

VINEYARD NORTHWEST  
**20**  
*years*

The complete guide to the  
church's first 20 years.

# VINEYARD NORTHWEST TIMELINE

## the Second Lustrum

2006 - 2011

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2001



## the First Lustrum

2001 - 2006

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**Before the Plant....** The Lord gave Van Isaiah 37:30 as a ministry promise when he and Laurie moved here in 1999. "Then this shall be the sign for you: you shall eat this year what grows of itself, in the second year what springs from the same, and in the third-year sow, reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit."

*Lustrum* - a 5 year period of time

## the Fourth Lustrum

2016 - 2021

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2021



## the Third Lustrum

2011 - 2016

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At the time Van thought this was a promise for the church he originally came here to pastor. As things turned out, they left that church and at the beginning of their third year in Cincinnati they planted Vineyard Northwest. (By the way, the church they left has prospered, has a great pastor and is still going strong. Praise God!)

# The First Lustrum

2001 - 2006

**Late February 2001** - Steve Sjogren agreed to serve as our church planting coach. His wisdom, encouragement, and friendship were a foundational part of the formation of the church. Van and Laurie met at the Northgate Mall to plan the new church. They determined they needed 35+ committed volunteers to start and went away wondering how this could ever happen.

**April 2001** - First prayer meeting at Van and Laurie's with 8 people total.

First prophetic words...

"I will forge my church out of broken people."

"When this church is birthed, no one will wonder who its daddy is."

Showed John Wimber's story "I'm a Fool for Christ, Whose Fool are You?" to 38 people.

Easter celebration event at the YMCA in the room we would eventually rent.

**May 2001** - Interest meeting at Northwest Community Presbyterian Church - 75 in attendance.

Made contact with Springdale Chapel, a Mennonite Church, "Here's the key, have as many copies made as you need".

A local business owned by a man who was saved in the very first Vineyard gave the church \$5000 a month! This continued for 18-24 months. We saved this money for capital expenses, which enabled us to buy the land on Round Top Road.

**June 2001** - First official Saturday night service at Springdale Chapel! Began doing regular Servant Evangelism outreaches. Met Tyler Brown, who eventually became our worship leader.

**July 2001** - Approached YMCA with proposal to renovate and rent large basement room. John Green led negotiations with the Y for several months before an agreement was reached.

Assistant Y manager had actually been part of a church plant in her

past and was very supportive.

**August 2001** - Invited Tyler Brown to a worship practice with our worship team. Two weeks later named Tyler as our first worship leader.

**September 2001** - Had our first Holy Spirit training event, Learning to Minister Like Jesus, led by Dave Neukomm and a team from the Champaign Vineyard, the church Van and Laurie came from.

**December 2001** - A Christmas Dinner and candle lighting service at Northwest Presbyterian church was attended by over 130 people. Announced our first two staff hires – Tyler Brown as Worship Leader and Karen Walton as Children’s Ministry Director. Did our first Christmas Outreach – candle give away to neighbors of Springdale Chapel.

**March 2002** - We left Saturday night services at Springdale Chapel and moved to Sunday mornings at the YMCA on Palm Sunday, March 24. First service at the YMCA with 139 people in attendance – it grew steadily from there.

**April 2002** - Went to two services around this time.

**June/July 2002** - Met Ceasar and Edel Lopez who introduced us to Emilio Lopez and a church planting ministry Guatemala we engaged with for 10+ years.

**October/November 2002** - Invited Emilio Lopez, Guatemala Church Planter, to Vineyard Northwest.

**Spring 2003** - Had our very first ALPHA course at Vineyard Northwest. Holy Spirit Day (part of ALPHA) was very powerful and the Holy Spirit fell on many people.

**April/May 2003** - First trip to Guatemala – Van, Ray Strecker, Dave Workman, and another Vineyard Pastor. There were many trips by many of our people over the next 10 years.

### **January/ February 2004**

The church was maxed out in space – no more room for new people. On a Sunday during worship Van was calling out to God “What are we going to do?” God answered simply, “Test me!” Van took that as a Malachi 3:10 type of test. God spoke this very strongly to Van two more times that day.

