

# UPGRADE 2.0

VISUALIZING OUR FUTURE



BY LARRY NEVILLE

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“Visualizing Our Future”

“The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever  
brighter unto the perfect day.”

(Proverbs 4:18)

Larry Neville

Planters & Pioneers Publication  
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Upgrade 2.0 Visualizing our Future  
Praise Chapel Christian Fellowship Churches and Ministries International  
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Upddate September 2020

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## **NOTES**



This is the greatest time of ministry opportunity the world has ever known. *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships* are at the forefront as a collaborative church multiplication movement. The potential for global church multiplication and multiplying fellowships of churches and ministries is NOW available to us. We are third and fourth generations of families in *Praise Chapel International* who are disciple makers and church planters.

Thousands of pastors and disciples share our vision of:

**Win, Build and Send**

# INTRODUCTION

**T**o all the pastors, disciples, members and friends of *Praise Chapel Christian Fellowship Churches and Ministries International*, I write this out of a heart of thanksgiving and love for each and every one of you around the world. I am so thankful for all the Lord is allowing us to achieve together. This movement is a result of your dedication and sacrifices. I am so blessed to have the privilege of serving the Lord Jesus with you, knowing that all of us share together in God's promised rewards.

*"Now, the one who plants and the one who waters are equally important and on the same team, but each will be rewarded for his own work" (1 Corinthians 3:8 TPT).*

We are energizing and revitalizing our efforts heading into 2020. I am looking forward to serving in this next season of ministry with you. We are all faced with new opportunities, new challenges and new sets of needs in each of our churches and ministries. We have created this *Upgrade 2.0 program* to guide our efforts to provide new levels of needed support. *Praise Chapel International* will provide "new tools for new times" as we enter this next decade.

There are more challenges and social problems than ever before. The chance of wars breaking out, more horrific natural disasters, and the potential for more human suffering than we have ever seen. This program is designed with you, the local pastor and church leader in mind, so that your needs can be addressed, to help you meet the needs of your church and ministries.

Our Gracious Lord has "More in store" for us in the next decade. More people to receive Jesus Christ as their savior. More individuals and families to serve in many ways. More GOSPEL teachings, more HOPE, more LOVE, and more real-world Christian ACTION! We want to help empower YOU to do more with more support and assistance while experiencing more JOY in your life and ministry.

I am convinced that our *Family of Fellowships* will continue to grow and thrive to serve more people with ever greater needs. We understand that there needs to be new support, provision and collaborative actions to help everyone benefit from our collective success.

Along with those who have labored with me in developing our Upgrade 2.0, I am asking you to walk with us to “*Visualize our Future*” and to make it a reality for all of our *Global Family of Fellowships*. We all want to be fruitful, to grow, to be healthy, to fulfill the Great Commission. We are a side-by-side partnership. We know that we do better, together. In this globalized world we can all learn from each other, grow together and make an impact upon our world for Jesus.

We have one calling: “*Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone*” (Mark 16:15 NLT.) This we all agree on. This is our ultimate purpose.

Some of the topics that we will cover are already works in action, but others are works in progress. So, we ask that you have a little patience with seeing the exact details as they roll out. You may personally have a problem with something that is presented, and we ask that you present those comments to us in writing, so that we can properly respond.

We can do this. If we want to and are willing. If not now, when? And if not us, who?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Neville".

October 2019

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## Why Upgrade?



*“Who pours new wine into an old wineskin? If someone did, the old wineskin would burst and the new wine would be lost. New wine must always be poured into new wineskins. Yet you say, ‘The old ways are better,’ and you refuse to even taste the new that I bring.”*

Luke 37-39 TPT

*“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”*

Mark 16:15 NLT

*“Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infininitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.”*

Ephesians 3:20 TLB

**W**hen Mike and Donna Neville arrived in Maywood, California to pastor a small struggling church, no one had any idea of what God had planned. Those of you who walked into that little church in Maywood in the late seventies or early eighties, would not have thought or dreamed of that church multiplying into a global movement. But God says, *“More than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of.”*

I have had a dream ever since I first began to understand the power of discipleship and church planting. That dream has dominated my life, my decisions, my family, where we have lived in the world, and the sacrifices we have made along the way.

As Janet and I pioneered Victory Church together in the 1980s with Pastor Sammy and Noemi Mores, together we shared this dream to a handful of young disciples. Now, thirty-seven years later, Pastor Sammy leads a network of well over a thousand churches they have planted in many nations. We believed that if we could reproduce everything that we did, like a family reproduces, we could multiply.

## **No dream becomes a reality without cost**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had the most famous dream in my lifetime — it cost him his life. That dream is still a work in progress today fifty-six years later.

My brother passed away in January 1996. It threw me, our family and our fellowship into a heartbreaking shock. We did not lose our faith in God or in his love and purpose for our lives or ministries, but it sure shook our faith. Mike was a leader, the pastor of *Praise Chapel*, a good man of God, and loved by thousands of people. When a leader dies, especially in the prime of his life, the movement usually falters, but God again proved that this was his work and not ours. *Praise Chapel* has continued to grow and multiply.

In late 1999, I gathered a small group of *Praise Chapel* pastors and we began to dream of church multiplication. We began to believe that we could not only plant churches and be a fellowship of churches, but that we could reproduce and multiply fellowships. The concept of a *Family of Fellowships* began to take root.

Since those early meetings, we don't know the exact number of churches that have been planted, but our 2018 research data shows that over 4300 churches around the world claim their roots stem from *Praise Chapel* in some way.

## **Jesus' multiplication dream**

Jesus' vision for multiplication: "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:8 NKJV).

The dream that Jesus gave to his followers focused on a movement. He had a powerful vision to take his message to every tribe and every nation so that one day, “...*at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*” (Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV). Jesus knew that dream would not be accomplished with just one or even one million churches.

## **The local church is Jesus’ plan “A” for fulfilling the Great Commission**

Globality: *The gospel to everyone, everywhere by anyone*, is his way. There is no Plan B. Giving up on church multiplication is not an option. It’s our burden and responsibility to look at what God is up to and cooperate. Jesus said, “*As the Father has sent me, so send I you*” (John 20:21 NKJV).

As Christ followers and leaders of his church, he is asking us to dream big with him to accomplish his mission and grow his kingdom. He is promising us that he will do more than we can even dream. When you get a clear vision for church multiplication, then you start to see how God prepares and shapes you for that vision. When you get a vision for multiplication and then begin to share it, a chain reaction is started.

## **The iPhone Dream**

January 9, 2007, Apple CEO Steve Jobs introduced the world to the iPhone for the first time during his keynote address at the Macworld Conference & Expo in San Francisco. Since that introduction of the iPhone, Apple has released eleven generations of iPhone models, each accompanied by one of the thirteen major upgrade releases of the iOS operating system. Not because the very first iPhone was faulty or a mistake. Apple, and all progressive companies that are on the cutting edge continually upgrade products, adjust, utilize new technology, and receive feedback on what customers’ needs are.

Those are some of the reasons why Apple was the first publicly traded company in the world to be valued at a trillion dollars. Every computer, every app on your smart phone continually upgrades or they fade away.

**With Upgrade 2.0 we are not touching the core of who we are as *Praise Chapel*. We are upgrading our platform and our operating system. We are fixing some bugs, adding some features and resolving some problems.**

# Why Upgrade?

## The Great Commission Mandate

World missions is the highest calling we have as pastors and leaders. This *Great Commission* is at the very core of all we do as the church of Jesus Christ. We are living in the greatest time of opportunity for fulfilling the *Great Commission*. The tools available today are unlimited for those who will move forward and be willing invest in the future. World Mission is changing, we must move with the Spirit and lay hold of today's opportunities. If there was no other reason for Upgrade 2.0, this is enough.

### **We are a church multiplication movement**

We believe that the best method for fulfilling the *Great Commission* is to plant churches that plant churches: indigenous, self-supporting, self-governing and self-reproducing churches. This can be accomplished in so many ways today. We cannot reach back and say that World Missions must be done the same way as it has for the past 150 years, or even the past few years. Methods for connecting, collaborating and communicating the message of Jesus are being upgraded continually.

Overall the church (especially in the West) has the idea that the best way to reach nations is by sending couples to live in nations, resettle their families, learn the language, pioneer a church or provide some ministry. Then when they return home, they spend a majority of their time raising the funds to go back again.

### **Missionaries have done a great job over the years**

There is a strong Christian witness in most every nation of the world. At a high cost, missionaries dedicated their lives to accomplish this. Because of their sacrifice, we are dealing with a different world than they knew. There are still unreached people groups and places with no Christian witness, and the church must continue to go and reach them.

There are more fruitful and cost-effective ways to accomplish the Great Commission. The numbers just don't add up — especially during the past few decades. The long-term cost

of uprooting a couple or a family and sending them to live in another country is staggering today. If you compare the overall cost and time with the fruit, it shows that we need to initiate updated ministry models.

### **This ministry model limits the multiplication that is possible today**

This has taken me years, sending many families to live internationally, and a lot of finances to come to understanding and to accept this. I do not say this lightly. I write this from years of experience and anguish of soul. I am not saying this ministry model does not work. I am not saying we are going to stop sending workers internationally to live and to plant churches. I am saying, to multiply in a way that will fulfill the *Great Commission*, we have to *Upgrade* our global missions ministry model.

