

PROSPECTUS



CHRIST CENTRAL
CHURCH

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Greetings!

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Christ Central Church. The vision and mission were born out of a desire to see Christ preached and centered where Christ is unknown. With a renewed focus on healthy churches in major cities, North America is experiencing a resurgence in the area of church planting. Sadly, the Northeast remains to be a neglected area spiritually. Of all Send cities identified by NAMB, Pittsburgh has the fewest amount of new churches being started. This is why we are planting Christ Central Church in the urban core of Pittsburgh, PA.

We believe that the call to plant churches can be found in the Great Commission & the Great Commission is God’s plan-A for reaching the world. Therefore, the call to “go and make disciples” is a call to plant churches. My own calling was clarified through years of serving, learning, formally apprenticing in the local church. It is in the local church where I gained a love for pastoral ministry and where I saw from the Scripture God’s heart for the city.

After several vision trips, a need for a new church committed to planting churches became apparent. With the blessing from our sending church, and through seeking God in prayer, we put our yes on the table. We hope to start a new bible-believing, multi-generational, and multi-ethnic church centered on Jesus in the heart of Pittsburgh. Our vision is to see Jesus centered in all spheres of life. We are now taking the next steps to establish partnerships with individuals, those within our denomination, and other like-minded churches.

We hope and pray as you learn more about Christ Central Church that you will keep us in your prayers, consider financially supporting our mission, and possibly even consider joining our team.

With much thanks,

Reginald Johnson

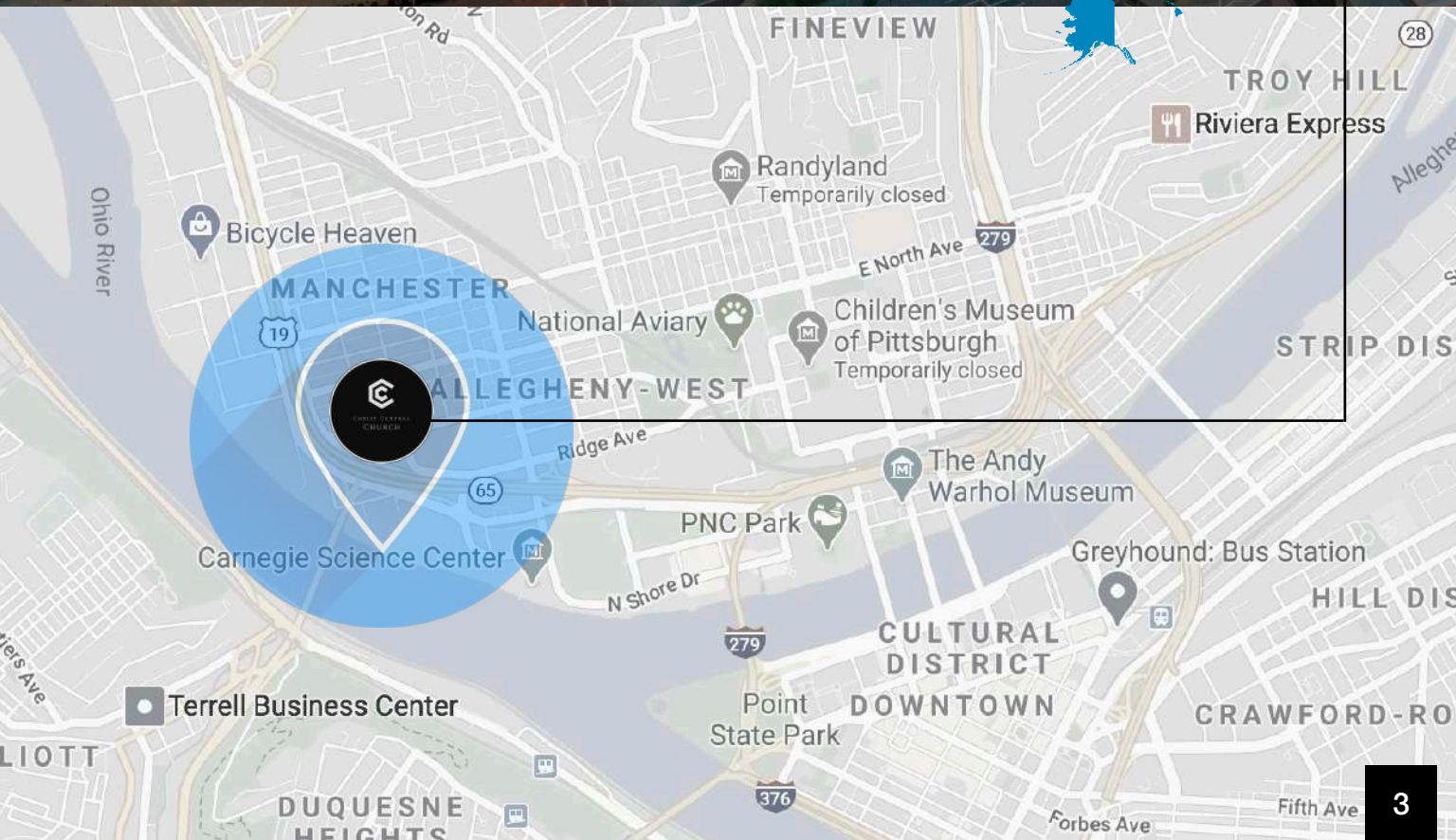
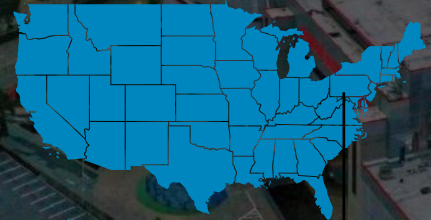
Lead Planter



