

WOODFIN

Church Planting | San Francisco

AUG-OCT 2021

The Launch.

It was a beautiful, clear, sunny day in San Francisco. Which is quite rare in our neighborhood due to all the fog. But that's what it was, a beautiful, sunny Sunday on the day of our Grand Opening.

Adam showed up to our house with his truck at 8:30am to pick up all our church gear. The anticipation was mounting. Sam showed up a few minutes later. We packed everything up, hopped in the truck, and took the five minute drive to the venue where we hold our services.

Set up was actually a breeze, our team of volunteers were highly motivated, and everybody on the team was excited to see what the day would hold.

Then it came, 10:15am and people started pouring in the door. There was a little bit of a rush to get some extra chairs, the room seemed to be overflowing. 55 people was the final count.

After living in San Francisco for two years, and after months of outreaches, to see a room packed with people was a blessing. Afterward, everyone stayed to eat and the energy was amazing. You could tell that people had been hungry for church family. Most of the people in attendance did not have church homes. They either had been out of church for years, or they were new to the city, but either way it seemed as if they had found a home with Branches.

This was confirmed two weeks later at our Connect party. This is where we invite all the guests to our house and introduce them to the church. We had nine people decide to join the church that day!!

God keeps blessing. Now, I had to keep that in mind over the next two weeks. I had been invited to speak at a missions conference in Kansas City on Thursday and Friday. My return flight was scheduled for me to get back to San Francisco by Saturday night. Unfortunately, my flight was cancelled...twice!! So I missed church that week. And to make matters worse, I got COVID. So that meant I missed the next week as well.

But something incredible happened...the church went on without me. Isn't that AWESOME! The people all took on their rolls and kept going. It is a glorious thing as a Pastor to realize that the church doesn't need you to exist.

It's glorious because it is humbling. God doesn't have to use us. He just doesn't. He doesn't need our skills, our time, our abilities...none of it. God is fully capable of fulfilling the mission all by himself. And yet, the amazingly wonderful thing is that He CHOOSES to use us! He invites us to be part of this mission to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And that should be enough to bring us all to our knees in humble adoration of a God that loves us enough not only to save us, but also to use us to bring others to Him. There is no greater purpose in life.

So God blessed our Grand Opening, and I have full confidence that God will continue to bless His work here in San Francisco. Thank you for your continued support and prayers! We could not do this without you all!!

Prayer Requests:

- Our Upcoming Outreaches (especially our Christmas outreach)
- For our prospects as we continue to share the gospel and get people plugged into church.
- For our family. We lost an important couple that were on our leadership team. This has put a lot of extra work on me and especially Hali. Pray that we can find some amount of time for a little rest each week, and that God would send laborers to His harvest.



Grand Opening
Sept. 19, 2021



Our Welcome Team
Marshall, Sylvia & Sam



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