### **The, “*it’s always been done that way*” mentality has got to stop**

Even in the business world, many long-established businesses lose out in today’s rapidly changing environment because they are unwilling to take an honest look at what they are doing and stop doing things in an unproductive way. So, a new start-up comes along and totally disrupts them.

Our clear mandate and calling from God is *church multiplication*. We cannot be careless about this with our workers nor our finances. With Upgrade 2.0 we will be presenting new ways to accomplish our mission.

### **Globality, *The Gospel to Everyone, Everywhere by Anyone* (1))**

Our motto is, **WIN, BUILD and SEND**. We believe that every believer is a minister of God and has the potential to make a difference in our world. We invest in common ordinary people to go. When the Jerusalem church was persecuted by Saul, “*The believers who had fled Jerusalem went everywhere preaching the Good News about Jesus*” (Acts 8:4 NLT). That is the vision of Praise Chapel, **that is globality**.

**Through Upgrade 2.0 we will provide ways to help you see more people activated for ministry to fulfill the Great Commission.**

We started out as “Rosewood Assembly” in Maywood, California. Then God gave a wonderful outpouring revival and we became, “*Praise Chapel*.” From that one church, in one city with one name, we have multiplied. Today Praise Chapel churches are in many cities, many countries and known by many names and many ministry styles. We have become a, *House of Brands*.

We are surrounded by Brands. We recognize the logo, color, style of a Brand we like. Some will even pay extra for a produce because of the Brand. What we don’t always know is the company that owns a particular Brand or what the platform for that Brand is. If you go to Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, KFC, or WingStreet, it does not matter to you that their parent Brand is, Yum! Brands, Inc., with 43,617 restaurants in 135 countries. With Upgrade 2.0 we want to build upon this concept of a, *House of Brands*. Amazon is a House of Brands.

## **The Future is Global Collaboration**

We have thousands of national pastors and churches who are connected to the *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships*. These are like-minded pastors. Most have been planted by a church in our network and are now planting churches. The plan for *Upgrade 2.0* is to develop a platform for connectivity and collaboration to come alongside these global workers helping them to multiply what God is already doing in their ministries and nations. The goal is to make it possible for you, your church and everyone who desires, to be involved in the Great Commission mandate.

**Collaboration creates possibilities,  
Collaboration delivers meaningful results,  
Collaboration drives us all to be better, together.**

## **Empowering the small church pastor and leaders**

We do not believe that a church needs to stay small and we want to do everything we can to assist pastors and leaders to see increase. We believe in the power and dignity of the small church. We want to see churches of all sizes and styles multiplied globally. With Upgrade 2.0 we will be able to provide materials, services, connectivity and collaboration with all pastors equally around the world.

## **Sustainability and Succession**

We had the Elevate “Next Edition” conference in July 2019. The youth came from *Praise Chapel* churches of all sizes and ministry models. Many of them are 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation *Praise Chapel* youth, children and grandchildren of the converts from the early revival. The main thing I felt as I watched these amazing young people was the heavy responsibility on us to ensure that this fellowship is structured in a way it will continue for them. So, *sustainability* and *succession* are main drivers we have so earnestly prayed and worked on in preparing this *Upgrade 2.0*.

In this presentation we are looking at *Praise Chapel* through the faith telescope into “*Visualizing Our Future*.” To me, this is prophetic insight of what God has impressed upon myself and I believe, many others also. Each time I have felt the stirring of the Holy Spirit to move forward into what he was saying to me has always been a step of faith. “*Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen* (Hebrews 11:1 TPT).

## **Upgrade 2.0 is an evolving dimension and requires faith, decisions and actions**

One of my guiding scriptures is, “*The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day* (Proverbs 4:18). When you have the right intent, morals, values and make decisions earnestly seeking the will of God, the path grows brighter and brighter.

Abraham sent his servant who was in charge of his household to find a bride for his son Isaac. The servant asked, “*What if I can’t find a young woman?*” Abraham replied, “*God will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a young woman there to be my son’s wife*” (Genesis 24:5,7 NLT). After the servant made the long journey and God led him to Rebecca he said, “*Blessed by the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master’s brethren*” (Genesis 24:27 NKJV).

We are “*on the way*” and the Lord who began a good work in us will continue to lead us into the harvest that is ahead.

## **Upgrade 2.0 is about getting ready for the, *Harvest of Generations***

I am living in the hope of God's salvation. This is the time when God is saving souls and drawing out a people from every tribe, language and nation on earth. Believe me, the Father did not send his Son to die on the Cross and go through all the pain and suffering for a church that is going to shrivel-up and die. The Gospel seed does not die when it falls to the ground. That One Seed had to die on the Cross of Calvary. Because that One Seed died and came alive again on the third day, you can be assured that the Holy Spirit empowered Gospel seeds that have been planted since then will produce the promised *Harvest of Generations*.

What do you see? The prophet asked his messenger. "*I don't see anything.*" he replied. "*Then go look again*" the prophet ordered. This happened six times and each time the prophet said, "*Go look again.*" The seventh time when the messenger returned, he said, "*I see a cloud the size of a man's hand.*" It had not rained for seven years just as the prophet had told the king. Now, he tells the messenger, "*Go tell the king and abundance of rain is coming.*" (1 King 18)

Janet and I was driving were around Northern California and the hillsides were all covered with gray dry grass. We commented to each other that the gray grass was a wildfire waiting to happen. Well it did and we had the most devastating wildfires in the history of California. Just as the dry fields were fuel for the wildfires. The dryness for the Spirit of God makes our entire world ripe for the *Harvest of Generations*.

**What if we are being called to serve as catalysts and stewards of this next great harvest of souls?**

Let's take this faith journey to the next level. Together believing that the same Holy Spirit who began this work among us and has led us through the past years into such amazing fruitfulness will lead us now. We can walk through these changing times into the next season of fruitfulness, multiplication and reap the *Harvest of Generations*.

## **Our Journey toward Multiplication**

*“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

Philippians 1:6 NKJV

As we approach a new decade, we look back and correct what needs to be corrected. We carry on with that which is right by adapting newer possibilities so that our approach and methods are not left in the past—but our principles are still old as time.

Since the very day in 1976, when Mike and Donna loaded their car and trailer in Tulsa, Oklahoma and moved to serve in Maywood, California, the formation of *Praise Chapel* is one miracle after another and a journey of faith.



## **Donna Neville, “Our Journey of Faith”**

I am going to share the *Praise Chapel* story from my perspective. I am grateful for those who have shared the various aspects of this movement that they’ve observed and experienced. We appreciate the books that have been written through the years documenting segments of our history. However, I would like to give you a condensed version of some things that I want to pass on to you in this *Upgrade 2.0*.

In 1976, my husband, Mike Neville and I were invited to take the pastorate of a small church in Maywood, California. What we did not know until we arrived was that what had once been a thriving vibrant church was now a very unhealthy, dying church.

The area of Los Angeles where the church was located had changed from when the church was in its prime. The area was now a poorer area and the racial demographics had changed. What had been a predominantly white community had shifted to predominantly Latino. Gang activity was rampant and the culture was very foreign to anything my husband and I had ever experienced. We were clueless on so many different fronts. We were church kids. We were also both pastor's kids. We'd been raised in church and had no idea where we had landed.

Mike was 29 and I was 23. Our son Jason was three and our daughter was still just a twinkle in my husband's eye! When we stepped into that church, we were unaware that both the church and the community were filled with a very deep prejudice that ran between the whites and the Latinos. So, when my husband began to preach that God wanted us, Yes us...the few remaining members of what had been a powerful church at one time, to reach the neighborhood, several of the remaining families quit the church. That's how deep and how sinful and how shameful the prejudice was in the church. So, as you can imagine, it looked very bleak that first year. In fact, most of our minister friends suggested that we move the church to a nicer area. I'm so thankful that God spoke to my husband and myself at that critical moment that we were exactly where he wanted us to be.



### **That first year we had church the way that we knew how to have church**

We preached the Gospel. We sang. We prayed. Unfortunately, we found ourselves embroiled in power struggles at every turn that first year. The spirit of the church was most vividly revealed when Mike was called on the carpet by the Board of Directors for receiving an offering for a missionary. One individual drew up and circulated a petition to force us out of the church.

It became glaringly apparent that the church was so unhealthy that towards the end of that first year Mike seriously considered resigning.

Then, one Sunday morning, a large Latino family walked into the church. I'll never forget it. They lined up on the second row. Mike and I were jazzed! "So many people! Hallelujah!...People!"

### **Little did we know that day was the beginning of our breakthrough**

We soon found out that our visitors had been asked to leave their non-Pentecostal church because they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. They began to pray that the Lord would lead them to a church that welcomed the moving of the Holy Spirit. There was an instant connection with Mike and I, and over a course of just a few months, others began to come in. It just all of a sudden began to ignite, like a California wildfire. Just to show you the miracle of that first breakthrough, one of the children that came in that day was a 10-year-old boy named David Hernandez. You may know him as Pastor David Hernandez, who has been a faithful and fruitful pastor for many years. His parents and children are also in ministry and now his grandchildren are being raised in *Praise Chapel*.

