

March, 2022

## Leader Spotlight



**JESS GILCHRIST**  
New Crew Chief,  
Liaison with River West Church

The method by which God opened doors for us to get acquainted with Jess were pretty amazing. Without getting into too much detail, let's just say that he's been working in construction for 20-years, is passionate about using his talents to bless low-income people in Jesus' name, and has been dreaming about having more opportunities for himself and his friends to bless others...a match made in heaven!

Jess works with Paulson's Floor Coverings, and is part of River West Church in Lake Oswego. A couple of weeks ago, Jess and about 20 of his friends completed a big project in Beaverton for an elderly, disabled veteran in Beaverton. You can read about it on our website by clicking [2022 Completed Projects](#) and choosing "Boyd Project." These volunteers were all brand-new to Catalyst. In addition to that, Paulson's donated all the flooring products and River West covered all other hard costs.

Jess had a great first experience as a "Crew Chief," and is already looking forward to his next assignment. We're very excited about Jess' love for the Lord and his desire to serve, and look forward to working with him on future projects.

Welcome to the Team, Jess!

## Microchurch Conference, Upcoming "Seek The Lost" Workshop

### MICROCHURCH CONFERENCE REPORT / READY TO CATALYZE NEW MICROCHURCHES

A generous donor made it possible for Marty, JJ and I to fly to Florida for the first "Microchurch Conference" during the first week of March. The event was organized by Underground Network and hosted by Greenhouse Church in Gainesville. JJ Milmore (Operations Manager) and Marty Brown (Discipleship Coach) are both fairly new to the Catalyst staff, and this was a wonderful opportunity for us to connect, learn, and dream together. Leaders from all over the world were there to worship Jesus and be inspired by each other. It was truly amazing! Brian Sanders – author, speaker, and co-founder of Underground Network – had this to say:

*"The first Microchurch Conference was so encouraging. I think there is a wonderful irony in a large conference that serves people trying to lead the smallest expressions of church. It is surprisingly life giving for people engaged in everyday mission, in ordinary places, by humble means, to gather (if only for a day) to see that they are a part of something bigger. It can be easy to forget that we are not alone. I am thankful today for this modest event that gave me fresh courage and hope. And for all of you who came and contributed. Let's keep finding ways to collaborate, learn, grow and support each other."*

We have been believing for many years that God wants to use Catalyst to help expand His Kingdom beyond us, and collaborating with Underground and dozens of other kindred networks over the past 4-years has enabled us to put language and form to our dreams. We believe that coming months and years will see the beginning of new and innovative ministry initiatives that will become part of the Catalyst Network family. There are also several other existing Portland-area ministries & churches who are looking to us for inspiration, equipping, & encouragement; as so many are also feeling the call to "go smaller" in their discipleship efforts.

Our model is to affirm, empower, and release a network of Microchurches that are supported by a city-wide network for camaraderie, coaching, and resourcing. The construction-repair program of Catalyst Partnerships was the initial expression, or "Microchurch"...just think of all the wonderful new ministry platforms that can be created in the next several years, as we invest in the dreams of the next wave of emerging ministry leaders!



-Shawn Mitchell

## Praises & Prayers

- **CARING & MAKING DISCIPLES** – We're passionate about providing ongoing emotional & spiritual support for clients, volunteers, and partners we have served with in the past. These efforts have ramped-up tremendously this year with the addition of Marty Brown to our staff. Please pray for Marty, and the ministry volunteers he is training, as they continue to meet needs and share the Gospel with people we come into contact with.
- **NEW NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIPS & MICROCHURCHES** – As said above in more detail, we are embarking by faith into a new season. As we continue with the ministry that God has begun through Catalyst, please pray that God will be leading us, and those who partner with us, in the creation of new partnerships and microchurches so that Jesus' love will be demonstrated into all forms of brokenness and His Gospel proclaimed.
- **THANK YOU NEW FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS** – Late in 2021, we welcomed some new supporters to the missionary-funding of Catalyst Network (the "Church Side"). This made a tremendous difference, we praise God for you all who support this vital work!
- **WORKSHOPS** – We will be offering several training workshops this year to help equip God's people for ministry. Please be praying for wisdom and divine appointments, so that these experiences will truly be tools in God's hands to help shape all of us according to His designs.

### CATALYST NW VISION

*We envision a reality where followers of Jesus are valued for their character and generosity toward people in their communities; demonstrating God's presence in ways that transform neighborhoods, equip ordinary people to become His heroes, and draw new people into His family.*