



# VICTORY CHAPEL SAN MARCOS, TX

YOUR LAUNCH TEAM  
"GETTING STARTED"  
HANDBOOK





# START HERE!

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If you are reading this, then you must be interested in stepping aboard the Victory Chapel Launch Team. I welcome you!

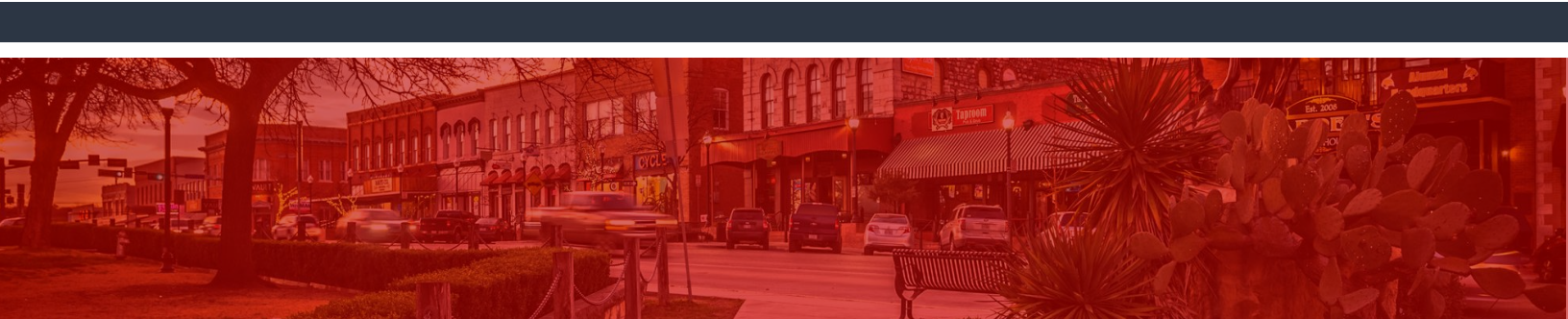
Understanding that every great journey starts with a single step, feel free to view this 10-page handbook as the starting point of your leadership journey at Victory Chapel. Regardless of where you are in the process, I encourage you to embrace the challenge, stretch your faith, and grow as a leader.

As you consider joining the launch team, please read through the following pages and learn more about the history of our church, our strategic launch plan, and our leadership values.

To begin, I'll take you on a brief tour of San Marcos as a city and then we'll jump into who we really are as a church.

With You on The Journey,

**Paul Records**  
LEAD PASTOR



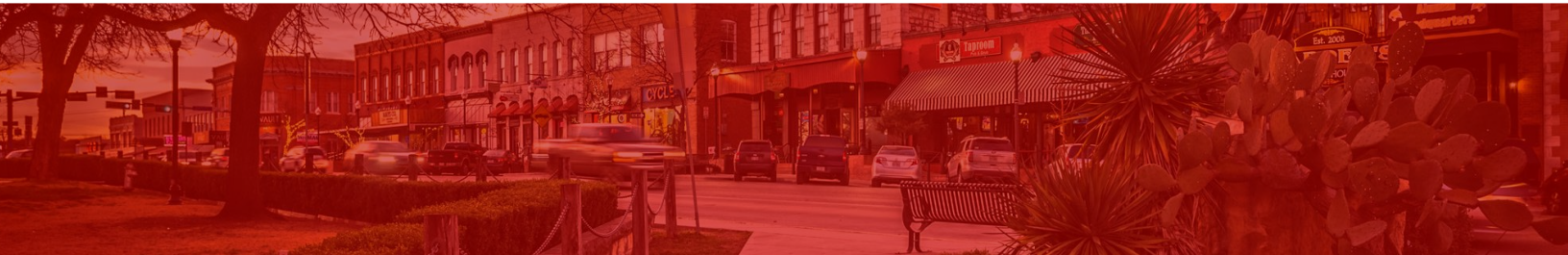
## FAST FACTS ABOUT OUR CITY

Located in the middle of the I-35 corridor between Austin (to the north) and San Antonio (to the south), the city of San Marcos is known for its rapid growth, diversity, and student life. The region around I-35 is known as Hill Country and is home to some of the nicest land in the state of Texas with a growing populace of citizens seeking rural retreats.

