



# ORCHARD GROUP



## Annual Report

Journey through 2023,  
and look ahead to 2024.



## Annual Report

### Orchard Group

Connecting church  
planters and generous  
partners to establish  
churches in cities  
since 1948.

**WE WANT  
PEOPLE  
EVERYWHERE  
TO KNOW  
JESUS**

City Church OTR, Cincinnati

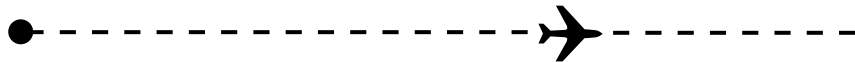






## Destinations

- 2 Journey Together
- 4 NYC 75th Anniversary
- 6 Boise
- 7 Portland
- 8 Ojai Valley
- 9 Tampa
- 10 Denver Project
- 12 Brunswick Project
- 14 Bergen County Project
- 16 San Diego Project
- 18 Bucharest Project
- 19 Hamburg Project
- 20 Orchard Group Metrics
- 22 World Map



## Journey Together

**A**s we celebrated Orchard Group's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023, we talked a lot about history. But I'd like to do something different in this year's report: look to what's ahead. To me, it feels like the start of a new era – the beginning of our next 25 years as a church planting ministry.

Last year marked my 20th year serving on staff with this wonderful organization. From my zoomed-out perspective, there have now been four distinct "eras" of Orchard Group. There was the era of the Go Ye Chapel street evangelism in and around NYC. Then the era of modest church planting on Long Island and in New Jersey. Followed by an era of more aggressive church planting strategies throughout the northeastern US. And since 2009, we've been focused on multiplying churches in and around global cities.

The Bible references the men of Issachar who "understood the times and knew what Israel should do." In the book of Acts, Paul says that David "served the purpose of God in his own generation." If anyone were to produce a book, documentary, or podcast about Orchard Group today, I would like to think it would be fair for the journalist to say, "The leaders of Orchard Group understood the times and

knew what they should do. They served the purposes of God in their own generation."

Our generation is global, mobile, and virtual, and these trends only continue to accelerate. The growth of cities continues to outpace that of rural areas and small towns. Cities are less churchied than their surrounding areas. Church attendance continues to decline throughout the US and in many other countries. Yet, we still believe that starting new churches in and around major cities is the best way to share the good news of Jesus with people who need him desperately.

Last year we celebrated the launch of four new churches. And I'm excited to announce that in 2024, we will see new churches launch in six cities: four in the US and two in Europe. In this report, we'll "fly over" these 10 new Orchard Group churches. Along the route, you'll encounter QR codes which tell you that there is a video component that shares more of the story. They'll look like the one below, and you won't want to skip them! Let's go...

Brent Storms  
Orchard Group  
President



**Watch 2023 Recap Video**  
(orchard.group/report)





## NEW YORK CITY

1



Watch 75th Video  
(orchard.group/75)

## 75th Anniversary

It's hard to believe, but 2023 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> year of church planting ministry for Orchard Group. Thank you for celebrating with us by sharing notes, memories, and old photos. In addition, many of you contributed to the 75<sup>th</sup> campaign fund, helping to fuel coming decades of church planting. We are grateful for generous and praying individuals, for courageous church planters, and for steadfastly partnering churches. Most of all, we are grateful to God for all that He has done and all He has yet to do. There's much more to do.

As we are looking forward, pray with us that the next 25 years are even more fruitful than the last 75!

Gratefully,  
The Orchard Group Team

**Amanda Sears**

Accountant – Raleigh

**Brent Storms**

President and CEO – Ventura

**Danielle Selgo**

Designer – Columbus

**Greg Hubbard**

Head of Operations – Philadelphia

**Jema Valle**

Event Coordinator – Santa Barbara

**Jessica & Jordan Rice**

Co-Directors of Coaching and Care  
New York City

**Luke Greer**

Head of Partner Development  
Chicago

**Nick Parsons**

Head of Planter Development  
San Francisco

**Paolo Hugo**

Media Creator – New York City

**Robert Tomko**

Controller – Philadelphia

**Tanner Green**

New England Regional Director – Warwick



Orchard Group 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, NYC



## New Churches Launched in 2023



### **Oasis City Church**

800+ people of Boise showed up at launch and many took their next step in growing their faith in Jesus.