LOCATION

“In my opinion, of the major cities in North America, Pittsburgh has the greatest need for church plants. We are praying that God will provide the right leaders to spark a movement in Pittsburgh & throughout the Northeast.”

Dr. Kevin Ezell
President, North Atlantic Mission Board



LOCATION

Pittsburgh, PA



Known for its steel, sports, and bridges, Pittsburgh is on a move toward rediscovery. The once Steel City has reinvented itself into a hub for technology, medicine, and education. In addition to being a great place to work and play, Pittsburgh is consistently ranked as one of the most affordable cities in America. However, this thriving and beautiful city is also filled with brokenness. The distrust of the church has led many to discard religion all-together. As never before people are searching for their identity in things that will not satisfy. Our hope is not to point people to another religion but to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

36%

Pittsburgh population that **identify as Catholic**



=



1 SBC church : per every 45,000 people

METRO POPULATION: 2,500,000

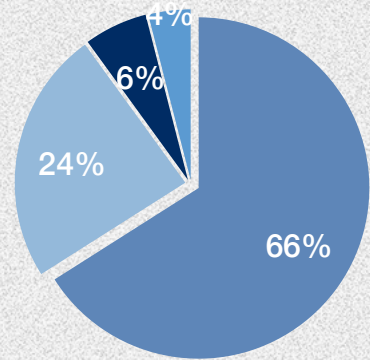
CITY POPULATION: 305,000

PROPERTY VALUE \$140,000

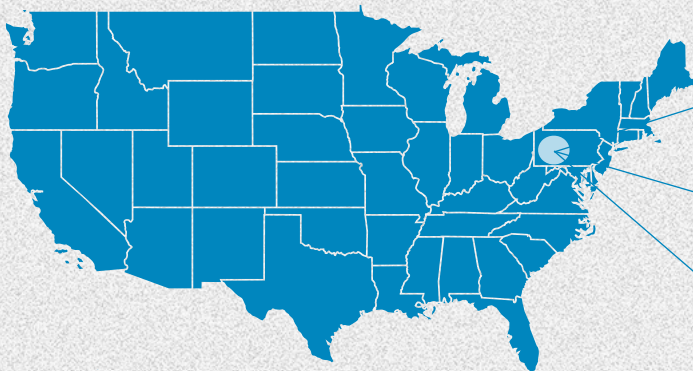
MEDIAN INCOME \$47,000

MEDIAN AGE: 34

● White ● Black ● Asian ● Other



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



18% Religiously Unaffiliated
Huffington Post

36/100 Most Post-Christian Cities
Barna Research Group

23rd Least Religious State In America
Pew Research Center

Target Area: Northside

3 Reasons for planting on the Northside

- **Neighborhood.** Ethnic and cultural diverse area, yet only 1-2 diverse churches.
- **Next-Gen.** With close proximity to several colleges, there is a great potential to raise up future ministry leaders.
- **Nations.** With many internationals moving in, there are few churches and (0) SBC churches reaching them in our target location.