### **Spring/Early Summer 2004**

The property on Round Top Road became available and we bought it. With John Green in the lead, we established a facilities planning team. The team settled on using the design-build firm Hi-Five and worked with them for months developing the facility design and a financial plan.

### **September 2004**

We hired Dale MacMillian as our first Youth Pastor! Dale and Wendy began to work with the dozen or so committed teens we had to develop a vibrant and growing youth ministry called Flipside.

### **January/February 2005**

We conducted a giving emphasis called “The Next Step Campaign.” Since we only had a 4-year track record, PNC was the only bank willing to consider giving us a loan, and they required a down payment of \$500,000. We had around 300 in Sunday morning attendance at the time.

### **February 2005**

We received a “First Fruits Offering” at Receptions in Fairfield, praying for \$500,000.00. We received close to \$750,000! People gave stock, cash, jewelry, a coin collection, family heirlooms, and property!

### **June 2005**

We had a dedication service on the property and work on the new facility started this month! Everett Henry, faithful member of Vineyard Northwest, used his business, construction, and management experience to serve as our man on site working with the Hi-5 construction foreman to answer questions and make sure it was all done right.

**Summer of 2005 to Spring of 2006**

We experienced a lot of excitement and anticipation of moving into the new facility. Attendance at the YMCA bulged to maximum capacity. Flipside continued to prosper. ALPHA continued to progress.

**June 2006**

We had our first service in the new facility!

# The Second Lustrum

2006 - 2011

## **April 2006**

We had a dedication event where we wrote prayers, Bible verses, prophetic words, and people's names we were praying for on the auditorium walls before the walls were painted.

## **Mid-June 2006**

We had our final service at the YMCA – a lot of excitement and energy as we concluded a chapter of the church's life. We all sang the Village People's YMCA with gusto and full hand motions!

## **June 25, 2006**

First service open to the public in the new facility! I remember one of the worship songs was "My Glorious" which summed up how we all felt – humbled, joyful, and God is so good!

## **September 2006**

We moved into the Round Top Road facility with about 400 people on June 25. By September we had a baptism service with over 900 in attendance. For the staff, the rest of that year was spent just trying to keep up and hold on. Within 6 months we realized that our pre-school children's ministry needed more space. We had to take out two adjacent rooms to accommodate all the new young families with all the young children.

## **2007-2008**

Several new ministries were started: Scott Osterfeld ran Divorce Care and Divorce Care for Kids.

Jody Burgin started a highly successful Celebrate Recovery ministry.

Alpha grew into a very strong ministry in the church, with follow-up classes on Philippians and The Sermon on the Mount.

We continued support for the church plant in Guatemala City, sending teams once or twice yearly.



We also started another missions effort when Van made a trip to Mozambique with a few other pastors to help with a regional pastor's conference for rural pastors.

Flipside, our ministry to teens, entered our first "golden season" of youth ministry with weekly packed out meetings and powerful summer camp ministry.

From the beginning of the YMCA days we have had an excellent Children's Ministry. Karen Walton and Joy Dreyer made sure the ministry was safe and fun, and focused on teaching the children about Jesus at an age appropriate level.

## **2009-2011**

**2009** - We averaged over 900 people weekly. But these were tough years. Our infrastructure wasn't developed to the point it could support the sustained numbers we were seeing on Sundays. In addition to that, we had two very painful staff changes. In general, there was unrest on the staff. Several staff were upset with me (Van). In at least some respects their frustration with me was justified. I needed to grow as a leader.

One of the bright spots of our infrastructure in these years was Renee Osterfeld handling our finances in an excellent way, building up a reserve to carry us through the transitions that lay ahead.

Also in 2009 we were sent and supported Mynor and Isis Canal to plant La Vina, Price Hill. The church is still going strong and reaching people for Jesus!

September 2009 – Bill Jackson (Jax), longtime Vineyard Pastor and personal friend of Van and Laurie's, did a weekend seminar on the Kingdom of God called Nothingsgonnastoppit. It had a powerful impact! Jax is well known as the author of "The Quest for the Radical Middle" – a history of the Vineyard Movement.

Other Significant Events...

Ray Strecker led a class on ministry to the poor and hungry of the world.