"Until Boise looks like heaven, the mission isn't over!"  
—Landon & Brooke Hairgrove



Meet the Hairgroves on Video  
([orchard.group/boise](https://orchard.group/boise))

BOISE

2





### Counterculture Church

"We were overjoyed by real Portlanders coming out for launch – drinking delicious coffee, experiencing the songs of Jesus, and hearing the message of mercy not merit."  
—Jesse & Rebekah Lusko



Portland Redux Art Showcase



Meet the Luskos on Video  
(orchard.group/portland)

3

PORTLAND

## Ministry Snapshot

Counterculture values the arts community and believes artists are a beautiful reflection of the image of God and make Portland a better city for all. In 2023, they hosted an art showcase, featuring six local artists, musicians, and chefs. 400+ people came through, and all donations went to Oregon Foster Care. After the event, they purchased new furniture and decor to makeover four rooms at the East Portland Family Services DHS building, which serves over 500 children in foster care.



OJAI

4

## New Churches Launched in 2023



Meet the Costellos  
on Video  
(orchard.group/ojai)



Ojai Valley, California



### **Refuge Church**

The Ojai Valley is famous for its creativity, beauty, and focus on spirituality, but not yet for knowing Jesus.

"We're praying that in future generations, the number one thing that Ojai will be famous for is Jesus."  
—Kyle & Joy Costello





## T A M P A

5

Meet the Frères on Video  
(orchard.group/tampa)



John Ortiz baptized in Tampa



### Rū Church

"Rū is short for the word 'Ruah' which means Spirit. Our vision is to see the city filled with people who are filled with the Spirit of God."  
—Isaac & Vanessa Petit Frère

## Ministry Snapshot

Rū Church launched in September and had over 50 baptisms by Christmas. John Ortiz, a Tampan who prior to attending Rū had grown some strong feelings against the Christian church, was one of these 50+. After giving his life to Jesus, John was able to baptize each member of his family alongside lead pastor Isaac Petit Frère.

## Coming in 2024: Denver Project

Denver's breathtaking mountains and vibrant urban culture make it one of the fastest-growing large cities in the nation. It's an environment that draws in people seeking something more: more recreation, more for their careers, more for their family, and – at a deeper level – more purpose.

It's a city desperately in need of hope. Nate and Michaela Gay desire to create a community where people can become deeply devoted disciples of Jesus. Their prayer and vision is: In Denver as in heaven.



Nate and Michaela Gay

DENVER

6



Meet the Gays on Video  
([orchard.group/denver](https://orchard.group/denver))







## Coming in 2024: Brunswick Project

Maine is world-renowned for its unbelievable scenery, famous lobster, and endless outdoor opportunities. But Maine is also reported to have the second-lowest weekly church attendance in the country. Brunswick, once marked by vibrant churches, has now become a place in desperate need of the

restorative communities of God. **Justin and Ashley Weece** have a burning passion to see the people of Maine discover a new way of life through Jesus. They believe God is doing something new in Maine; they are excited to join the story God is crafting for the people here – the story of the way life is meant to be.

Brunswick, Maine





7

## BRUNSWICK



Justin and Ashley Weece



Meet the Weeces on Video  
([orchard.group/brunswick](https://orchard.group/brunswick))



Museum on the campus of Bowdoin College





Brandon and Malia Cobb



## Coming in 2024: Bergen County Project

Bergen County is home to 1 million residents and has been home to some incredibly influential people: Jay-Z and Beyonce, Alicia Keys, Patrick Ewing, Chris Rock, Martha Stewart, and many more. Yet, North Jersey is also home to many poor and overlooked people. As socio-economic factors push people from the center city to the outer city, resources to uplift this population have lagged, leaving some families in a cycle of poverty or recidivism.

It is this place of influence and of need that **Brandon and Malia Cobb** are proud to call home, and where they have a vision to establish a new church community. The Bergen County Project will serve those on the “mountaintop” and those in the “valley,” working to bridge the gap to new and meaningful life in Jesus.

