



IGNITE

CHURCH PLANTING

Bringing hope to Chicagoland by starting churches

JULY / AUGUST, 2025 THE VALUE OF PARTNERS

ACCELERATING JESUS' MISSION BY STARTING CHURCHES

The Value of Partners

The 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis was hot and muggy. This was one reason people were lined up for a long way in front of Arnold Fornachou's booth to get a taste of his cool ice cream. There was one problem, Arnold's ice cream was so popular that he quickly ran out of paper bowls and customers began to leave for other treats.

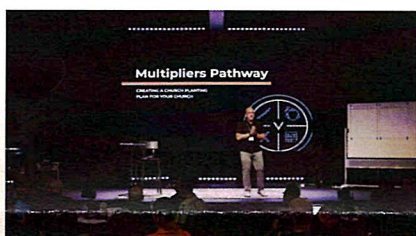
In a booth close to Arnold's was Ernest Hamwi, who was selling Persian pastries called zalabias (though no one was buying them because of the heat). Seeing the problem and a possible solution, Hamwi twisted a zalabia into a cornucopia shape, rolled it in sugar and brought it to Arnold. Arnold didn't understand what was being proposed until Ernest dropped a scoop of ice cream on the zalabia and handed it to a customer. In no time at all, both men were working together selling World's Fair Cornucopias, which we know as one of my favorite treats: ice cream cones. (From [The Power of Partnership in the Church](#) by John Maxwell.)

The right partners make all the difference in the world.



Announcing a New Partnership for Ignite

Through the years, Ignite has been blessed with wonderful partners. These partners have provided prayer and financial support, have been scaffolding participants in new churches and have given us names of potential church planters. The right partners make all the difference in the world.



Knowing this truth, we want to announce a new partnership with Multipliers Pathway. I had the opportunity to attend the initial training led by Multipliers last October in Raleigh, NC. The training was led by Todd Wilson and David Putman who have over 70 years of combined church planting and strategic planning experience. It was designed to help churches create an operating system fueled by disciple-making leading to multiplication of disciple-makers, groups and potentially, new churches.

I was impressed by the outcomes of the 6-month training process and Ignite's Board agreed that investing in this partnership could be a game-changer for our partner churches. We are partnering with Todd and David to bring the Multipliers Pathway training to Chicagoland starting in October 2025.

The training involves:

- A 6-month track: two in-person meetings and monthly 3-hour virtual sessions built around developing a multiplication plan
- A peer learning environment with other multiplying churches
- A collaborative environment for your key team (3 to 5 participants for each church)
- Tools for tuning up or installing a disciple-making engine

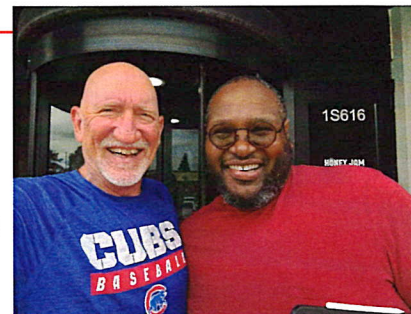
(continues on back)

**Interested in Church Planting? Contact Lance Hurley
at 815.685.1939 | lance@ignitechurchplanting.com**

The first in-person meeting will be at Adventure Christian Church, Bradley, IL on October 14 – 15, 2025. We have space in the training for 9 churches and currently have 4 spaces filled. For more information on Multipliers, please contact Lance Hurley, lance@ignitechurchplanting.com or text (815) 685-1939. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to seeing how this blesses Chicagoland.

Partnering for Local Impact

I had lunch with Dawayne Choice and was thrilled to hear about what is happening with children and youth through the ministry of Engage Christian Church. Each summer, the church sponsors several initiatives that have impact on young lives. Teachers spend time with elementary aged children tutoring them in basic math, language arts and science. Educators from the area schools have complimented the church on this educational focus because test scores for those enrolled in the training have risen markedly! Engage is partnering in helping the local schools.



Engage also has a summer youth employment program where young adults have the opportunity to learn life skills and potential career paths from people in the business world. These young people help do service projects, job shadow and each day join in Bible devotions helping them grow spiritually. Young lives are being blessed because Engage has an eye on partnering for the future.

Partnering for World-wide Impact

I have told you stories about James and Joy Shahabi and their ministry to Farsi speakers in Chicagoland and across the world. James traveled to Pakistan last year to work with the 4 churches that have been started in that country. When he returned, he was asked to help disciple and train some of the youth of Pakistan who had come to believe in Jesus. In March, via Zoom, James spent a day doing that very thing with a group of young people who had gathered to learn more.

Ignite is grateful to be able to partner with James and Joy as they are reaching and discipling people across the world with the good news of Jesus. These young people pictured are possible new church planters for towns and cities in Pakistan and beyond.



Pentecost 2025 Update -- \$31,460

Ignite is grateful for the churches and individual partners who have taken part in this year's Pentecost Offering that will provide start-up costs for our new churches. As of July 3, God has provided \$31,460 through our generous partners.

Mark Your Calendars - October 28 - Minister's Gathering at Maggiano's



Ignite Thriving Churches is sponsoring this meeting at Maggiano's Little Italy in Naperville on October 28 from 11:15 – 1 pm. The speaker for the event will be David Upchurch, Church Relations Officer for Ozark Christian College and a published author. David will be speaking about how to be a "Disciple-Making Grandparent", which will be beneficial for every church leader. Make plans now to attend: food, fellowship, free resources and connection. More information to follow.

***If you know potential planters, please contact Lance Hurley: (815) 685-1939 or Lance@ignitechurchplanting.com
www.ignitechurchplanting.com***