### **What a rich heritage from that original outpouring of revival**

One of the young men that came with that original group had been gloriously saved out of the gangs. As an ex-gang member, he went back to his friends in the gang and began to tell them about the Lord. He began to witness to them and "get in their face." It was a Holy Spirit move. It wasn't anything that we had taught him to do. It was something that ushered forth from deep within his spirit. He had experienced Christ and it bubbled over and he began to go after his friends. He'd go into neighborhoods and street corners, where he knew they would be smoking dope. They mocked him and made fun of him, but one by one they began to come in and get saved. Many were instantly delivered from drug addiction, alcoholism, prostitution, and immorality. Others struggled a bit longer, but we worked with them and eventually they got through to victory and grew to become powerful and fruitful Christians.

## **There was a sovereign move of the Holy Spirit that resulted in explosive growth and it surprised Mike and I as much as everyone else**

After that first initial group, soon rival gang members began to come in. Young people who were enemies from different gangs began to come in and worship God together. First, it would be a nervous setting. They would be looking at one another, recognizing some they had fought with in the streets. We would hear things like, “That’s the guys from 18th street.” or “He is from Florence.” If they had encountered each other anywhere else there would have been a rumble!

Even though Mike and I were traditional church kids, we began to challenge our church outside of our comfort zone. We started to take them out on the streets and hand out tracks. One of the powerful ministries that impacted us and taught us street evangelism was the late Larry Reed. We watched what he did and began to follow his example. Needless to say, our evangelism began to get radical. Also, Jed Smock, the very controversial campus preacher, would take us to the college campuses and have us confront the college students with the gospel. It wasn't just happening with our church, we discovered that we were experiencing what the Holy Spirit was doing in and through many groups.

## **Evangelism was a huge emphasis during that early revival**



We would set up bands in the parks. We performed dramas about gang life and how God could set people free. The first time I saw the drama, *Homie Don't You Know Me*. I was shocked at the realities of gang life that it portrayed.

The Lord graced that production and its reputation spread very quickly. Thousands of unbelievers came to the Lord through that drama. God was just moving sovereignly and powerfully through those various radical outreaches. It was a time of radical evangelism, radical worship and radical discipleship.

A typical service usually involved having to settle a few fights. Someone would rush in and say, "Hey! They are duking it out in the parking lot." It seems like almost every service we had to sit and mediate fights that were going on. Occasionally someone would come in and turn in their gun or their drug or witchcraft paraphernalia. They would bring their records and stuff that represented the old life and then would break it right at the church altar. It truly was a "book of Acts" response to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

**There was boisterous and spontaneous praise! The name *Praise Chapel* was adopted and was truly a description of the atmosphere in the church**

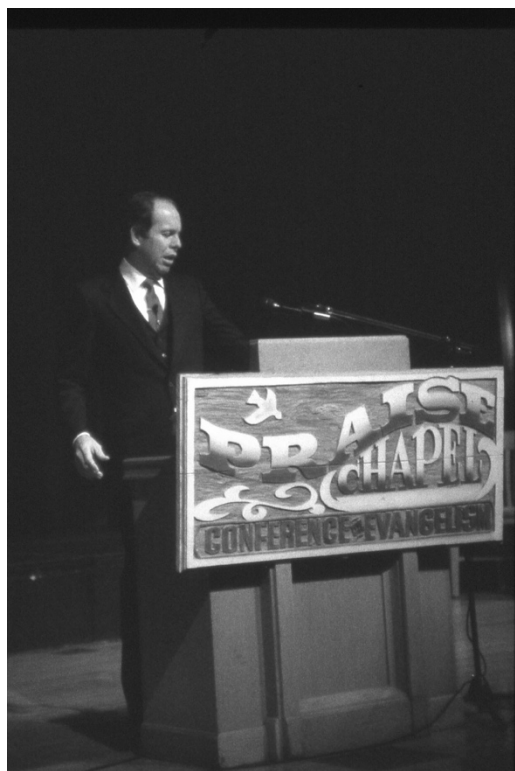
I remember attending a Bible conference where all the people sat during the worship and then they would stand for the last slow song. It was the traditional pattern that Mike and I were raised with. We came home from that conference thinking, "We need to get our people to sit for part of the song service." That idea failed immediately. As soon as the first song started, they would all leap to their feet. It was beyond our control! It was just something that was so spontaneous. It was so genuine. There would be excited expressions of praise that other churches would interpret as interruptions, but there was no mistaking that this was a season of explosive revival. It was raw. It was unsophisticated. It was real. It broke out contrary to all church planting conventional wisdom.

**We didn't look like the folks that God had set us among**

We didn't talk like them and certainly didn't dress like them. We didn't sing like them. My husband insisted on wearing cowboy boots and playing and singing Gospel country music. We did not know until much later how painful that was to them. There was such a move of God that they even endured the country music! What grace!!

The revival was such a sovereign move of God that all of the walls that usually separate people soon came down. These young converts began to grow in the Lord. We realized that we didn't have to send them away to Bible College and that we could train them in the church through discipleship. Monday nights we began what was called Ministry in Training. We would bring in Bible teachers from a local Bible School to teach. These hungry and growing believers received quality teaching that prepared them for the ministry. Pretty soon they began to move into leadership, and eventually we began sending them to pioneer churches. Most other organizations would never have invested in them, but we supported them as they pioneered the churches. As time went by, they began to duplicate the pattern that they had experienced in our church.

### ***So, Praise Chapel Fellowship began to emerge***



#### **Mike Neville's passing**

At the 20-year mark, the Lord called my husband home. This was a very unexpected loss and deep sorrow for all of us...personally, our family, our church, and our fellowship. It could have been a disaster. I look back now and I realize how the Lord protected our fellowship at such a vulnerable time. It was amazing how peacefully that the Lord brought everybody into place that needed to be in place and worked everything out. We did not experience the ugly power-struggles that you would imagine in that kind of a scenario. God's sovereign hand of grace was tangibly upon our church and fellowship.

God has continued to grace us with the multiplication of churches. We are now a *Family of Fellowships*. As such, there is a great liberty as well as individuality. Yet, we still are bound together by mutual faith and vision. We have determined to link together for greater reach and effectiveness. Our mutual identity keeps us accountable and strong.

## **The saying, “Together we are better” holds true to this day**

Here is the part of the story that may disappoint you if you are looking for me to give you a formula. We were part of a great wave of harvest from seeds that were planted long before us. The wind of God's Spirit was preparing hearts long before we ever arrived in Maywood, California. God was already at work. He was already planting seeds. There were things that God was putting in place that we were clueless to. We literally, “walked into” what God was doing.

## **The only “key” I can pass on to you is Eph 2:10...**

“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

It truly has been the favor of God. We were so grateful to have been included in what God was doing. I'm grateful and I'm humbled by that. I'm so thankful that God has allowed us to be a part of what he is doing in the earth.



## **Larry Neville, “Our Journey of Faith”**



Mike and I launched out together as traveling evangelists in 1968. One of Dad's friends in Riverside, California invited us to come and do a revival at his church. That was all we needed to go. For the next few years, we traveled around the U.S. and Canada preaching in churches, youth camps and wherever we were invited. Then in 1970, Mike and Donna were married and six months later, Janet and I were married. We became two teams. The four of us were always close and when we could, we would meet and do meetings together.

I had a passion to be involved in World Missions, so Janet and I made our first mission trip to India in 1976. I had said, *"If I am going to the mission field then I want to go to the neediest in the world."* While ministering in Southern India, my world was rocked. Even though I had been raised in the ministry, had traveled for a number of years as an evangelist and had worked with some leading ministries, I felt like I had no answer for these people. The meetings were good, but I felt helpless because I did not have a vision or strategy that could make a difference.

### **A hunger was birthed in me to discover God's real plan for my life**

A short time later Mike and Donna moved to Maywood, California and Janet and I became the pastors of the First Foursquare Church in Phoenix, Arizona. Then God began to teach us about evangelism, discipleship and church planting. A few years later, Janet and I moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to plant a church and then to Manila, Philippines and later to Singapore. At the same time Mike and Donna were experiencing the revival in Maywood.

I was in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1993 visiting my parents, and while walking along the beach early one morning, I felt the impression of the Holy Spirit that we needed to move to California. We had served in the Philippines for eight years and were, at that time, living in Singapore. We were planning to stay overseas for many more years. So, this word from

the Holy Spirit was totally unexpected. When I returned to Singapore and told Janet what I

felt, it came as a complete surprise to her. But, after we prayed together and thought it all through, we knew it was the Lord.

About the second year into living in Rancho Cucamonga, California, Janet and I were considering leaving because it just didn't seem like what was happening was why we had moved back to the U.S. We made a trip to Washington DC, thinking about moving there to plant a new church. As we were sitting on the plane returning to Rancho Cucamonga, we both felt the Holy Spirit say to stay in California and do all we could to help Mike and Donna with *Praise Chapel*. It was a few months later that Mike was diagnosed with cancer and given 3 to 6 months to live. No one could have foreseen this.

Our move from Asia was a step of faith and obedience. We did not understand why—until that day Mike was diagnosed with cancer. If we would have been living in Asia when Mike passed, things would have been very different with *Praise Chapel*. But yet again, we recognized the hand of God at work leading us to, “...walk into the good works He has prepared long ago” (*Ephesians 2:10*).

