

Who Are They?

1. They are the **LARGEST** unchurched people group in the United States.

2. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR RELATIONSHIP VIA THE INTERNET BY THE MILLIONS... YES, MILLIONS!

3. They are reshaping culture and have redefined "family."

4. Churches have **FAILED** to reach and keep them (refer to number 1!).

5. They are an **Enormous Mission Field** that we must reach, teach, equip and release to ministry and missions.

**You Know Them Personally.
But do you know who they are?**





MeetupChurch.us

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Pastor Ed Snyder

The answer is *Single Adults!*
 MeetupChurch.us is about reaching,
 discipling and equipping them for effective
 ministry and missions.

July 31, 2011

Hello Friends at Next,

My goal in what you are about to read is to make a HUGE need and opportunity known, give you a glimpse of the potential Kingdom IMPACT MeetupChurch.us can have, and hopefully transfer the VISION to you so you can GUIDE me.

The beautiful thing is, as I write this I'm in it completely alone... and broke... and unemployed and somewhat homeless... without any human or funding resources. But, I'm absolutely called by God and will relentlessly keep to it. Miraculously, God keeps providing (usually at the last moment). Seems like His humorous way to start a church to reach Singles. I love His sense of humor.

Just make a list of the Single and Single-Again Adults you know who don't know Christ or are disconnected from Him. My list has too many. Now make another list of the churches you know that are COMPLETELY focused on reaching them and their nontraditional families? Mine is blank. This breaks my heart because the Single Adult population is the largest unchurched people group in America.

As you will see this proposal is not all inclusive. That's why I need your expertise. I have many questions and will value your feedback. I'm traveling to Florida from Idaho to get some input on how to start a church in California. I need you.

This calling really scares the potatoes out of me (I'm from Idaho remember). Really! But it's the perfect place to be. It forces me to fall on my face before the Lord and pray... and I do... much! Then I pray again.

The part of this proposal I am certain of is, I know the most important meetup any person will ever have is with Jesus Christ. For me, it's worth giving everything to arrange this one meetup for others. Everything...

Edward Snyder

The MeetupChurch.us Mission: "To Help Single People Find, Friend and Follow Jesus Christ!"



MeetupChurch.us

The MeetupChurch.us
Mission: "To Help Single
People Find, Friend and
Follow Jesus Christ!"

Church Plant Proposal
Submitted July 31, 2011

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A church to “Save Single People?”

Our Mission is to Help Single People Find, Friend and Follow Jesus Christ.

What is a “Meetup?” It’s simply getting together... connecting... starting or growing a relationship. With that in mind; the most important meetup any person will ever have is with Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). At MeetupChurch.U.S, we will do everything, short of sin, to help Single people have a personal meetup and growing relationship with Jesus.

Single adults are typically defined as unmarried adults, 18 years of age or older, who happen to be single by Chance, Change or Choice (whether theirs

or someone else’s). They fall into one or more of the following categories:

- ▶ Never married ▶ Formerly married (divorced) ▶ Widowed ▶ Single parent
- ▶ Separated (legally married but living a single lifestyle)

Edward Snyder, founding pastor of MeetupChurch.U.S said, “Every church must be aware and involved with the needs and issues of Single and Single-Again people. Singles represent 45% of the US adult population. Now is the time for us, the Church, to be bold and creative in reaching out to this nontraditional family community as a mission field.”

The mission of MeetupChurch.U.S is to help Single People Find, Friend and Follow Jesus Christ.

The stats are tragic. The Church in America has failed Singles.

According to Barna Research, single adults are the most unchurched group of people in the USA. Less than 20% attend church on any given week. Men in this people group are far less likely (15%) to attend church than the women (23%). Nearly two-thirds of them feel “church” has nothing to offer. They are 105 million strong in the United States alone.

These statistics are tragic. This is why a church fully resourced and focused to reach and disciple Singles is desperately needed NOW.



TOP 10 FAQs
#10

Is MeetupChurch.U.S a “real” church?

The IRS defines a “real” church as, “a religious organization that, as a principal means of carrying out its religious purpose, holds regular religious services for a regular, cohesive body of believers to associate with one another and to engage in communal worship” (so much for separation of church and state). Even with that definition, MeetupChurch.U.S will certainly be a “real” church. However, we prefer to be known as a church because we will, “Love as Christ, Live as Christ and Lead others to Christ.” Jesus said where two, or a few, people gather in His name, He is there (see Matthew 18:19-21). We’re good with that.

TOP 10 FAQs #9

What makes MeetupChurch.us different than other church plants?

The obvious is the difference. MeetupChurch.us is a church for Single people on purpose.

Like other new churches, we have a target audience where we are focusing resources toward reaching and meeting needs. Our focus is Single and Single-Again adults and their nontraditional Single Parent families (which are quickly becoming the "new normal family").

We hope and pray there will be many people on the fringes attracted to what we are doing (by age, separated or even married people). Everyone who chooses to attend MeetupChurch.us will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, be discipled, equipped to minister and empowered to change their world through missions (micro and macro).

At MeetupChurch.us, Single and Single-Again people ARE the target audience. That's the difference.

Traditional churches target and focus on ministry to "normal" families (a husband, wife, a couple children, a pet, a mortgage, a car payment... you get the idea). These churches simply do not understand how to effectively reach, or minister, to Singles. The data proves it.

