

ANNUAL
GATHERING

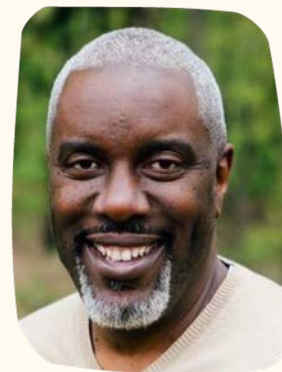
October 2022 | Atlanta, Georgia

Year in Review



The
Crete Collective

A Letter from our President



In the Great Commission, our Lord calls the church to the worldwide evangelization and discipleship of all nations. It's a massive vision—far greater than anything a single church or organization can accomplish alone. It requires the entire church, a gospel partnership from all who call upon Jesus as Lord.

The difficulty of achieving the Great Commission lies not just in the scope of the vision. Some places and people remain hard to reach. For example, there remain 1,300 unengaged and 7,000 unreached people groups in the world. Getting the gospel to these groups requires concerted prayerful effort and a lot of hard work.

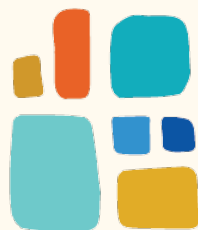
But the challenge is not just “over there.” What if we also include the vulnerable and neglected neighborhoods and communities in our own cities and towns? And what if we factor in our stubborn fear, distraction, and lack of awareness? How many people in our own cities face an eternity without Christ because fresh and revived gospel work goes on everywhere but their neighborhood? I shudder to think about it. The need is great.

But then I rejoice. I rejoice because of your partnership in the gospel. By supporting The Crete Collective, you help us to make some small impact on the eternal destinies of people who might never hear the gospel otherwise. Because you share in our vision to start and revitalize gospel churches in neglected and vulnerable black and brown neighborhoods, souls are saved, lives are changed, and hope is spread. Like yeast quietly and invisibly working through dough, the kingdom is spreading in forgotten and abandoned communities. It may not look impressive now, but when the annals of heaven reveal all that God has done, we will marvel! We will marvel at how God took so many widows' mites to do so much where so many feared to go. We will marvel at how God moved so many partner churches to contribute to neighborhoods other than their own for the glory of God in the gospel. We will marvel at how many siblings we may only meet in heaven. And we will thank God for the privilege.

That's our hope at The Crete Collective. On behalf of the Board of Directors, member churches, and church planters, that is why we thank you for partnering with us, for sharing the vision with us, and for hoping in God with us. On that great day, many “will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others” (2 Cor. 9:13).

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel,

Thabiti Anyabwile
President, The Crete Collective



Year in Impact

June 2022

Announce **four** additional church plants funded through Crete

May 2022



Crete Collective hosts first in-person gathering in Chicago, IL



We are thankful for the enthusiasm and momentum we have had as we finish our first year! From bringing on staff to funding four additional church plants, the Lord continues to bless our desires to plant healthy churches in distressed and neglected Black and Brown communities.



August 2022

Rich Perez joins staff as leader of pastoral training and development

Host our first national gathering with planters and member churches in Atlanta, GA



October 2022

Our Imprint in Year 2



Planter Cohort Churches

These leaders are part of the Crete community, participating in training and receiving church planting grants.



Training Cohort Churches

These leaders are part of the Crete community and participate in training and coaching.



Member Churches

These existing churches pledge 3% of their annual budget to Crete's mission.

Year 2 Planting Cohort: The West Church

Alief, Texas

Ayo and his wife began monthly prayer gatherings during the pandemic and held their first vision gathering for The West Church in July of 2021.

Please join us in praying for Ayo and Amaechi as they serve the Alief neighborhood in Houston, Texas, that they would be a safe place for those living in their community and that the Lord would continue to send laborers committed to serving and loving the Alief community.



Ayo and Amaechi
Omopariola

Year 2 Planting Cohort: Identity Church

Daytona Beach, Florida

The Cogdell's felt called to plant a church in their hometown of Daytona Beach, Florida in 2015 and officially began their ministry in the community in 2017. We are so grateful for their faithfulness to plant a gospel-centered church in their neighborhood.

Please pray for Identity Church that God would raise up additional pastoral support to join the Cogdell's, a permanent building to gather on Sundays, and that God would help Identity see more people saved in 2023.



Byron and
Kimyatta Cogdell

Year 2 Planting Cohort: Acts Church

Yonkers, New York

Kevin and his wife Dominique have planted Acts Church in Yonkers, New York to display a fresh expression of the gospel in their community. Please join them in prayer that they would build barrier-breaking relationships within the city, have a deep discernment on which issues to engage and focus on in this season, and that the Lord would continue to send laborers for the harvest.