Dale MacMillian and our teen ministry, led a team to New Orleans to help with Hurricane Katrina.

A group of our women made a ministry trip to Guatemala.

Summer of 2009 we did “Carnivol” - a major outreach in a needy neighborhood

With the rapid growth, we had lost a clear focus of our vision. This is when God began to renew our original vision for Holy Spirit. It started one Sunday right after the service ended. I looked at the church from the stage. The place was absolutely packed. And I thought to myself, “This is not the church God called us to build. We need to press into more of the Holy Spirit and gifts of the Spirit.” We had become a great semi-Holy Spirit church with great worship and good messages. But the mass of our people seemed content with the level of Holy Spirit and prophetic ministry we had. Laurie and I felt certain God was calling us to more. Together, we said, “Yes” to His fresh call. We decided that whatever it takes, whatever the cost, we would steer back to the original vision. That was an exciting moment! Yet a lot of pain lay ahead before we would begin to see the fruit of our renewed commitment to more of the Holy Spirit.

**2010** – By the end of 2010, one of the painful staff changes from 2009 cost us at least 200 people. As one writer put it, “these were the times that test men’s souls.” On the brighter side, in 2010 Van and Laurie took a missions trip to South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Due to the Iceland Volcano of 2010, they were stranded for close to 2 weeks in South Africa – a time of needed rest.

On the very bright side, in 2010-2011, Laurie led us into an emphasis on Coaching Ministry. She arranged for Bob Logan to come from California to Vineyard Northwest to train a group of our staff and lay leaders over the course of 6 months. This ministry is growing in our church today with over trained a coaches.

As well, Ray Strecker led a team that developed an all church yard sale – it was an amazing effort - we raised \$14,000 and paid for building a well in Nigeria and Zimbabwe!

We also hosted a Vineyard Regional Women's Conference at the church.

**2011 –**

**January 2011** – Van and Laurie joined a group from the church on a missions trip to Haiti, led by Larry and Vicky Herlinger. It was a great trip. Van led a conference for a group of pastor's in one of the poorest of neighborhoods. During the conference a witch doctor came to the street outside the church and made a sacrifice and some sort of offering in order to oppose what we were doing. It had no effect.

**Winter 2011** - Tensions on the staff came to a head in the winter of 2011. First, one key staff member resigned, then another a week later. In a 2-3 month period 8 out of 14 staff members resigned. They were all good people who left in an honoring way, but four filled major staff roles in our church's ministry. As leaders, times like this serve to humble us, shape our character, soften our hearts, and test our resolve.

During this season Leigh Marsh rose up from office manager to a more prominent role of pastoring people. She was a source of great strength and encouragement. Then God brought Dave King to serve as our executive pastor. Dave was a highly gifted and respected leader and pastor in the Cincinnati area. He was the right man for the job! We began to rebuild the staff.

While 2011 began with pain and storm clouds on the horizon, it ended with hope and the beginning of a clarified call from God.

# The Third Lustrum

2011 - 2016

For context, in the first 3 months of 2011 we had 8 out of 14 staff members resign, four had filled major staff roles. This led us to examine our infrastructure, specifically as it relates to leading the staff. We concluded that there was the need for an Executive Pastor and began the process of finding the right one.

**Late Spring/Early Summer 2011** – Dave King came on staff as our first Executive Pastor. Dave was a highly respected and gifted pastor from the Cincinnati Area. Several years before he had served as our Small Groups Pastor, we knew Dave well and he knew the church. Dave’s leadership, pastoral, and administrative gifts shined. We rebuilt the staff and Dave pastored the staff.

During this season Leigh Marsh rose up as a strong encourager. Her role shifted from simply office manager to licensed pastor. Leigh listened well and encouraged the staff. She did pre-marital counseling and conducted weddings. She was a great support to Laurie and me.

**October 2011** – We had Robby Dawkins speak at Vineyard Northwest as one of the main speakers at a YWAM hosted event. We were familiar with Robby from vineyard USA meetings, but didn’t know him well at this point. But we had been impacted by the movie *Furious Love*, which had featured Robby in one segment. *Furious Love* was a documentary about God’s supernatural work around the world. This is what we hungered for and were so excited to have Robby here! We’ve had Robby back just about every year since and have experienced tremendous blessing through his ministry.