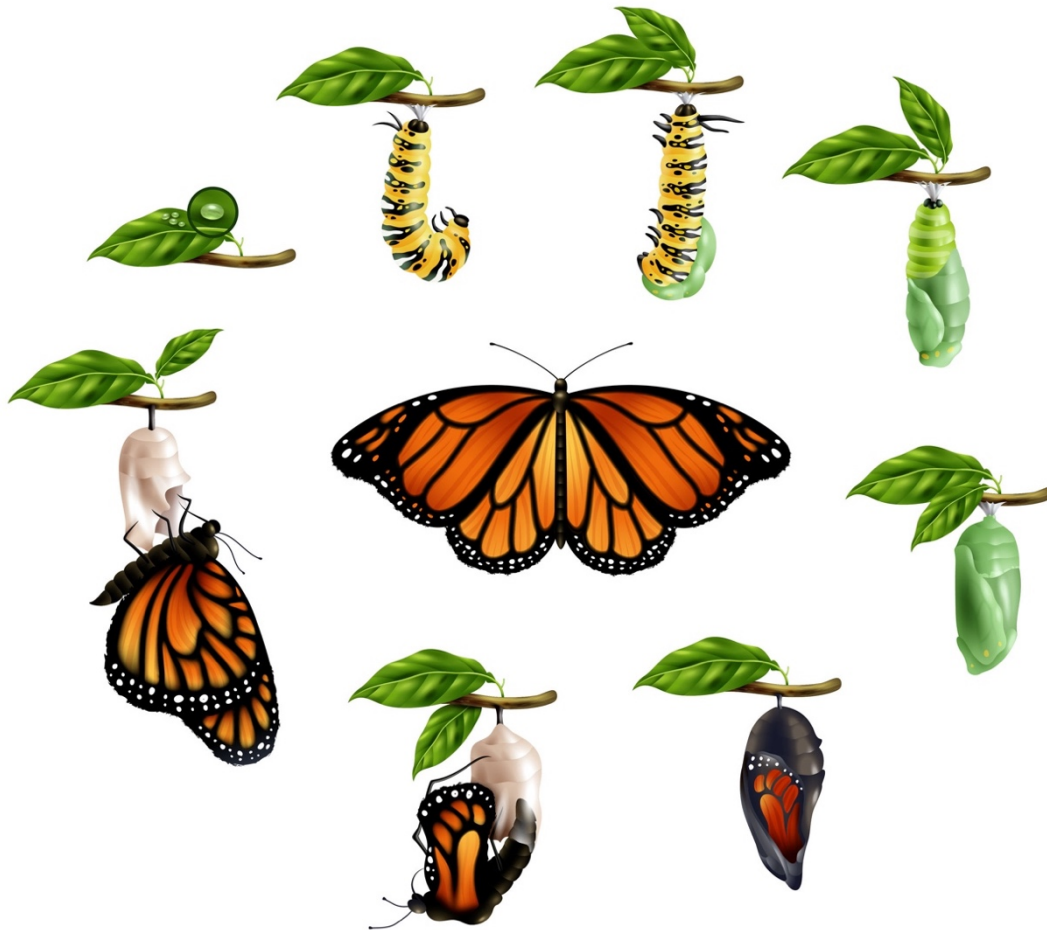
Since the very beginning of my understanding of disciple making and church planting, we have believed that we would move from addition into multiplication. Every decision we have sought to make is motivated by that passion and vision.

In 2009, we began presenting the vision for a *Family of Fellowships* — the vision that we can reproduce churches and also reproduce fellowships of churches. This is explained more in my books, *Connectivity*, *The Power to Touch the World* and *Globality, The Gospel to Everyone, Everywhere by Anyone*.

I am thrilled about *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships*. This faith journey that God has us on, from “one” church to what has become this global network, has been and still is, a daily journey of miracles.

**You are one of those miracles**

I am totally, *“confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 1:6, NKJV). I feel the words in Revelation 14:15 applies to us, *“Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe”* (NKJV), and also, what Jesus said to his twelve disciples, *“The harvest is huge and ripe! But there are not enough harvesters to bring it all in”* (Matthew 9:37 TPT).



“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,  
the Master calls the butterfly.”

Richard Bach



## **HOW WILL WE GET THERE?**

*“Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen.”*

Hebrews 11:1 TPT

## **Our Mission & Values**

**We firmly believe that WHO we are is more important than WHAT we do.**

**We also believe that WHY we do it is more important than WHAT we end up doing.**

**Our Mission and Values are the WHY behind the WHAT.**



**CONNECTIVITY**

**COLLABORATION**

**EMPOWERMENT**

**MUTUALITY**

**GLOBALITY**

## **Our Mission**

**To fulfill the Great Commission by collaborating with pastors, networks and ministries to multiply church plants**

# Our Vision

**Healthy and strong ministers and churches that relate in a standardized association to create resourced benefits.**

# Our Values

**Where we are committed to a set of beliefs, a set of values, and a set of behaviors that will create the culture to fulfill our vision.**

**1. CONNECTIVITY:** We do more together than we could ever do alone.

Connectivity has been a major factor in the *Praise Chapel* revival. Our foundation is relational. From the beginning, we have been a side-by-side partnership helping each other to be better, together.

*“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayer” (Acts 2:42 NKJV).*

Only in connectivity can we be the force God is calling us to be. *“And in those days, when the number of the disciples were multiplied” (Acts 6:1 NKJV).*

This desire to maintain Christian relationship and friendship is the force behind *Upgrade 2.0*. *“For when you demonstrate the same love, I have for you by loving one another, everyone will know that you’re my true followers” (John 13:35 TPT).*

We resist the divisions that come between pastors, leaders and churches. If the church had not split, fought each other and created divisions, we would have won the world to Jesus in the first century.

**2. COLLABORATION:** We are committed contributors of our Time, Talent and Treasure.

Mutual Global collaboration will be the next wave of what God is doing through his church. It was the spirit of the first church in Jerusalem and it is the heart of this *Family of Fellowships* ministry model.

*Connectivity, Collaboration, and Mutuality* is affecting how world missions is being accomplished to fulfill the Great Commission. We intend to be leaders in this collaborative evolution of the church. This involves pooling our resources: monetary, skills, best practices, etc. and creating a platform to deliver assistance.

**3. EMPOWERMENT:** We uphold the Bible as the Word of God and rely upon the Holy Spirit for Power, Revelation and Direction.

**Power,** *“In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams”* (Acts 2:17 NLT).

*“And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them the power”* (Matthew 10:1 NKJV).

We are called to teach, preach, and make disciples just as Christ did. Through the work of the Spirit, the Gospel lives. Not as a method, a system or an empty ritual, but through the transferring of spiritual grace.

**Revelation,** *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth”* (John 16:13).

**Direction,** *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God”* (Romans 8:14).

**4. MUTUALITY:** We honor the Grace, Gifting and Spiritual placement of one another within the body of Christ.

*“And we no longer see each other in our former state—Jew or non-Jew, rich or poor, male or female—because we’re all one through our union with Jesus Christ with no distinction between us” (Galatians 3:28 TPT).*

**Ministry with - not under or over.** We teach and practice equality between men and women, cultures, and nationalities. Our connectivity and collaboration is sustained when we honor *the grace, gifting and spiritual placement* of one another within the body of Christ.

Churches and networks (fellowships) maintain their own *name, autonomy and identity* while viewing *Praise Chapel International* as their primary global network, but not their only relationship or family.

**5. GLOBALITY:** We prioritize the Great Commission.

**The heart of the gospel is globality,** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son” (John 3:16).*

**The message of the gospel is globality.** *“You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14, NLT).*

**The goal of the gospel is globality.** *“Then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere” (Mark 16:15, NLT).*

The early church multiplied when the common people were scattered and free to preach the gospel. *“Although the believers were scattered by persecution, they preached the wonderful news of the word of God wherever they went” (Acts 8:4 TPT).*

It is these values of *Connectivity, Collaboration, Empowerment, Mutuality and Globality* that have empowered and released common people to pioneer and plant churches and ministries all over the world.



***Praise Chapel International* is to provide a general organization for pastors and leaders of churches and ministries that are directly or indirectly birthed (planted) or have voluntarily chosen to associate with us. We believe that it is natural and biblical that churches identify with other like-minded churches. This allows churches of all sizes to be a part of a larger work - pooling their resources to establish and advance the Great Commission. This *Family of Fellowships* structure can create a synergy where the impact of the whole can be greater than the sum of the individual parts. This gives churches a way, collectively, to express their convictions and realize their vision.**

# OBSERVATIONS & LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE JOURNEY

“It has been a mistake living my life in the past. One cannot ride a horse backwards and still hold its reins.” Richard Paul Evans, *The Letter*

“If Christians around the world were to suddenly renounce their personal agendas, their life goals and their aspirations, and begin responding in radical obedience to everything God showed them, the world would be turned upside down. How do we know? Because that’s what first-century Christians did, and the world is still talking about it.” Blackaby (3)

**W**e are nine years into the *Family of Fellowships*. Has this journey been easy? No! There are always challenges and tests along the way. I have never seen immediate results when I’ve moved in faith. There have always been seasons of doubt, and there is always resistance to change. It is a universal truth: If you are doing something new and innovative, you will face challenges and make mistakes. I have come to learn that the key to moving in God’s will is a matter of believing and trusting in God’s plan and ultimate purpose and allowing him to guide the ship. Thus, through faith, your support, and consistent actions the *Family of Fellowships* model has created a firm foundation for our ever-increasing efforts to do our share in fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus.