When a church has limited resources (funding and human) they will default to using those resources to meet the needs of their target audience... traditional families. In traditional church, Single and Single Again people become the fringe, feel marginalized and leave (read the comments to the right which happen to be typical for Single Adult Christians).

We're convinced a church for Singles should have already happened.

They are Saying:

From User Name: Putty

Hi, Do any of u feel as a "single" person, church is still not supportive/accepting of you? I felt this way back when I started going when I was a young adult, and still feel it as an older adult... Is it just me? It still feels pretty family oriented to me!!! Any other singles feel like this? Maybe I am

"When people at church find out I'm single, I feel like they look in the direction of my uterus and shake their heads in shame."

living in the wrong area of the world, I don't know! LOL.

From User Name: MoMark

It's true. Everyone invites you to church and being a single, fairly attractive male, they instinctively try to hook you up with single women. I ignore all that. But I think like in most social settings, if you're single, they don't really know what to do with you, so maybe part of the discomfort is simply innocent, struggling to find a way to make you feel comfortable and accepted. The churches I've been to are family oriented.

From User Name: MidnitBreez

This is kind of funny, but a few years ago when I was "church shopping" after a long "hiatus" away, I went to this church where I was (with the exception of a few grandkids) seriously the youngest person there by at least 30 years. But that little congregation of older folks was so sweet and welcoming. I will always remember how nice those people were. But I left anyway.

From User Name: Undertheironsea

I feel very strange when going (to church) alone. It's like going to the theatre alone for me. I haven't been in a long time... What I do now is just read my bible at home and do the best I can.

If churches are failing the Singles they already have, do you really think they are focused on reaching nonchurched or dechurched ones?

From User Name: CameronC

Being the odd one out every Sunday isn't easy. ...And many of the sermon illustrations, centered on marriage and parenting, apply to the majority of this congregation, but leave me out. While most days I truly enjoy my single life, I struggle to sit amidst so many people at a life stage I

thought I'd have reached by now—and to do so week in and week out, month in and month out, year in and year out.

(After missing church for two months) I think I was most concerned that no one called... I simply feel invisible at church. So I'm tempted to really truly disappear.

From User Name: Cody

1st Corinthians 7 (I don't have the specific verses with me). "Don't get married unless you can't control yourself". That might be my translation... but that's the basic idea of Paul's words. I'm 34, single, and after a

"I simply feel invisible at church. So I'm tempted to really truly disappear."

lifetime of church attendance no one told me about this piece. They don't mind recommending I "leave and cleave", but no one ever mentioned 1st Corinthians 7. So marry if it's your thing, but if not please take advantage of your "ministry agility."



105 Million Souls

There are 105 million Singles in the United States, representing one-third of the US population. For the first time ever the majority of US households are headed by an unmarried person. Their behaviors and economic choices are shaping America's

- Gen-R / 18-24 years olds
- Gen Xers / 25-35 years olds
- Boomers / 36-55 years olds
- Builders / 56+ years olds

There are also categories based on interests and needs which include but are not limited to:

- Single Parenting
- Divorce Recovery
- Widowed
- Children of Singles
- Single Senior Adults
- Dating and Engaged
- Pre-Marriage

The age and interests combination is too vast for any church to meet alone. Larger churches tend to have the budgets to better attempt to meet the needs of Singles. Yet, even in large churches with a Singles Ministry, Single Christians still want to connect with other Single Christians outside their church walls. Smaller churches have a bigger challenge because Singles feel like a

TOGETHER we can reach them, disciple them, and release them to engage in ministry and mission.

fifth wheel in a church focused on meeting the needs of the traditional family. The results in both large and small churches are Single Adult Christians feeling marginalized, misunderstood and in most cases lonely.

What can be done? The MeetupChurch.U.s solution is a partnership between the local church and MeetupChurch.U.s. Our church plant strategy includes helping existing churches anywhere and everywhere reach and retain Singles. We will accomplish this through MeetupChurch.U.s Franchising.

In order to reach and minister to Single Adults, we must meet them at their place of need. What are they looking for? They yearn for intimate relationships with others. They want to travel and experience new adventures. They want spirituality that is authentic, relevant and relational for them.

At MeetupChurch.U.s we are convinced as Single Adults connect to Christ and His Church they will become an unstoppable force for ministry, missions and Kingdom building. And by the way, our best example happens to be the greatest single adult in history – Jesus Christ.

Singles feel that church has nothing to offer them... But what are they looking for?

cultural norms and challenging traditional family foundations. The Single today is defying gender and age stereotypes, adopting new dating habits, and changing the very definition of relationships and family.

"If the church is to be effective in reaching, nurturing and discipling people, the Single Adult warrants our best efforts of time, prayer and funding. The Singles population is too large and influential to ignore. Their abilities and resources are much too valuable to waste,"

Pastor Edward explains.

The challenge is not only reaching Singles with the Gospel but keeping them once they are reached. Pastors and church leaders do not intentionally leave Singles out of their vision, planning or budgeting; they simply lack the understanding, ability or resources to effectively minister to them.

The traditional church solution has been to start a "Singles Ministry." This is a great starting point, however, a traditional family oriented church will still struggle to effectively minister to the unique needs and age groupings of Singles. Different age groupings represent different interests, needs and physical abilities. For instance, in age groupings alone there are:



TOP 10 FAQs

#8

Where (as in what city) will you start?

