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Leading the Healthy, Growing, Multiplying Church

EVAN 660

By

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## **Rationale for Ministry**

The statement below for the ministry, which explains the ministry's mission and rationale behind setting up this ministry, was set up by the late Bryan Turner who began this ministry in 2005 and now has placed this burden on the people of the Jacksonville, Florida community. Bryan wrote the mission as stated, "We have been facilitating public ministry, partnering with churches, pastors, leaders, laity, encouraging the congregations to live for the Lord Jesus Christ [to know Him and to make Him known], worship God, and sharing their faith effectively, biblically (discipleship), the way Jesus did by the power of the Holy Spirit - this is the way we are making a difference in the community (worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, evangelism). We have helped facilitate the National Day of Prayer Jacksonville Beaches (First Coast) in the past, the Jacksonville March for Jesus, ministered to various people groups [inner city {housing, rescue missions} and suburbs alike] publicly [outdoors], several parade outreaches, evangelism conferences, bible studies, tract distribution, bible distribution, audio visual evangelistic creations [where artistry meets ministry], music ministry [encouraging/teaching the arts/being unashamed about the gifts He has given], audio/video teaching distribution, making relationships [whole, compassion, etc.], and helping network people to assist each other for ministries sake [getting people involved in each other's calling]. This is what we are attempting to do today, and building the ministry greater - continuing to do as such and more in the future - concentrating on the areas of ministry that God leads us to do for that particular season. We wish to emphasize that where we ought to worship is not as important as how we worship (in Spirit and in truth; loving the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and loving our neighbor as much as we love ourselves) as Jesus stressed in John 4. Also, that we have compassion ministries [how the Lord leads]; helping those in ministry

(provisions, etc.), helping the less fortunate, etc. We affirm that this religious organization is [past, present, and future] engaged in carrying out the functions of a church.”

This mission statement is how the ministry should prepare its people, as well as the churches’ congregations, to engage with the community to reach the lost for Jesus Christ. The main focus of this ministry, now called Extreme Evangelism, is to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:18-20, “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”<sup>1</sup> This scripture is one of the primary focuses of the ministry and why Extreme Evangelism has continued with fervor.

One of the more difficult purposes of Extreme Evangelism is igniting the church congregations to join in the effort of reaching people for Jesus Christ. To cause the church to get so excited that it will leave its comfortable seats and not fizzle out of excitement by Monday morning is the most difficult charge of all. Even pastors have talked to us about the same frustration they have with this same issue of getting their congregations to continue their eagerness to charge hell with a squirt gun. Even though that previous statement is tongue in cheek, we understand that all Christians need to be prepared to give an account of their faith. 1 Peter 3:15-16 as stated, “But sanctify the Lord God[a] in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible (NKJV)* (Nashville, Word Publishing, 1997), 1423.

your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed,"<sup>2</sup> should be all ministries' teaching to Christians so their members can follow the Great Commission.

At this point Extreme Evangelism has not only partnered with churches to urge them onward and support their congregations, but we are in the midst of helping an Arabic Baptist Church begin its ministry. The Arabic Baptist Church is in its infant stages but has taken off quickly. Extreme Evangelism will partner with them to go out and knock on doors to invite other Arabic speaking people to the church. There are a number of Arabic speaking people in the immediate vicinity of the church plant which make inviting people somewhat easier. This church plant will be partnering with a larger church campus in the area which will provide the Arabic Baptist Church a larger meeting room than they currently are meeting in at the present.

The rationale for Extreme Evangelism started with a yearning to reach people for Christ and there was always the possibility that this ministry could become a church plant. Due to the re-tooling of the ministry it has become more of a parachurch to the church itself. Extreme Evangelism found that the churches were not doing outreach for the most part and began taking on the role in the surrounding community. The inner city was the first goal of the ministry by using the Jesus Bus, which is a school bus that was converted into an audio/visual extravaganza for the youth and children of a community. The information on the Jesus Bus can be found at [www.jesusbus.com](http://www.jesusbus.com) and the site is currently under work. This tool, the Jesus Bus, has been more effective than the ministry originally realized and has been a tool where numerous people, at least hundreds if not thousands, have heard the Word of God where most would not step foot in a

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<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible (NKJV)* (Nashville, Word Publishing, 1997), 1423.

brick and mortar church. This 'bringing the church' to the people has had a tremendous effect on the community and there has been a slow awakening to the Gospel in the city's inner city area.