## 1. We are multiplying

We are seeing multiplication in almost every area. By the end of August 2019, *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships* sponsored 13 conferences in U.S. with well over 6000 people in attendance. Our global *Family of Fellowships* has had over a hundred and fifty more conferences worldwide with thousands of people participating. By having many fellowships and conferences in various parts of the world, we have empowered more

participation from a multitude of speakers, worship teams, volunteers and sources of testimony to God, that is shared with a much larger audience. It also increased the connectivity and collaboration among pastors and facilitated the building of relationships. Now with stronger and more dynamic fellowships, as well as having so many local conferences, the number of individuals being converted, disciplined and involved in ministry is steadily multiplying.

## **2. We are seeing churches multiplying**

Praise Chapel International is seeing a multiplication of church plants in many nations through the national churches. We are continuing to plant churches in the U.S., but we are not multiplying. With the *Upgrade 2.0* collaborative initiatives we are planning, I have no doubt we will see exponential increase in church planting as dynamic individuals (such as yourself) walk in God's power, and we refocus our efforts.

## **3. Apostolic calling**

*“And he said to the blind man, ‘Now go and wash the clay from your eyes in the ritual pool of Siloam.’ So he went and washed his face and as he came back, he could see for the first time in his life!”* (John 9:7 TPT). *Siloam* is a Hebrew word that means “to be sent” or “to be commissioned”—the Greek word for apostle or apostleship is the closest meaning. The apostle of our faith is the Lord Jesus Christ who was sent from the Father.

Apostolic anointing is the pioneer anointing. It is the spirit of *Praise Chapel*. It is the spirit of God pushing a young midwestern couple (Mike and Donna) to move to East Los Angeles and take a little dying church. It is the spirit of God pushing a young pastor and his wife (Larry & Janet) to take their family to the Philippines. The Apostolic Spirit is the Spirit of God pushing a vintage minister (Jack Harris) to go to Iraq during a war and bring the Gospel to a new people - instead of retiring.

There is scriptural foundation for *Praise Chapel International* to be the apostolic collaborative hub for this *Family of Fellowships* and its *Church Multiplication Ministry Model*. In addition to being the hub, *Praise Chapel International* also provides key support and administrative services to lighten the burden of our local churches.

## **4. Ministers and disciples want to feel connected**

In many conversations with pastors and leaders across the spectrum of *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships* in the U.S. and internationally, almost all of them say that they want to feel connected. In fact, some have shared their concerns about how to be assured they can stay connected and have relationship with all of the *Praise Chapel International Fellowships*, while being loyal to their primary fellowship or network. There is a closeness pastors feel in their hands-on relationships with their primary fellowship of churches. However, these pastors also want to feel connected to the International *Family of Fellowships*. This is a desire and need that we are working to support and cultivate in this *Upgrade 2.0*.

This is what *the Family of Fellowships* ministry model is about: reproducing evangelistic, disciple making, and church planting fellowships who collaborate together, resulting in global church growth and expansion.

## **5. Collaboration is not as easy as we anticipated**

Collaboration isn't about giving up your individuality. Quite the opposite: It is about realizing your full potential. Moving from connectivity to collaboration was born out of our desire to see the churches we are connected with move to a greater understanding of how we can partner with each other and with the larger body of Christ to fulfill his will and purpose in the earth today. Collaboration is worth the cost.

Kingdom expansion and church multiplication are not about competition. Nothing is more God-honoring or Kingdom-minded than believers working together. Jesus prayed for collaboration in John 17, asking his Father that his followers would be unified so that the world would know God's love. What else is worth collaborating for?

In the very beginnings of *Praise Chapel*, Mike and Donna Neville, along with the Maywood church, invested in sending couples to plant new churches. They not only supported them financially but also sent out teams to help. The new pastors did the same for each other—helping one another, partnering and preaching for each another. That heart for fellowship sparked rapid church planting, until collaboration and fellowship began to be hindered by:

**Territorialism:** “This is my town you can’t plant a church here or evangelize here.”

**Transfers:** Someone left one Praise Chapel and transferred to another.

**Ethical Issues:** Between pastors began to arise which damaged trust.

**Walls:** Walls began to go up leading to the deterioration of true fellowship and collaboration.

This fear-based isolationist thinking represents the opposite of the *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships* and our shared purpose to serve God and cultivate followers of Jesus Christ. Successful and fruitful collaboration requires loyalty, communication and teamwork for the common good of everyone involved.

What would have happened if all twelve of the spies sent to check out Canaan would have embraced Joshua’s and Caleb’s perspective and realized that God had already given the Israelites the land? God has given us the land of church multiplication if we want it. *Upgrade 2.0* is about moving toward great collaboration for church multiplication, while at the same time helping people to see how their individual roles and daily work fit together to execute this Great Commission mandate.

## 6. Independence influences us



As we continue to grow and multiply as a *Family of Fellowships*, we must strike the balance between independence and connectivity. Our model is for every church and fellowship to be interdependent and empowered by the Holy Spirit to capture hearts, minds and souls for God’s greater use and good. These efforts are supported by connectivity and collaboration through a *Global Family of Fellowships* for the benefit of all of us and our congregations. My dad was an itinerant tent evangelist. I don’t think that there was any type of preacher more

independent than a tent preacher. They used terms like, inter-denominational, inter-dependent, and others like that, but they were very

independent. Itinerant preachers went where they wanted, when they wanted, and basically answered to no one. They did not need clearance from anyone to open up or close shop. They balked at the idea of a board or a committee or any other system whereby anyone else would have any “say-so” concerning their ministry decisions. The “will of God” was solely determined by “open doors” and the availability of finances. It was an era of, “I heard from God” and no one else was needed in that process.

Most everyone Mike and I grew up around in the ministry was independent. Mike and I were not in the ministry long when we realized that we did not want to do ministry that way. So, we both ended up joining two different denominations. Dad encouraged us to do it. He said, *“You don’t want to be independent like I have been all these years.”* Neither of us had a problem with the denominations we were a part of. We supported and served them, and they opened many doors of opportunity for us. It was only due to the unique situation of the revival in Maywood, that resulted in the need for *Praise Chapel International*. It was never Mike and Donna’s desire to break away from their denomination. To this day, Donna still has friends from her former denomination.

Mike and I also linked up with the Potter’s House in Prescott, Arizona. The leader of that movement was very independent, yet at the same time he was radically authoritarian. Over time, we found that we could not work with him. The combination of these events created a desire within us to not be independent or part of an overly authoritarian movement.

However, it should be easy to see the value of a well-established and reputable Mother Church organization that provides management, administration, legal advice, pastoral advice, resources and backup as well as a support network of colleagues. Our collective world is more specialized, technical and complicated than ever before and it takes more effort, savvy, and staying power to survive and prosper than ever before. It is our belief that the fewer the problems that a pastor has to face running the church the more time one has to serve God and the congregation’s needs.

## **7. Proprietorship limits multiplication**

*“There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn’t mind who gets the credit.”* President Ronald Reagan

Proprietorship is an ownership mindset - “This is my ministry!” It is fear-based and comes out of a scarcity mentality - “There is not enough so I must control and hold on to what I have.” This mindset can hold back people, finances, locality and much more. There is a big difference between proprietorship and stewardship to which we are all called.

*“For what makes a distinction between you and someone else? And what do you have that grace has not given you? And if you received it as a gift, why do you boast as though there is something special about you? (1 Corinthians 4:7 TPT).*

## **8. Financial partnership is challenging**

*“That it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation” (2 Corinthians 9:5 NKJV).*

This *Upgrade 2.0* provides us with an opportunity to catapult the wonderful work of God that we have all been privileged to participate in, into the next generations. It will provide a sustainable structure and pathway forward. This of course will also require a solid financial structure.

Our experience so far is that as our *Family of Fellowships* has grown over the past nine years, financial partnership has declined. This steady erosion of resources has reduced our ability to offer the needed and desired resources to you - pastors and leaders. The *Upgrade 2.0* team has labored many hours to address this.

## **9. More areas of training for apostolic leadership and atmosphere**

An Apostolic atmosphere is focused on being sent and on sending. The one we should use as our example for an apostle is Jesus. He was sent, he made disciples and sent them.

Most of the current perceptions and teaching of what an apostle does and his/her authority comes more from church tradition rather than the Bible. Jesus called them “*Sent-ones*” when he sent them out to preach, and they came back all excited that even demons had to listen to them. The word apostle was not a title, it was a description.

It is challenging to create this atmosphere of being sent, sending and then leading and serving a fellowship of pastors and chi

*responsibility for all the churches, with a deep concern weighing heavily on my heart for their welfare” (2 Corinthians 11:28 TPT).*



*Jack L. Neville Sr. My Grandpa*

I am a third-generation pastor and have been in ministry all my life. I've worked with all types of pastors, churches, and ministries. Mike and I traveled as evangelists; then Janet and I traveled as evangelists in the U. S. and other countries. I have pastored in three countries and sent and supported workers to go to many nations. What God has placed in my hands to steward has been a lifelong process of learning. It's not as easy as it appears. Just because someone plants a few churches does not necessarily prove that they have the calling or the ministry skills to lead a movement. Well-intentioned, albeit damaging counsel or decisions have been made through the years by inexperienced pastors who were not yet tested and time proven. We have found that you cannot bypass time, training and experience and thus, there is a need for continued training and mentoring.

