

# *Vision* PACKET



A.J. + BROOKE  
**YORK**

Church planters to Ann Arbor, Michigan



# ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

## POPULATION

122.5k

350k in surrounding  
Washtenaw County

## RELIGION

1.3% Islam

2% Biblical Christianity

12.7% Catholic

16% other religion

67.1% athiest or non-religious

## COLLEGES IN AREA

9



# COLLEGES OF ANN ARBOR

enrollment #

**University of Michigan**

32,063

**Eastern Michigan University**

12,344

**Washtenaw Community Coll.**

8,404

**Schoolcraft Community Coll.**

7,440

**Franklin University**

4,440

**Madonna University**

1,954

**Concordia University AA**

860

**Cleary University**

612

**Art Institute of Michigan**

532





# OUR STORY

## A.J.

I was born and raised in a church planter's home in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Because of my parents' (Kent and Julie York) influence on my life from the very beginning, there hasn't been a period in my entire life that I have not been involved in a church setting. I had heard the Gospel many times very early in life and I remember asking my mom one morning when I was 5 years old what it meant to be saved. She promptly opened the Bible and began to show me from Romans and John what I must do to be saved, but it wasn't until that evening while attending the Wednesday prayer meeting that the Spirit of God convicted me of a need to be saved. It was in October of 1986 that my father knelt with me and showed me the Romans Road again. I carefully read the verses and knew what my life truly deserved but also understood that God had given me a precious gift of life eternal through Jesus Christ. I called upon the Lord to save me and He did. He has forever changed my eternity. I followed in believer's baptism a couple weeks later on a Sunday morning.

Growing up, my parents instilled in us to always be serving in some capacity in a local church. We don't just sit around in a church; we are the church, and we are ambassadors of the Gospel and we are to be doing the work of the ministry. I have tried to fulfill this everywhere that I have lived.

Eleven years later at Lake Texoma Baptist Youth camp, I surrendered to full-time ministry. We had a missionary in one of the morning sessions that was preaching on surrendering to the Lord's call of ministry. I remember kneeling at the old camp altar and asking God that if He would have me, I would be a willing vessel for Him to use.

I met my wife, Brooke, as a counselor at Lake Texoma Baptist Youth camp in 2001. We began dating later that year and we were married on June 28, 2003. She has had the same mindset when it comes to being a servant of God. She is always willing to serve in whatever capacity she is needed. We have developed the slogan in our house and in the ministries we have been involved in of "faithful and flexible." Faithful to the Lord in all things and flexible to adjust when He changes our plans.



When I was 8 years of age, I went to a church camp in Texas called Lake Texoma Baptist Youth Camp. At the end of each service, the speaker encouraged us to come down to the front to pray. My friend Randy asked if I would go down and pray with her. Before this moment, I had never had any kind of spiritual experience, or realization. I knew that people were getting saved, but that never translated to my own personal need for Christ. Well, that all changed! When we began walking down the aisle, the Holy Spirit began convicting me that I needed something more. Our pastor's wife, Mrs. Lona, was waiting for us at the altar and she began showing Randy in God's Word how much Jesus loved her, how He died on the cross to pay for her sins, and how He became alive again. She continued to show her in Romans how we were all sinners and that if we truly believed in our heart that Jesus really did everything that the Bible said He did, then we just needed to pray and ask Him to save us.

In that moment, I was able to witness a life-changing experience for Randy and for myself, because Randy received Christ. Having heard all of this, I finally understood exactly what I needed to do, and that was to call on Jesus. So, I also prayed and received Christ that day. I followed Jesus in obedience and was baptized shortly after at Temple Baptist Church in Springdale, Arkansas.

For many years after that moment, I thought salvation was the end goal. I was never taught that I needed to dive into God's Word so I could grow closer to Him. Well, I had another Spirit-led opportunity that changed the direction of my life. I agreed to do a Bible study with my youth pastor's wife and the Holy Spirit showed me in the Bible the truth of discipleship, how to grow closer to Jesus and how to begin teaching and telling others what I had learned. Since that time, nothing has been the same.

The Lord gave me an opportunity to serve at the same youth camp as a counselor when I graduated high school. It was during one of the invitation times again that I knew God was calling me into the ministry. He had been convicting me for 2 years straight to be obedient to Him and surrender; however, I had my own plans and dreams. It wasn't until that night when I finally surrendered to His will. I made a decision to go into full-time ministry public with my church, friends, and family.



# Brooke



**Solomon** is 8 years old and a very smart and energetic boy. He loves to fold paper airplanes, origami animals and can solve various Rubiks cubes(he’s currently working on solving the 5x5). He asked Jesus to save him at the age of 5 and was baptized shortly thereafter at Bible Baptist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi.

