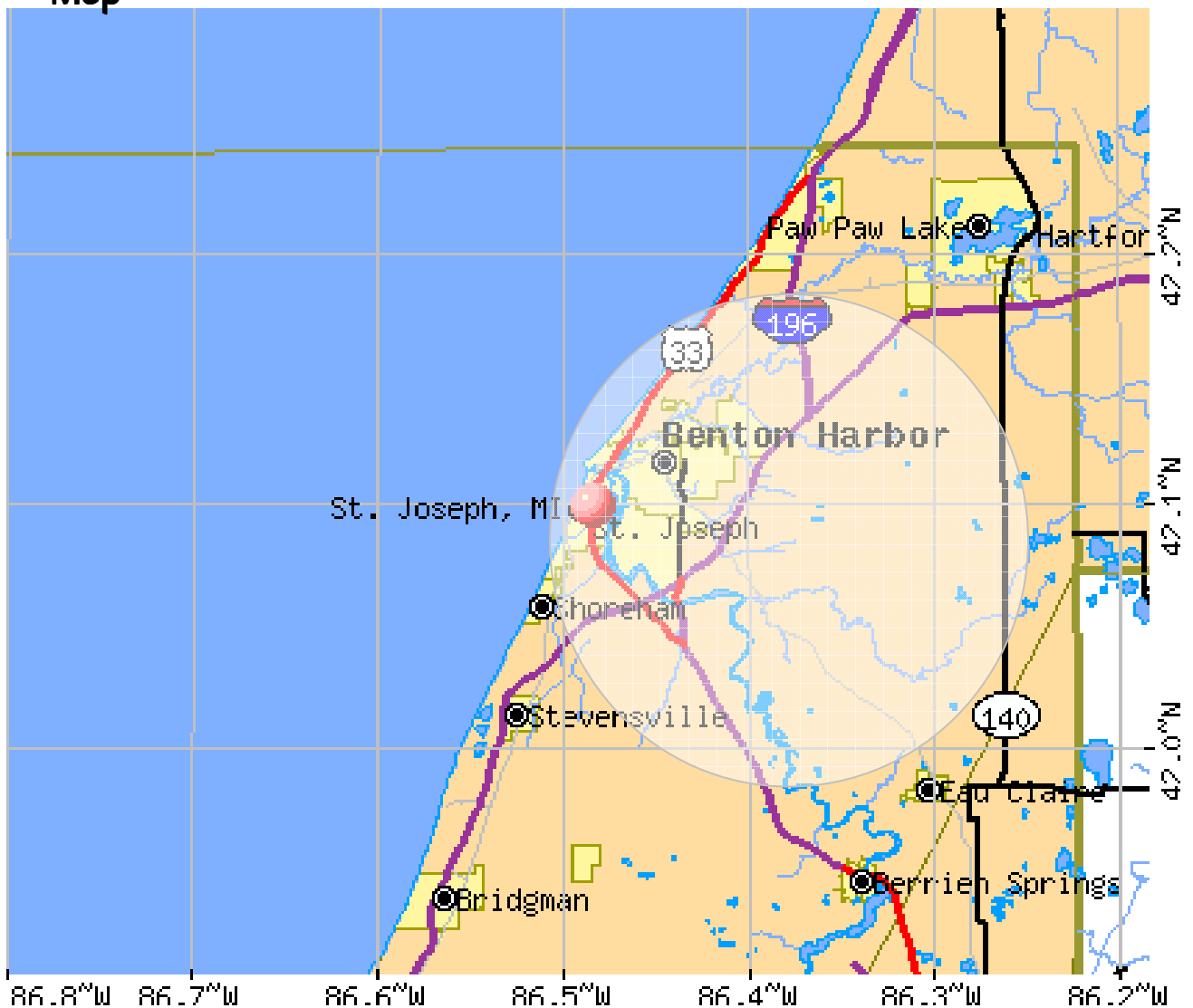


“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:7, NIV)

