pockets occupy one of the lower rungs of the socioeconomic ladder. They want to invest their life with meaning and find personal fulfillment. They say that it's important to learn new things and be well-informed. They're driven not simply by personal satisfaction but a need for recognition. They want to do better so they can gain the respect of family and peers.

## Young, Working Class

The other primary population segment for this geographical area is the young, working class families/single parent households. Most of the adults are white, under 35 years old and raising young children on lower middle-class incomes. Almost a third consists of an unmarried parent with children - three times the national average. Eight in ten households have a child at home, typically a preschooler or youngster still in school. The adults have moderate educations, and the largest percentage works at blue-collar jobs.

The young families in this segment lead hectic lives. They complain that they don't have time to take care of themselves. They seem to survive on fast food and store-made meals. These households have modest incomes - under \$48,000 - from working at skilled manual and service-sector jobs.



# OUR PLAN:

how will we reach those in poverty?

Eastern Heights is not a large church, but we believe we are healthy enough to offer what is necessary to meet the social expectations of "church" while providing a church that meets the specific needs of this community. By providing a worship team, pastor and facility they will have the tools necessary to build a strong community of believers that can engage their families and friends with the Gospel. We would provide this by using our current church staff and church volunteers.

If we target those living in poverty as is our goal, then having an expectation for the church to someday be self-sufficient is not credible. An expectation of self-sufficiency would destine the church to the same struggles that plague the current churches in their community. It would be highly unlikely they could ever afford a pastor and facility. A realistic goal would be for them to one day provide for the basic upkeep and rent on their facility as well as other supplies needed for ministry.

THE SHARING OF STAFF  
WITH EASTERN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH  
WOULD BE AN ONGOING PARTNERSHIP.





# OUR VISION:

what's the mission of engage church?

ENGAGE CHURCH EXISTS TO  
**BRING GLORY TO GOD AS WE ENGAGE ALL PEOPLE**  
WITH THE TRUTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

# OUR PRIORITIES:

what is most important to us?

Worship | Multiplication | Intimacy

# OUR VALUES:

what do we care about?

God's glory is **UNRIVALED**  
God's Word is **ACCESSIBLE**  
All people are **VALUABLE**

Love God. Engage All. Teach Truth



# OUR STRATEGY:

how are we going to reach people for Jesus?

## Connect

Believing the truth of 2 Peter 3:9 (and countless other verses) that the Lord desires all to be saved, it is our desire that everyone we have contact with would connect first and foremost in a lifelong relationship with Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. We further desire that they find connection in the church, our local community of believers.

## Grow

Secondly, we want them to grow as believers in Christ by learning and understanding Scripture and by submitting their lives to its authority and responding in obedience. We believe that growth best takes place in relationship, so we desire that as they are growing in Christ, they are growing deeper in love with His church, growing spiritually and socially.

## Go

Next, we want them to go be on mission for Christ in their community. We believe that Matthew 28:19-20 is at the center of everything we do as believers and will guide new believers, and mature believers, to actively share their faith with those who need to hear the life-saving message of hope in Jesus.

Believing the adage is true that "People don't care what you know until they know that you care", we do not simply aim to meet spiritual needs and neglect physical needs. Church members will further be encouraged to go and serve those in our community who are in need. The most pressing physical need is the need for food. Therefore, we desire to provide a meal at each of our Sunday afternoon gathering times. We desire to meet a physical need and simultaneously show them their spiritual need.



# OUR GOALS:

what do we want to accomplish through engage church?

## Evangelistic Worship Service

We will provide an evangelistic worship service weekly where there is a vertical priority of worship and an evangelical priority of preaching.

## Multiplying Small Groups

We will have small groups that meet in homes and other locations where we will make disciples using the strategy Connect/Grow/Go.

## Loving Community

We will have opportunities of fellowship on a weekly basis for the purpose of building intimacy among church members. We will serve each other through meeting physical and spiritual needs. We will have a weekly free meal and a prayer time to help facilitate a culture of intimacy.



# OUR PARTNERS:

who will help us plant engage church?

We do not believe that God has called us to do this alone. To make this dream a reality we need the help of other ministries and churches. Our financial situation is not strong, and we are not in the place to finance the full burden that will be necessary to launch. We are partnering with Washington-Osage Baptist Association as well as Hope Clinic. We are also in discussions with several other churches and agencies to see how they could be part of this dream. It is not common to ask for help for a ministry that will continue to be connected to one church in such a way. However, we are finding that others want to be part of a vision to provide a church specifically targeting poverty in Bartlesville. For this we are humbled and excited about how God will use this new church to penetrate a very dark community.

**Eastern Heights Baptist Church** is the primary planting church. Eastern Heights will be the longterm partner to help provide sustainability for a church targeting those living in poverty. Eastern Heights brings to glory to God by engaging Bartlesville and the World with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are a church that runs under 200 in worship and is intentionally multigenerational.

**Washington-Osage Baptist Association** consists of the Southern Baptist churches in Washington, Osage and Nowata counties. Thirty-eight churches in these three counties partner together to reach people for Christ knowing that they can do more together than apart.

**Hope Clinic** was established in 2013 by individuals from Washington Osage Baptist Association. Their vision is to spread the love of God to the community by providing quality healthcare and spiritual guidance. Hope Clinic's mission is to provide free, compassionate medical care and spiritual guidance that ministers to the whole person- spirit, soul and body. Every Thursday night they provide healthcare, prescription medication and dental services to individuals who lack access to these services. Donations of hygiene products from local churches, schools and individuals are also provided every week. All this is provided free of charge. The clinic is staffed by 35 volunteers weekly.



# OUR FINANCIAL NEED:

what money and resources will it take to run engage church?

## Start Up Costs

Computer, Sound and Video Equipment: \$2000

Initial Room Improvements: \$2000

Training Materials: \$500

Advertising Kickoff: \$3000

TOTAL: \$7500

## Monthly Expenses:

Cooperative Program:

Rent: \$500

Utilities: \$150

Food: \$1000

Community Engagement/Outreach: \$200

Insurance: \$100

Literature/Discipleship: \$50

Office: \$50

Marketing (website, etc.): \$50

Misc. Expenses and Supplies: \$50

TOTAL MONTHLY NEED: \$2150

TOTAL YEARLY NEED: \$25,800