



**A FAMILY OF MULTIPLYING CHURCHES IN MILITARY COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE**

# THE PRAETORIAN PROJECT

“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the **praetorian** guard”

Philippians 1:12-13

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Philippian church tells them that the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to progress and advance as he sits imprisoned. How? He has been talking to the Praetorian Guard.

This passage has become the catalyst for what is now the Praetorian Project. We imagined that perhaps God could use us to share the Gospel to the highly transient military members in our midst, and as they move around the world, the Gospel would continue its worldwide advance to the ends of the earth.

The purpose of this prospectus is to introduce you to our work and invite you to partner with us in it.



# WHO WE ARE

The Praetorian Project is a family of multiplying churches in military communities worldwide.



## A FAMILY

We value relationship among our leaders and members. While we have documents and policies, we operate primarily as a family.

## OF MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

Our autonomous churches work together to plant new churches.

## IN MILITARY COMMUNITIES

In communities with high concentrations of active-duty service members, we gather both military and civilians together into one church family where the Gospel bridges the divides in our communities.

## WORLDWIDE

On any given day, members of our churches are in dozens of nations throughout the world and are rubbing shoulders with the militaries of many nations. We believe God will use this movement as part of His plan to spread the Gospel to all nations.

# WHAT WE DO

The Praetorian Project works together to do long-term discipleship of highly transient people and to advance the Gospel by multiplying churches.



## LONG-TERM DISCIPLESHIP OF HIGHLY TRANSIENT PEOPLE

The average military member is part of one of our churches for approximately three years. And yet, we desire to see members of our churches grow and mature in Christ over the decades.

Imagine watching someone in the youth group of a church become a Christian, join the church in membership, get a job, get married, start a family, continue to grow in Christ, and eventually be called into pastoral ministry or missions. That process typically takes many years! But we don't have many years with our people. Therefore, we work together to see this process happen in our family of churches.



## ADVANCE THE GOSPEL BY MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

We know that Jesus' plan for the advancement of the Gospel is making disciples of all nations and forming those disciples into local churches who will continue the process until Jesus comes back. We believe that all churches should be involved in the important work of church planting.

The unique make-up of our family of churches is particularly conducive for church planting. Let us show you what we mean...

# CHALLENGES

We\* move regularly.

We deploy all over the world.

We are young.

We are separated from family and community of origin.

We often face imminent death in training and combat.

We have a culture and terminology that makes getting to know us difficult.

We've been told that we're special but deep down we know we're just human like everyone else.

# OPPORTUNITIES

We have geographic agility—we're used to moving.

We have a mind for and relationship with the nations.

Every one of us will either die young or will have a second career—why not as a church planter/missionary?

Having been separated from our origins for most of our adult life, we have learned to build new community in new places.

We have faced death and sought God in it and we seek to point others to Him.

We know the culture and terminology of the military and can minister effectively in these communities.

We know that we're not special, but we know the Good News of Jesus Christ and we believe that He can use us in His good purposes.

\*We use "we" language because many of us in the Project are or were service members and we have experienced these challenges first-hand.

# INITIAL SUCCESS

The Praetorian Project began in 2012 as an effort to reach the Marine Corps. The idea came together in 2010-2011 within one church: Pillar Church of Dumfries, VA. The goal was to plant a network of like-minded churches near every Marine Corps installation.

We specifically targeted 4 regions: Northern Virginia, Eastern North Carolina, Southern California, and Japan. We knew that if we planted a multiplying church in each of these regions that ~80% of the Marine Corps would have access to one of our churches.

By God's grace, a lot of hard work, and partnership with many churches and individuals, we now have churches in each of these regions. In fact, we have a growing number of churches (plural!) in each of these regions. The most current list of our churches can be found at: [praetorianproject.org/our-churches](http://praetorianproject.org/our-churches).

This success has come with a lot of learning opportunities along the way. We have not done everything perfectly and have not had success at every turn. When we have failed from our perspective, we have worked to learn from our mistakes and seek diligently to double down on seeing a church in that area- regularly planting churches and/or re-launching churches in the same area where one has previously failed or is currently struggling.

We believe these lessons of success and failure poise us well for the future.



# TESTIMONIES

"The opportunity for the church to reach lost people that are transient, that can get the good news, then can move to a new location, and further spread the gospel...I can't think of a better place to go to get the gospel spread throughout all the veins throughout all the world."

