

AUSTIN RIDGE MINISTRY PLAN

The foundation for ARBC's ministry plan is shaped by Jesus' instruction in the **GREAT COMMANDMENT** to love God and love people (Matt 22:37-40), as well as His **GREAT COMMISSION** to go and make Christ-followers or disciples (Matt 28:19-20).

OUR PURPOSE

Pursuing people at all costs so they can **Know** Jesus, **Grow** in Him, and **Serve** Him Daily.

OUR CORE VALUES

WE ARE:

CHRIST-CENTERED

We enter into relationship with God by accepting and acknowledging who Jesus is, which sheds light on who we are. We are sinners. Jesus is the Savior. We are creatures. Jesus is the creator. We are lost. Jesus is the finder and leader. As a result, we move from a *self-centered* life, to a *Christ-centered* life.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come." -2 Corinthians 5:17

LED BY THE WORD OF GOD

God uses his Word to transform lives through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we live under its authority and counsel.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." -2 Tim 3:16-17

IN AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Christians love one another. We serve one another. We submit to one another. We are at peace with one another. We honor one another. We bear one another's burdens. We forgive one another.

"I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." - Eph 4:1-3

PRAYER-DEPENDENT

Jesus calls those who seek the kingdom of God to pursue God in prayer. Prayer is the means for intimacy with God and the vehicle for direction and provision from God.

“For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” -Isaiah 56:7c

LIVING GENEROUSLY

We believe that following Jesus compels people to give generously of themselves—their time, energy, and resources—for the sake of the kingdom of God.

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” -Acts 20:35

OUTWARD-FOCUSED

Those who follow Jesus should be actively involved in helping others know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Since we ourselves have experienced God’s love and forgiveness through Jesus, we seek to take that message outside the walls of our church to those who need Him.

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” -Mark 16:15

MULTIPLIERS

The call of a Christ-follower culminates in multiplying who we are in Christ. Therefore, the aim of being a Christ-follower is to help others grow into “lifelong learners and followers of Christ”; then, enable others to do the same.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” -Matt 28:19-20a

OUR PROCESS

We accomplish our ministry purpose through three basic steps:

- **STEP 1** – Create environments so people can come to **KNOW** Jesus.
- **STEP 2** – Create environments so people can **GROW** in Jesus.
- **STEP 3** – Create environments so people can **SERVE** Jesus.

STEP 1 – KNOW

CREATE ENVIRONMENTS SO PEOPLE CAN COME TO KNOW JESUS.

Each Ridge ministry will identify and pray for people that are lost, train people to communicate their faith, and create environments to assist people in sharing their faith.

OUR MOTIVATION

- People without Jesus are lost, and lost people matter to God; therefore, we care about lost people (John 3:16; Luke 15).
- Jesus instructs us to go out and preach the Good News (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).
- God places people who need Jesus in our lives (Ps 135:6).
- Telling people about Jesus demonstrates our love for God and for others (Matt 22:37-40).

OUR PROCESS

INDIVIDUAL OUTREACH

- Identify people in your sphere of influence who don't know Jesus.
- Pray for those who don't know Jesus as Savior.
- Train individuals to effectively share their faith using the **CPR** approach:
 - **CULTIVATE AN INTEREST** by building relationships;
 - **PLANT THE SEED** by introducing the Good News of Jesus into a relationship;
 - **REAP A RESPONSE** by inviting people to respond to the Good News of Jesus.
- Put it into practice: Help people find or create opportunities to naturally share their faith.

GROUP OUTREACH

- Identify the people that God has placed in your sphere of influence.

- Pray for those who don't know Jesus as Savior.
- Train people to effectively share their faith in a group context using the **CPR** approach:
 - **CULTIVATE AN INTEREST** through events that build bridges between Christians and unbelievers;
 - **PLANT THE SEED** through events where the Gospel is introduced;
 - **REAP A RESPONSE** through events where the Gospel is central and attendees are given an opportunity to respond.
- Put it into practice: Plan and execute **CPR** environments that introduce people to Jesus Christ as Savior.

DEVELOP A KNOW ACTION PLAN

INDIVIDUAL PLAN

- Identify those who don't know Jesus.
- Develop prayer lists of people living without Christ.
- Train people to share their faith.
- Challenge people to build bridges using the CPR approach.