• The Neighborhood

The Northside is home to the Steelers & Pirates, Allegheny Commons Park, Andy Warhol Museum, Children's Museum and Nova Place. Here, affluent communities like the Mexican War Streets neighbor communities, such as, Manchester making a truly diverse place. **Sadly, there has never been an SBC church planted in this community with roughly 40,000 plus residents.** We believe that this is an opportunity to intentionally plant a church that seek's to reflect the diversity in its community. We will engage our target area by asking good questions and listening to the cities' story as we seek to share, serve, and live out the hope of the gospel. Our hope is to point individuals, families, and our community to a better bridge and a greater mediator — Jesus Christ.

• The Next Generation

With greater than 80,000 college students in the city center there is a great opportunity to shape the next generation. **Within a two mile radius from our target area are 30,000 college students that we hope to reach in a tangible way.** The Community College of Allegheny (CCAC) has one of the largest student populations, second only to the University of Pittsburgh. We will seek to open our homes, share meals, and do life with students over span of their college years and beyond.

• The Nations

According to the U.S. Census Bureau by year 2043, America will be a majority minority nation. From the 90 different communities that make up Pittsburgh, the nations are truly here and are moving in. **When comparing Pittsburgh metro to the city center, one quickly sees that the city is almost 20% more diverse than Pittsburgh metro.** In our target area you will find people from Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria, India, South Korea, China, India, Japan and France. We will be committed to prayer as we seek to learn about our neighbors and their cultures in order to practice intentional neighbor love with those near and far from God. Our hope is to be a church in the neighborhood reaching the nations.

22% live in poverty

2014
8th largest
Gentrified
city

3,000 kids
In Foster Care

SBC ratio
1:45,000

College
Students
83,000 +

The Nations are
HERE!!!

MISSION

We exist to: **Make disciples** who are centered on Jesus, care as family, and live on mission.

Christ

Care &
Community

Mission

CORE VALUES

I.

Christ-centered GOSPEL

We are committed, by the Holy Spirit's power, to share the transforming story of Jesus with ourselves and with others. We will seek to build our ministry philosophy and practice on the person and finished work of Jesus Christ.

II.

Christ-centered PRAYER

We are committed, by the Holy Spirit's power, to pray to God with expectancy and dependence. We will commit ourselves to a ministry of prayer.

III.

Christ-centered COMMUNITY

We are committed, by the Holy Spirit's power, to live out the one another's with our chief motivation being love and honoring Christ. We will seek to welcome others as God in Christ has welcomed us.

IV.

Christ-centered DIVERSITY

We are committed, by the Holy Spirit's power, to intentionally pursue both multiethnic and multigenerational diversity revealed in the Scripture.

V.

Christ-centered MERCY

We are committed, by the Holy Spirit's power, to be a people seeking the reconciliation of all peoples, advocating for the marginalized, and defending life from the womb to tomb.

VI.

Christ-centered MULTIPLICATION

We are committed, by the Holy Spirit's power; to equip, disciple, and multiply healthy people with the aim of fulfilling the Great Commission.

VII.

Christ-centered VISION

We are committed, by the Holy Spirit's power, to think kingdom and not tribal. To this end, we will seek to be generous with our time, talent, and treasure for the glory of Christ and the good of the city.

STRATEGY

Gathering

Christ Central will ***gather*** weekly to center on **Jesus Christ**. Our hope is that people would rest in Christ by singing, hearing the good news, and partaking of the ordinances.

Scattering

Christ Central will ***scatter*** throughout the week to ***care*** for one another in loving ***community***. Our hope is to live not like family but as family.

Outreach

Christ Central will ***reach near*** through sacrificial service. Our hope is to quarterly host block parties, sports camps, and college retreats to serve and build rapport in our neighborhood.