Kevin and Dominique
Middleton

Year 2 Planting Cohort: Bluegrass Community Church

Lexington, Kentucky

Nestor and his planting partner Michael Meredith are serving a diverse and multi-lingual community in Lexington, Kentucky.

Please join them in prayer for unity among the church's core team, for wisdom among the leadership team, for boldness and faith, and for provision, especially in the form of "hands and feet" to join the launch team.



Nestor and
Hannah Gomez

Partner Spotlight

The Crete Collective not only provides resources directly to planters, but has also connected them to local member churches that support our vision and can tangibly labor alongside them as they serve their cities. One such partnership is with member church, Reality Stockton, and church planter Samuel Noh of Grace Redeemer Church.



“ Our partnership with the Crete Collective has been a mutually profitable experience, offering us the opportunity to receive richly and contribute significantly, including a partnership with Grace Redeemer Church in Anaheim. We are experiencing the beginning stages of what I expect will be a flourishing, long-term partnership in the gospel. ”

Christian Simas,
Lead Pastor, Reality Stockton

“ We have a plethora of needs in our neglected neighborhoods, only a few people available to serve those needs, and very little financial resources to meet those needs. Then we met Reality Stockton. While there is always more to be done, we’ve met some of the most urgent needs of West Anaheim through the prayers and support of Reality Stockton. ”

Samuel Noh,
Lead Pastor, Grace Redeemer Church

Financials

We have been overwhelmed by God's faithfulness to us through the financial partnership of individuals, churches, and other organizations this past year. This strong foundation enabled us to plant more churches in Year 2 and establish a reserve to ensure we can commit multi-year support to church planters.

We're encouraged by this momentum and are hopeful to continue growing our base of support to impact more communities in 2023.

\$390,581
RAISED
IN 2022

\$200,000
IN CHURCH PLANTING
GRANTS

\$180,000
SET ASIDE FOR YEAR
2 & 3 PLANTING
GRANTS

A Special Offering

We are grateful for all of our church partners! Contributing Churches have generously made a gift to Crete this year and Member Churches pledge 3% of their budget to our mission. Many of these churches go above and beyond, including Center Church in Illinois that has collected special offerings of more than \$40,000 dedicated to Crete for the past two years.

“

Our Elders were challenged & encouraged by the New Testament pattern of churches caring for one another in tangible ways that advanced the Great Commission. There are so many beautiful examples of Paul leading churches to take up offerings to relieve those suffering and grow the ministry of other churches in different regions. We count it a privilege & joy to partner with The Crete Collective in their work & pray for their advancement!

”

Mark Larson

Lead Pastor, Center Church

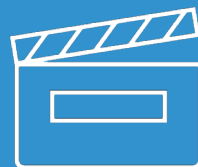




FINANCIALLY SUPPORT
3 ADDITIONAL CHURCH PLANTS



CONVENE CRETE COLLECTIVE
LEADERS AND PLANTERS FOR
TWO IN-PERSON GATHERINGS



RELEASE FIRST SEASON OF A
CRETE COLLECTIVE MINI-DOC
SERIES ON BEING A GOOD
NEIGHBOR



LAUNCH SECOND BOOK
ON THE CRETE
COLLECTIVE PUBLISHING
IMPRINT



LAUNCH CRETE
COLLECTIVE PODCAST
HOSTED BY THABITI

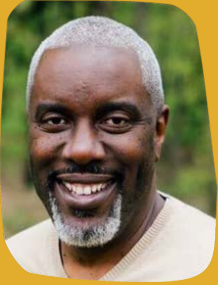


ADD AN ADDITIONAL 20 MEMBER
CHURCHES

Looking Ahead

It's going to be a great year for The Crete Collective. We are praying for the Lord's favor in our efforts to deepen our impact. We will continue to invest in our existing church plants, as well as welcome others. We are launching several streams of content to resource leaders with tools and wisdom around faithfully following Jesus in our contexts. Stay tuned for much more from us in the year to come!

The Crete Collective Board



Thabiti Anyabwile, President
PASTOR, ANACOSTIA RIVER CHURCH



Louis Love, Jr.
PASTOR, NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH



Dennae Pierre
CO-DIRECTOR, CRETE



John Onwuchekwa
CO-DIRECTOR, CRETE



Darryl Williamson, Secretary
PASTOR, LIVING FAITH
BIBLE CHURCH



Jamie Love, Treasurer
DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES,
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



Jeremy McClain
PASTOR, MERCY OF CHRIST
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Thank You!

Your support has made it possible for our planters to have the support, resources, and freedom to serve neglected and distressed Black and Brown communities. Thank you for your trust in our mission, our leadership, and our work as we continue to create cultural and spiritual renewal in the communities we love.



The
Crete Collective