- **Joshua Brown**, Pillar Jacksonville and Pillar Topsail



"A church plant is tough, not flashy, not a place to just get an emotional high on the weekend. But if you're chasing after the Lord, and you're seeking after him, the Praetorian Project is a kingdom-focused network where you will grow and be disciplined along the way."

- **Oryan Lopes**, Pillar Dumfries, Pillar 29 Palms, and Pillar DC



"We wouldn't be sitting next to each other right now without God using the Pillar community when you look back... There's got to be many more couples like us. If we can help serve in a way that the pastors at Pillar are equipped to help more couples like us, then we've won in the sense of glorifying God through that and helping them reach other people."

- **Kimberlee Clement**, Pillar Okinawa, Pillar Oceanside, and San Diego



"The overall mission of the Praetorian Project and what God is using it for is spectacular in the military. It takes ordinary men with no formal schooling and equips them to be that light in a dark place, to speak on behalf of Christ in their workspaces, with their family members, in the barracks, and on base. I don't think a day or week goes by when I am not having a gospel conversation of some sort...By Pillar's leadership and growing in the Word, it was something that I learned to do."

- **Scott Groves**, Pillar Jacksonville and Pillar Dumfries



# OUR STRATEGIC GOAL

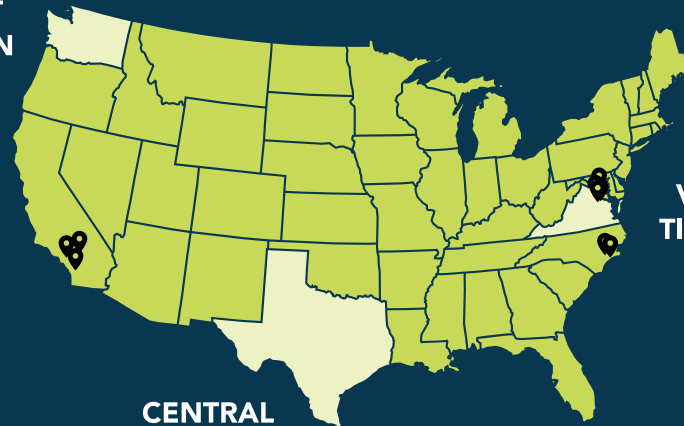
In 2015, we moved away from focusing exclusively on the Marine Corps and our churches began to plant in areas that are geared towards the other services as well. For the next 6 years, however, we remained focused planting in the original four areas. We recently determined that if we are truly called to reach the military, it is time to “roll out the map” again and see where we need to be next.



## THE NEXT GOAL: Plant multiplying churches in 3 new regions.

We want to give focus and attention to 3 more regions that have large numbers of military personnel and high populations of veterans transitioning to civilian life (Northwest Washington, Central Texas, and the Virginia Tidewater Region). We believe joining the gospel work of multiplying churches in these key regions where we are not yet present will help us not only reach military personnel across the country but also serve as a catalyst for carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth.

### NORTHWEST WASHINGTON



### VIRGINIA TIDEWATER REGION

### CENTRAL TEXAS



# HOW WE PLAN TO GET THERE

## STEP 1

### Mobilizing Lead Churches

Timeframe: Less than 1 year

Each church plant in our family of churches starts with a sending church/mother church. Therefore, to get a church in each of these regions, we need a church to take the lead on making that happen. We will work together to see which churches in our family are best suited to take the lead on reaching these regions. This work is already underway!

The remainder of these steps will need to happen in each of the three regions...





## STEP 2

### Planning and Preparation

Timeframe: 1-3 years\*

The lead churches for each region will then work to get to know the region they plan to plant in. They will take vision trips, build relationships with potential partners on the ground, and see where the Lord is leading. They will also talk about and pray for this new church publicly in their worship gatherings and seek a planting team for this new work.

## STEP 3

### Confirmation of Planting Team

The sending church and the Praetorian Project family will then confirm the planting team for the new region.

\*We hesitate to put time estimates here because this work that we're involved in is a work of God in planting new churches and seeing those churches multiply. We're also doing this work in very difficult areas. Sometimes it takes a long time; and sometimes it happens faster than we could ever anticipate! These time estimates are merely to help paint the picture that this goal will likely take 5 years or more.

## STEP 4

### Initial Plant and Stabilization

Timeframe: 3-5 years

The church planting team will get on the ground and work to plant a self-sustaining, self-governing church in the new region. This typically takes several years and lots of help from the sending church, supporting churches, and Christians. The funding for each individual church plant is raised by the church planting team (this is not part of the overall Praetorian Project budget).