### BERGEN COUNTY

8



Meet the Cobbs on Video  
(orchard.group/bergen)



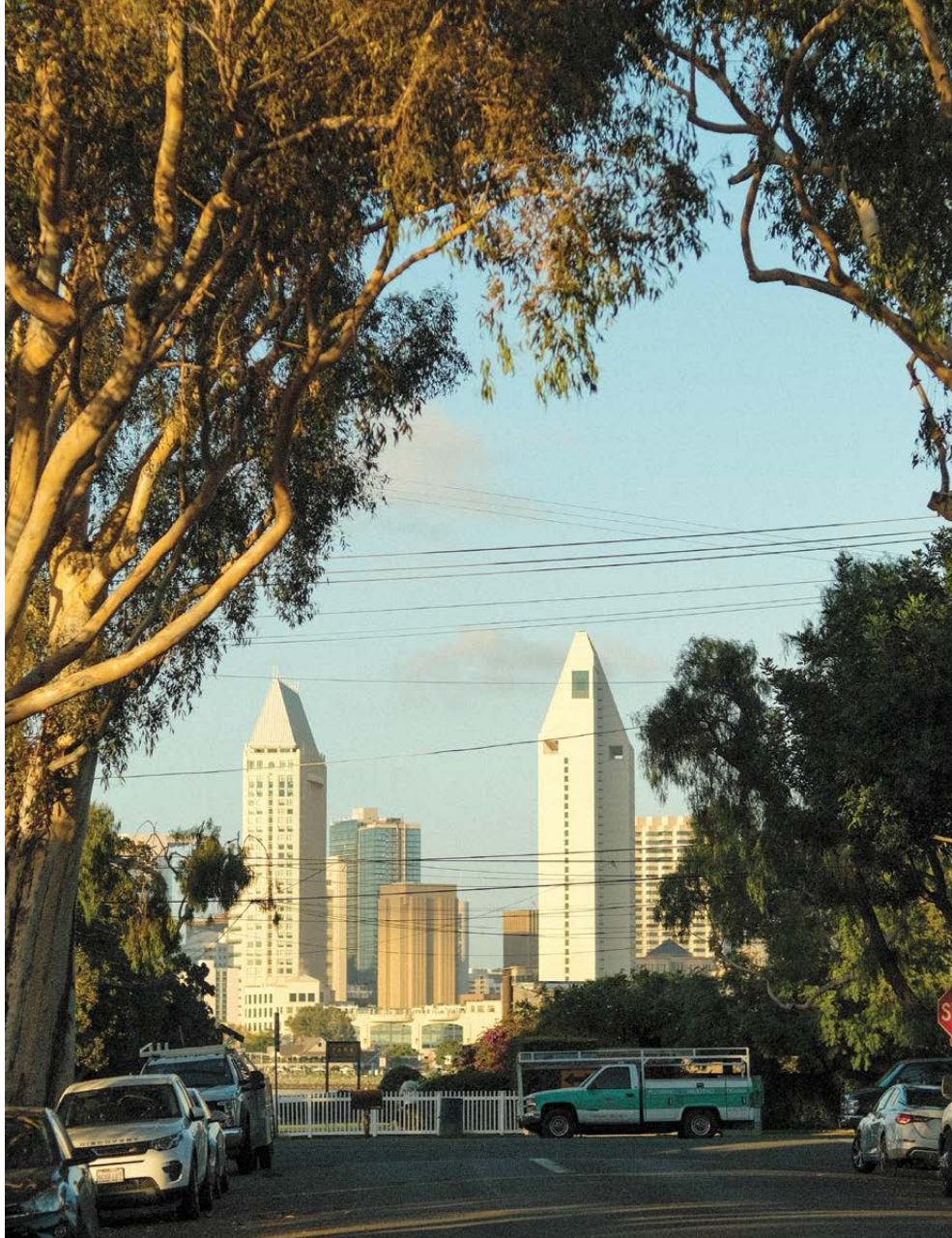
Bergen County, New Jersey



## **Coming in 2024: San Diego Project**

San Diego is home to 1.3 million people and is marked by its diverse micro-communities, offering dozens of radically different cultures within close proximity. **Jake and Kaelia Vayda** want to plant a new church to reach this diverse and vibrant place. So many people in Southern California have simply never encountered Jesus or an understandable message about who he is. San Diegans desire to be generous, communal, and even spiritual; too many just haven't found a place that meets those needs and desires. This church will show Jesus's life and work as the bridge to the life that the people of San Diego have always wanted.





