

SHORT-CYCLE SOLUTIONS FOR A LOST WORLD

A Case Statement for Avant Ministries

Avant



Our Passion

At Avant Ministries, we have a consuming passion for the unevangelized people of the world.

This **passion** not only grips our thoughts, it dominates our conversations and actions.

In our urgency to make Christ's name known, we single-mindedly **focus** all we are and possess to connect with a world that does not know Him.

A lifestyle of abandon makes us take risks. It forces us to rely on a **power** that is not our own. We expect God-sized results in a fallen world.

For the Avant community, there is nothing more exciting than to see a new Christian grasp the profound truths of the Bible. A life that is forever changed makes hard days and late nights worth every effort.

It doesn't stop there. We dream of believers coming together as communities of faith where no other churches exist. You have a part to play in this timeless calling, missions. With your help the work goes on and the Word goes out.

Come and join us. Your investment in a life is an investment for eternity. There's little time to waste when every second counts. **That's a passion worth living.**





Our Story

Founded in 1892, Avant Ministries (formerly Gospel Missionary Union) is one of the oldest missionary sending agencies in North America. Over time, our methods have changed, but our objective has remained: we desire to plant churches where the church does not exist, enabling nationals to be Christian leaders among their people.

Avant was the first evangelical mission to enter Ecuador in South America and the Republic of Mali in West Africa. Pioneering missionaries labored faithfully. Today in those fields, vibrant, mature national churches have taken over the work.

Now, we're initiating new works, continuing to plant churches among unreached people.

With a faith focused on God's power and ability we are building teams to serve in church planting and church support ministries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America. Our missionaries implement innovative techniques, strategically partnering with national believers who can carry on the work and multiply the results.

Avant Ministries is intricately linked to its past and looks with a bold vision for the future.

"... I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named..."

