



REPLICATE

BANGKOK

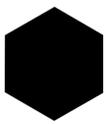
Replicate Bangkok: Vision and Strategy

Executive Summary: It is our aim to unleash a discipleship based church planting movement in Bangkok. We want to train and develop world changing disciples that, in turn, make disciples that make disciples (2 Tim 2:10) to the glory and praise of God. As we take hold of the great commission in Bangkok we see great advantages to using an organic model (often referred as “house church”) to church planting in the city. This disciple making movement would be a network of smaller churches gathering across the city. With Bangkok being the vast metropolis that it is, we hope to plant smaller congregations that can meet in public places like businesses, coffee shops and homes throughout the city. These geographically-centric congregations will have greater opportunity to live on mission together as a church body being salt and light to their communities.

This document briefly explains how using a coffee shop can be an effective tool during the initial phases of our disciple making and church planting efforts in Thailand as a model to sustainable church planting in Southeast Asia.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:19-20



Context: Bangkok Thailand

The rapid urbanization that is sweeping the globe creates new social challenges. Many of the struggles and social challenges that people and communities encounter, as they move from their lives in the rural hillside to the busy city, are opportunities for the church to minister and serve by filling created gaps. By boldly creating livelihood opportunities for individuals that create opportunities for social development, the church can be the prime force in empowering the resilience needed for marginalized people to survive as the gospel thrives in their urban communities. We've seen that Thailand offers a unique opportunity to fill such gaps through the emerging specialty coffee industry.



Goal: It is our goal and intent to open a specialty coffee shop to use as a key tool in our disciple making efforts in Bangkok, Thailand. We hope to use this coffee shop to not only establish a presence in our community, but to become a pillar of change and progress in our community to bring glory to God.



Three Fold Impact

1. Creating Third Place

Coffee shops provide a great opportunity to connect with others since they are a natural *third place* in many people's lives. What is *third place*? Third places are the places and environments where people choose to partake in community outside of their first and second places of home and work. Connecting with people at their third place is an ideal environment to build relationships. Since people normally go to places like coffee shops, bars, etc. looking to relax and unwind in hopes of being recharged, encouraged or to find community we see connecting with individuals at a third place as prime grounds for developing relationships for discipleship. As owners we'll be able to create the welcoming environment and atmosphere that we see best to help us reach out to our community.

2. Modeling Natural Discipleship

We see that taking steps towards becoming self-supported missionaries as key to establishing a more sustainable model of church planting in the urban Asian context. Just as Paul and his partners worked in a vocational role as an example to the Christians in Thessalonica:

"We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate." (2 Thessalonians 3:9)

We see this as key in modeling a replicable model in discipleship and church planting in Thailand. By hiring young Christians as our staff we'll have a greater opportunity to model a Christian lifestyle to our employees and neighbors throughout our daily interaction. We believe that discipleship is something that happens as we model Christ's example to those around us. By modeling missional living as a community we will be showing how life as the church is lived out each and every day.

3. Sustainable - Replicable

A sustainable model allows the church to become self-sufficient in terms of both its leadership and finances. The body being free to meet in public spaces like the coffee shop, other businesses and members' homes helps to free up more of our finances to be used on outreach and service to our community. The goal is to promote a replicable church planting model that avoids dependency of outside resources, while also allowing more of what we have to be used to impact the world around us to the glory of God.





Advantages of a Business As Mission Model

- **Defined and Influential Social Identity:** As a missionary living in a foreign country we must put a lot of thought and consideration into the social role that we project to our Thai neighbors. It is easy for people to connect with welcoming baristas who have a genuine nature. Because of this, our time spent at work in the coffee shop is a great opportunity to meet and engage with not-yet-Christians in a natural environment.
- **Discipleship and Leadership Development:** Our Christian staff will be our primary focus in discipleship. Modeling an example to them that they, in turn, can model to others. Our staff will be a core group of disciples living intentionally on mission together in Christ, giving them a greater focus so that they can be mentored into future leaders of the church.
- **Opportunity to Create Community:** By owning and running the coffee shop we have the ability to create the welcoming atmosphere that we desire and see as most effective for creating community. As owners we have opportunity to build a staff of baristas who we see as playing a key role in helping create the atmosphere we desire from our guidance and direction.
- **Social Impact:** We see that owning the coffee shop puts us in a prime position for community impact among our neighbors and other local business owners. As a local business owner, we can be forerunners and a source of development and change in our neighborhood. By initiating efforts to clean up local streets, parks, connect with and serve local schools, slums, engage in helping major social justice issues, (e.g. prostitution, human trafficking, urban refugees) etc. we can show ways that everyone can be a part of making their neighborhood a better place.
- **Replicable Example of Christian Living:** We believe that discipleship is something that happens as we model Christ's example to those around us. By modeling missional living as a community we will be showing how life as the church is lived out each and every day. We will be living out an example as fully committed Christians engaged in the workforce that can be replicated by all of the body of Christ.
- **Access to Visa:** Being our own business owner gives us legal access to visas. Having a secure and valid reason to be in country is greatly needed as long term missionaries.

The Big Picture

The coffee shop will be a tool to help us reach our main goal in making disciples and church planting in a sustainable way to the glory and praise of God.

The Coffee Shop Can Be Used For:

- Outreach to community
- Gathering place for the church
- Home for the missionaries

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