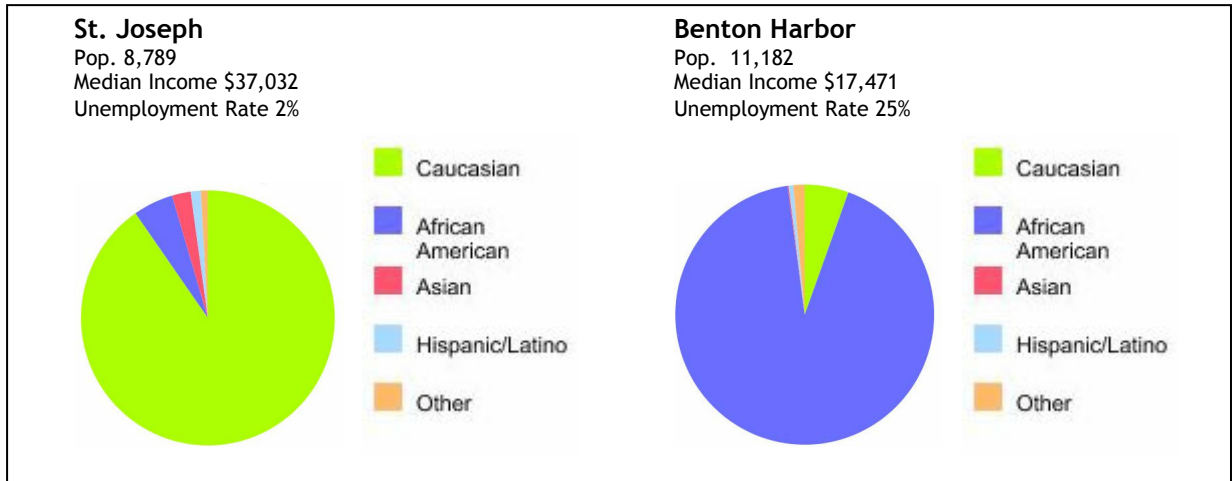
Region

- St. Joseph and Benton Harbor
- Berrien County

Map



Demographics



Statistics from wikipedia.com

- Berrien County
 - Population 162,611
 - Un-churched population 86,273 (53.1%)
 - Current community contacts indicate high % of de-churched
- St. Joseph
 - Largest age bracket is 25-44-years -old (30.6%)
 - Average age is 40.7-years-old
 - 22% of households have children under age 18
- Benton Harbor
 - Largest age bracket is <15-years-old (33.7%), but closely followed by 25-44-years-old (25.9%)
 - Average age is 29.5 years-old
 - 42% of households have children under age 18
 - <4% over age 25 have college education
 - High School dropout rate is near 50%
 - 98.5% of children are on the free/reduced meal program
 - Poorest city in Michigan with a per capita income of \$8,965

The Call

- To read about how God has moved us towards this region, please read the Bently section of our blog at www.overflowcommunity.blogspot.com.

The Need

- Vast economic and racial polarization has led to a very sharp contrast between these cities. A church that seeks, pursues, and is open to all people and works to transcend these boundaries is needed.
- Due to Benton Harbor's status as the "poorest city" in Michigan, there are many hurting people. A church that mobilizes its people to serve others with Christ's love will make a tremendous impact.
- St. Joseph and Benton Harbor have very little outreach-oriented evangelical presence currently and even less targeting the 20-45 age bracket. The 25-44 age bracket is the largest demographic in the region and is growing due to recent Benton Harbor real estate developments and the influence of the Whirlpool Corporation World Headquarters in Benton Harbor.
- A church that is both relevant and creative in its outreach and worship will have the opportunity to impact the large and growing arts population and district in the region.
- Dynamic children's ministries that work with the family as a whole are needed in this area where almost 1/3 of homes have young children.
- This region has very high rates of crime, unemployment, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy. As a result, a church that seeks the lost and broken as Jesus did is needed.
- There is no immediate Wesleyan presence in this region.
 - The nearest Wesleyan church is 28 miles away and located in Indiana.
 - The nearest Michigan-based Wesleyan church is 40 miles away (Lighthouse Community Church in Kalamazoo, MI).

Our Target

- We will seek to start ministering in the Fairplain area of Benton Harbor, which is adjacent to St. Joseph, and is one of the few integrated areas. It houses much of the retail and service sector and carries the possibility of a "neutral" meeting space.
- We will seek from the beginning to be open to all people and ages, but to specifically target the 20-45 age bracket,
- We will seek to target un-churched and de-churched individuals and families with strong teaching, worship, arts, and children's ministries.



Our Heart

God pours in. We pour out.

Our Vision

To live as a Christ centered movement for all people that overflows boundaries-- transforming lives in our region and beyond.

