



The Vista...

Nestled in the heart of the mountains, Missoula, Montana sits like a crown jewel in the Last Best Place. It is a beautiful city to live in, but it's a barren wasteland spiritually. Nearly 70% of those who live here are completely unchurched. Many have rejected modern religiosity and are looking elsewhere for answers.



Julie (jewelry maker)

Burned out ex-hippies, liberal intellectuals, rugged individualists, and bulletproof college students – all are on a quest for meaning and fulfillment. These people hunger for *something more*, but they are not finding it. Very few have any real understanding of how Christ and the Gospel can quench their thirst. *We want to plant a church that speaks to people like these.*



The Vision...

The Gospel of Jesus is redemptive – it creates meaningful change in hearts and lives, it transforms broken relationships, it seeks justice and reconciliation for the communities in which we dwell. Since the Gospel is redemptive, the church should be redemptive too.



Wishful thinking?

We believe the best way to plant a church is to meet unbelievers where they are, to invite them to share in our lives even as we participate in theirs. Authentic Christian community is deeply attractive to the unbelieving world around us. And we consider Christian community most meaningful when it is fundamentally missional. *We want to plant a church that plants more churches.*



The Vehicle – A Team Approach

Of course, planting a church from scratch is hard work – after all, many have been burned by past encounters with “religion,” and it takes time to build trust and credibility in a new community. People want to know that you are there for the long haul. We believe that a team approach is essential for lasting success.

God began building our team in 2004, when Montana natives Christian Cryder and Ryan Sutherland met for the first time at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. We quickly discovered that we shared a passion for Christ's church and the people of Montana. As God knit our hearts, we began preparing for ministry together, both in the classroom and in coffee shops.

Since then, God has used friends, mentors, even unbelievers, to hone our skills and affirm our calling. Now God is stirring the hearts of others also.



The Road Ahead

Both our home church in Billings and a network of PCA church planters in Colorado believe strongly in this project and have pledged significant financial support. We are off to a great start, but we're not there yet. It may take up to 5 years for a new church to become self-sustaining in the West. This means we need to expand our team, and to do that we need you.



All Hands on Deck!

There are a number of ways you can participate with us in making this vision a reality for Missoula:

1. *We need people who will pray* – diligently, daily. We believe prayer is the most effective means of advancing Christ's kingdom. Will you pray for us?
2. *We need additional financial partners* (both churches and individuals) to complete our funding. You can give on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. One-time gifts are also welcome. It's even tax deductible. Will you support us?
3. *We need introductions* – it's a fact: team building is much more effective with a simple introduction. Perhaps you can introduce us to your friends or pastor, or invite us to come speak at your church? Will you help spread the word?
4. *We need others to join us* – people who have gifts in evangelism, fundraising, music, arts, mercy... hey, we can find a place for just about anyone! Maybe God is calling you to come be a part of this grand adventure?

Missoula at a Glance...

When many people think of Montana, they imagine vast tracts of uncharted wilderness. But did you know...

- Nearly 1 million people live in Montana.
- 85% of them live in the 7 major cities on this map.
- Over 80,000 people call Missoula home, making it the 2nd largest city in the state.
- Every Fall, some 14,000 students attend classes at the University of Montana in Missoula.
- Missoula is home to the largest population of postmodern unbelievers in the state.



It's a fact: Missoula is consistently ranked as one of the nation's best places to live - a free thinking, hard drinking, college town that takes pride in postmodern sensibilities and has a passion for the outdoors. Sounds like paradise, right?

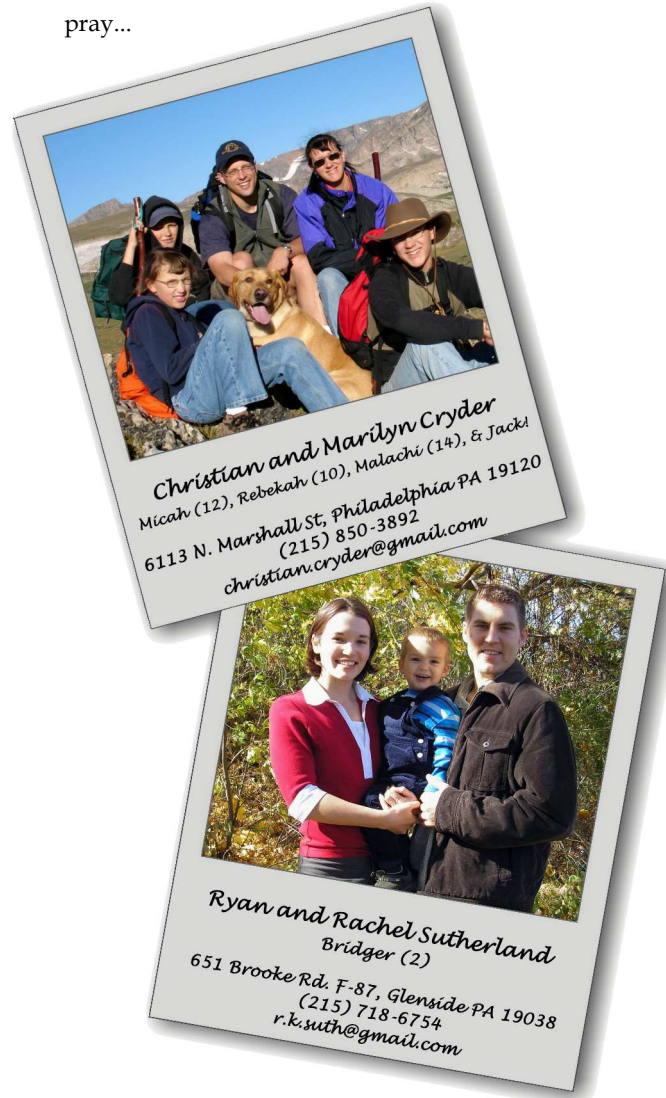
In reality, Missoulians face many of the same struggles as those who dwell in major urban centers:

- 30% Single-parent households.
- 25% Non-married couples raising kids together.
- High rates of depression and substance abuse.
- High cost of living with a bleak economic outlook.

As one resident put it: "Missoula is poverty with a view" - both spiritual and physical. That's why it's a great place to plant a church. Will you ask the Lord of the Harvest how you might help us?

Us at a Glance...

Here's who we are, so you can picture us as you pray...



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the Missoula Project
<http://missoula-project.blogspot.com>

The Missoula Project is an official church planting work of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), Rocky Mountain Presbytery.



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