



Bridge Gospel

Apache Junction, AZ

Church Plant Prospectus





Greetings

We are so thankful that you wish to know more about Bridge Gospel. Since 2019, we have envisioned planting a gospel-centered, Spirit-filled church community in our city. We have lived in Apache Junction among the people we wish to reach for the last four years. Apache Junction is no longer a rural western town on the eastern edge of the Phoenix metro area nor strictly a haven for retired winter visitors. The city is rapidly growing with a younger, more diverse generation with different tastes, goals, and values.

While there are faithful, established churches in the area, there are not enough churches in Apache Junction with a heart for building bridges across diverse people groups and grafting the next generation into the body of Christ. As a result, many of our Christian neighbors travel several miles into the East Valley cities of Mesa, Gilbert, and Chandler to worship and serve in those communities instead. Alternatively, we endeavor to provide a diverse church community to mobilize residents to reach our community here in Apache Junction.

With the current social climate of division and the increased number of people declaring no religious affiliation, now is the time to act. We hope that the Holy Spirit will stir your heart as you learn about Bridge Gospel. We ask that you consider supporting our mission with prayer and resources and perhaps even join our community of believers.

With much gratitude,

Tim and Jessie Stoel

Our Story



We both grew up in hard-working, blue-collar communities in Michigan. Tim came to know the Lord during his senior year of high school after struggling through a childhood of terminal muscular dystrophy and practicing Wicca for years. Jessie came to Christ at an early age. However, it was not until college that she was baptized in the Holy Spirit and began a deep relationship with the Lord.

We met in a music theory class at Grand Valley State University near Grand Rapids, Michigan. During college, we committed to following the Lord while attending and serving at Resurrection Life Church in Grandville. There we encountered the gifts of the Holy Spirit. During this time, we both felt called to plant a church in the nebulous future.

We married in 2007 and worked operating the audio/video production company Tim had started just after high school. Unfortunately, the Great Recession in 2009 slowed the Michigan economy to a halt. We started another business selling parts for musical instruments and relocated to Gilbert, Arizona, in 2009.

The new business flourished in Arizona, and within five years, it grew to eight employees and a 5,000-square-foot warehouse. During this time, we led several people to the Lord. Yet, as successful as our business was, we felt empty and went through a range of emotions as we considered the direction of our lives.

We recalled our early passion for ministry and decided to sell our business and pursue church planting. In 2018, we moved to Apache Junction and listed the business for sale. In 2020, we enrolled at Phoenix Seminary. The company finally sold in 2021. We are currently finishing our graduate education and preparing to church plant.



We build *BRIDGES* **With the truth** **of the *GOSPEL*** **And the power** **of the *HOLY SPIRIT***

Bridge Gospel is a Spirit-filled church that exists to transform the community of Apache Junction and the surrounding areas by organically proclaiming the holiness of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit.

We envision a community of devoted, authentic followers of Christ, engaged in His redemptive purpose, well-trained and well-equipped to reach the local community, the nation, and the ends of the earth.

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” 2 Tim. 2:1-3

Core Values



Gospel-Centered

We strive to raise up a diverse and faithful community of followers of Jesus Christ. Our community will love God passionately and love others as Christ loves us with transparency and honesty throughout the church community.



Spirit-Led Worship

We wish to create an environment where the presence of the Holy Spirit is celebrated and spiritual gifts are practiced in an orderly and biblical manner. Our goal is to experience purposeful worship through various forms of music and creative arts.



Discipleship

We will teach, build up, encourage, and release disciples who make more disciples. We aim to raise up leaders to serve within our own community and outside our community. Our church is committed to planting and supporting other churches.



Build Bridges

We wish to build bridges between generations and cultures through love, hospitality, and effective communication. Our church endeavors to meet the practical, spiritual, and social needs of the elderly, impoverished, orphaned, widowed, and disadvantaged.

Outcomes



Our success metrics are

Our members are effectively sharing the Gospel with others regularly.

Discipleship and mentorship are happening organically in our church body throughout all ministries.

We are quick to offer encouraging prayer and positive prophetic words to others.