**Late 2011 – Early 2012** – At some point in these 2 years I received a prophetic word from Dan Hack, “God says, ‘I’m doing a new thing in Vineyard Northwest. But it’s not really new. I’m just calling you back to your roots.’” I took this to mean a fresh focus and emphasis

on Holy Spirit and prophetic ministry.

**January 2012** – Two prophetic women leaders in our church gave similar words – Kendra Barrow and Lou Trishler. I had them both share their words in a Sunday morning service in early January.

**March 2012** – We sent Dale and Wendy MacMillian to plant a Vineyard Church in Frisco, Texas, part of the greater Dallas area.

**Summer 2012** – Jacob Herald, our Youth Pastor at the time, and Wilson Cochrane led a teen mission trip to support our church plant in Guatemala City.

**September 2012** – In response to the prophetic words we'd been receiving, Van developed and taught a class on prophetic ministry.

**December 2012** – We had a big and well-attended volunteer appreciation event at Receptions in Fairfield. Dave King danced in a tu-tu. Enough said.

**January 2013** – BIG MOMENT! – The Colerain House Group started in Van and Laurie's basement – led by Luke Haselmayer, Wil and Jen Cochrane, and Amanda Patten. It eventually multiplied into 8 House Groups across the city and impacted thousands of young adults. It was centered around Holy Spirit gifts ministry, worship, Bible study, power evangelism, and prophetic ministry. Over the next few years, House Group would have a huge impact on the church's move into more and more Holy Spirit and prophetic ministry.

Also this month Laurie led a team of women on a ministry trip to serve our church plant in Guatemala City.

**July 2013** – Another ministry trip to Guatemala led by Wilson Cochrane.

**October 2013** – We had Chad Dedmon and a team of Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry here for a Holy Spirit service. This is significant because it was our first real personal with

Bethel church in Northern California. Since then we've had numerous speakers from Bethel which was a big part of our growth in worship and Holy Spirit ministry.

**January 2014** – Van and Laurie led a team to help celebrate the 10 Year Anniversary of La Vina Guatemala City.

**May 2014** – The second House Group began when Amanda Patten and Sanjay Nelson took a group to Forrest Park to start a House Group. Both House Groups (Colerain and Forest Park) flourished.

**Spring of 2014** – Crossroads Westside opened. As I pondered this, I had a moment when I felt a spirit of competition start to rise up in me. I said to the Lord, "There's no way we can compete with them!" He spoke back to me instantly and said, "You don't need to compete with them, you just need to lean back into your heritage more." The heritage of the Vineyard is presence driven worship, healing, ministry to the poor and power evangelism. This was a key word that not only freed my heart to bless Crossroads, but also confirmed our fresh emphasis on Holy Spirit empowered ministry.

**July 2014** – We had our second Bethel Church speaker when Ben Fitzgerald came to Vineyard Northwest. We did our first Fire Tunnel the night Ben was here!

**September 2014** – Wilson Cochrane started our first School of Kingdom Ministry (SoKM) class. SoKM has had a tremendous impact on Vineyard Northwest. We've had consistently largest SoKM classes with. of our people going through SoKM.

**October 2014** – The third House Group was launched in Westchester by Wilson Cochrane and Jen Jordan.

**December 2014** – The fourth House Group was launched in Northside led by Luke Haselmayer and Krystal Muldrow. They passed leadership to Aaron Ross.

**January 2015** – Robby Dawkins returned to Vineyard Northwest.

**March/April 2015** – The Freedom Project raised over \$100,000.00 to be given to fight the sex slave industry, heroin addiction (The Lord’s Gym), and a ministry in India to women who need a means to support themselves and their families.

**September 2015** – The fifth House Group started in Blue Ash led by Luke Haselmayer, Jordan Pelphrey, and Shawna.

**September 2015** – We kicked off a new small group ministry with an outdoor Fall Festival. Growth Groups were 10-12 week groups on a specific topic with weekly meetings and group outreaches. They were a big hit!