Once the ministry realized that it was having a more profound effect Extreme Evangelism's vision changed from becoming a traditional church plant to becoming a moving evangelistic ministry preaching the Gospel and reaching the lost for Christ. Once they become followers of Christ, Extreme Evangelism points them toward a Biblically and doctrinally sound church in their area. This is why it has been so important for Extreme Evangelism to partner with many churches so that all will be able to find a church in their areas. By doing this not only do new Christians have a place to learn and become disciples, but now the churches realize when they see a new face it could possibly be because they have partnered with Extreme Evangelism.

### **Specific and Realistic Goals Accomplished**

Specific goals begin with starting with each board member's church that they belong to and getting that church to provide support with the ministry. By getting the church to provide support, and by support it is meant financial, volunteering persons to help with events, and any administration support, Extreme Evangelism can focus on getting involved in outreach activities as listed in our mission statement. Each ministry that Extreme Evangelism is involved with where they are able to reach people for Christ is meeting the ministry's specific goals.

The ministry must make certain it is continuing to remain busy, but not for the sake of being busy for the sake of winning souls. Extreme Evangelism will continue to be involved with local city community events and evangelical outreach events even once Extreme Evangelism is able to work in new cities. By creating Extreme Evangelism 'cells' as it were, the ministry will be able to duplicate itself to the point of becoming regional in three to five years. Once this is

the case the vice president/executive pastor will be able to travel back and forth between the cities making sure that the other people in the cells are first and foremost still preaching the true Gospel and continuing to reach people for Christ by outreach activities and that they have maintained the relationships with the local churches.

The long-term goals for Extreme Evangelism would be to have plants/cells nationally. By doing this the ministry will obviously morph into a large and somewhat administration heavy ministry. The ministry's vision is to keep administration as tight as possible without becoming overly heavy in this area so that more finances may go toward reaching the communities for Christ. One of the many ways that Extreme Evangelism has come up with for this is to hire retired volunteers and by doing so would not have to worry about financial support and possibly more importantly would have wise council on its ministry staff.

A primary focus for Extreme Evangelism's goal is to have multiple plants/cells with men and women of multiple races and cultures. The ministry believes this will help the cause of the mission by being able to reach people of like cultures. Extreme Evangelism has found that people of like cultures and races are more easily able to connect with their own people to reach them more easily for Jesus Christ. This is by no means a blanket statement and all ministry members realize it is still their commission to go to all peoples and speak to them about Jesus Christ. Extreme Evangelism is not naïve enough to just forego any surveys and knowledge from prior ministries about using like races to reach their own communities though, and due to this information the ministry will use this method when appropriate.

Extreme Evangelism's goals are really no different than any true follower of Christ's should be in their life. This ministry is only calling on Christ followers to step out of their

comfort zones and realize there is a lost and dying world that needs to be reached. The churches are in some sort of stupor and need a revival to realize their first love – Jesus Christ. Extreme Evangelism is by no means stating that this ministry is a replacement for church, but wants to work alongside churches in reawakening its people. Extreme Evangelism realizes that without the Holy Spirit guiding the ministry and without the members constantly seeking God's will that this ministry will inevitably fail. The fields are white; we must go – that is the primary goal of Extreme Evangelism.

Another goal Extreme Evangelism is trying to accomplish through the ministry is to reduce such numbers as have been recorded by <http://www.city-data.com/city/Jacksonville-Florida.html> states that just about half of the people that live in Jacksonville, Florida are not affiliated with any religious group.<sup>3</sup> This information gives the ministry much needed fuel for its members and the volunteers to reach these for the Lord.

### **Persons Responsible for Accomplishing Goals**

The unique part of this ministry is that there is not one specific person which can reach more people than the other. Prior to the recent death of Bryan Turner, the founder of Extreme Evangelism in 2005, the majority of Extreme Evangelism's ministry work was actually done by Bryan. This in the most recent years prior to his death had begun changing to where there were more volunteers to aid Bryan in the Extreme Evangelism ministry. However, the current setup of Extreme Evangelism is that there is one president, one vice-president/executive pastor, one treasurer/secretary, one elder member, and one board member. These members were setup as a part of the incorporation requirements so that Extreme Evangelism can operate as a non-profit

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<sup>3</sup> Jacksonville, City of, *City-Data.com*, 2002 [online], available from <http://www.city-data.com/city/Jacksonville-Florida.html>. 20 August 2010.

organization. One of the biggest reasons Extreme Evangelism was ever incorporated to begin with was so that it could get a non-profit status mainly for those who gave to the ministry would be able to get a tax deduction as a standard church would be able to provide.