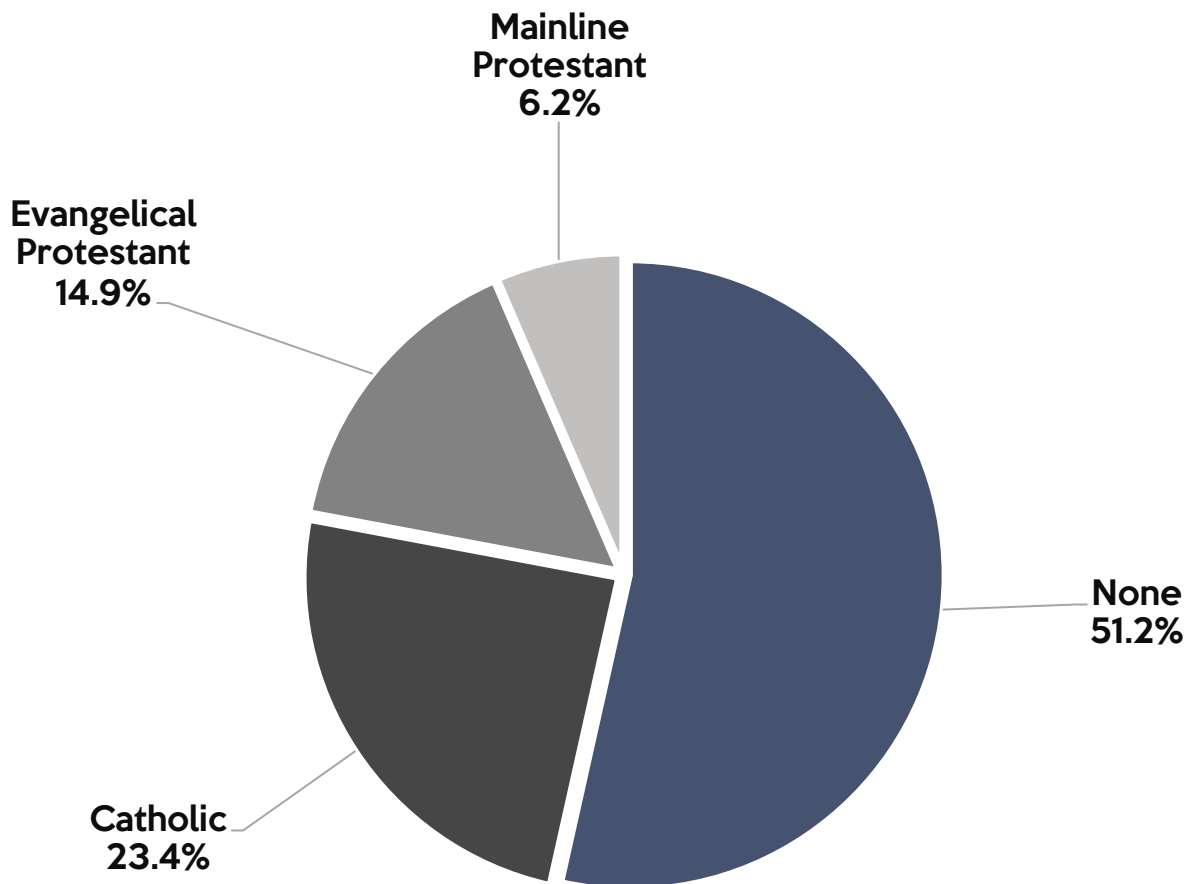
With a current population of 61,980, the city is estimated to grow to 72,972 by 2022.

The median age of city residents is 24 and the average household size is two. 64% of residents have never been married and the median household income is \$33,117. The region's largest employers are Texas State University, Amazon, outlet stores, and hotels/restaurants.

- The San Marcos population has grown by nearly 24% since 2012. From 2012-2014, no city in the U.S. grew faster than San Marcos. During these years, the United States Census Bureau named it the fastest-growing city in the U.S.
- Hays County is the fastest growing large county (population above 50,000) in the nation for the 2nd consecutive year.
- In 2010, San Marcos was listed in *Business Week's* annual survey of one of the "Best Places to Raise Your Kids."
- In December 2013, it was named #9 on *Business Insider's* list of the "10 Most Exciting Small Cities in America."
- In June 2006, *The View* named the San Marcos Outlet Malls as the 3rd best place to shop in the world. About six million people visit them annually.
- It was rated #1 on a list of the "Top 100 cities with the highest percentage of college students." The number of college students living in San Marcos is substantially higher than the state average.



# THE STATE OF RELIGION IN SAN MARCOS



*\*These statistics are according to a 2016 report by the U.S. Census Bureau.*



# WHY THIS CITY?

## *From Paul's Perspective...*

In 2017, God began leading us into a season of transition. Our ministry focus began shifting from overseas ministry training to pastoral ministry in the U.S. After serving as an administrative pastor for three years I (Paul) began to evangelize and together, my wife and I prayed about certain pastoral opportunities. In January of 2018, we found ourselves ministering at a series of churches in the Austin area.