**November 2015** – Robby Dawkins returned to Vineyard Northwest.

**February 2016** – We had Robby Dawkins and, for the first time, Bob Hazlett.

**March 2016** – Our Growth Groups ministry held a Chili Cook-off, won by Eric Marsh.

**April 2016** – We had Marc Marx and began our Healing on the Streets (HOTS) Ministry.

**Spring 2016** – A team of House Group young adults and staff travelled to Zimbabwe to support our church plant in Harare through street evangelism, worship and ministry training.

This 5-year period of the church’s life started with difficulty, but ended with great hope and the beginning of a more fruitful season.

# The Fourth Lustrum

2001 - 2006

This 5 year period was the beginning season of fulfillment. When Laurie and I planted the church we envisioned a church much like we've seen the past 5 years.

- A church where Holy Spirit empowered ministry and the 5-Step Prayer model was the norm.
- A Church where there is ongoing in-depth training in a Kingdom Worldview and Holy Spirit empowered ministry as we're doing in School of Kingdom Ministry.
- A church where prophetic ministry was honored and more and more of our people were growing in the prophetic. as we're seeing in School of Prophetic Ministry.
- A Church where highly gifted prophets could flourish and be valued, as we've seen.
- A church where we take ministry to the streets as we are with Healing On The Streets (HOTS), Drive Through Prayer, and a variety of outreaches.
- A church of healing for wounded leaders – pastors and prophets – as we've seen happen.
- A church where the children are as engaged with Holy Spirit Ministry, worship, and praying for the sick as the adults are, which our children's ministry, Northwest Kids, is doing.
- A church where our youth are learning truth to sustain them in their teen years, experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit, and learning to minister in the power of the Spirit, which we're seeing in our youth ministry, Student Revival.
- A church where we pursue God's manifest presence in worship and we view worship as ministering to the heart of God, which we are doing.
- A church where mercy and honor are foundational to the atmosphere, which we see as wounded people come and find acceptance and love. And we see as the broad range of ages and generations honor and value each other.
- A church where the Bible is taught clearly , lovingly, and without apology, but without the condemnation and shame that easily produce a religious



performance culture. You don't have to be perfect, just take the next step of spiritual growth with Jesus.

***During this 5 year season:***

SoKM flourished with a total of 210 students who have graduated from the 9 month course. SoPM, School of Prophetic Ministry, was developed and has grown to have a great impact – 260 participants to date.

Kingdom Pursuit – Our yearly regional conference as of 2019 had 430 in 2019 and 222 in 2020 for a total of 652 KP participants to date.

The Outpouring, our annual student retreat led by Student Revival has had a total of 676 participants over the past four years.

Summer Camp, a ministry of Northwest Kids, has had 194 students attend camp during 2017-2019 (2020 Summer Camp was cancelled due to Covid).

We developed friendships as a staff and church with Georgian Banov of Global Celebration; Jim Baker of Zion Fellowship, Columbus; Steve Witt, of Bethel Cleveland; Steve and Wendy Backlund of Bethel Church, Redding, CA; Bob Hazlett, Ascend Ministries; Mark Marx, Healing on the Streets; Scott McNamara, Jesus at the Door; And Bill Vanderbush, teacher and author.

We increased our involvement with a Vineyard Mission Partnership focused on planting a church in Harare, Zimbabwe, with Romelus Majero as the planting pastor.

Timeline:

**August 2016** – This season began with a special service to honor Steve and Janie Sjogren, founding pastors of the Cincinnati Vineyard and originators of Kindness Evangelism. As well, we were blessed to have Steve as our coach in 2001 when we planted Vineyard Northwest. It was a great weekend when 100 other pastors and leader from our region joined us to honor Steve.

**Spring 2016** – Drive Through Prayer began, led by Jim Freeburg and a team from our SoKM 2 class.

**Fall 2016** – Mark Marx, of the Colerain Vineyard, Ireland, introduced Healing on the Streets to Vineyard Northwest. We've been doing HOTS ever since.

**January 2017** – Our first older adult House Group was launched – Dry Ridge HG was led by Jim Freeburg and Kim Galati.

**September 2017** – Bill Vanderbush, author and teacher, visited Vineyard Northwest for the weekend which we titled “Freedom Conference.” He's a great and anointed teacher.