Our church is welcoming and inclusive to others who are unfamiliar or different.

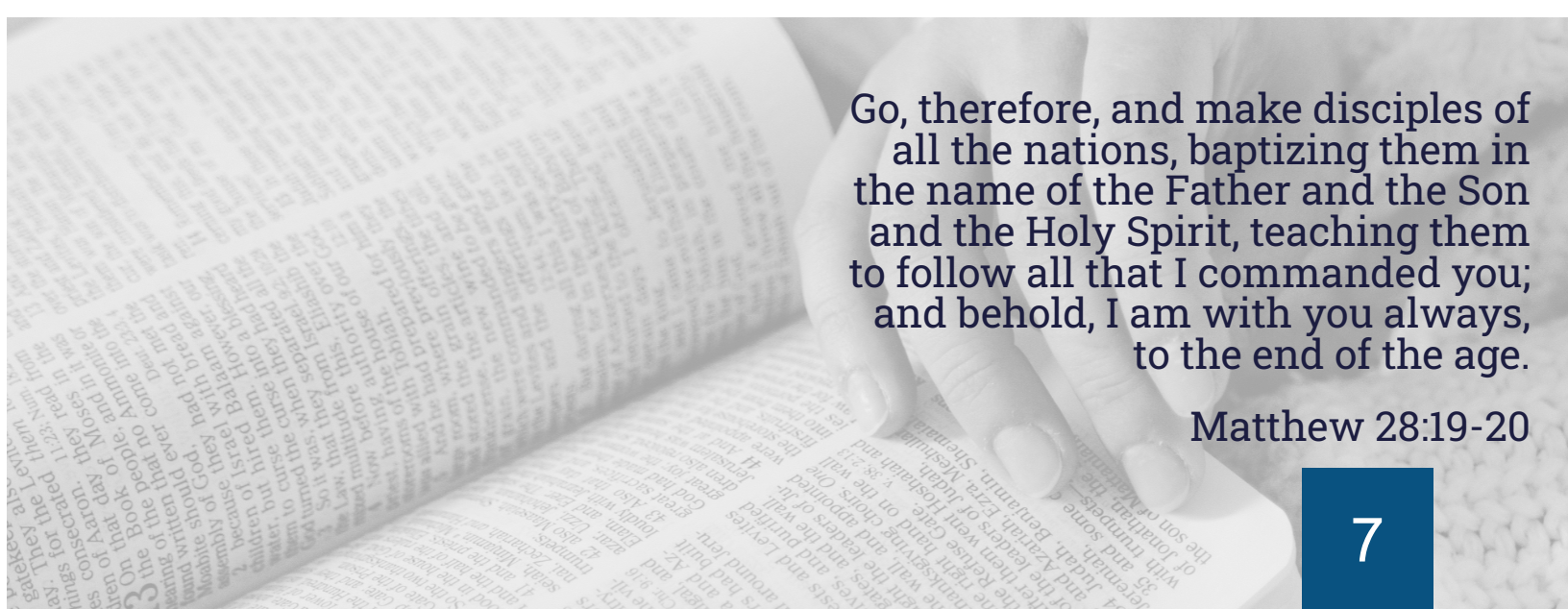
Our church body has friendships that cross ethnic, political, and socioeconomic boundaries.

Our members regularly practice the gifts of the Spirit in an organized, biblical manner.

Our members are spiritual leaders in their homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Our church has a reputation for honesty and transparency within our community.

Our church is supporting the advancement of the Gospel within our nation and around the world through church plants and missions.



Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Beliefs

We believe the Bible is inspired, infallible, and the authoritative Word of God. (John 16:13; 2 Tim. 3:15–17; 1 Thess. 2:13).