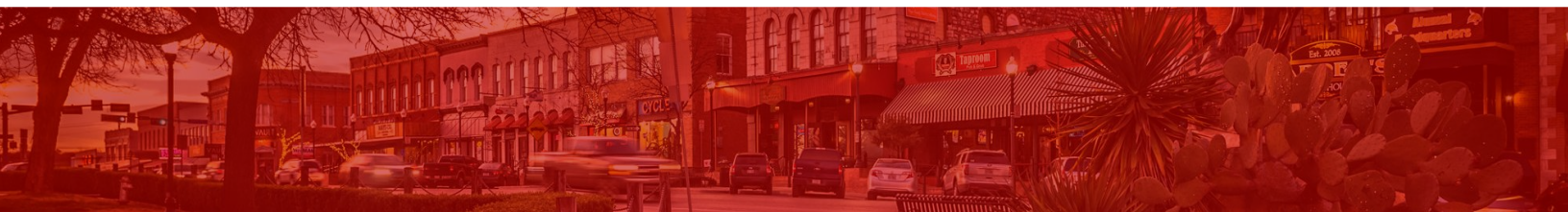
At the encouragement of a friend, we drove down to San Marcos and explored the city. It was described to us as a great “target city” for a church plant.

Before leaving the area, I drove back to San Marcos by myself and parked my vehicle in a parking lot close to the city's center. After shutting off the engine, I began to pray. It wasn't long before I began to feel a divine burden for the many lost students and families who lived in the city. In the weeks that followed, God continued to clarify his call to me and direct us to plant a new church right in the heart of the city. The more we have prayed and fasted about the decision, the more we feel divine confirmation and encouragement to hammer a stake in the city's center, take spiritual dominion, and build a thriving apostolic church.

## *From Alli's Perspective...*

When moving to Alexandria, Louisiana after we were married in June 2017 I felt that a ministry transition was soon to come. My husband and I had plans to travel overseas supporting various missions endeavors and soon we began to realize that God had other plans. Through prayer and fasting, Paul and I began to feel a burden to pastor. We didn't know where or when, but we believed God would pave the way. At the recommendation of a family member, we drove south to visit San Marcos while preaching in the Austin, TX area.

While visiting San Marcos, we discovered a church building for sale near Texas State University. As we parked our car in the parking lot, I began to feel a heavy burden for the city. Later in the week, as we drove through the Austin metroplex, I saw a cross at a distance held up high and glowing in the night. In that moment, God spoke quietly and said, “These are my people.” From that point on I knew God had called us to start a work in San Marcos. We moved permanently three months later.





## WHY VICTORY CHAPEL?

The term *chapel* often refers to a place of prayer and worship attached to a larger, often nonreligious institution such as a university campus, hospital, prison, airport, or military base. Chapels can even be found aboard military or commercial ships. Historically, in Great Britain, chapels referred to independent or nonconformist places of worship that existed outside of more traditional religious circles.

In the 1950s and 1960s, chapels were built within a series of American airports at the insistence of Boston Archbishop Richard J. Cushing. Cushing is also the reason why a chapel was added to the first railroad terminal in 1955. Initially, they were intended for staff rather than passengers and were created so that city workers had a space for public worship throughout the day.

Choosing the term “chapel,” we aim to create a place of worship and prayer for city workers, families, students, and children. We have chosen the name *Victory Chapel* to express our desire to bring victory to those who are hurting, defeated, broken. We exist to minister to the needs of the unchurched, unreligious, and unaffiliated. Our prayer is that Victory Chapel serves as a beacon of hope and renewal to San Marcos and the larger Hays County.

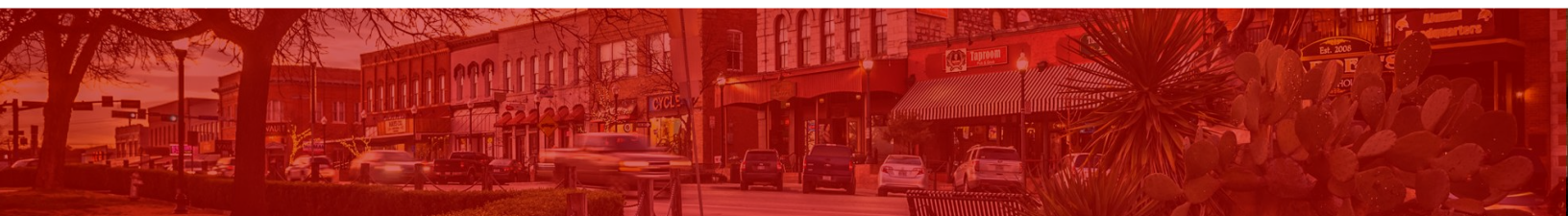
## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a church on a mission to declare and demonstrate Christ in the San Marcos community.