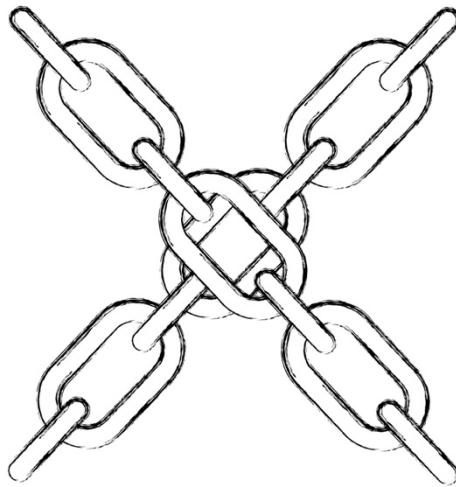
In our global network, we have many leaders who are experienced in church planting, sending workers and serving them as they also plant and send. With this *Upgrade 2.0*, we will draw on all the resources within our networks and beyond our networks through connecting and collaborating with others to provide resources to each and every pastor and leader we service.

## **10. We need to provide more ministry benefits for pastors & leaders**

Being a member of the *Praise Chapel International Family of Fellowships* has many advantages and benefits. We recognize and understand the challenging and changing times we are living in. *Praise Chapel International* has experienced and tested resources to deal with a wide variety of issues. As a resource platform, we will pull together our

collaborative resources including: teaching content and methods, training, accounting, finances, promotion, and communication, as well as legal and emergency situation management. These will be readily available to help prepare and to support pastors, their families, and leaders in ministries.

***Praise Chapel International*** intends to make church planting and multiplication easier, not more difficult, helping you to release more people to plant more churches to fulfill the dream of multiplication.



**We have a once in a lifetime opportunity  
to reshape the story about how churches relate together and about  
how networks and fellowships can partner to accomplish great things  
and make a difference in our world.**

## **Priorities**

### **What's Important Now?**

*“So train your heart to listen when I speak and open your spirit wide to expand your discernment—then pass it on to your sons and daughters. Yes, cry out for comprehension and intercede for insight.”*

Proverbs 2:2-3 TPT

## **Ministries and Benefits for Members**

*Praise Chapel International* seeks to be a value - driven organization. All of our goals, standards, and benefits are motivated by our stated values.

**W**e believe in the apostolic gifting as one of the appointed fivefold gifts to the church to biblically come alongside in mutuality serving the other leadership “giftings.” We have leaders who have proven apostolic ministry experience, demonstrating years of fruitful evangelism, disciple making, and church planting. We provide scriptural apostolic experienced pastoral coaching, counseling, and support.

## **Sustainability and Succession**

Historically, successful independent churches and ministries generally last one generation. When the founding leader passes, the ministry usually fades away — no matter how large it was. We intend to support pastors for *sustainability* and *succession* by drawing upon our pool of experienced workers, present and future leaders, and an ongoing connection to a global network that has the potential as an organization of churches to help ensure ministries can survive and prosper from generation to generation with the express purpose of serving God’s kingdom and followers.



*Sustainability and Succession* are at the very top of our priorities. With *Praise Chapel International* moving into our 4th generation, the largest percentage of youth in our churches are not from the streets or gang life like much of our first-generation families. We now have thousands of youth around the world who have grown up in our fellowships in the U.S., Mexico, Asia, Africa, Kurdistan, Latin America, and now, Europe. Most of these youth are educated, globally minded, highly skilled, and want to make a difference in the world and their generation.

We acknowledge both the need and the opportunity to effectively expand what we have been doing and to develop new ministries and training for them. Our Elevate Youth Conference celebrated twenty years. With *Upgrade 2.0*, we plan to expand this youth ministry. Upgrade 2.0 will add training and mentorship for youth pastors and up and coming potential leaders.

As a part of this *Upgrade 2.0*, we will strive to provide international ministry opportunities, and organized mission exposure available to youth pastors to inspire their youth. This will be a major project over the next few years. Staffing will be necessary. Funding will be critical. This is a global opportunity for *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships*.

We will seek to provide needed assistance to pastors who are aware that reaching the emerging generation of young people requires more than just church services as per normal. *Praise Chapel International* will seek to provide the tools necessary for our pastors and leaders to involve this generation in mission travel and projects.

## **Pastor's and Minister's children**

We have earnestly worked on how to keep this global network of churches and ministers connected and to collaborate into the future. My granddaughter, Courtney Neville, related to me that she wanted to be connected with the *Praise Chapel* pastor's kids all over the world. Then it struck me; There are hundreds, even thousands of pastor's kids who are now 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation in *Praise Chapel International*. The majority of these are serving the Lord and involved in ministry. They love *Praise Chapel*; they want to reach their generation and to help their generation develop a relationship with God.

In collaboration with the vision for our youth, we are developing a plan to launch a specialized ministry for pastor's children around the world. Getting them connected through social media and events in various nations. We will raise funds to help pastor's kids be exposed to their contemporaries around the world and plan events focused specifically for pastor's children.

If we get them connected, we do not have to worry about the future of *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships*. They will take it to another level for their generation.

## **Counseling and Support**

Counseling and support are one of the greatest needs today. There is an escalation of pastors, Christian leaders, and their families battling with mental, emotional and family issues. In the Los Angeles area three young mega-church pastors have committed suicide in the past year. Most pastors and church leaders do not know where to go for help. They are afraid of exposure, losing their ministry, and bringing embarrassment to their families and so forth.

Most pastors and local church leaders are not trained or experienced in counseling. So, all too often these mental and emotional issues and needs remain unmet within the church. This is another priority of our *Upgrade 2.0*, to connect and collaborate with Holy Spirit empowered ministries to come alongside us and provide the needed services in these areas.

## Resource Platform

The new website platform we are building will offer easy websites for member churches, downloadable sermon assistance, graphics, legal advice, print templates, sermon series, and many other forms of necessary resources.

## Lifelong Learning Resources

We embrace the concept of lifelong learning – constant evolution and extension of our skills to meet the needs of our ever-changing culture. We want to help give you the tools and opportunities to continue to be fruitful. By providing webinars and video teaching for all areas of the church, you and your teams will be able to access training by various leaders in our fellowship and other leaders in multiple areas of leadership and ministry.

## Administrative Support

We are building upon our values of *connectivity* and *collaboration* to join with quality Christian businesses and ministries who can assist you with financial services, filings, personnel matters, retirement, risk management and much more.

*Praise Chapel International* will strive to enhance the quality of services that we provide on a global basis. We are actively working to increase the volume of resources that we can provide to the networks of churches.

## Relationships

Through our *Family of Fellowships*, we have the resources and networking opportunities to connect ministers and leaders together who can support one another. Our global network is continually working to develop, improve and upgrade our Pastors and Leaders Conferences, Elevate Youth Conference, Leadership Summits, Harvesters Conferences, International Mission trips, Women's Conferences, Training events, and much more. Our *Family of Fellowships* ministry model seeks to provides personal encouragement and connectivity to leaders, pastors, planters, spouses and their children.

## **Global Network**

For over forty-five years *Praise Chapel* has been planting churches and connecting with ministries around the world. When you are a part of *Praise Chapel International* you are connected to a fellowship that is growing and multiplying globally. You do not have to go out and search to find like-minded people around the world to work with. As a member, you have thousands of churches to connect with if you so desire.

Our goal in the *Family of Fellowships* ministry model is to reproduce: evangelistic, disciple-making, church planting networks, who will also reproduce. Our position is to offer apostolic relationships and collaboration with the *PC Global Network*.

## **International Conferences and Ministry Opportunities**

Currently, in the *Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships*, there are almost unlimited opportunities to minister with like-minded church-planting churches and networks around the world.

## **Credibility**

With *Upgrade 2.0*, *Praise Chapel International* is planning on expanding our national and international exposure to continue to build on our long history and solid reputation. We are like a “house of brands,” meaning that churches and fellowships carry their own name and branding; yet we will build the value of *the Praise Chapel International* name, affiliation and umbrella of support. When new churches are associated with a broader and established group, a certain degree of legitimacy is conferred. We will continue to build the value of being part of *Praise Chapel International*. For example, our ordination credentials are recognized by many major evangelical denominations. The U.S. Government also recognizes our ordination for military chaplain services.

## **Accountability**

With the world scrutinizing the church more, transparency and accountability will be compulsory. We see this increasing in every area of life and business. Being connected to a larger global movement provides another layer of accountability. Paul told Timothy, *“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers”* (1 Timothy. 4:16 NIV). Paul was going to be one source for that accountability.

## **Culture**

The *Praise Chapel International* culture stresses and reinforces disciple-making and church multiplication. This helps the pastor who shares the vision of multiplication to activate positive reinforcement in these areas of pastoral priorities.

## **Resource Sharing**

With so many churches and leaders to draw upon, the resources needed by one fellowship may be readily available to another church body. Together we will act as the larger body of Christ on a global scale while operating on the local level.

## 2.0 COLLABORATIVE MODEL FOR CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

“Collaboration is the key to Multiplication.” John Maxwell

"We're not to be wired together by organization, frozen together by formalism, rusted together by tradition, but melted together by one Spirit." Dr. Vance Havner

“As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.”  
Bill Gates

With *Upgrade 2.0* the *Praise Chapel International* platform will assist more pastors and churches to be actively involved in church multiplication.

**G**od has enabled us to see hundreds of churches planted in the United States over the years. Most of these have been planted by individual churches cultivating followers, discipling, raising funds and sending out a church planter. This ministry model has worked for the churches who can afford it and have the workers who are called to be church planters. Due to the cost of moving far away, they usually plant nearby. Therefore, within the U.S., we are centered mostly in Southern California.