Marketing schools teach, "Location Location Location." For us we have prayed, "Where Where Where?"

Where is a large concentration of Single and Single-Again people?

Where is a city that has global influence and accessibility?

Where are there tech and film savvy people we can tap as Media Missionaries and Digital Deacons?

We narrowed the choices to two California regions... the Bay Area in Northern California (includes the world renowned technology hub known as Silicon Valley and home of Facebook) and the Southland in Southern California (the media capital of the world including Hollywood and Burbank).

God is opening doors of opportunity and partnership in Southern California in Orange County. We want to launch from exactly where God wants us to establish His new church. We're scouting for locations in some of the beach cities.

Not coincidentally, God has initiated some amazing church movements from Southern California including, the Azusa Street Revival, Billy Graham Crusades (the Los Angeles Revival "puffed" by William Randolph Hurst), the Jesus Movement of the 60s and 70s and more recently the Purpose Driven Movement.

The region is also the birthplace to several world impacting denominations and churches including Foursquare (and Hope Chapel), The Church of the Nazarene, Calvary Chapel, Vineyard and Saddleback (Purpose Driven) and many more.

The Explosive Growth and Popularity of Online Dating Gives MeetupChurch.us an Outreach Opportunity that has **Never Existed** Before!

Singles are Online by the Millions... and They are on Dating Sites.

A vital part of the MeetupChurch.us mission and Reach Strategy is an engaging online church. Because of the Internet, we have an evangelistic opportunity that has never existed before. The Net is used for a lot of things... paying bills, reading the news, keeping in touch with old friends, and a growing trend is finding a date, or life-mate, online. More Singles than ever are utilizing dating sites and many are finding success. The numbers are staggering.



Online Dating Site Users:

in India = 15,000,000

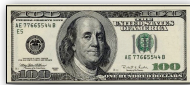
1 out of every 10 online dating site users is a scammer and/or a predator. That is 4 million in the USA. Very scary!



in the USA = 40,000,000

in China = 140,000,000

Two of the most popular sites are eHarmony (20 Million Members) and Match.com (15 Million Members).



Dating site CUSTOMERS SPEND about \$240 each PER YEAR.



In the last year 17% of COUPLES who MARRIED MET on an ONLINE dating site.



The ONLINE DATING industry is now BIGGER THAN the online PORN industry and is responsible for a \$100 million porn industry shortfall in 2010.



In the United States there are 50 million smart phone subscribers. The average user of a smart phone spends 12 minutes and 44 seconds on mobile dating sites per week.



New York State recently passed an Internet Dating Safety Act. It is the second state to do so. More are drafting legislation.



Online dating is a **\$1.049 Billion Industry** and rapidly **GROWING**. Smart phones are **EXPLODING** in growth because of their browsing capabilities and app popularity! We can now touch this massive audience in the name of Jesus using technology.

TOP 10 FAQs #1

Is MeetupChurch.us an internet dating service?

No, we're a church. However, it's clear that technology and the internet is growing and becoming more significant in peoples lives, especially Singles. We REFUSE to just acknowledge, accept and embrace this fact! We will innovate and integrate technology into our Reach Strategy. Part of this is to quickly launch an internet campus. Once this is accomplished we will begin to advertise on dating sites, Google, Facebook and other social media. The wonderful thing about dating sites is that they "corral" our target audience making it simple to build relationships and invite them to a meetup with Jesus Christ.

TOP 10 FAQs

#6

How do you keep from becoming the HookupChurch.U.s?

First off... We will be VERY intentional about making sure it NEVER becomes that... EVER!... even if we have to ask people to leave our fellowship. MeetupChurch.U.s will be a church where Single people can safely explore what it means to Fully Follow Christ... Worship Him... Grow in His Grace... Receive and Experience Wholiness at church WITHOUT being scammed on by wolves with alternative motives. Second... at their own personal pace, WHEN they are ready and IF they choose, a Single person can meet other Single peeps on the same journey in intentionally safe environments. There will be plenty of FUN opportunities to connect.

From Zero Users
to 7.2 Million
in less than
10 years...

**Meetup is
BOOMING!**

In 2001 Meetup.com was founded by Scott Heiferman, Matt Meeker and Peter Kamali as an online social networking portal to facilitate offline group meetings of any kind in any location.

What does this mean for MeetupChurch.U.s? It's **Ginormous!**

Meetup.com's mission is to help people around the world self-organize. Scott, Matt and Peter believed people could change their personal world, or the whole world, by organizing themselves into groups that were powerful enough to make a difference. They were right.

What is a "meetup"? It's a group of like people, with a common interest, getting together face-to-face to engage in their common interest. Meetup.com launched to facilitate these connections and is now the world's largest network of local groups. Meetup.com allows members to find and join groups unified by a common interest such as politics, books, games, movies, health, pets, careers, hobbies... whatever. Meetup.com makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one already meeting. More than 2,000 groups get together in local communities EVERY DAY.

What does this mean for MeetupChurch.U.s? It proves that people want community and common ground. They are willing to come together over like interests to build relationships and enjoy what they do together... INCLUDING CHURCH. Meetup is a phenomenal evangelistic opportunity and part of the Reach Strategy of MeetupChurch.U.s. It's why we call ourselves MeetupChurch.U.s.