We believe there is one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10–11; Luke 3:22; John 14:16)

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. (John. 1:1; Phil. 2:6–11; Isa. 9:6)

Born from a virgin. (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:34–35; Isa. 7:14)

Lived a sinless life. (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 John 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:22)

Performed miracles. (Matt. 4:23; Luke 6:17–19; John 3:2)

His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood. (Col. 1:14; Rom. 5:8–9)

His bodily resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:3–4; Luke 24:36–48)

His ascension to the right hand of the Father. (Acts 2:33, 5:30–31; 1 Pet. 3:22)

His personal return in power and glory. (Acts 1:11; Phil. 2:9–11; 1 Thess. 1:10, 4:13–18; John 14:1–3)

We believe that justification by faith alone and repentance is necessary for the salvation of a sinful man. (Rom. 3:24–25; John 3:3–7; 1 John 5:11–13; Eph. 2:1–16; Rev. 5:9; Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 6:11)

We believe baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience distinct from regeneration. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4–8, 2:1–4, 10:44–46; 1 Cor. 12:1–31, 14:1–4) It can be evidenced by any miraculous spiritual gift, including but not limited to speaking in tongues. (1 Cor. 12:10, 30)

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. Spiritual unity is not exclusive to certain denominations or traditions. (John 17:11, 17: 21–23; Rom. 12:4–5; Eph. 4:11–16)

We believe in the ordinances of communion and baptism in water by full immersion after being born again in Christ Jesus. (Matt. 28:19, 26:26–28; Luke 3:21; Acts 2:38)

We believe all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians are available and operational in the body of Christ today. (1 Cor. 12:4–12)

We believe redemptive healing is accessible for the spirit, soul, and body in the atonement of Jesus Christ. (Ps. 147:3; Jas. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3 John 1:2)

We believe in orderly worship, as exemplified by the Apostle Paul. (1 Cor. 14:20–40)

We believe in the practice of miraculous gifts of the Spirit. We believe the gifts should be taught and practiced according to scripture to edify, love, and build up others. (1 Cor. 14:1)

We are passionate about worship through music, arts, gifts, finances, and prayer. (1 Chron. 16:23–31; Jer. 20:13; Ps. 99:1–9; Rom. 12:1–2; Heb. 12:28–29)

We are committed to discipleship and instructing others on how to teach one another in the examples of Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 2:1–2)



*Why build another **CHURCH***

Apache Junction is underserved by doctrinally sound, spirit-filled churches. As a result, many devoted followers of Christ leave Apache Junction to attend churches further into the Phoenix-Mesa metro area. We believe this deprives the rest of the community of the benefits these believers would bring to their community by worshipping and serving here.

*A major cultural **SHIFT***

The drastic changes in Apache Junction are bringing in new residents who are generally younger, more affluent, and more progressive thinking, creating tension in the community. Bridge Gospel will be especially sensitive to these differences and will strive to build bridges across these demographics.

Apache Junction is redeveloping the downtown with mixed-use buildings, an entertainment district, and features for enhanced walkability, attracting new businesses and new demographics of residents. In late 2021, Apache Junction annexed 6,660 acres (about 10 square miles) south of US-60. The newly acquired land will increase the population by 25,000 and bring over 10,000 homes to the area.

Beyond this area, the state land department owns 270 contiguous square miles known as Superstition Vistas. The state is actively pursuing developers and auctioning off this land for master-planned communities. This area is the largest contiguous piece of land available for development in the Phoenix metro area.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.
1 Corinthians 3:6

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
Acts 20:28

Demographics:



Over 60% of AJ Residents are over 50 years old

Median Age: 58

10% of Apache Junction Residents live below the poverty line

The average household income is 35% less than Gilbert, Chandler, or Southeast Mesa

\$46,000 \$70,000+

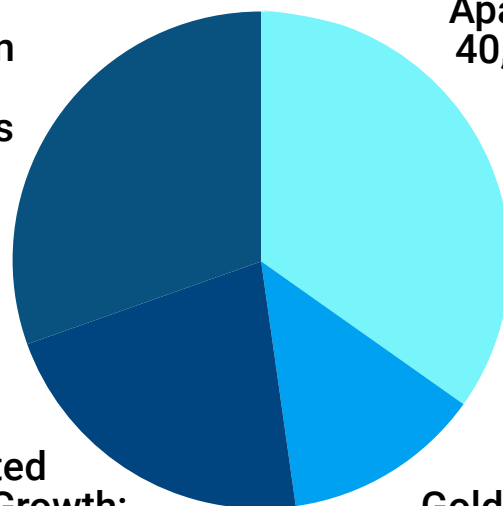
Apache Junction
average household
income