Obviously, to contradict the first paragraph above slightly, the vice-president/executive pastor may have more of an influence of sharing since he would be able to speak to the congregations of the partnering churches. This does not mean that the executive pastor is more important than the other members of the board it just means that there may be more opportunities to speak with more people at one time. Other board members may also have this opportunity as well by partnering with other church starts as the plants need. As plants/cells are created we will need to have pastors there which are the main contact person to which the other members there locally can see as a leader. The vice president/executive pastor will make sure that these pastors are held accountable and are continuing with the mission of Extreme Evangelism.

New church plants when requesting assistance from Extreme Evangelism can request any member to come and help/speak at their church. Not only church plants but any group expressing their desire to reach the lost in their community for Jesus Christ can expect to receive help from Extreme Evangelism until they have enough of their own members to take the place of Extreme Evangelism's place. Extreme Evangelism is not set on what one title means necessarily, but on how it can provide the best aid to any church, group, or person who has a vision to reach the lost for Jesus Christ.

This said the incorporation has mandated the ministry to allocate positions for the rules and requirements. All members of Extreme Evangelism are held accountable for reaching the lost for Jesus Christ, partnering with churches in the community for beginning groups to go out

and reach the lost for Jesus Christ, stepping up where a ministry may have a need for a volunteer, going out with Extreme Evangelism when there is an event for this ministry, and maintaining accountability in spending for financial needs for the ministry's efforts.

The hope for the future of Extreme Evangelism is that as more churches partner with this ministry we will be able to add more volunteers from multiple churches which would ignite the desire to reach lost at their own churches and any close surrounding churches. As they begin to meet the local requirements for Extreme Evangelism the board as it stands now will be able to provide support for them as the board travels to other areas and sets up new partnerships with new churches in different locales and begins the process all over again. This being the way a healthy church should operate the intention of Extreme Evangelism is to plant groups of people on fire for the Lord who will be unashamed of spreading the Gospel to all who pass by them and to promote this desire with their city's churches. This reproduction of itself will allow the Extreme Evangelism ministry to grow and have an impact in more than one city and, the Lord willing, more than one state.

As the ministry grows Extreme Evangelism realizes that its people grow in number and spiritually so that they become mature Christians to further the Gospel for God's kingdom. With this effect the ministry will continue to find its footing and as it becomes more solidly planted by the name of Jesus it will continue. The model of this ministry can use much of what a healthy church can and does use, but since this model is unique Extreme Evangelism will be learning some as it continues to find its footing in the Lord. As Extreme Evangelism grows its focus will be Jesus Christ and its most concrete model will be from the book of Acts all the while focusing on God's will for the direction in which the ministry will continue.

### **Materials and Resources Needed for Goals**

One of Extreme Evangelism's biggest resources is the partnering from churches and the people who are willing to volunteer their time and gifts to help reach the lost for Jesus Christ. This resource may be the most abundant and plentiful; the resource of people. The resource of people getting out and volunteering to help minister to their own communities can be and should be unlimited. Extreme Evangelism realizes that this resource is plentiful; however, the ministry will have a challenge in igniting fervor in the people to share the vision.

This resource is invaluable, but needs to be overseen carefully. David Hesselgrave notes that training is important in his points, "First, the Lord taught that the disciple is not above his teacher...Second, the gifts required by the various types of ministry differ...Third, the role of the missionary-evangelists and pastor-teachers is that of training laity for the work of the ministry. That is the leaders must be trained to train others."<sup>4</sup>

Extreme Evangelism has recently had a growth in volunteer numbers and realized that the plans need to be specific on where the ministry will send these people. Each section of the city is mapped out in areas of race, culture, and violent areas which were obtained through the cities resources. This gives Extreme Evangelism a great starting point on who to send where and how many volunteers should be together at any given time. This resource of volunteers is valuable and lack of planning or causing unnecessary fear in the volunteers is extremely detrimental to the ministry.