At MeetupChurch.U.s, we believe we can reach our personal worlds (friends, family, colleagues and neighbors), and the whole world for Jesus Christ by organizing ourselves into MiniChurches that are Spiritually empowered to make a difference.



Current Stats from Meetup.com:

Monthly visitors = 6 million
Members = 7.2 million
Monthly Meetups = 250,000

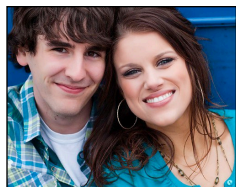
Local groups = 79,000
Meetup Topics = 46,000
Cities = 45,000

I am One Too.



I am writing this part in first person because you need to know more about who this "Ed Snyder" guy is, and why you should give money to a church vision called MeetupChurch.U.s, than a digital name tag that reads, "Hello." Regardless of education and experience, which I briefly discuss, I'm absolutely called to MeetupChurch.U.s. I have no doubts about my God call to it, NONE.

I am very blessed with wonderful children >



< James and Katie, my son and his wife



< Me



< Nichole, my daughter

Three weeks ago I prayed again, "Why Me, Lord?." I'm divorced, broke, unemployed and homeless. I've never heard an audible voice from the Lord but the last time I prayed that prayer I was laying on a borrow bed, in a borrow room, and "felt" His voice like no other time before, or since. He said, "Now I can use you." After He gave me His answer, I prayed, "Are You Sure?" I don't think He was amused.

Then I remembered the story I had read years ago about Father Daemon and his ministry to the Lepers on the island of Molokai in Hawaii. Father Daemon spent years in what seemed to be fruitless ministry with the lepers. He was relieved when he received a new assignment and could finally leave the island. The day soon arrived and he headed to the dock, but before boarding the ship, he looked down at his hand. There was a white spot on his skin. He had contracted leprosy. He stayed on the island and revival broke out in that leper colony. In his memoirs he wrote, "Everything changed when I became one of them." I am Single Again. I am now one of them.

EDUCATED: I had a growing business before I became a pastor. When I said "Yes" to ministry at age 38 I went back to college to pursue ministry training. I am blessed to have a great education, graduating from Northwest Nazarene University in Southern Idaho, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Studies. Applied Studies is code for "the University didn't have a major that fit what I wanted so they created one for me." It was great.

My emphasis combined Pastoral Ministry and Business Management. I call this Pastorpreneurship. I earned 50% more credits above the general education requirement than what I needed to graduate. However, I never really cared about "graduating." I wanted to learn and be equipped. In the process I earned a very comprehensive degree. I also studied Biblical Studies at Life Bible College in Los Angeles.

EXPERIENCED: For my first assignment I unknowingly co-founded the most numerically successful church plant in the history of a 100 year old denomination with 14,000 churches. I resigned five years later to plant a church in a prison. If the denomination I was part of at the time would have recognized "The Church at the Pen" as a "real" church it would have been the third numerically largest church within the district where it was located.

DIVORCED: Like the lyrics of a popular song says, "...and bad mistakes, I've made a few..." I want you to know I consider divorce sin. But not the unpardonable sin. Every Christian has their sin issues, some are trusting Christ to change them, many don't. What I experienced was heartbreaking. What I'm willing to share publicly is it didn't happen because of what "I did," but more about, "What I didn't do." The healing has been miraculous.

COACHABLE: Perhaps what is most important for you to know about me is that I have enough Education and Experience to be convinced that I don't have all the answers and need quality feedback and coaching. I'm very open to shifting and adjusting to be more effective in mission.



I wondered what would happen if a sold-out Christ follower would abandon his/her comfort zones and live with dangerous faith that would risk everything to reach the best. Scripture convicted me to quit wondering and do it.

Reach Strategy

Reach is taking Christ, His Church and Worship to Him Anywhere and Everywhere. Reach is not only Outward (outreach and evangelism), it is also Inward (worship and discipleship). We have seven focus areas in our overall Reach Strategy. As God provides resources, human and funding, we will integrate each area into the body life. We will launch with #1 and #3. For MeetupChurch.U.s, this is Reach:

1. Friday Night Worship Experience

Because nonchurched Singles are playing on the weekends... that's what we're going to do... go out into the world connecting to people in Jesus' name. Therefore, the main MeetupChurch.U.s Worship Experience (WE) will happen on Friday evenings. MeetupChurch WE will include: A relaxed atmosphere... Engaging alive worship music... Thought-provoking Bible centered teaching... Holy Communion... and Friendly people who facilitate a hang-out & chat time after.

2. Worship Experience (WE) Online

There are more people alive today than at any other point in human history and they are more connected now than at any time in the past. We have the opportunity to reach more people than ever before and the responsibility to do it. By leveraging technology we can "go and make disciples" in new ways. It's not about the tools we use but about bringing Christ into people's everyday lives, both near and far. WE Online is part of our DigitalMissions Strategy to reach and deliver hope to laptops and living rooms. WE Online will provide moments where people can connect with God and each other anywhere and everywhere.

3. MeetupMiniChurch

MeetupMiniChurch is the engine for discipleship, pastoral care, missions and outreach for MeetupChurch.U.s. MiniChurches are small groups of people who meet together weekly in a home, coffee shop, conference room or even at the beach. They discuss what was shared at WE, under the leadership of a trained pastor who facilitates the meetup. Friendships are made, encouragement is found and spiritual growth in the Lord all happen at MiniChurch. MiniChurches will launch prior to Grand Opening.