**The reality is that many of our churches do not or are not able to plant churches**

This is not only true for us. It is the case for most church planting networks that I have studied: Calvary Chapel, Victory Outreach and others. Most large networks today grow by pastors and ministries associating with a popular leader or a mega-church, not through church planting.

## Major Cities are the Key

Tim Keller asserts that part of Paul's mission strategy included going to the largest cities of the region. Many more studies have proven this to be true. Very seldom do we see Paul navigating away from cities. It seems Paul believed that cities were where the potential for gospel impact and gospel multiplication would be greatest. <sup>(2)</sup>

## The question is: How to plant a successful church in a major city?

For us to make the greatest impact over the next decade, collaborative church planting is the ministry model we will further develop.

We partnered with Stadia (a church planting organization) for a couple of years. The best thing we did together was the church plant in Austin, Texas with the Paramount Fellowship and Angel and Desiree Flores. It is a workable ministry model where churches and fellowships can collaborate to multiply so every ministry can be personally involved in church multiplication.

- (1) Ten to twelve churches agree to partner in a collaborative church plant.
- (2) A budget is set for the start-up and first year of operation for the church plant in a major city.
- (3) Each pastor/church commits to giving a set amount each month into the *Collaborative Church Planting* fund, held in escrow by *Praise Chapel International* but overseen by the giving churches.
- (4) After an agreed amount is raised, the pastors come together and prayerfully identify a church planting couple from within their group or from our *Family of Fellowships*.

- (5) After the church planter is chosen, the pastor of the church planter and a team from the 10 or 12 churches who are partnering together will be assigned to release the funds to the church plant as needed over the next year or so. They will also work out how the churches will all help the collaborative church plant.

This ministry model will enable churches who cannot carry the full responsibility for a church plant to collaborate and participate in church planting. It will also enable us to see churches planted in major cities across America. This does take a Kingdom mindset.

### **Pastor Omar Lopez's report about partnering with Stadia for the church plant in Austin, Texas**

Our church plant in Austin, Texas is a great example of ministries coming together and collaborating to expand the Kingdom. Although today the church is established and very fruitful, it is not my recommendation that we work with an outside group the way we did with this one.

Although we did learn many positive things from the experience (things that can help us with our future church plants), there were many hurdles and mindsets that had to be overcome in order to finally get the church established. When we first began to work with Stadia, we quickly realized that there was quite a bit of miscommunication between our two entities. That miscommunication arose in part because of our differing uses of shared terminology. The application and understanding of terminology and lingo vary from group to group. We would often find ourselves using the same terms with different meanings. Our church planting systems are vastly different than theirs.

Here, I think it is important for me to list a number of positive things that Stadia did provide for us:

- First, they had our couple go through an assessment process online to see if they were even qualified to start a new church. The questions on the assessment form evaluated their strengths, gifts, experiences, and current season of life. The test was aimed at identifying strengths and opportunities for

growth. Stadia staff members personally met with our couple for a three-day assessment. Our couple learned a great deal about themselves and discovered areas in which they needed development. Stadia's assessment process was beneficial for our couple. It was also beneficial for our fellowship, in that it served as a solid example for our own assessment process.

- Secondly, Stadia kept their promise of providing a one-year salary for our couple, as well as a start-up investment for the planting of the church.
- Thirdly, Stadia assisted us in structuring the church organization by providing guidance with the legal and administrative paperwork associated with beginning a church. They required our couple to fill out a cultural profile, so that our couple could learn more about the people and culture of Austin. Stadia assisted in providing a financial plan, as well as a marketing plan for a one-year opening date target. All of these things were very helpful and effective.

One of the greatest hurdles we encountered while working with Stadia was the fact that they rely more on systems and surveys than the Spirit. Their practices, though good, crowded out the spiritual elements of church planting. For example, Stadia had our couple do an online church planting program that ended up being completely irrelevant to reaching the unchurched. Additionally, Stadia wanted our couple to build a launch team of 50 people from other churches before officially launching the church. Our couple traveled to the six churches that contributed funding to their church plant to gather people for their team. A few people joined the launch team but soon left because they lacked the passion to pioneer a new work. Our couple was more successful in reaching the lost through personal relationship and evangelism. They found that personal discipleship and training with new converts was more effective — as the new converts went on to carry the same spiritual DNA (they more naturally assimilated to the pioneer work). In contrast, Stadia pushed to launch the church using a crowd made up of people from other churches. Our couple pushed back on that idea, because it would give first-time visitors the impression that their church was larger than it actually was — which the visitors would come to see after the launch hype waned.

Stadia pushed other requirements that are just not practical to a real-world pioneer work (requirements that also disrupted the flow of our proven church-planting culture).

It is my conclusion that *Praise Chapel* would be better off adopting upgrades that originate from its own DNA. We can improve our church-planting methods, implement stronger administrative/legal structures, gain deeper understanding of location demographics, and better assist/support our own pioneer pastors all while staying true to our God-given grace and identity. (End of Omar's report)

Within the Body of Christ, there is a great diversity of gifts, temperament, taste, and experience. Churches benefit from this range of qualities within their own fellowship and through cooperative relationships with other churches. Churches learn from and complement each other especially in our connected world today. This is not a compromise and there is room for cooperative diversity. We encourage pastors to work with other Christian ministries in mutual respect and trust.

## **Our Praise Chapel Global Ministry Model**

On the local level churches participate with their sending church, this is the, "Jerusalem" component of cooperative ministry (see Acts 1:8). They voluntarily partner together to send and support each other.

On the Harvesters fellowship level, pastors and the congregations participate in conferences, common ministries, missions, and fellowship in an attempt to work together within the family of churches that are sent out of an apostolic-sending church. This is the, "Judea and Samaria" components of the Great Commission mandate.

At the *Praise Chapel International* level, pastors and ministry leaders participate globally. This is the "uttermost parts of the earth" component of our Great Commission mandate.

***With Upgrade 2.0, Praise Chapel International becomes the platform from which we can all collaborate together for greater church multiplication.***



**PCGLOBAL**  
network

**We are a global movement with churches multiplying more around the world than in the USA.**

**Most denominations make a distinction between their home fellowship and their international fellowship, their home missions and world missions. This is a distinction that we do not want to make within *Praise Chapel*.**

**We have a vision of *Mutuality* and *Globality*. In order to better emphasize who we are and communicate this vision throughout our global family of fellowships throughout the world, we are rebranding for the future —**

***PC Global***

## 2.0 PC Global Structural Upgrade

*“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty”*

Proverbs 21:5 NLT

*“Go ahead and make all the plans you want, but it’s the Lord who will ultimately direct your steps. We are all in love with our own opinions, convinced they’re correct. But the Lord is in the midst of us, testing and probing our every motive. Before you do anything, put your trust totally in God and not in yourself. Then every plan you make will succeed”*

Proverbs 16:1-3 TPT.

**A**s we have grown and developed our vision of reproducing churches and fellowships, the role of *Praise Chapel International* is transitioning to serve the needs of its global members. This has been deeply discussed and researched beginning at the January 2019 Harvesters Summit and has continued in the meetings of the upgrade team.

*Praise Chapel International* was first organized like a small church. One pastor, Mike Neville, and then Larry Neville. There was one staff member with the balance of the work conducted by volunteers. This was a workable model for a medium-sized church and a few church plants. The continued growth of *Praise Chapel International* has rendered this model increasingly unmanageable. To try and keep up with the workload, I stepped aside from pastoring a church for several years to serve full-time leading *Praise Chapel International*. Still, I found myself overwhelmed with the workload, making promises that we could not keep, and facing problems too numerous to adequately solve.

Our original intent was that in forming the *Family of Fellowships* much of the workload would be dispersed. Instead, we discovered that as the ministry continued to grow, new ministry needs from the *Praise Chapel International* office emerged. Again, proving that our current structure was totally inadequate for our growing *Family of Fellowships*.

The general oversight of a church plant is still the sole domain of their sending church. *Upgrade 2.0* is about *Praise Chapel International* so we can provide services and benefits to the global multiplication movement.

We have already looked at the subject of my view of independent preachers with no affiliations. I did not indulge in the main reasons Mike and I did not continue in that stream, but a lot of it stemmed from the lack of accountability that was extremely shocking.

The Neville family has a proven track record of good moral character, generational blessing and fruitfulness. I believe that God has favored and positioned us to develop and lead this organization with integrity, character and accountability. I have always placed myself in an accountable position. *PC Global* will continue to develop and prioritize a fair and scriptural leadership structure of accountability for those who choose to be a member.

## **Current Upgrades to the Praise Chapel International Structure**

- The legal Board of Directors will be restructured to take on this pastoral oversight role and a secondary team of advisors will be developed consisting of older and younger global leaders, to advise in planning and decision making.
- Our Primary Relationships will focus on, Pastors and Church Ministry Leaders (Fivefold ministries Eph. 4:11).
- A members-only section of the PC Global website will provide transparency in all projects, missions and finances.
- This new platform will be arranged for more interaction, communication and involvement.
- Our global leaders from outside the United States will become more involved in the leadership structure and development.

- An additional level of leaders from outside of our fellowship will be established to mediate any relational or other issues that arise within the network. (This will no longer be the role of the senior apostolic leaders of *Praise Chapel International*).
- Intentional relationship development and cross-pollination of the fellowships in our family.
- Youth: The Elevate Conference and ministries for youth will be expanded.
- Specialized ministry and relationship building among pastor's and leader's families.

