embedded

imbedəd/ adjective: Fixed firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass; implanted.

ate nazarene

Dr. Joseph Dagostino III, *lead pastor*
Rev. Gary Klinger, *administrative pastor*
Rev. Elias Cabello, *Hispanic ministries pastor*
Rev. Joey Claus, *youth & young adult pastor*
Abby Schnepp, *worship leader*

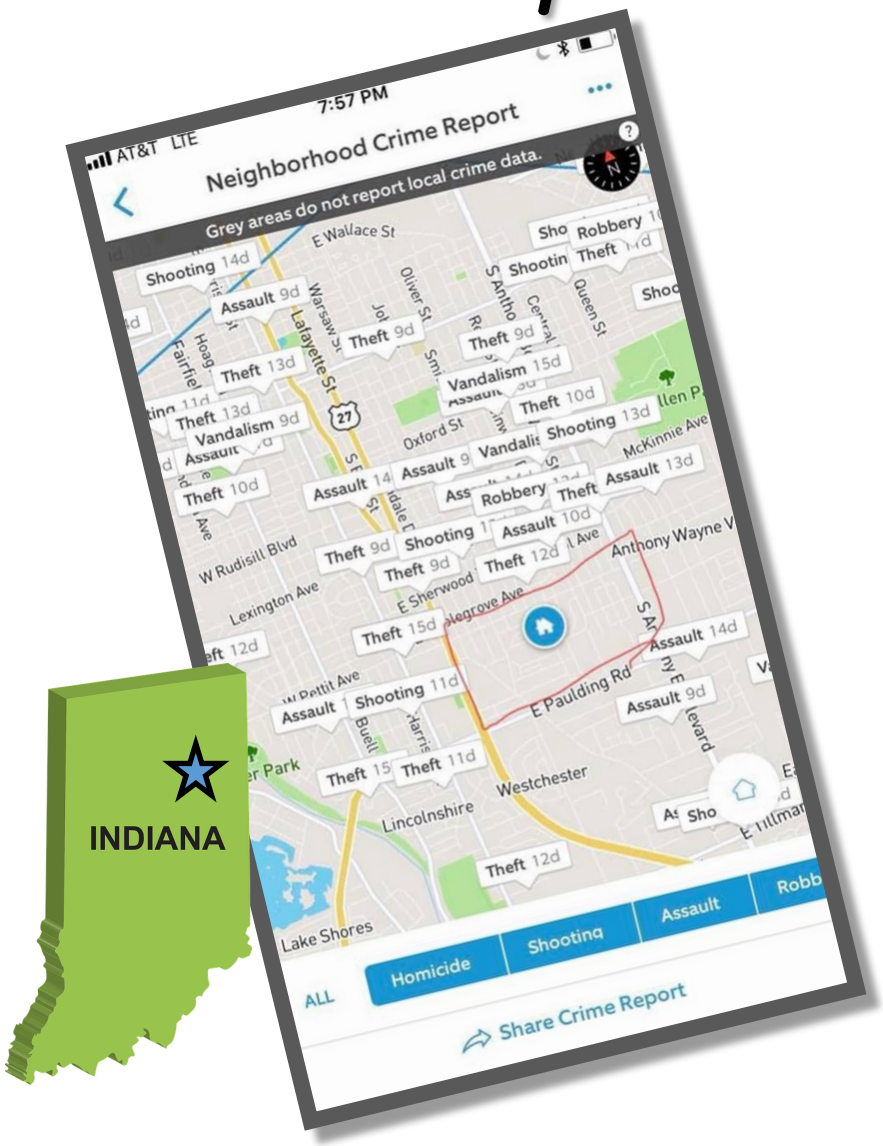
what does it mean?

Our mission is going to shift, to intentionally increase our **embeddedness** in the **area surrounding AFC**, and intentionally partner with the members of our immediate community to develop a thriving and sustainable neighborhood.

our goal in this new mission...