Our Mission

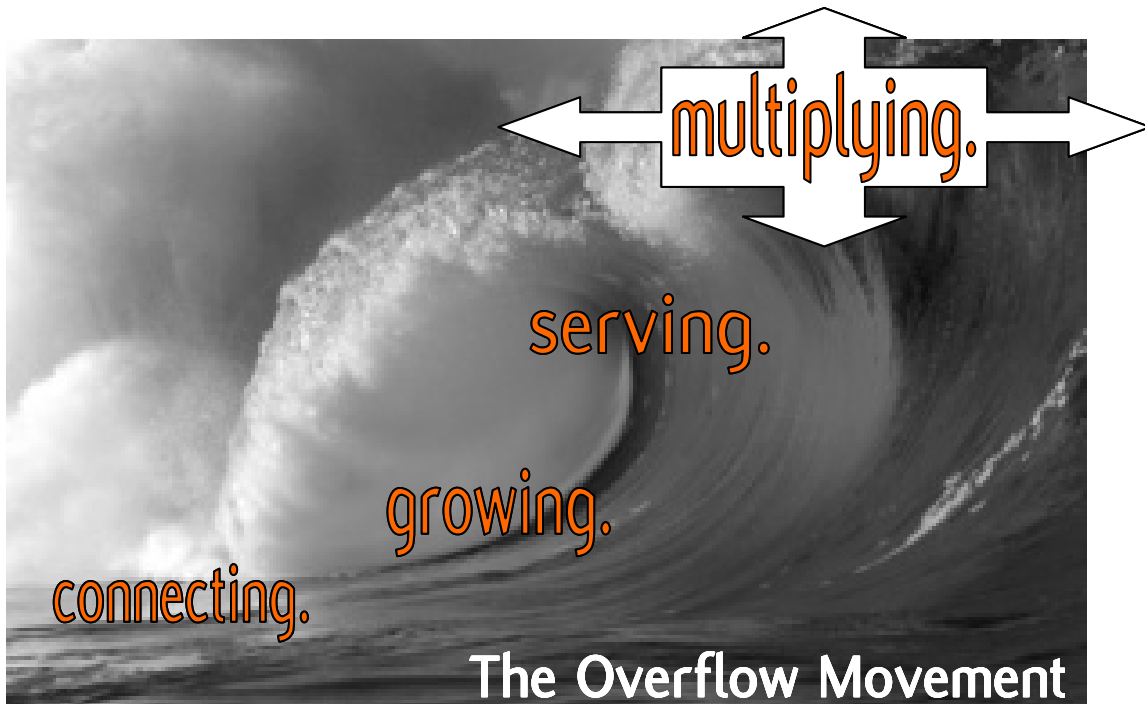
Overflow exists to reach the un-churched and de-churched in our world, journeying together as we learn how to passionately follow Jesus and joyfully serve others.

Connecting Our Mission to Scripture:

1. We believe that Christianity is a lifestyle that is exhibited by growth and overflow in our love for God and love for people
 - a. John 10:10; Matthew 22:37-38; Colossians 2:7
2. We believe that every Christian is a member of Christ's body and that the Christian life is a journey and best lived in community
 - a. Romans 12:5; Hebrews 10:24-25
3. We believe that every Christian has been spiritually gifted and that Jesus Christ has prepared works of service for him or her
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 2:10
4. We believe that every Christian is a missionary
 - a. Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2
5. We believe that Christianity is God's movement to redeem the world and should be marked by an overflowing life of faith, hope, and love
 - a. Titus 2:14; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Romans 15:13

Our Values

1. **DIVERSITY:** All people are created and valued by God and need to be restored to a proper relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - a. Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; John 3:16
2. **CREATIVITY:** God is the ultimate artist and creativity and innovation in relating to our world can be inspired by Him.
 - a. Genesis 1; Acts 17; Ephesians 2:10
3. **LIFE CHANGE:** We believe that life change and true discipleship occurs through anointed Bible teaching, worship, small groups, serving others with Christ's love, and the overflowing activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Luke 6:12-13; Romans 12:1; Matthew 25:40; John 3:6; Romans 15:13
4. **AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY:** To be known by our overflowing love means to live authentically, serve radically, and wholeheartedly welcome all people.
 - a. John 13:1-13, 34-35; Romans 12:9-21; Acts 2:40-47
5. **LEADERSHIP:** All people have been gifted spiritually and can learn to serve, lead, and fulfill Christ's purpose for their lives.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 2:10
6. **DISCIPLESHIP MOVEMENT:** The Church exists for mission and simplicity in church life leads to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, in word and action, and the multiplication of disciples.
 - a. Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 22:37-38
7. **INTEGRITY:** The pursuit of personal and corporate integrity and excellence honors God and inspires people.
 - a. Colossians 3:17-25; Malachi 1:6-14; Proverbs 27:17



Discipleship Pathway & Processes

CONNECTING. GROWING. SERVING. MULTIPLYING.

1. **CONNECTING.**
 - a. Worship Gatherings
2. **GROWING.**
 - a. Life Groups
 - i. Small Groups
 - ii. Classes
 - iii. Quarterly Celebration Time
3. **SERVING.**
 - a. The Church
 - i. Ministries
 - ii. Life Groups
 - iii. Staff
 - b. The Community
 - i. Church-wide missions
 - ii. Life Group quarterly missions
 1. Service Projects
 2. Acts of Kindness
4. **MULTIPLYING.**
 - a. Disciples
 - b. Leaders
 - c. Ministries
 - d. Churches

Getting Involved



**Prayer
Team**



**Launch
Team**



**Ministry
Funding**

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