4. Affinity Meetups

Single people more than anyone want community and relationship. They find security connecting around a common interest. Whether

they like movies, road-trips, karaoke, speedy introductions, fine dining, museums, a nice hike, comedy, rotational dinners, bunco, interactive dinner plays, rock climbing, running, surfing or bobbing for apples, MeetupChurch.U.s Affinity Meetups facilitate these important connections just for fun and community. In the process, Reach Happens!

5. MeetupChurchMissions

MeetupChurchMissions will include Micro (local), Macro (global) and DigitalMission initiatives. MicroMissions are small mission projects initiated by MiniChurches. MacroMissions are larger all church projects. DigitalMissions are online mission opportunities that will launch with WE Online. With Micro, Macro or Digital Missions, the idea is to share Christ and serve our community locally and globally.

6. MeetUpChurch.U.s LearningCenter

The LearningCenter is another place for meetups. The LC will provide MiniSeminars with topics like, "I Said Yes to Christ, What Did I Do That For?," "The Good Divorce and Recovering from It," "Finding Your God-Spot," "How to Raise G-Rated Children in an R-Rated World," "Meeting, Dating and Mating God's Way," and more. You get the idea. Seminars will also include special interest topics with local experts coming in and teaching a mini-course.

7. MeetupChurch.U.s Franchising

George Hunter of Asbury Theological Seminary said, "New congregations reach a lot more pre-Christian people." Richard Harris, vice president of North American Mission Board's church-planting group said that established Southern Baptist churches report 3.4 baptisms per 100 resident members, whereas new churches average 11.7. It's not hard to conclude that more new churches would lead more people to Christ. The best way we see to aggressively launch new churches is with an outrageous idea and effective method. We call this MeetupChurch.U.s Franchising.



TOP 10 FAQs
#5

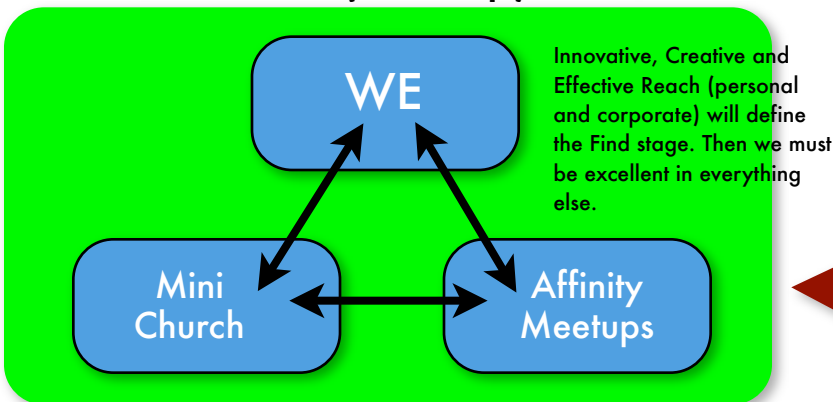
What do you believe?

In the essentials of the faith we have UNITY: "There is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). In the non-essentials of the faith we have LIBERTY: "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... so then each of us will give an account of himself to God... so whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God" (Romans 14:1-22). In all things we show LOVE: "If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all" (1 Corinthians 13:2).

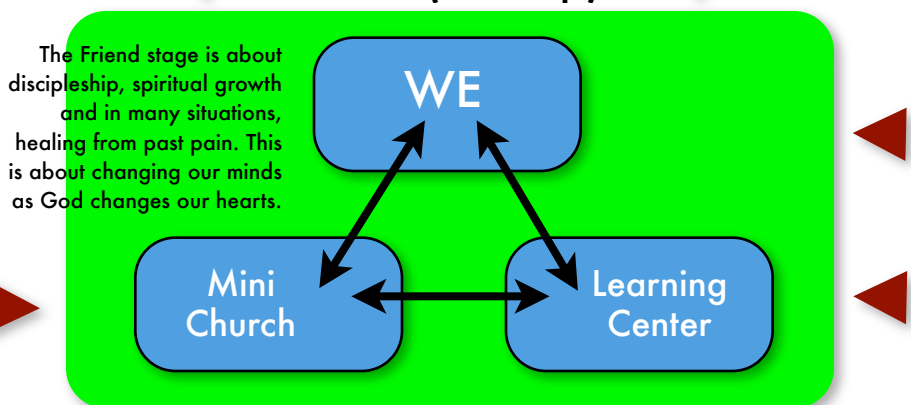
Showup to Joinup

We exist, "To Help Single People Find (Showup), Friend (Buildup) and Follow (Joinup) Jesus Christ." All entry points will be discipleship places and all discipleship places will be entry points. Everyone will be equipped to minister, taking "church" anywhere and everywhere. The result will be healthy Christ followers gossiping about Jesus and impacting their personal worlds (friends, family, neighbors and colleagues) with the Gospel and giving themselves to worship, ministry and mission. This is ALL about Reach.