A fantastic resource which has been around since the 13<sup>th</sup> century is the Gospel tract. The ministry is ordering these by the thousands and will continue to do so as it grows. Extreme

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<sup>4</sup> David J. Hesselgrave, *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000), 105.

Evangelism has the belief that if a volunteer is too afraid to share the Gospel with a stranger that all can hand a tract to someone. This alleviates any fear of confrontation or unpreparedness on the volunteers' end and allows them to simply smile and hand the passers-by a tract with ease.

As of late the trend of bracelets has been very popular, and part of Extreme Evangelism's beliefs is that the ministry needs to remain current. The ministry just ordered 1,000 bracelets to sell for a few dollars each to get the ministry's name out so that others will come to volunteer. As the ministry sells these bracelets it helps bring a profit to the ministry so that Extreme Evangelism can purchase more tracts and Bibles.

One easy source of creating a presence for the ministry and getting people interested in what Extreme Evangelism is doing is selling t-shirts. Creating t-shirts is a simple idea which is still very popular among children, youth, and adults. This allows the ministry to continue to get its name out so that people will become interested in serving in this ministry while also bringing financial aid to the ministry by selling these shirts at a small profit. This profit goes also toward tracts, Bibles, and our largest cost, but possibly one of the most effective resources—the Jesus Bus.

The Jesus Bus is Extreme Evangelism's most radical idea which was the idea Bryan Turner. This bus has traveled thousands of miles into inner city areas that churches would not plant because of the violence. The Jesus Bus has also gone to large cities where it is unpopular to have something so blatant, but always draws a crowd and once the crowd gathers it becomes easy to talk to the people about personal testimonies and then sharing the Gospel. A conservative estimate of lives saved through this radical method is in the low thousands. Since this is a mobile tool it can bring 'church' to the people who would normally never set foot in a

brick and mortar church building. By peaking peoples' interest when traveling through their neighborhoods playing loud music and getting people to come out of their homes or simply to get off their porches to gather in one large group has been effective in spreading the Gospel to large crowds which the church is missing. Once people come to know the Lord as their Savior Extreme Evangelism then points these people to the Biblically and doctrinally sound churches that the ministry has partnered with as well as giving them their own Bible. This resource is kept up through some of the local churches that the ministry has partnered with so that maintenance and repairs are kept relatively low. Any extra moneys needed for fuel or new technology on the Jesus Bus is also made from the profits of the other resources when applicable. The Jesus Bus is completely opened on the interior so that it can be a moving worship/stage experience. The back portion of the Jesus Bus has an enclosed drum set and speakers facing out from the bus. The center portion of the Jesus Bus has microphones and jacks for a bass, a guitar and lead vocals as well as a keyboard. The front portion of the Jesus Bus just behind the driver has the entire rack of amps and cd players. The sides of the Jesus bus were cut and windows are now removable pieces of plexi-glass so that the people can hear the music from blocks away.

Lastly, and quite possibly an assumed resource is character in people and their different temperaments. These temperaments are important for Extreme Evangelism and the ministry needs personalities of all types as described by Aubrey Malphurs, "Doers attempt to control or overcome the environment to accomplish their vision...Influencers attempt to convince people to accomplish the vision...Relaters cooperate with others to accomplish their vision...Thinkers tend to be very diplomatic with people and comply with authority."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Aubrey Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004), 88-89.

### **Timeline for Completing Goals**

Since this ministry was founded in 2005 the amount of people reached for the Lord Jesus Christ have been in the thousands. This alone has exceeded the original goal of the ministry as a support for churches and reaching the lost for Jesus Christ. As for the latter the ministry will never be completely finished until Christ returns. Extreme Evangelism realizes that only through the power of the Holy Spirit can it be successful when preaching the Gospel to the lost.

As for the timeline of the goals accomplished each goal has been achieved, but the new goal has been to grow. This is already happening at a very fast pace due to the death of Bryan Turner. This unfortunate event and the life Bryan led by telling EVERYONE he met about Jesus Christ made others who knew Bryan realize they needed to be more courageous about proclaiming Jesus as their Lord.

As the ministry has grown and continues to do so some preliminary ideas have been set and to partner with churches in the Jacksonville, Florida area should be accomplished within the next year. Once this has been accomplished the ministry would like to create groups within the churches of volunteers for Extreme Evangelism and create their own independent plant/cell.