Gold Canyon
average household
income

Population:

Apache Junction
Winter Visitors:
38,000 residents

Apache Junction:
40,000 residents



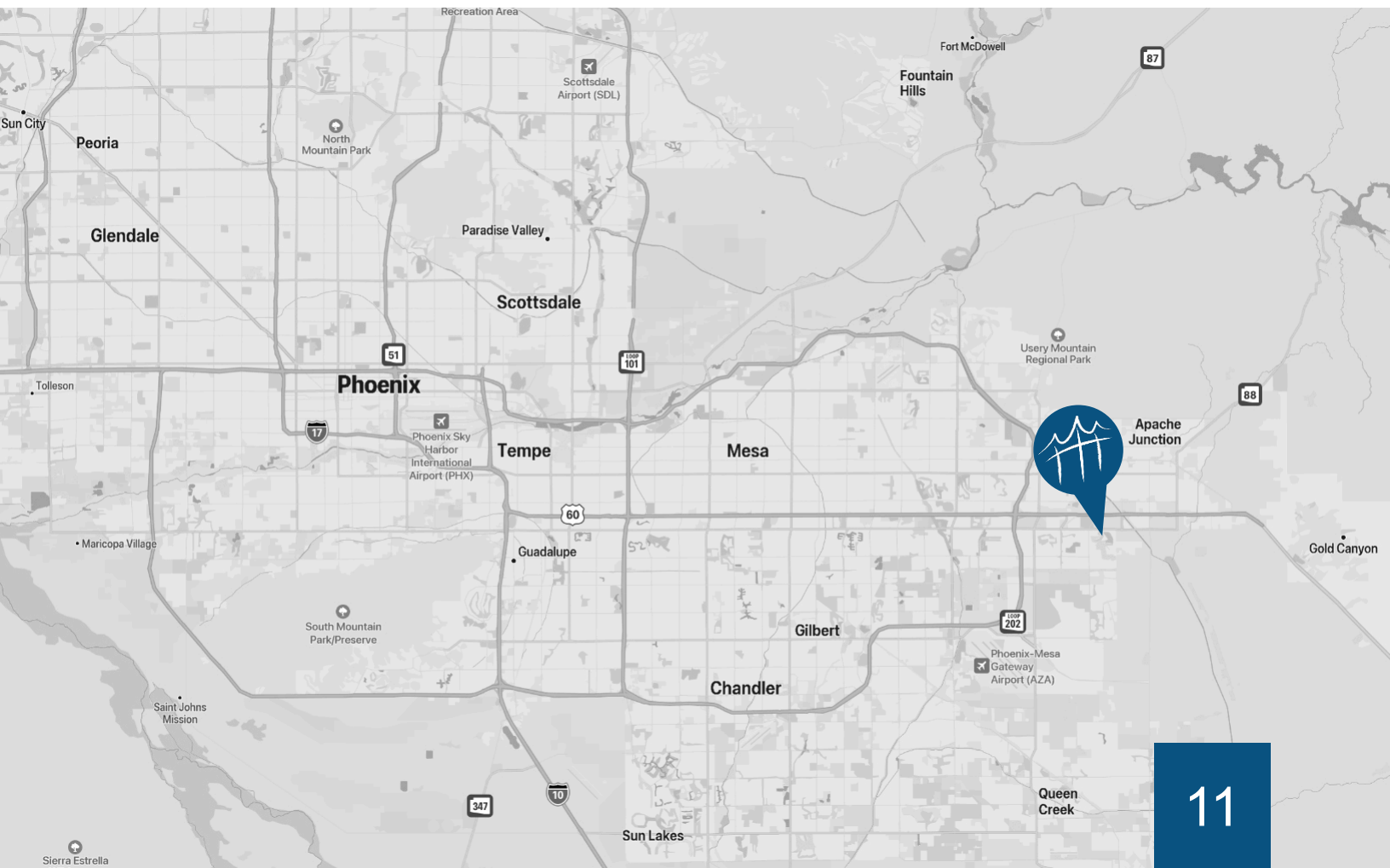
Estimated
Population Growth:
25,000 residents