## OUR GROWTH TRACK

We exist to...

1. Find Faith
2. Experience Redemption
3. Grow Roots
4. Own the Mission



## OUR PASTORAL ADVISORS

Because we place a high value on accountability and wise stewardship, we have chosen to stay close to tried-and-true spiritual leaders throughout the launch process.

Our pastoral advisors are those who have provided wise counsel thus far and have agreed to walk with us in the months ahead.

- Pastor **Carl Mclaughlin**, Calvary Tabernacle, Euless, TX.
- Pastor **Derald Weber**, The Pentecostals of Lafayette, Lafayette, LA.
- Pastor **Rodney Shaw**, New Life Church, Austin, TX,

## OUR FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Our financial advisors are those who have agreed to help us iron-out the financial side of church planting, budgets, fundraising, etc.

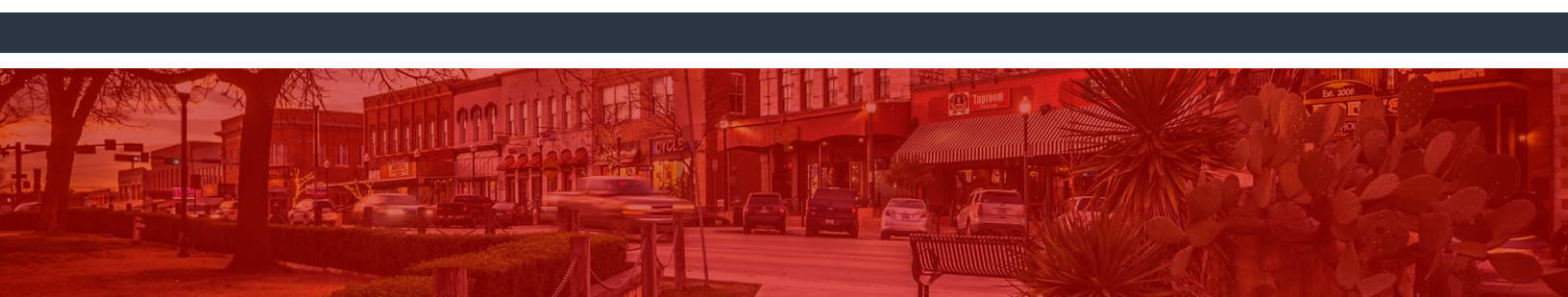
**Lonnie Weidner**  
Pastor of Church of Pentecost, Ball, LA

**Eric Mock, M.B.A.**

**Rev. Ryan Allmon**  
Pastor of Full Gospel UPC, Baton Rouge, LA

## OUR AFFILIATION

As a church, we are affiliated with the United Pentecostal Church International ([www.upci.org](http://www.upci.org)).



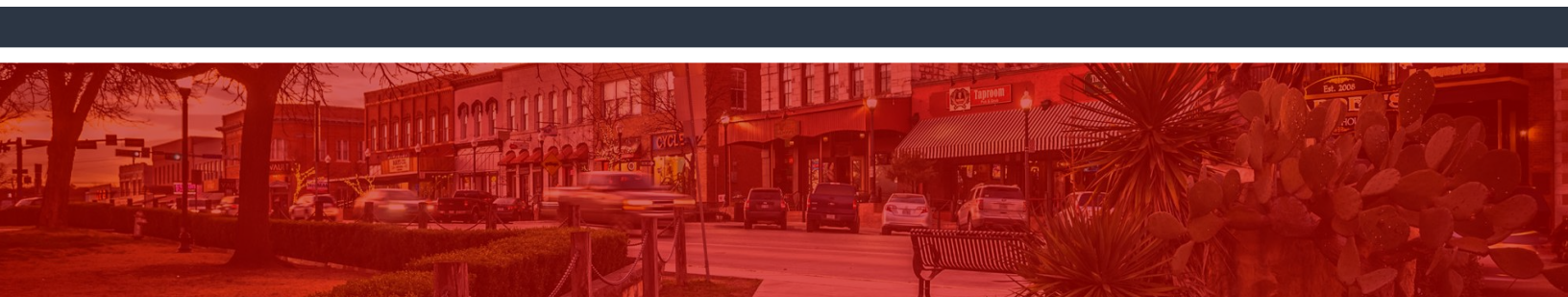
# **PRE -LAUNCH TIMELINE** *(Subject to change)*