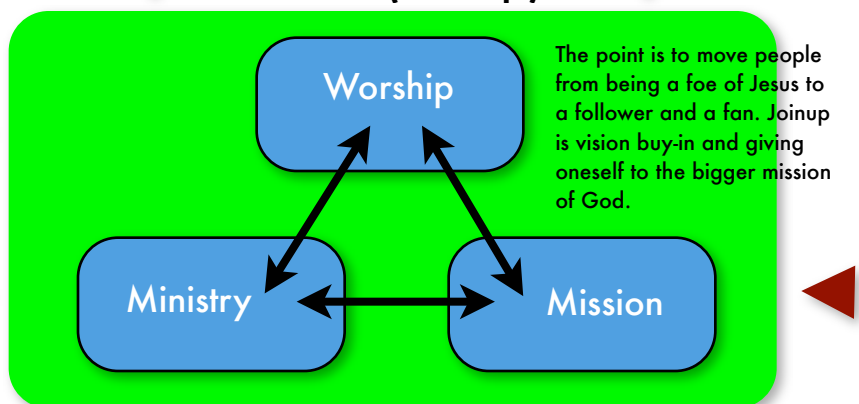
Find (Showup)



Friend (Buildup)



Follow (Joinup)



TOP 10 FAQs #4

What will you have for children and youth?

Joshua declared, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 25:15). The word "serve" is another word for worship. Here Joshua delivers an expectation that all members of his household, including children and youth, will engage in worship and service to God.

At MeetupChurch.U.s we are going to intentionally and creatively include children and youth in the Worship Experience on Friday Nights and at MiniChurch.

When it comes down to it, the key to integration is young people and children seeing how we live through the good and the bad life deals us.

Because of our style, youth will integrate easily at WE. MiniChurch will give them a place to be discipled and build relationships with peers while being equipped for ministry and engaging in mission.

We also have a passion to integrate children (birth through 5th grade) and their wonderful ways of knowing God into the worship and discipleship life of the church. This will transform and equip us to move into a hope-filled future to which Jesus is calling his people.

How will this play out? We're not sure yet but we highly value and encourage experimentation and we will strive for effective excellence.

When it comes down to it, the key to integration is young people and children SEEING how we live through the good and the bad life deals us. If our children are witnessing real active, lived-out faith in us, they will respond to God in wholeness and service.

TOP 10 FAQs #3

Is Pastor Ed single?

From Pastor Ed: Am I single? Yes. Do I plan on being single forever? That's very much up to God and I have really struggled with the thought.

I have been married and I have been divorced. If you need the details make an appointment and we can talk about it. What I know is I have a radical calling on my life to serve Christ and MeetupChurch.U.s.

A calling to pastor is not for just any person. It's VERY difficult. It requires a lot of sacrifice. So, I'm taking the Apostle Paul's lead for now (see 1 Corinthians 7).

Could I get married some day?

Perhaps. If I do, our church board will find a new lead teaching pastor that is single. I'm in complete agreement with it too. Besides, if it happens, I can apply for the "Marrieds Ministry Pastor" position.

We actually want MeetupChurch.U.s to be the premier place for Single people to find a forever spouse.

At this moment every staff member is single. But we know that won't, and shouldn't, last forever. We actually want MeetupChurch.U.s to be the place to find a forever spouse.

Then you may ask, "Do you fire them if they get married?" Hold your hair Donald. A church for Singles with married staff seems like a contradiction... but it's not. We see married staff as complimentary to a well grounded and rounded church family. It's no different than traditional churches having both married and single staffers. Plus, our "Married Peeps Ministry" should have a married pastor at some point.

Another clarification: married people and their families are just as welcome at MeetupChurch.U.s as Singles. The "U.s" part includes everyone in pursuit of Christ.

Worship Values

At MeetupChurch.U.s we celebrate the diversity, unique cultures and styles of all churches that proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ... Salvation, Faith, Hope and Love in Him and through Him alone. We see many expressions of "church" as healthy and God designed. We see more lost and hopeless people (even though they don't know it or may resist it) being rescued for the purposes of God because of uniqueness. For MeetupChurch.U.s we have Worship Values that define our uniqueness and style.

MUSIC: In an age of crowd-pleasing (and often theologically shallow) worship in lyrics and music, MeetupChurch.U.s will be very intentional. We will pursue having lyrics and music as one of the most unique things about us. We will combine the best of church history with the best of modern worship, weaving ancient forms with current styles to create an experience of God's presence that is inspirational and extremely worshipful.

TEACHING/LEARNING: Sound expository preaching/teaching will be the norm for our times of gathered corporate worship at Friday Night WE, but MiniChurch will provide the key venue for relational, life-to-life learning and application. We will not ask, "Have we taught it?" but rather, "Have God's people in our care caught it?" Teaching style must also take into account learning styles. We will be a church that incorporates the three principle learning styles in worship: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. We have yet to find a church with expository preaching/teaching consistently integrating all three learning styles creatively and effectively. We will endeavor to do it.

COMMUNITY: In most living organisms, smaller, simple structures are organized together into a larger, more complex structure. Neither is "more important;" there is a symbiotic relationship between the smaller cells and the larger organism. A healthy church should manifest the same dynamic. Our corporate worship service, Friday Night WE (the church gathered), will nurture the smaller cells (MeetupMiniChurch Anywhere and Everywhere), providing corporate worship, teaching, prayer, the administration of sacraments, and constant vision casting. MeetupMiniChurches, as the church extended, will nurture the larger organism (Friday Night WE) by facilitating personalized pastoral care, discipleship, prayer, reach, and service. MeetupMiniChurch will intentionally reflect our Reach Strategy: as outposts of transformation and mission rather than stagnant pools of mere information and "fellowship."