As these plants/cells grow and move toward spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the entire city the ministry would like to grow into the surrounding counties and regions. In approximately five years Extreme Evangelism should have plants/cells in all surrounding counties including southern Georgia. This goal is extremely possible but can only be attained through the continued prayer and surrender of the ministry's members' lives to God's will for their lives.

Extreme Evangelism's goal for the possible southeast region of the United States would be in approximately ten years to have multiple plants/cells. These groups would simply copy and multiply what has been started here in Jacksonville. As the ministry grows into a larger area there would need to be some type of accountability amongst all plants/cells. This would need to be provided by the vice president/executive pastor as a part of their responsibilities.

If the Lord allows, the ultimate goal of Extreme Evangelism would be in twenty or twenty-five years to have plants/cells all over the nation. The move toward nation-wide ministry is somewhat mind-boggling, but as this ministry grows accountability would also have to grow to make certain that any new plant/cell is based solely on the Bible. As the ministry continues to grow the ultimate opportunity would be to go world-wide. And if the opportunity arose the ministry would love to go world-wide in thirty to thirty-five years. This is a large step and would need much planning and clear vision on how it would work in other countries and how the ministry would provide support for different nations. Extreme Evangelism takes very seriously the scripture for the Great Commission stating going into ALL the nations.

### **Determining the Project's Completion**

Not to sound cliché, but to know whether the ministry is complete would be unknowable until we are with our Lord. Extreme Evangelism cannot plan for the Holy Spirit's movement in this ministry. The ministry has prayed and continues to pray for guidance and God's will for this ministry's direction and vision. The vision is clear, "go"! The direction is clear "all people"! The way to accomplish this is still coming together as the ministry continues to gather and pray for direction, wisdom, and clear insight from the Lord.

For the foreseeable future however, the ministry members would be able to see the growth and continued fire in the hearts of the new volunteers. As the ministry reaches its goals at the provided times noted would also be a sign of the project being complete. The ministry would be moving in the Lord's guidance if it were able to continue to gather plants/cells together and the numbers of people being saved increased. As the number of souls saved for Jesus Christ increases, hopefully exponentially, then this is proof that the ministry is moving in the direction that our Lord has given us as ministers. Erwin McManus simplifies this eloquently, "Love produces servanthood. Servanthood sees sacrifice as a privilege. It is to the servants that the master entrusts the work that must be done. When we are known by love, we are known for the towel wrapped around our waist. Apostolic leaders are servant leaders. They lead not only by serving God, but by serving others."<sup>6</sup>

Since this project is not a traditional church plant or renewing of a dying church this is relatively new territory for all members included. This ministry completion will only be able to be seen as complete as the members continue to leave a legacy for a younger generation to take the place of the present members and step up as the volunteers are called home. This ministry being so new to the traditional style of ministry becomes hard to decipher as something that can have such a concrete completion or ending. As a church plant when the church is healthy and thriving and a new pastor is put into place where the congregation is growing continually spiritually and numerically the church planter knows the project is complete and begins again. Extreme Evangelism is somewhat like this with its volunteer plants/cells. Each time a cell is created and remains healthy and grows or creates a new cell the ministry is complete.

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<sup>6</sup> Erwin Raphael McManus, *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind* (Orange: Yates & Yates, LLP, 2001), 159.

The plants/cells are only able to continue with healthy leadership and mature Christians left in leadership status once the ministry moves to the next plant/cell. David Hesselgrave gives a good example of this, “If the leaders and lay members of the new church [plant/cell] fellowship have been active with the missionary-evangelist in discipling ministries, those ministries will likely continue under the new leadership. Continuation should not be taken for granted, however. Whenever possible, plans should be made to orientate the incoming pastor, either directly or indirectly.”<sup>7</sup> This nugget of gold from Hesselgrave will help the ministry to remember to make sure that the leader appointed to be over the plant/cell should be active in setting up and establishing the plant/cell.

Deciding whether a ministry project is complete or not is quite different from a secular view of what is complete. In architecture once the client is satisfied with the design it is complete until construction begins. Once construction begins and the contractor has built the design according to the architect the project is completely complete. This has a concrete concept of what is complete. In ministry as Christians have been taught there really is no complete until we hear our Heavenly Father say, ‘well done my good and faithful servant’. To say a ministry is complete seems to put God in a box and belittle what an Almighty God can do through a ministry.

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<sup>7</sup> David J. Hesselgrave, *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000), 292.

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