We are positioning *PC Global* to focus primarily upon sourcing pastors, church leaders and our networks. We channel these resources through conferences, events and ministry models that focus on the challenges of the global harvest, and to continue the mandate of Disciple Making and Church Multiplication.

## Our Membership

**Ordination:** You become an official member of PC Global when you are ordained or licensed with us. We encourage ordination for lead pastors, both husband and wife, assistant pastors and other leadership pastoral ministries as needed in each church.

**Licensing:** We offer licensing for those in various leadership ministries within the churches, providing for them a pathway toward full ordination if they continue to pursue pastoral ministry. We will be adding licensing for youth pastors and other ministry leaders, potentially leading to full ordination. This will help them to establish their relationship to the larger *PC Global network*.

**Membership Certification:** Since my book, *Connectivity, The Power to Touch the World*, was published we have collaborated with many different denominations: Baptist, Assemblies of God, Foursquare, Brethren, Church of God, and a few more. We have pastors in our fellowships ordained with some of these denominations. Most legacy denominations do not allow ministers to be ordained with another organization. We have worked with that for the sake of partnership and collaboration. We are developing a

membership certification for the pastors who are ordained in legacy organizations allowing

them to have membership in our network while not violating the policies of their denomination.

Some networks within our *Family of Fellowships* may choose to ordain the pastors they send out or those within their scope of influence. Perhaps they have their own name and branding with which they want to all be united. The pastors within that network can choose to carry both ordinations or they can choose this membership certification with our larger *PC Global*. This will provide them equal status with all pastors in *PC Global*.

## **Our Ethical Expectations**

Our first listed value is *Connectivity*. Jesus taught that all people would know him through our love for one another. Our desire is to live out the love of Christ in a way that is a testimony to the world.

We connect as a fellowship of Christians. We want to work with a “band of brothers” of Christian men and women. *Praise Chapel* has Scriptural relational beliefs that enable us to be good stewards of this multiplying *Family of Fellowships* (1 Corinthians 9:17). We assume that if you, a minister of the gospel, desires to affiliate with us, you will agree to similar beliefs and lifestyle.

**Lifestyle:** We believe that it is important for gospel ministers to hold a high standard of morality and have avenues of accountability. Being a part of this relational based *Family of Fellowships* gives pastors and other ministers a strong and creditable source for help, counseling and personal ministry in case of some personal need.

**Reputation:** Today with social media and instant communications, reputations can be assaulted very easily. By being a part of this larger network, we can assist in supporting someone when their reputation or ministry is assaulted.

**Social Media:** We believe that ministers and leaders should use social media in an ethical manner.

These are explained more in our by-laws

## 2.0 Financial Upgrade

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

Winston Churchill

*“So, if we’ve sowed many spiritual gifts among you, is it too much to expect to reap material gifts from you? And if you have supported others, don’t we rightfully deserve this privilege even more?”*

1 Corinthians 9:11-12 TPT

Since the very first church was planted from *Praise Chapel* in Maywood, California we have had a covenant agreement that pastors would give back a tithe of the income of their church to the Maywood church. Later when Mike and the leaders formed *Praise Chapel International*, we all agreed to divide the tithe from churches between their mother church (by then we had a few more churches planting churches), and five percent to *Praise Chapel International*. Then in about 1998, we gathered the pastors who were planting churches and made a new agreement where we reduce the amount of their giving to *Praise Chapel International* with the intention that the funds would be reinvested into church planting by each church.

**For the past twenty-one years we have had an agreement of monthly giving to *Praise Chapel International*.**

This has been more of a “covenant” agreement than a requirement. We have never applied any pressure on pastors to be faithful to this. Consequently, some neglect to do this while others give above and beyond this.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *“Have I committed a sin by degrading myself to dignify you? Was I wrong to preach the gospel of God to you free of charge? I received ample financial support from other churches just so that I could freely serve you. Remember, when I was with you I didn’t bother anyone when I needed money, for my needs were always supplied*

*by my Macedonian friends. So I was careful, and will continue to be careful, that I never become a burden to you in any way. As the reality of Christ lives within me, my glad boast of offering the gospel free of charge will not be silenced throughout the region of Achaia. Why? Is it because I have no love for you? God knows how much I love you!*  
(2 Corinthians 11:7-11 TPT)

There will always be those who are generous and those who are not. *“As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this”* (Philippians 4:15 NLT). Paul is commending the Philippians because they honored the ministry they received and then gave to support it. The truth is, if a pastor or anyone, fails to financially contribute then they really do not value nor honor the ministry they are a member of.

## **We have presented to you, Upgrade 2.0, “Visualizing Our Future”**

The potential for greater church multiplication and multiplying networks of churches and ministries around the world is now available to us. What God is doing around the world today is amazing. This could be the generation of the King’s return. We have to pick up the pace. If we do not collectively act now, we will miss this opportunity of our lifetime, and it may take several more centuries to fulfill the Great Commission. Together, we can see thousands more churches planted, make it more difficult each day for a person to go to hell and help save millions from being eternally lost. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16:9, *“A great and effective door has opened to me . . .”*

Since *PC Global* is not a church, we do not receive regular offerings like a church does. With *Upgrade 2.0*, we are introducing three levels of membership: *Ordination, Licensing and Membership Credentials* (for those who do not need to be ordained or licensed.). Each level of membership has a clear financial covenant agreement for a yearly enrollment along with this monthly covenant agreement we have had for past twenty-one years.

The reason that this is expected is because we value CONNECTIVITY. We do more together than we could ever do alone. We value COLLABORATION. We are generous contributors of our treasure for the purpose of GLOBALITY, fulfilling the Great Commission.

1. **Ordained and Licensed Membership:** Those who are ordained ministers or carry our membership ministry credentials give \$600.00 annually. This is given quarterly (\$200), or in monthly (\$50) increments the first of every year. This is

normally given automatically on a credit or debit card.

2. **Church Affiliation:** A church that is associated with *PC Global Network* is expected to contribute a monthly offering as Paul said, *"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully'"* (1 Corinthians 9:7 NLT).
3. **Network/Coalition Affiliation:** A recognized *PC Global Network* leader maintains his or her ordination with us and the network they lead contributes a minimum of \$600.00 monthly

The amount of funds that come from this collaborative financial covenant agreement only provide for the very basic operation of *PC Global Network*. The goal is to fulfill the benefits and services to our members that we are promising. The Global Mission (Praise Chapel Missions) activities need continued funding. This will continue to come from additional funds that are raised for such projects through faith-based giving.

## What does Praise Chapel Missions offer in 2020 and beyond?

### A Hub for Collaboration

Developing a "hub" is a key factor for a collaborative ministry model to multiply discipleship and church planting.

With *PC Global*, the future of *Praise Chapel Missions* will be more like an in house, *Kickstarter* (4) We will provide to our local churches and individual supporters the opportunity to help with church planting somewhere in the world —even to a rural village. They will know who they are helping to plant, where they are going, the cost of the project, how much has been given to date, and when the project is completed all in real time. It will be better than responding to a *Kickstarter* type of challenge because we will have vetted the project. This will provide for:

### Accountability and Transparency

When I want to go to a new restaurant first? I go to *Yelp*, straight to the re

I don't go to their website. Where do I go for almost anything I purchase online:

Airbnb, hotels, barbers... you name it!

There has never been the ability to have such instant accountability and transparency. The public is demanding it. I think it is the best thing that has happened online. Even when you purchase something on Amazon, there are reviews and a list of other places you can purchase the same product.

## **Let's bring this kind of connectivity, collaboration and real time sharing to the Great Commission**

It will take time and money to build this online infrastructure, secure workers and to review the pastors and churches we want to collaborate with, but it will be productive.

Many ministers and church members will never go to the nations of the world, but through *connectivity* and *collaboration* we are all a part of a ministry that extends much further than we could ever achieve alone.

*"Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would even dare to ask or even dream of — infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes"* Ephesians 3:20 (TLB).

**This Upgrade 2.0 ministry model *for Praise Chapel International* provides the hub for our *global Family of Fellowships* to collaborate efficiently to help fulfill the Great Commission.**

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billion.  
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## SPECIAL THANKS

This is not something I have accomplished alone. So many people have helped and given advice for our *Upgrade 2.0*. My first thanks is always to my wife Janet for her wise input and her patience with me when I have a project to do. I am so blessed to have you walk this life-long journey with me. To, Andrea Solis our PC Global Administrator and my personal assistant, thank you for everything you do.

### **The Upgrade Team**

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All the Praise Chapel Harvesters Coalition leaders who have continued to connect and collaborate through this faith journey. I want to personally thank each of you for all the time, prayers and work that you put into this Upgrade 2.0. Your heart for God and for our Fellowship stands out.

**I also want to thank some important folks who have given advice and also read and proofed this over and over.**

Paul and Shauna Neville for their help and insight.

Dr. Eric Scroggins, Coach, Banker, Author of, *“Vision Blocker: How to Shatter Barriers to Achieve Your Destiny.”*

David Ufford, Retired Manager at Raytheon Company

Carl Coe, Retired professor of Marketing at Phoenix University

Special thanks to: Joe and Christy Olsson, Debby Martinez, Charles Gagnon,

Cover design: Javier Solis

But the path of the just is like the shining sun,  
That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

Proverbs 4:18



Larry & Janet  
Neville