## **JUNE-AUGUST (2018)**

1. Complete church Constitution & Bylaws, identify board members, register with the state, and obtain 501(c)(3) status.
2. Open a bank account in the name of Victory Chapel.
3. Complete building of church website and social media pages.
4. **Formulate launch team and hold an initial launch team banquet.**
5. Start leadership small group with launch team and go on prayer walks together.
6. Initiate fundraising campaign to fulfill pre-launch budget.
7. Confirm building rental and location and reserve 6-8 months of slots for initial events & services.

## **SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER**

1. Once a month, hold a full church service.
2. **Once a month, engage in an organized community outreach followed by an interest event held in various locations (coffee shop, ice cream shop, park BBQ, etc.).**
3. Continue prayer meetings and prayer walks with launch team.
4. Sponsor a “Friendsgiving” dinner event on Texas State campus.
5. Multiply home bible studies/small groups throughout the city.
6. Start promoting Launch Team Retreat in January (confirm location, details, & budget).
7. Prepare for building rental in 2019.





## DECEMBER

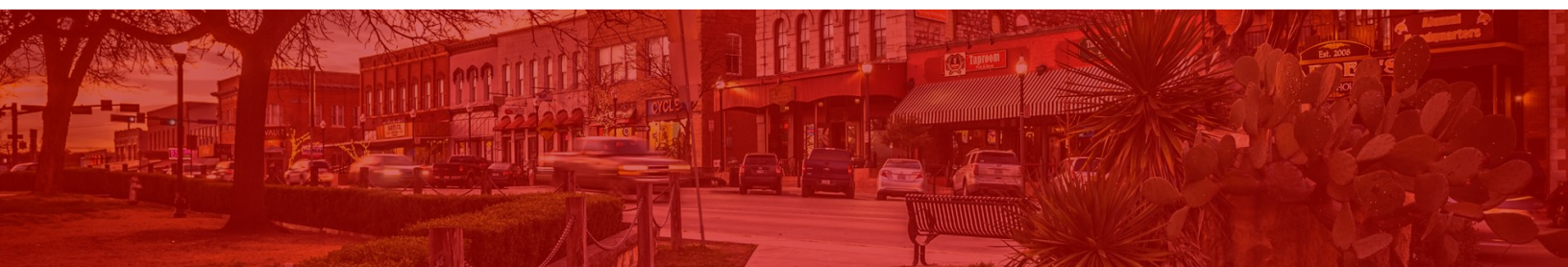
1. Hold a Christmas-centered church service.
2. Host a community Christmas concert.
3. Launch team Christmas party.
4. Continue bible studies/small groups.
5. Confirm attendance for Launch Team Retreat in January.
6. Sponsor Christmas for 3-5 families in need.

## JANUARY-FEBRUARY (2019)

1. Once a month, hold a full church service.
2. Once a month, hold an organized and focused prayer event.
3. **Launch Team Retreat.**
4. Confirm pre-service and post-service game plan.
5. Hold strategy meetings to discuss music, kid's ministry, and follow-up.
6. Get ready for big, city-wide launch day outreach.

## MARCH-APRIL

1. The big, city-wide launch day outreach.
2. Big pre-launch prayer event.
3. Prepare for the start of growth track.
4. Confirm follow-up plan.
5. Hold music, kid's ministry, and guest-retention trainings.
6. **LAUNCH DAY.**



# THE 8 CORE VALUES OF THE VICTORY CHAPEL LEADERSHIP TEAM

1. We must be **strategic** and **intentional** in everything we do.
2. Shape the culture from **Day 1**.
3. Anything is possible when we push to the **outer limits of our faith**.
4. For the right results, we must get the **right people** in the **rights spots** doing the **right things**.
5. To lead effectively, I must be a “forever devoted, always learning, gospelizing person.”

**GOSPELIZER** – A person that views *any* moment as the *right* moment to share the gospel.

6. Everybody is an **owner** and must communicate, celebrate, and copy the vision.
7. Every ladder climber starts as a **ladder holder**. Leadership begins with **service**.
8. The kind of growth we want only comes through **prayer** and when God is the one pulling the levers.

If you are willing to lead by the 8 core values above and are ready to take the next step onto the Victory Chapel Launch Team, then contact me directly. It's time to make your involvement official. I can't wait to meet you!

**Pastor Paul**

paulrecords30@gmail.com

337-371-0392