REACH: We will leverage our strengths in preaching and worship to draw and invite nonbelievers into community through "Showup, Fillup and Joinup" strategies. We expect to become known in the community for the creative excellence of our worship. But Reach only works if God's people have meaningful relationships with unbelievers. So every church member will be encouraged and resourced to minister within his/her circle of influence and engage in Gospel dialogue. Through personal relationships, open small groups, and effective meetup ministry, we will provide many entry points for nonchurched people.

GROWTH: MeetupChurch.U.s will be driven by carefully constructed strategy, motivated by compelling vision, and led through authentic relationships. Though every church is both organism and organization, bureaucracy easily crowds out spiritual vitality. As Erwin McManus says, "Structure must always submit to Spirit." Our leadership will be communal rather than controlling, and we will relentlessly pursue the health and life of the church as an organism. The result will be a healthy church that naturally births new churches.



Anywhere and Everywhere

MeetupMiniChurch is our way to equip and release people to do the ministry of the church locally (Ephesians 4:11-12). As this happens MeetupChurch.U.s will multiply and a movement will begin. MeetupMiniChurch is not church growth for sustaining sake or a program. It is to wage spiritual warfare, advance the Kingdom, and be hope to a lost people.

Organizationally, MeetupMiniChurches are simply small bands of Christ followers gathering regularly to substantiate and promote their overall spiritual health, exercise their spiritual gifts and engage in ministry and mission. The relationships formed create conditions where the Gospel is Explored, Experienced and Expanded.

MiniChurches gather formally and informally. Formally, they gather every week, share a meal, read and discuss the Scriptures, worship, pray and encourage one another. Informally, participants are building friendships



MiniChurch is faith, hope and love through the unpredictable, unknown, beautiful and sometimes dreadful days of our individual and collective lives.

that will last their whole lives. They eat together, enjoy a day at the park with their kids, ski or board or surf together, or rush out to a movie as soon as Friday Night WE has ended. They have constant contact... calls, texts, FB, etc.

MiniChurch invites people into their midst not to consume but to worship. Inviting people to "come with us." MiniChurch is a journey in faith through the unpredictable, unknown, beautiful and sometimes dreadful days of our individual and collective lives.

With MiniChurch, we aren't offering a system that will completely satisfy anyone. We aren't offering accountability partners who make sure you have "behaved properly." We are inviting people to worship the living God with their whole life and include others in their worship.

As a community, MiniChurches must be unsettled, experimental, and pioneering at times. They should function as a discontented people longing for a better country, a new home... heaven, but will live "Thy Kingdom Come" until Christ returns, or until they return to Him. They are a people who are growing in faith, love and hope together, seeing real changes in their lives,

sometimes slowly but other times overnight. Every person who says "Yes" to following Christ is saying they will follow in community, let other Christ followers into their lives and be in the lives of other Christ followers.

MeetupMiniChurch is a wonderful



MiniChurch is NOT a small group or cell group ministry. They are small missional churches.

Spirit filled way to begin and do life-together.

MiniChurch is MeetupChurch.U.s!

There is prayer, studying the Bible and fellowship at

MiniChurch. They receive an offering to meet needs within the their small congregation and outside the of it. That distinction alone defines the MiniChurch as something substantial in-and-of itself and not an extension of something else. By the way, MiniChurches tend to have money problems... they struggle to find enough vision to know how to spend the stuff.

MiniChurches also intentionally multiply themselves. They are very inviting and Reach oriented. They are never "closed" to new people and never take a "summer break." Real churches never do that. Like the churches we see in the book of Acts, MiniChurches are a lifestyle where Christ followers are devoted to learning and living the Scriptures (see Acts 2:42).

MiniChurches are lead by trained shepherds who facilitate the



MiniChurch is MeetupChurch.U.s allowing us to live as a community of faith Anywhere, Everywhere and under Any Condition.

gathering, oversee the Lord's table and encourage all in the use of their Spiritual gift mix. They will officiate weddings, baby dedications and even funerals. They will baptize and serve the Sacraments. In every sense of the word, they are a "Pastor."

This is a glimpse of MeetupMiniChurch. This is our primary "unProgram" for worship, discipleship, ministry and mission.

**TOP 10 FAQs
#2**

What do you do with Singles Peeps if they get married?

Back up there. It's not what we will do with people AFTER they get married; it's what we will do BEFORE that matters most. Our plan is to raise the bar on Dating, Engagements, Pre and Post Marriage Care. We will make specific intentional efforts to launch couples into healthy, positive and Biblical life-long marriages. THEN, when our peeps do get married, we will CELEBRATE. We know, you meant will we "kick them out of the church?" Well... No! We're discussing the most effective way to integrate them into a "Marrieds Ministry." Touche!

Adding
Reach...



Multiplying
Hope...

MeetupChurch.U.S Franchising

Because the first part of the MeetupChurch.U.S mission is to help Single people "Find" Jesus Christ, we are convinced by joining together with other like-minded churches and leaders we can reach more people than we ever could alone. Franchising MeetupChurch.U.S is our strategy to help existing churches REACH and RETAIN Singles by partnering with them to start a local MeetupChurch.U.S on-site or off-site.

When our founding pastor, Edward Snyder, began to think about how MeetupChurch.U.S could quickly and aggressively reach people for Christ, he was "borrowing WiFi" in a corner booth at a McDonalds fast food restaurant (a franchise).