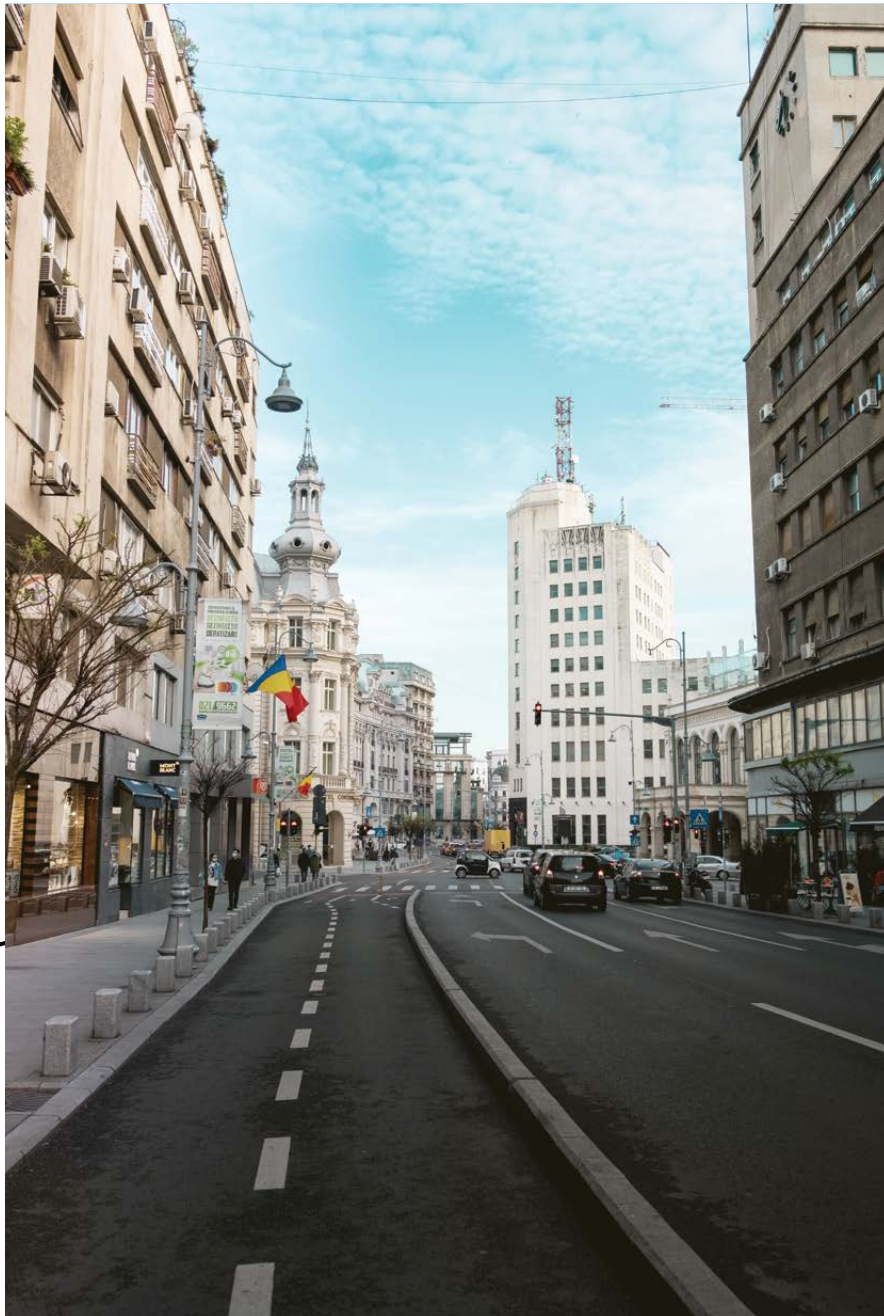
San Diego



**Meet the Vaydas on Video**  
(orchard.group/sandiego)



## New Churches in Europe



Bucharest, Romania

## Coming in 2024: Bucharest Project

"A life-giving church that shapes society." That's how **Daniel and Alina Bocancea** talk about the church that God has called them to plant in Bucharest – the capital and largest city in Romania. Daniel and Alina's desire is to see the church reaching the people of Bucharest and becoming a hub for the gospel that can start to impact the other Eastern European countries and cities as well. They dream of the day when their city is restored from the past communist regime, with people reminded that they are created with value and that God loves them.



Daniel and Alina Bocancea





Hamburg, Germany

## HAMBURG

11

Rudi and Mirjam Opoku



## Coming in 2024: Hamburg Project

With 2 million people in the city and more than 5 million in the metro, Hamburg is one of Germany's most important cities. **Rudi and Mirjam Opoku** are Hamburg locals who love their city. Right now, they are working to start a new church that will show people that Jesus is the way. Rudi and Mirjam share, "For us, Jesus is the reason and the beginning of our way as a church – for everything we do. He moves us. We focus on him and his life-changing message, and we want our community to know his gospel and his grace."