Romans 15:20

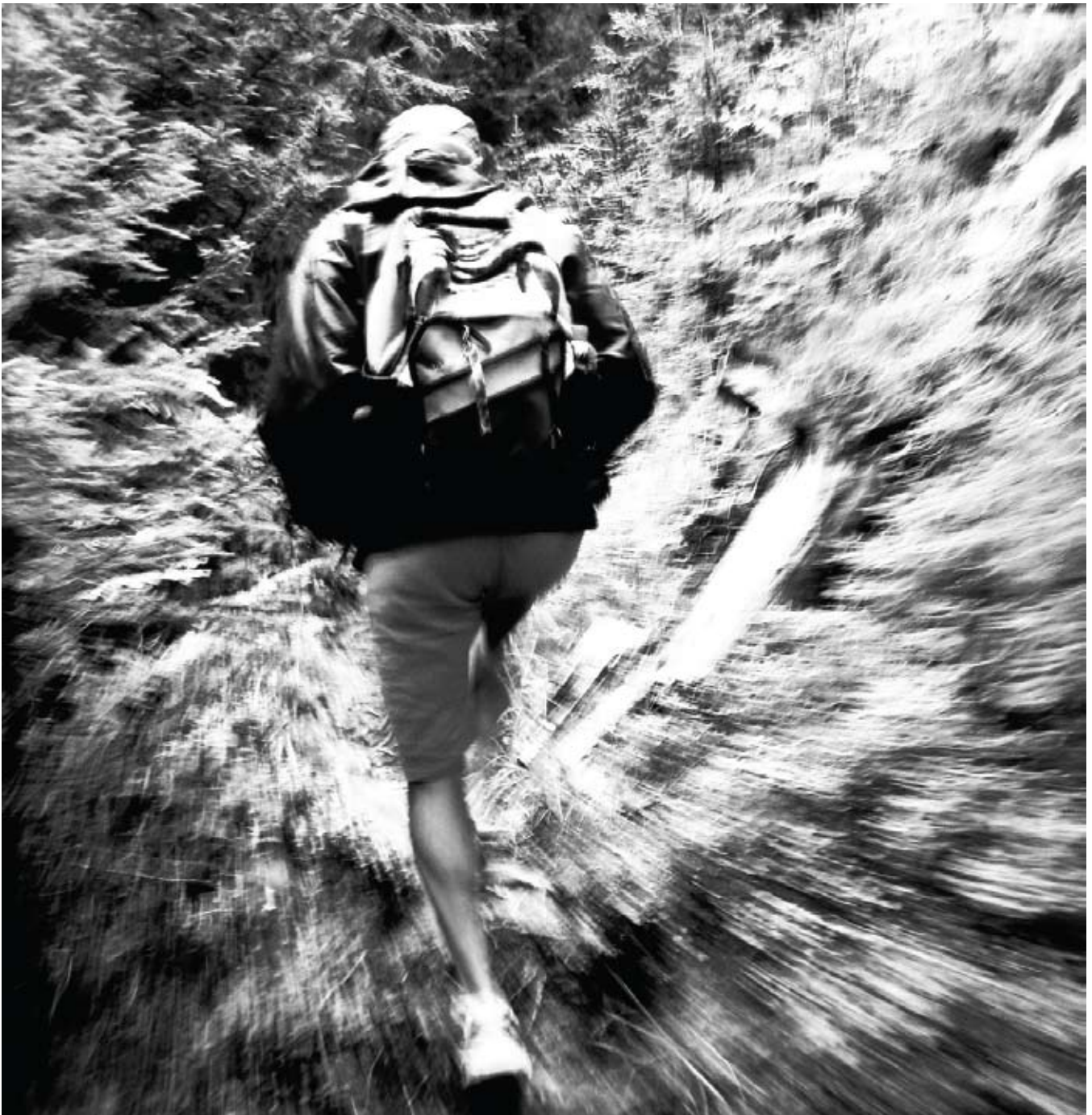


Our Values

- 1 The Power of the Gospel**
We have a message with inherent power. It is this power that brings people to Christ.
- 2 The Primacy of Prayer**
We cannot pry open doors for the gospel. Only God can defeat the forces of Satan and provide avenues for His truth.
- 3 Member Care**
When our missionaries succeed, we succeed. And when our missionaries falter, we falter. Therefore, we help our missionaries navigate the mine fields of cross-cultural ministry.
- 4 Vital Partnerships**
We cannot fulfill the Great Commission ourselves. We desire to have strategic alignments with individual donors, churches, foundations and organizations. Our partners provide funds, prayer and personnel.
- 5 Innovative Thinking**
We are an innovative mission that looks to connect with God's people in new ways.
- 6 Pervasive Excellence**
Our service to the Lord demands the best we can offer in every area of life. Therefore, we seek excellence in every avenue of ministry.

Our Vision

To make a difference in time for eternity by rapidly planting and developing churches where none exist.



Our Beliefs



WE BELIEVE IN . . .

- the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
- God as three distinct persons yet one in being, essence and power.
- the deity and sinless life of Jesus Christ.
- salvation uniquely by the substitutionary atonement of Christ by grace through faith in His shed blood.
- the resurrection of all men, and eternity with God in heaven or without God in hell.
- the premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- the deity of the Holy Spirit, who convicts of sin, regenerates and baptizes the believer into the body of Christ, immediately indwelling him.
- the creation of man by a direct act of God.
- a sinful, fallen man who became depraved and guilty before God.

Philosophy of Ministry

Faith Context

The Power of the Gospel

There is power in the gospel. Romans 1:16 says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God, for the salvation of everyone who believes.” Faith in the power of the gospel eliminates our embarrassment, equips us with the confidence to share it with others, and gives us the ability to pursue church planting on the mission field. We are sending out missionaries equipped with spiritual dynamite!

Divine Serendipity

Divine serendipity may sound like an oxymoron, but often what seems like coincidence to us is really God’s sovereign purposes at work. Short-Cycle Church Planting is based on the confidence that God will provide us with the opportunity and the means to connect with people. We believe that God is already at work in the places we send our teams. Their task is to discover the divine opportunities that He provides, connecting with people in powerful ways just like He did with Paul in Athens (Acts 17:16–34).

