

Inspire George Church Planting Ministry Initiative **George, South Africa**

The Garden Route of South Africa is truly one of the most beautiful places in the world. This area is known for its majestic mountains and coastlines, its beautiful natural landscapes and wildlife, and its various people groups and cultures. Yet, behind this scenic beauty lies a dark secret. Although the vast majority of the people claim to be religious, the reality is that many do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In the past ten years, the Lord has blessed a team of church-planting missionaries in initiating seven church plants in the cities of George, Sedgefield and Knysna. George is the largest and fastest growing city along the Garden Route with a population of over 300,000. It is the economic and political center of the Garden Route and is experiencing rapid growth. We've named the church-planting strategy for the city of George, ***Inspire George***. The *Inspire George* team is part of a non-profit organization, *Agape in Action*, and is made up of North American and South African church planters.

The mission of *Inspire George* is to evangelize non-believers and to disciple believers through a variety of ministry initiatives, including church-planting, theological training, ministries for children, teens, and young adults, sports outreach, and intervention and upliftment initiatives.

- 1. Planting Multiple Churches.** All of the efforts of *Inspire George* point to this one goal: to plant Bible-believing, doctrinally-sound, indigenous churches in George and the surrounding areas. Currently we have three church-planting projects underway in the city of George: the Agape Baptist Church, the Bybel Baptiste Kerk, and the Life Fellowship Church. We envision the following church planting projects during the period 2020–2030:
 - Five additional churches in the city of George. George is a melting pot of many cultures, and we plan to start a church in every major language/cultural group. This requires the recruitment of North American missionary couples, and the training and mobilizing of South African ministry leaders.
 - Two church planting projects in the region stretching from Groot Brak Rivier to the city of Mossel Bay to the west, and one church planting project in Oudtshoorn to the north. This ambitious initiative will require Afrikaans-speaking church planters, partnering with English-speaking church planters, to reach this region close to George, which has a combined population of 130,000.

In order for the planting of seven churches in ten years to become a reality, we need five additional church planting couples to join the *Inspire George* team.

- 2. National Leadership Training.** As church planters, it is our job to work ourselves out of a job. It is important that we leave the church plants in the hands of men who can “rightly divide the Word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15). Through our *Biblical Leadership Institute* (BLI) we provide biblically-sound, accredited theological training for current and future church leaders. More information about BLI is available at www.biblicalleadershipinstitute.co.za. We are trusting the Lord to provide several more church planters who are educationally equipped to teach in BLI.
- 3. Evangelistic Outreach.** In addition to each missionary's own personal evangelism, we hold regular, organized evangelistic outreaches in the community. These outreaches include multiple sports ministries, children and teen programs, children's Bible Clubs, young adult initiatives, marriage and parenting seminars, and conferences for men and women, camping programs, and biblical crisis counseling.

- 4. Spiritual Discipleship.** At the very heart of church planting is disciple-making. The Great Commission commands us to make disciples (evangelism) and to train disciples (equipping). Therefore, we are trusting the Lord for missionary couples who are committed to making disciples as the core of their ministry responsibilities. We encourage the initiation of multiple Bible study groups and mentoring groups as an essential part of our overall church planting strategy, as well as one-on-one personal discipleship.
- 5. Intervention and Upliftment Ministries.** Jesus saw both the spiritual needs of people and their physical needs (Matthew 9:35-36). Based on the example set by our Savior, we will focus on upliftment ministries that will give us access to people we would ordinarily not meet. These upliftment programs help us build trust with those in the poor areas of George by providing food, clothing, and skills training. We also provide biblical counseling ministry for marriage and family needs, and those dealing with various addictions.
- 6. NextGen Ministries.** "Training tomorrow's leaders today!" The future of the church is the next generation, and it is the responsibility of the current generation to reach and train the generation that follows. The NextGen initiative includes programs designed to reach children, teens, and young adults with the gospel and to help them grow in their faith. It can be difficult for new church plants to find people who have both the heart, necessary training and resources for all of these age groups. NextGen will use the *Inspire George* Ministry Centre to provide centralized children and teen ministries for current and future church plants. We are trusting the Lord for two more couples and/or singles to come help us minister to the next generation. We especially need a coach/athletic director for the NextGen sports ministries.

Inspire George is a Team Ministry

Following the example of the New Testament apostles, we recognize the value of team ministry. From the inception of the church-planting strategy along the Garden Route, a shared ministry vision has been a priority. Just as He has done in other parts of our region, God is bringing together a diversely experienced and talented team of church-planting families. Our biblical mandate is to make disciples and establish Bible-believing churches in the city of George. This is clear. Yet we recognize there is room for creativity and diversity for each member of the church-planting team to take initiative personally as they express their individual gifts and expertise.

Partnering Together with *Inspire George*

It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider the opportunities for ministry in this growing city.

- 1. If you desire to serve the Lord within this dynamic church planting team,** we invite you to make contact with us. The personnel needs we are asking the Lord to meet are:
 - *A NextGen Coach/Athletic Director
 - *Sports Outreach Ministry Couples/Singles
 - *Five Church-Planting Couples
 - *Theological Educators
- 2. If you desire to invest financially in the *Inspire George* team project** of renovating a multi-purpose building and property located in a strategic part of the city of George, we invite you to invest your God-given resources in the ministry of *Inspire George*. Your gifts may be sent through a couple of ministry outlets in the USA to our local non-profit organization (details available on request). We are trusting the Lord for \$46,500 to pay off the remaining loan for the purchase of the building and an additional \$25,000 to complete the renovation of

the property for the Inspire George Ministry Centre.

At the very least, we hope you will pray for the *Inspire George* team. We desire to see God glorified through us along the Garden Route of South Africa.

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