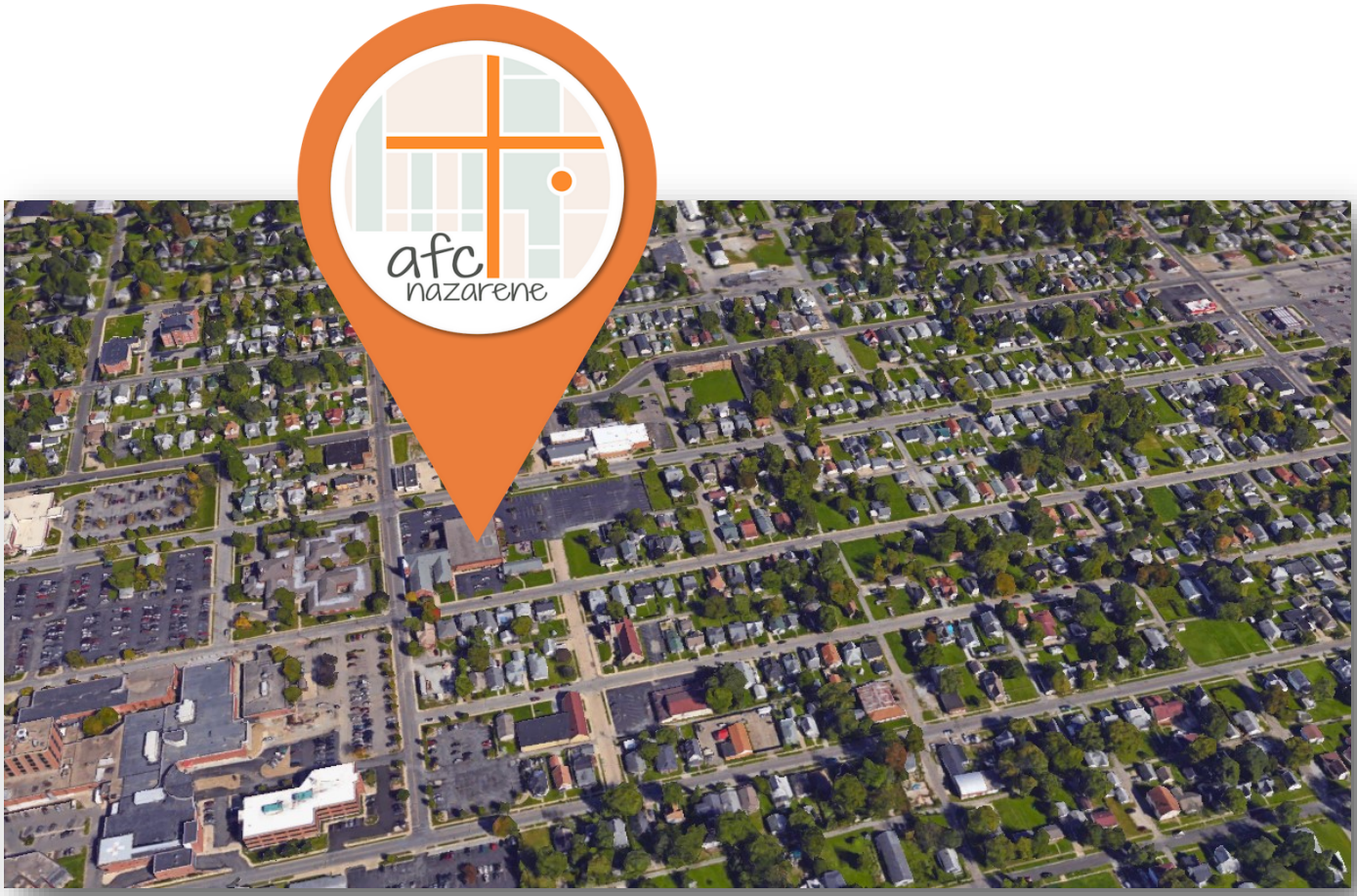
- to impact firsthand, an increase in community, safety, esthetics, and health in our immediate area.
- to impact a decrease in all types of crime, segregation, violence, and community disconnection.

who is our model for this type of community development?



The Many Nations bridge church of Grace Point Nazarene Church in Ft Wayne, IN. If you look at the image, there is no crime surrounding the area of the church. Amazing!

If each church partnered with the people living in their surrounding areas, imagine what could begin to happen within those communities!



AFC is HERE...

we SEE...

and we CARE...

it requires:

- willingness to go **BEYOND** our current dreams of what God can do through us as individuals and as a church.
- Going **BEYOND** conventional church ministry and transitioning to intentional community connections.
- a **stretch** on our view of funds.
- practical implementation of the words of Jesus **that we can go on and do greater things**.
- **serving** and **embracing** those different than us.
- going **BEYOND** our current understanding of who "the church" is called to be and transforming our actions into those that reflect the community binding church of Acts.
- us to **shift** from a charity mentality to an **education/empowerment/partnership** mentality.

this mentality shift involves...

- building relationships with our neighbors.
- challenging our prejudices.
- removing the "us" and "them" mindset.
- vulnerable conversations about what is destroying the neighborhood and those who call it home.
- the grace to patiently journey with families.
- empowering our neighbors to build on their God-given spiritual, academic, physical, and emotional strengths to transform our community.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength...Love your neighbor as yourself... No other commandment is greater than these"

Matthew 12:30-31

the vision plan:

- Sell the Pendleton property to create available funds for the community projects
- Acquire homes that are in disrepair in our target neighborhood
    - Partner with neighboring churches to rehab the homes as local mission projects
    - Maintenance of the homes in order to make them available for use by area programs such as fire rescue and women's shelters
- Build an AFC Community Center:
    - An indoor community play-space (open all week) with indoor seating
    - A Christian, foreign mission supporting coffee bar
    - A new, accessible AFC Clothes Closet
    - A community area for seniors to come during the day for activities
    - Classroom space for the Frontline Tutoring Program
    - A community, church, and neighborhood meeting area (this will assist not-for-profits in having an available meeting space)
    - Landscaping co-op: developing leaders from the community and providing job expertise for those you, all while improving the esthetics of the neighborhood and easing the burden on those less able
    - Life skills: financial literacy classes, ESL classes, cooking/baking classes, parenting classes, music lessons, Bible studies, etc…
    - Crime & safety: adopt-a-block, crime prevention education, possible home owners committee

building + transforming community

we believe...
...in the gospel of Jesus Christ and its power to transform individual lives and whole communities.

...that each person possesses God-given capacity and power to affect positive change.

...that real and lasting change occurs from the inside out.

Living in an underserved community, with blighted properties and demographics can often take a toll on the spiritual and psychological well-being of a person and, consequently, of an entire community. Vacancy, vandalism, unkempt properties, and a crumbling infrastructure not only have a depressing effect on the community, but they also convey the message that no one cares about a place of the people in it.

AFC is HERE...we SEE...and we CARE...

how can you join the mission?

- **Pray** and **fast**. This will be key in the coming days.
- Get **involved** in the summer **Mission Anderson** days.
- **Give** financially. There will be a puzzle on the wall in the new center that will honor those that gave...give in honor of someone or on behalf of someone...or just give. *(earmark as AFC Community Center)*
- **Identify** what **skills/knowledge** you have to **invest/give**
- **Be present** in the ministries housed at the AFC Community Center
- Be a **positive mouthpiece** for the **EMBEDDED** initiative!

We must all partner TOGETHER for this fresh new vision.
Great days lie BEYOND THE HORIZON for us.
We are embedded. We believe. We are AFC.

my prayer journal