TEAM: Highly trained, carefully selected

God’s Ability

In Ephesians 3:20 we read “He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is within us.” God has chosen us before the foundation of the world to be conformed to the image of Christ. Because of God’s power, we believe we can develop mature, reproducing churches in five years or less. Therefore, as church planters, we go forth with hope and confidence, knowing our efforts are consistent with God’s sovereign purposes (Romans 8:28–30).

The Primacy of Prayer

Ephesians 6 says, “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Such spiritual warfare is especially evident on the mission field. Paul realized the only way he would see the gospel move forward was when fellow believers were diligently interceding for him (Colossians 4:2–4). We cannot pry open doors for the gospel. We can only pray open doors for the gospel. God can defeat the forces of Satan and provide avenues for His truth and He does so in response to the prayers of His people.

TEAM TRADEMARKS

Simultaneous Activity

Focus on all phases of church planting concurrently

High Trust

In God, His Spirit, His Word and national believers

Overt Witness

Early, often and directly; finding key people who will evangelize their community

Restricted Scope

Eliminate dependency by involving nationals at all levels

Tactical Advantage

Leverage accelerates efforts



Partner with us

Partnering with Avant allows you to be a part of something bigger than yourself. By joining your resources with others who share your passion for global evangelism, you can expand your spiritual investment. Your partnership allows more lives to be touched in unreached areas. Join us as we proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to the world.



COMMIT TO PRAY

The work of those spreading the gospel relies on the diligent intercession of fellow believers. Your prayers are essential in the process of changing lives.

PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE

Whether catching the vision for missions on a short-term team or dedicating your life to full-time service, you can make an impact that will change not only your life but others as well.

INVEST YOUR RESOURCES

You may not have the ability to go, but by giving you play an active role in Avant. God's blessing in your life can be multiplied, affecting many for eternity.

BE AN ADVOCATE

Your passion for the unreached is evident to others in untold measures. Encourage those in your sphere of influence to find their place in Avant.

Why Avant?

For Short-Cycle Church Planting

“Avant’s Short-Cycle Church Planting philosophy is a product of their cutting-edge vision, their incredible passion, their sense of urgency, and their commitment to doing ‘mission’ in a way that is relevant. It is a philosophy that is contextualized for today’s challenges and it is a wonderful example of faith and dependence on God and His sovereignty.”

Ernie Koop

Steinbach Bible College
Dean of Student Development, Mission Faculty

“Most church planting takes years. By God’s Holy Spirit, Paul founded every church in less than three years, some in a few weeks. I believe Avant Ministries is on to something with Short-Cycle Church Planting! Sometimes we have to go back in order to go forward! That’s what Avant is doing.”

Dr. Mike Pocock

Dallas Theological Seminary
Department Chair, Senior Professor of World Missions and Intercultural Studies

“Avant’s philosophy of Short-Cycle Church Planting has breathed new life into global ministry and encourages us all to explore new biblical ways of addressing the world with the message of Jesus.”

Waldie Neufeld

Peace River Bible Institute
President

“The 21st Century demands new church-planting philosophies, models and strategies. Avant has courageously and competently addressed a changing world through Short-Cycle Church Planting.”

Dr. Tom Steffen

Biola University
Professor of Intercultural Studies, Director of the Doctor of Missiology Program

Why give to Avant?

“I appreciate how Avant is changing to reach a new generation for our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Dee Williams

Juneau, Alaska

“As a Christian businessman, I am pleased to be a financial partner with Avant Ministries. Our corporate giving provides an opportunity to join them in planting churches around the world. And we are able to use resources God has given us to help spread the gospel.

John Cowan

President, Harvest Graphics
Lenexa, Kansas



*"If we are always working in our own strength,
we'll never see a God-sized result."*

Mark Bruner

Director of Short-Cycle Church Planting

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