**Thomas** is 5 years old and also energetic. He loves to do Kids’ exercises and is learning to read and how to write in cursive. He is a professional popcorn and snack eater. We have to keep both eyes on him at all times.



# Solomon & Thomas

## MINISTRY CHALLENGES

### *A LAODICEAN MINDSET*



**They are rich**

Ann Arbor is an affluent area and as the rich man in Luke 12, his love for money blinded him to any existence of God much less a desire to meet with Him.



**Increased with goods**

Ann Arbor is a city that has just about everything you would need to live and enjoy the pleasures of life. As a college town, the consumers go out of their way to meet those needs and further place reliance on anything but God and fully upon the master of this world.



**Have need of nothing**

Although it would seem that people in Ann Arbor have everything they need to survive and feel accomplished in life they are missing the one thing to make them truly whole. A relationship with Jesus Christ. How shall they hear about this amazing gift of God? They need someone to go and share the Word of God with them.



# OUR MISSION

A LOCAL BODY  
OF BIBLICAL  
DISCIPLES  
THAT  
MULTIPLY  
MULTIPLIERS

A Matthew 28:19-20 Model





# OUR VISION

*Evangelize, Edify, Equip*

**Evangelize** - spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This happens by having committed followers who will go out and share the good news of God's Word to see the lost call upon the name of the Lord. As believers are added, this leads us to...

**Edify** - encourage and uplift one another by keeping the unity we have in the Holy Spirit, rooted in God's Word through biblical preaching, teaching, discipling and faithfully serving the Savior. As disciples grow in their reliance on the Word of God this leads us to...

**Equip** - disciples now become disciplers, as they work to train/multiply the next generation of evangelizers, edifiers, and equippers. As disciplers fully trust and rely on the Word of God, more growth takes place spiritually and numerically which leads to multiplication of churches. The need of biblical multiplication for the believer will expand to the point where a new autonomous church can be formed and sent out of an established church.



# OUR STRATEGY

## BIBLICAL PREACHING

We know from first hand experience that how you catch new converts is how you keep them. We first put an unashamed focus on biblical preaching and teaching. We are not here to entertain but to see lives changed first with the Gospel and secondly through growth in a relationship with Jesus Christ. This only comes from “rightly dividing” the word of Truth.

## ONE-ON-ONE

At the core of every biblical believer’s purpose is a desire to share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. If we are not sharing the good news of the Bible then we are undone from the very beginning. We will be actively meeting and talking to individuals as we are able to through scheduled appointments or as the Lord leads us to those that need to be saved or disciplined.

## DISCIPLESHIP

Growing in a relationship is not an overnight process. Salvation is just the beginning of a new journey with Jesus. This is where discipleship is key. Growing in our understanding and sufficiency on the Word of God is vital to spiritual growth. One-on-one discipleship is the method we use to help edify and equip new and established believers to multiply.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The area we are planting in relies heavily on social media for news and information, with this in mind, we will be placing ads on Facebook and other social media platforms. This not only creates familiarity with Journey Baptist Church but develops opportunities to evangelize and meet with believers that need to be disciplined.



# PARTNERSHIP

## 2025

We have set our sights on summer/fall **2025** as the year we will launch Journey Baptist Church

Ann Arbor is in need of Gospel preaching churches that multiply and start more churches so that the Word of God spreads throughout the region. We believe that God has called us to help them on their journey to and in Christ Jesus. For us to begin our Gospel work, we need a team of partners who will commit in prayer and giving. Would you prayerfully consider what it would look like to join our team of partners?

## OUR GOAL:

### \$10,000/mo



### MINISTRY

\$4,500



### LIVING

\$3,400



### HOUSING

\$2,100



# JOIN US IN OUR MISSION

## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

20

**PARTNERS  
AT \$50/MO**

45

**PARTNERS  
AT \$100/MO**

15

**PARTNERS  
AT \$200/MO**

5

**PARTNERS  
AT \$300/MO**



## Pray

We believe that our God is bigger than anything or obstacle we face to seeing the Gospel spread. We ask that you partner with us in prayer, that God would add more laborers in His harvest and that He would use us as willing vessels to reach the people of Ann Arbor.



## Give

We ask that you partner with us financially as we follow our calling to be ambassadors of Jesus Christ to the people of Ann Arbor.

## How you can give



[www.bbcgulfport.church/give](http://www.bbcgulfport.church/give)

1. Select the fund **“Missions”**
2. In the memo, write **“York Church Plant”**





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**Sending Church:**

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