## Orchard Group 2023 Metrics



New York City

### Positive Change

Orchard Group was started in New York City and has been planting churches in metropolitan areas for over 75 years. We believe starting new churches is the best way to reach new residents, new people groups, and new generations with the Christian gospel. And we believe reaching people with the gospel is the best way to bring about enduring, positive change in our world.



Accelerate Church, Camden NJ



Lead Couples Retreat, Miami



METRICS

**Orchard Group Church Plants**  
25,000+ people reached in 2023  
1,200+ people baptized in 2023  
90% success rate of churches becoming self-sustaining, governing, and multiplying

YEAR OVER YEAR GROWTH

Churches planted with Orchard Group grow year over year in attendance (average weekly attendance) and reach (annual peak attendance).

r = reach  
a = attendance

r=300
a=175

churches 1-5 years old

r=600
a=350

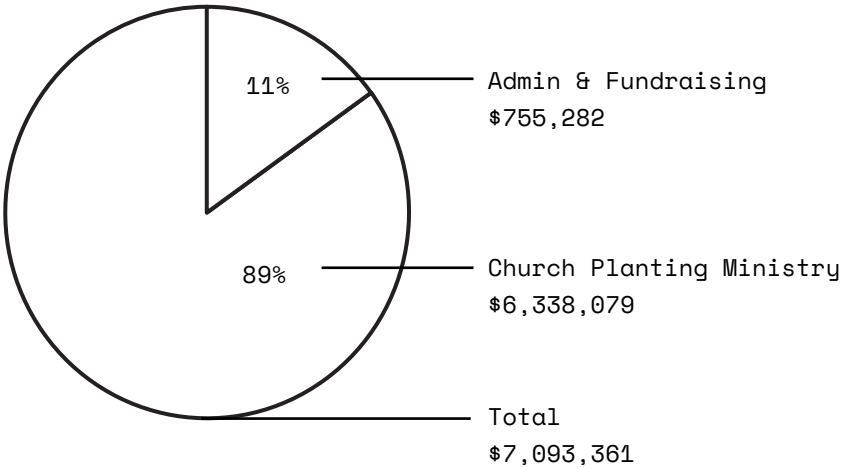
churches 6-10 years old

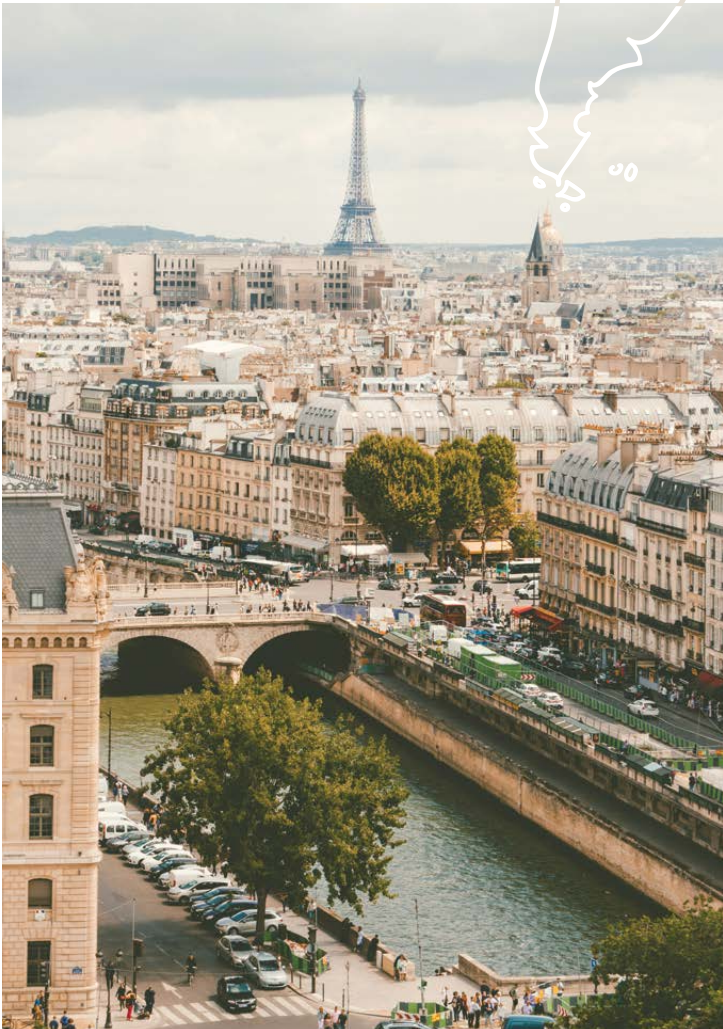
r=1200
a=700

churches 11+ years old

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2022-2023





Paris, France

## ● Join the journey

Share this report  
[orchard.group/report](https://orchard.group/report)