## STEP 5

### Multiplication in Each Region

The final step in this goal is that each of these new churches in these new regions become a multiplying church by sending out their first church plant! The most likely scenario is that they would plant within their local region, however each of our churches seeks to remain sensitive to the Spirit's leading in the next plants so they could literally be anywhere in the world!



# PARTNER WITH US FOR THE LONG HAUL

Here are tangible ways for you to join in with the Praetorian Project:

**1. Stay Tuned.** You will definitely want to keep up with Praetorian Project news, stories of God's work in our family, and be reminded to be praying for our work together.

Sign up for the monthly email newsletter. Visit our website or scan this QR code here:



Follow Praetorian Project on social media. Feel free to share things on your church or personal page.



Share regular updates during your church gatherings. (See #4 for specific ideas.)



**2. Pray Regularly.** Regularly be praying for the Project in your corporate times of prayer (Sunday mornings, prayer meetings, small groups, etc.) and your personal times of prayer.

**3. Financially Partner.** Commit to regular, ongoing partnership with the work of the Praetorian Project. Financial partnership lets us know that you are committed to this work in a tangible way. We desire to build deeper relationships with our financial partners that help them do the other things on this list (and more) even better.

**4. Redeem Patriotic Holidays.** Commit to using your weekly gathering around the patriotic holidays to specifically highlight The Praetorian Project. Show a video about the work from our videos on the website or invite one of our pastors/planters to worship with you that Sunday and share an update about the Project and his specific role in it. (Memorial Day (May), Independence Day (7/4), Freedom Day (9/11), and Veteran's Day (Nov) seem to be the most appropriate.)

Would you lead your church or your family to be a part of this effort? We are looking for the following partnerships to help us fill the gap and reach our target goal:

7 churches giving \$1,000 per month  
9 churches giving \$500 per month

8 families giving \$500 per month  
16 families giving \$100 per month  
30 families giving \$50 per month



# FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Below is our goal annual budget for the next several years to equip us not only for planting multiplying churches in our three additional regions, but also to help us stay healthy as a growing family over the same period of time.

## Our Ideal Annual Budget for our Current Goal

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### Project Advance.....\$50,000

This section includes vision trips to future locations, supporting new churches in their infancy, and whatever else is needed to see us plant multiplying churches in these three new regions.

### Church Planter Care.....\$50,000

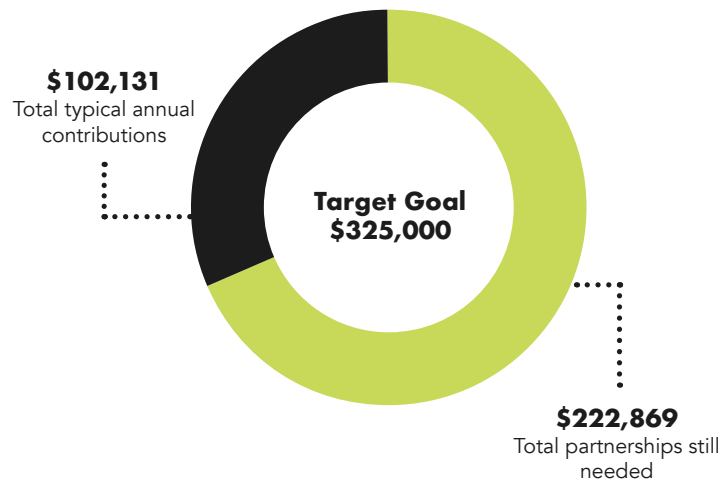
Each year we gather together as a family of churches for the Pastor/ Planter Family Retreat and the Annual Meeting. Getting all of us together in one place on a regular basis is vital to what we do together.

### Personnel.....\$150,000

Providing for our salaried staff who in turn provide strategic oversight and communications for our family of churches.

### Operating Expenses.....\$75,000

This covers administration, materials, website, and other costs.





I want to thank you for taking the time to learn more about The Praetorian Project and considering how God may use you and/or your church to partner with us in this effort. I know there are a lot of things competing for your time and resources, so thank you.

I ask you to take a few more minutes to stop now and pray. Pray for this work of the Praetorian Project. Pray and ask God how he may be leading you to partner with us in this work.

I pray that together we can take the Gospel to the nations by reaching our military communities worldwide.

I love you guys,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian O'Day". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian O'Day  
Executive Director





[www.praetorianproject.org](http://www.praetorianproject.org)