GROUP PLAN

- Pray for lost people to attend.
- Train your team for the event.
- Plan and implement small or whole group, CPR-based events.

STEP 2 – GROW

CREATE ENVIRONMENTS SO PEOPLE CAN GROW IN JESUS.

Each ministry will develop an ongoing process to help Christ-followers grow in their lifelong commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, characterized by an ongoing pursuit of him, fellowship with him, and obedience to His Word.

OUR MOTIVATION

- We want to see people become like Jesus (Col 1:28).
- We want to build mature Christ-followers (Eph 4:11-16).
- We want to develop Christ-followers who will multiply additional Christ-followers (Matt 28:19-20).

OUR PROCESS

As we seek to build Christ-followers, it is important to define what a Christ-follower looks like, what they need to grow, and which environments help them grow.

DESCRIPTION OF A DISCIPLE (CHRIST-FOLLOWER)

Disciples are lifelong learners and followers of Jesus Christ.

LEARNERS are continually growing in their knowledge of...

1. Who God is
2. What Jesus has done for them
3. Who they are in Christ
4. How to live for Jesus

...which results in **FOLLOWERS** who are:

1. Christ-centered
2. Led by God's Word
3. Prayer-dependent
4. In authentic relationships

5. Living generously
6. Outward-focused
7. Multipliers

KEY ELEMENTS NEEDED TO GROW (ACTS 2)

- **GOD'S WORD** – We desire to see people experience regular Bible intake both personally and corporately.
- **WORSHIP** – We desire to see people respond individually and corporately to who God is and what He has done for them through worship.
- **PRAYER** – We desire to see people experience God through personal and corporate prayer times.
- **COMMUNITY** – We desire to see people encouraging one another as they study God's Word and share what Jesus is doing in their lives.
- **MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT/SERVICE** – We desire that people grow stronger in their faith as God uses them to make a spiritual difference in the lives of others by serving.

KEY ENVIRONMENTS FOR GROWTH

- **GATHERING** – Active participation in appropriate worship gatherings
- **COMMUNITY** – Consistent and engaged involvement with a smaller group of believers who help one another grow as they seek to daily follow Jesus
- **INDIVIDUAL TIME** – A passionate commitment to spend daily time with the Lord in His Word and through prayer

DEVELOP A GROW ACTION PLAN

- Create and develop a Gathering plan.
- Create and develop a Community plan.
- Create and develop an Individual Growth plan.

STEP 3 – SERVE

CREATE ENVIRONMENTS SO PEOPLE CAN SERVE JESUS.

Each ministry must ensure that people receive equipping, training, and opportunities to minister for Jesus Christ, so they can make a spiritual difference in the life of someone else.

OUR MOTIVATION

- Serving follows the example of Jesus. (Mark 10:45)
- The cause is great. (John 4)
- Serving demonstrates a love for God and for others. (Matt 22:37-40)

OUR PROCESS

1. Engage people in serving by:

- Communicating the purpose and vision of the ministry.
- Engaging and recruiting people who share the vision.
- Build a unified, loving, trained, and equipped ministry team of servants
- Coaching servants for ongoing success on the team.

2. Develop Servants - Creating effective servants involves recognizing and cultivating servant traits (**AFTER**):

- **AVAILABLE** – Open to God’s leading and organizes his or her life to be available to serve.
- **FAITHFUL** – Seeks to be faithful to the Lord and demonstrates faithfulness to local ministry.
- **TEACHABLE** – Realizes there is something to be learned from those situated above, below, and around them.
- **EQUIPPED** – Aware of the gifts and abilities with which God has equipped them and leverages those blessings for His purposes.
- **RESPONSIVE** – Willing to obey Jesus’ command to go and make disciples.

3. Identify and develop leaders out of the ministry’s team to expand ministry impact.

- Leader – A leader is someone who has proved him/herself gifted and faithful in ministry and is given a segment of our church to lead or shepherd.
- Leadership development:
 - **IDENTIFY** faithful people with the potential to lead or shepherd.
 - **EQUIP** the leader with necessary tools to effectively lead.
 - **DEPLOY** the leader to the appropriate environment.
 - **SUSTAIN** the leader through ongoing training and encouragement.

DEVELOP A SERVE ACTION PLAN

1. Engage people in serving
2. Develop those who are serving
3. Build leaders