Join our prayer team  
[orchard.group/pray](https://orchard.group/pray)

Give to one of the churches  
preparing to launch in 2024  
[orchard.group/give](https://orchard.group/give)





## PLANTING CHURCHES IN CITIES SINCE 1948

**Coming in 2024** – Denver Project (Denver, CO), Brunswick Project (Brunswick, ME), Bergen County Project (Bergen County, NJ), San Diego Project (San Diego, CA), Bucharest Project (Bucharest, Romania), Hamburg Project (Hamburg, Germany) – **2023** – Oasis City Church (Boise, ID), Counterculture Church (Portland, OR), Refuge Church (Ojai, CA), Rū Church (Tampa, FL) – **2022** – City Coast Church (Fairfield County, CT), SoFlo Church (West Palm Beach, FL), The House (Ferguson, MO) – **2021** – History Makers Church (Greater Miami, FL), Beacon Church (Derry, NH), Accelerate Church (Camden, NJ), Reunion Church (New York City, NY), City Church OTR (Cincinnati, OH), New City Church (Oakland, CA), Hopeville Church (Baltimore, MD) – **2020** – Community Church (Babylon, NY) – **2019** – Şehir Kilisesi (Istanbul, Turkey), SLO City Church (San Luis Obispo, CA), Icon Church (Seattle, WA) – **2018** – Delaware Christian Church (Wilmington, DE), Mission City Church (Santa Barbara, CA), Coram Deo Church (Bangalore, India) – **2017** – Pro Deo Church (Cape Town, South Africa), City Church (Lagos, Nigeria), The Gathering (Harlem, NY), Église St-Lazare (Paris, France) – **2016** – Epiphany Church (Brooklyn, NY), Trace Church (Colorado Springs, CO), Thrive Church (Orlando, FL) – **2015** – Restoration Church (Philadelphia, PA), Collective Church (Los Angeles, CA), Miami Church (Miami, FL) – **2014** – Renewal Church (Chicago, IL), Renaissance Church (Harlem, NY) – **2013**

– Redemption Church (San Francisco, CA), The Foundry (Baltimore, MD) – **2012** – Elevate Christian Church (Limerick, Ireland), Restore Church (Silver Spring, MD) – **2011** – Village Church (Buffalo, NY), Mission Christian Church (Ventura, CA), Everyday Christian Church (New York, NY), New City Church (Phoenix, AZ), Mustard Seed Christian Church (Osaka, Japan) – **1992-2010** – Mustard Seed Christian Church (Nagoya, Japan), Missio Dei Community (Salt Lake City, UT), The Hills Christian Church (Pittsburgh, PA), Revolution Christian Church (Annapolis, MD), Westchester Indian Christian Church (Yonkers, NY), Legacy Christian Church (Allentown, PA), Mosaic Christian Church (Baltimore, MD), Igreja de Cristo (New Rochelle, NY), Watermarke: Christ's Church (Bellefonte, PA), Community Christian Church (Baltimore, MD), North Shore Christian Church (Riverhead, NY), True North Community Church (Port Jefferson, NY), Church of Park Slope (Brooklyn, NY), Discovery Christian Church (Cranberry Township, PA), Journey's Crossing (Gaithersburg, MD), Christ's Church of the Valley (Royersford, PA), Harbor of Hope Christian Church (Lowell/Chelmsford, MA), Crossroads Christian Church (Brooklyn, NY), Antioch Christian Church (Port Chester, NY), Crossway Christian Church (Nashua, NH), Princeton Community Church (Pennington, NJ)







orchard.group

**ORCHARD GROUP**

PO Box 980  
Newtown, PA 18940

NONPROFIT ORG  
PRESORTED  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CLEVELAND, OH  
PERMIT NO. 574

**Journey with us**  
(212) 684-0100  
hi@orchard.group

**orchard.group**  
/projects  
/partners  
/give