He says, "I simply thought if McDonalds could create a recognizable brand and system to sell more Big Macs, why can't a church do something similar to reach more people with the Gospel? What we have is much more needed than a Big Mac, order of fries and a medium Coke for five bucks and change. We have faith, hope, love, salvation and life forever in Jesus Christ. It's free and so much better than two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onion on a sesame seed bun."

The Apostle Paul initiated church franchising with his first missionary journey. The name of the franchise was, and is, "the church." Starting churches was imperative on Paul's missional journeys. He would typically go into a town, share the Gospel, form a small group (a church), appoint a leader, get beat up then go to the next town and duplicate the process. Quality control came in the form of letters and sending out personally mentored leaders for encouragement and support (Timothy, Titus, etc.).

A MeetupChurch.U.S Franchise is aggressive church multiplication integrating current franchise terminology, methodology and technology into the ancient, and very brilliant, church multiplication vision that Paul gave his life to and for.

Most church leaders shy away from the word "franchise" partly because it is a business term, partly because they don't understand it, and partly because they are buried in their current ministry assignment to bother with adding more. Even so, franchising is a proven expansion model the Church can learn from, redeem where necessary and use for local and global church multiplication and growth.

According to Franchising.com, "Franchising" is a network of interdependent relationships that allows a number of people (the Franchisees) to share:

- A brand identification
- A successful method
- And a proven system

In short, franchising is a strategic alliance between groups

of people who have specific relationships and responsibilities with a common goal. In reality, you don't "buy a franchise" anyway. You are investing your assets (time, gift mix and finances) in a partnership that shares brand awareness, training, operating systems and ongoing support of a tried and proven system to reach that common goal. For a MeetupChurch.U.S Franchise, the common goal is to reach and disciple more people.

Starting a MeetupChurch.U.S Franchise is reach multiplication. Nothing more and nothing less. The method is a partnership with churches and leaders. We will have shared responsibilities in this partnership with mutual quality control.

The details are in production. For now, what we want you to understand is MeetupChurch.U.S will not launch franchising until we can create, produce and provide the very best training, systems, resources, on-going consultation, support services and marketing.

It's time we learn from, and redeem, the best strategies corporations have invested billions to perfect to the glory and honor of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul initiated church franchising with his first missionary journey. The name of the franchise was, and is, "the church."

TOP 10 FAQs

#1

Are you sure you're not a Christian Dating Service?

Hello, we're a church. Will Christian Singles connect at MeetupChurch.U.S, date, fall in love, have amazing relationships and perhaps get engaged and marry? For sure. However, our priority will always be worship. MeetupChurch is really all about the most important meetup a person will ever have; and that's with Jesus Christ. We know that as each of us have a solid connection to Christ, our relationships with each other, whether romantic or not, will be more honest, exciting, meaningful and permanent. And by the way, we will hold our peeps highly accountable to date with integrity. SERIOUSLY!

Now You Know:

1. Singles are the largest unchurched people group in the United States.

2. SINGLES ARE LOOKING FOR RELATIONSHIP VIA THE INTERNET BY THE MILLIONS... YES, MILLIONS!

3. Singles have reshaped culture and redefined "family."

4. Churches have **F**⁺**A**⁺**L**⁺**L**⁺**E**⁺**D**⁺ Singles to reach and keep (refer to number 1!).

5. Singles are an Enormous Mission Field that we must reach, teach, equip and release to ministry and missions.



They deserve our best efforts.

NEXT IS NEXT



Pastor Ed Snyder



a church for Single Adults is not only viable... but necessary!

If you do not now have a sense of the enormously significant need to reach Single and Single-Again people (which includes their kids), I missed something. My drive will be to start a church that will start more churches, while partnering with existing leaders and churches to start more churches (via franchising), Anywhere and Everywhere.

In this proposal I have conveyed an urgent need (did you notice those pages had a red background). Then I shared how "I think" this need can effectively be met (the blue background pages). However, after consulting with you I am fully open to adjust, or completely change, the methods and systems. Just convince me. I'm not married to any part of it (pun very intended).

It was very odd writing a proposal when the purpose, and sacrifice, for me coming to the Next Conference was, and is, to help make a solid plan. As you know, this proposal is incomplete. There needs to be a timeline and budget. I need your expertise, experience and coaching here.

I also have many questions. For instance, how do I communicate that a church to reach Singles is a "real" church and not just another Singles Ministry? Does it matter? When would be the best timing to launch? How much lead time is needed and what are the task milestones to accomplish while moving toward a launch?

As for budget, what should be allocated for equipment, staffing and administration? What are the budget priorities? What is the minimum budget items needed to launch. Should we wait to launch with multiple staff? And other questions like, "I'm in this alone and where do I find help, a core team and funding?" And the bigger question is, "What am I completely missing?"

Lastly, I could really use twenty grand. If I had it, I would use it to get coaching and additional funding. In the process I would stretch every cent to the point where Lincoln would look like he had multiple face lifts. There you have it.

I'm praying and very excited to meet up with you all soon...

*Blessings 2 You!
-Ed S-*

The MeetupChurch.Us Mission: "To Help Single People Find, Friend and Follow Jesus Christ!"



MeetupChurch.us

Love All * Serve All * Tell All

Coming
very soon!

