



IGNITE

CHURCH PLANTING

Bringing hope to Chicagoland by starting churches

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2025 PRAYER WALKING IN CHICAGO

ACCELERATING JESUS' MISSION BY STARTING CHURCHES

Prayer Walking in Chicago *by Lance Hurley*

The practice of prayer walking has been one that Ignite has embraced for many years. The apostle Paul talks about walking around and observing different aspects of the cityscape when he spoke to the leaders of Athens gathered at the Areopagus in Acts 17. We feel there are important things we can learn about receptivity for church planting in a place as we walk, pray, listen and observe.

I had the opportunity to practice this with Daniel Hazel a few weeks ago in Chicago. Daniel and Emma moved to the Ravenswood neighborhood of the city in July with the goal of starting a micro church network on the north side of Chicago. In the first months of their church planting venture, Daniel has had numerous conversations with residents of the neighborhood, identified 7 people of peace who can open up relational networks and he has begun regular meetings with a group of interested individuals. There's something good about putting feet on the ground. While we walked, prayed and talked, I gained valuable insight:



We saw people gathering in different locations. Whether it was a local school, playground, coffee shop or restaurant, people were getting together to enjoy community. Each of these places are potential places to connect with different people groups.



We saw potential meeting places. There was a church building in the middle of the neighborhood we walked by. Daniel told me about meeting with the pastor of the church, who coincidentally knew Daniel's father when he was in ministry. A chance meeting that could produce a potential gathering place for larger group meetings.



We saw a diversity of people in the neighborhood. Each one of these people group represents opportunity to start micro churches that will develop spiritual community.



I appreciated the time spent with Daniel that Saturday morning. It opened my eyes to different church planting opportunities contained in Ravenswood, a Chicago neighborhood of 38,000 people (one of 77 neighborhoods that make up the city). I also enjoyed spending time with Daniel, hearing his vision and seeing the spaces he and Emma are developing in their home for the creation of community so neighbors can discover the love of Jesus.



Multipliers Pathway Training Begins

Ignite Church Planting hosted 8 churches from across Illinois at Adventure Christian Church (Bradley, IL) to begin a six-month journey designed to create a culture of multiplication within each church. Todd Wilson and David Putman with Multipliers Pathway led the first in-person session of the training focused on the pathways to disciple-making and multiplication. Each church was encouraged to dream big and develop their unique vision for the future.

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**Interested in Church Planting? Contact Lance Hurley
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Participants will meet virtually in November and December, with the next in-person gathering at Adventure in January 2026. We look forward to seeing the plans for multiplication of disciple-makers, leaders, ministries and churches emerge from this process.

Ignite Thriving Churches: Bringing More Health to Churches

Bob Logan (a church planting specialist) said repeatedly, "Healthy churches reproduce." Ignite Thriving Churches (ITC) came into existence to help churches attain greater degrees of health. ITC has developed a comprehensive process to evaluate and then help strategize a growth plan for churches who decide to participate. This process is delivered to churches free of charge due to a generous grant Ignite received from the Lilly Endowment in 2024.

Part of the process is designed for churches to receive training in areas that will lead to growth. In September and October, ITC's team hosted leadership seminars with Engage Christian Church and Sidney Christian Church. This seminar (and others) are available upon request at no charge. For more information on ITC's ministry or to participate, please contact matt@ignitethriving.org or dave@ignitethriving.org.



Announcing Ignite's 30 Days of Prayer Campaign January 2 - 31, 2026

We invite you to participate in our 30 Days of Prayer Campaign beginning January 2 at 8 am. The theme this year is "The Open Door" which comes from Revelation 3: 8. We believe that God has many doors of opportunity ahead of Ignite in 2026 and we request your prayer help.

Each day in January, we will gather via conference call at 8 am to seek God and his direction for our church planting ministry. This prayer effort is vital for laying the foundation for the coming year. Please join us:

Dial-in number: (518) 992-1040 / Meeting ID: 612594#



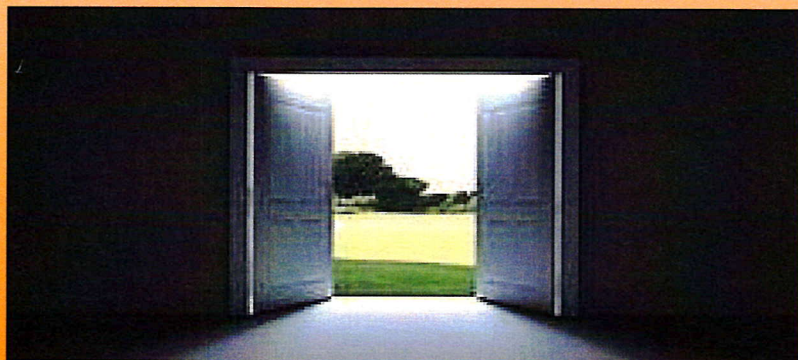
A 30-day prayer initiative for
CHICAGOLAND

January 2-31, 2026

Revelation 3:8

"See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut."

THE OPEN DOOR



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