Gold Canyon:
15,000 residents

Apache Junction, AZ

Building a **BRIDGE** in our community

Bridge Gospel will be located in Apache Junction, primarily serving the residents of Apache Junction, East Mesa, and Gold Canyon. An ideal location would be near Ironwood Dr and Baseline Rd, on the border between the established communities of Apache Junction and new master-planned communities.





Teaching the full **GOSPEL**

The Apostle Paul speaks of the importance of the Holy Spirit dwelling among God's people in his letters to the early church (1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:22). But unfortunately, many struggle to understand the Holy Spirit is a real and separate person. As a result, the Holy Spirit has become an ambiguous part of the Trinity.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is present and active. He gives us gifts to build up God's kingdom. However, we must make an effort to understand and develop these gifts given to us.

First, we recognize that we can pray to the Holy Spirit in the same way we can pray to God and Jesus Christ.

Second, we recognize that the Holy Spirit is active through the gifts to believers. We will practice these gifts by allowing orderly expression of the gifts during our weekend services, according to 1 Corinthians 14. During mid-week services and events primarily geared towards members, we will allow broader charismatic practices to build up and edify one another.

Third, we will regularly teach about the Holy Spirit so others can have a real, tangible encounter with the Spirit.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
1 Corinthians 6:19

In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
Ephesians 2:22

Distinctives

Discipleship - Bridge Gospel will help any willing person grow spiritually through Christian education classes, small groups, and one-on-one mentorship. Each ministry will have a discipleship component. This includes scripture memorization, learning to share the gospel, and understanding of Scripture.

Fostering New Leadership - We will actively look for new leaders in our church, both lay leaders and those interested in serving in a vocational ministry. In addition, we will support those interested in attending bible college or seminary with mentorship and internship opportunities.

Church Planting - We strongly believe in raising new congregations and sending them to reach other communities. Bridge Gospel wishes to focus on supporting and planting new churches, even in its beginning.

Generations - We strive to connect the older generation with young adults to share experiences and wisdom to build a stronger community.

Environment - We will provide a clean, secure, and safe environment. Our dream meeting space will have a multi-purpose room for corporate worship and large gatherings, age-appropriate classrooms, offices for ministry leaders, and a concourse area with an adjacent outdoor seating area and kitchen.

Worship - We will pursue excellence in worship and creative arts. Our music will be a mixture of contemporary gospel style (Israel Houghton, Marvin Sapp, Tasha Cobbs, etc.) and CCM (Phil Wickham, Cody Carnes, etc.). We will also use modernized arrangements of hymns to bridge the generational gap.

Communications - We will pursue excellence, credibility, and clarity in all forms of communication. For example, the internet is usually the first impression of the local church. Therefore, we will leverage technology to reach out to the community. For instance, we will target our surrounding zip codes with online ads that display when people search for questions like "is Jesus a real person?" and direct them to helpful landing pages with a clear call to action.

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves.
James 1:22





How can I HELP?

We welcome the support of churches, organizations, and individuals in many ways.

Prayer

We ask for intercessory prayer for the community of Apache Junction to know the love and kindness of our Lord and Savior and for the building of relationships with local churches and organizations.

Prayer for future leaders to help advance the Gospel and for resources to carry out the vision of Bridge Gospel

Practical Support

Facility usage, donation of furniture, sound system, etc.

Financial Support

Start-up costs: Licensing, incorporation, advertising, signage, furniture, equipment, etc.

Operating costs: Ministry costs, wages, rent, insurance, music, stipends, etc.

Join Our Church

Attend our home groups and corporate gatherings to help build our community.

The church planters are currently supporting themselves financially. As the resources become available for the church to support them, they will be able to focus more fully on advancing the ministry.



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