**October 2017** – Robby Dawkins came to Vineyard NW again.

**November 2017** – Jordan Pelphrey, Student Revival Pastor, held his first weekend retreat called The Outpouring. It has grown each year since, except for 2020 and Covid.

**February 2017** – The Glendale House Group started with Keenen Snyder and Kiana Walker as leaders, with Keith and Julie Froelich as key support leaders.

**March 2018** – The Hyde Park HG started with Luke and Jaime Haselmayer as leaders. They handed it off to Michael Biggs after a few months.

**May 2018** – We totally packed the church when Georgian and Winnie Banov did a conference at Vineyard Northwest. We became friends with Georgian during this 5-year season.

**Fall 2018** – Scott McNamara gave us training in Jesus at the Door – a simple and powerful way to share the Gospel.

**October 2018** – Jim Baker, of Zion Fellowship in Columbus, did a Financial Freedom Seminar. We became friends with Jim and Mary Baker during this 5 year period.

**March 2019** – Wilson travelled to Pakistan and India with Robby Dawkins.

**Summer 2019** – Barnabas Coach Training, which had been a ministry of the church for several years, expended as the entire staff went through

the training.

**Spring 2019** – We held the Fresh Campaign and raised \$245,000 to upgrade our live stream capabilities and refresh the colors’ logos, and signage. We gave \$25,000 (10%) to Colerain Township to support the Quick Response addiction program.

**October 2019** – Barb Steffens and Traci Brookes started a Women’s House Group.

**November 2019** – We held our first major conference, Kingdom Pursuit, with Randy Clark as the featured speaker. It was a powerful conference with a full house!

**Christmas 2019** – We had over 100 people show up Christmas morning to do an outreach to homeless in downtown Cincinnati – many families with children joined in.

**February 2020** – Sarah Anderson organized and led a Vineyard Children’s Ministry Conference called “The Center.”

**March 2020** – The Covid Pandemic became a reality to vineyard Northwest. We went for 3 months without meeting in person and did Live Stream Church. Fortunately, we had just completed the refresh of the building which included great upgrades to our live stream capabilities! In a prophetic culture there are times you do the right thing at the right time without knowing why until later!

**June 14, 2020** – We re-engaged with in person worship services with 40-50% of our people.

**Spring- Summer 2020** – We did several outreaches to the community. A huge food give away project which served over 125 families in one day. In cooperation with NYPD Pizza, we gave a free pizza to all the police, firefighters, and emergency workers in Colerain Township. In cooperation with Tag’s we gave 100 free family style meals to families in need.

**September 2020** – We went ahead with our second Kingdom Pursuit

Conference with Wendy Backlund and Putty Putman as keynote speakers. It was a powerful conference, and considering social distancing, we had a full house.

**October 2020** – We had guest speaker Peter Lewis, from The Upper Room, Dallas.

**November 2020** – Jordan Pelphrey went ahead with our Student Revival Conference called “The Outpouring” with Peter Mattis, of Bethel Church, as the speaker and worship leader. That weekend we had an all worship Sunday with Peter Mattis leading.

**November 2020** – We had guest speaker Isaac Armstrong, who works with David Hogan.

**January 2021** – Micah Turnbo’s prophetic class officially became SoPM – School of Prophetic Ministry. The Oxford Vineyard held a class via Live Stream as our first remote test class.

**February 2021** – Robby Dawkins once again ministered in great power at vineyard Northwest.

**March 31, 2021** – Sarah Anderson officially left staff in order to focus her energies full-time on the launch of Vineyard Finneytown, September 12, 2021.

**April/May 2021** - We celebrated our 20 Year Anniversary as a church body over a four seek period from April 12 to May 2, with a banquet on May 8. Guest speakers included Steve Sjogran, Dale McMillain, Putty Putman, and Dave Workman.







# THANK YOU

FOR ALL THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE SHOWN  
THE VINEYARD NORTHWEST FAMILY. WE ARE  
EXCITED SEE WHAT GOD DOES IN THE NEXT  
TWENTY YEARS AND BEYOND!