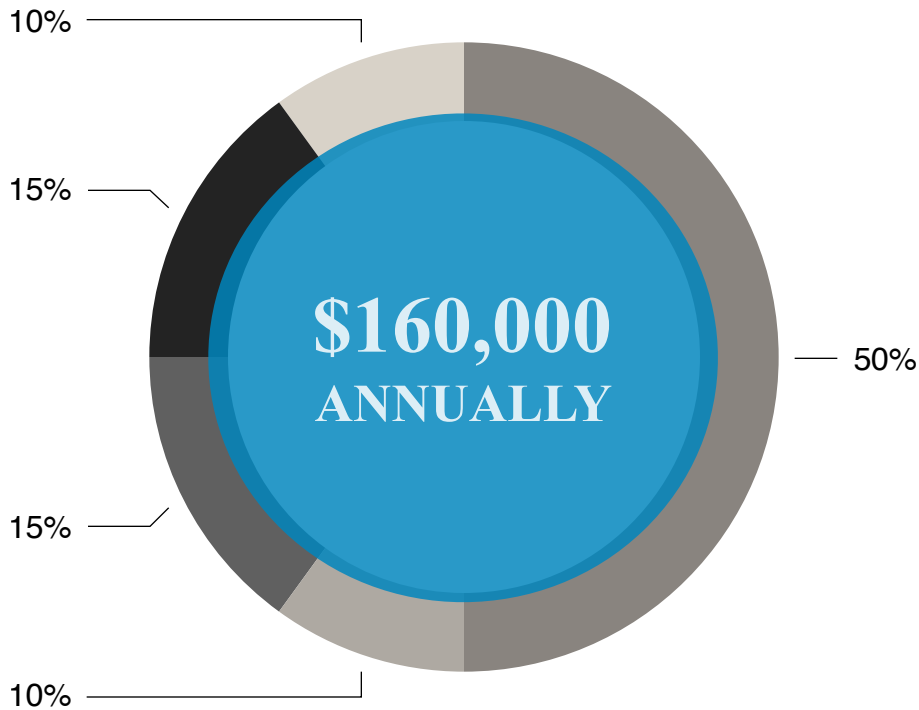
Multiplying

Christ Central will ***reach far*** by committing to church planting. Our hope is to spark a movement by investing, training, and coaching future leaders to be sent out both locally and globally.

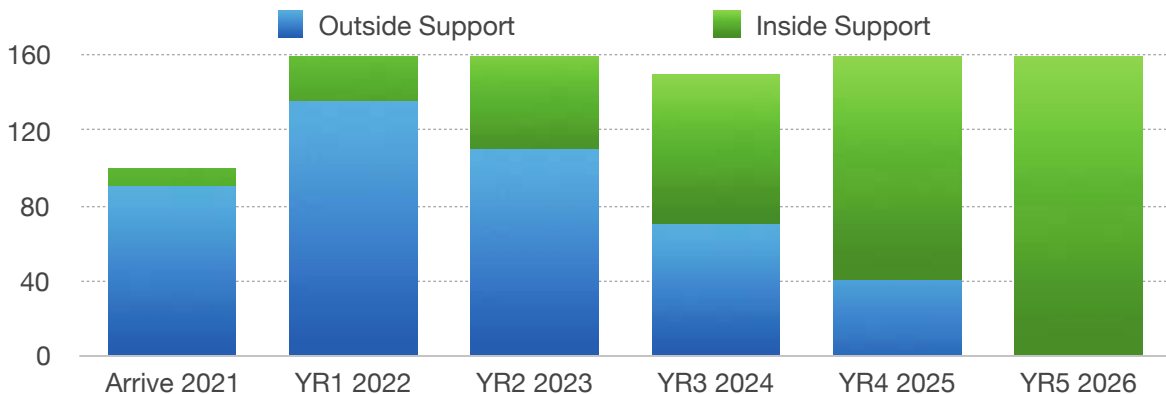


BUDGET

- Leadership
- Facilities
- Ministry Exp.
- Missions
- College/Kids



Pittsburgh, PA is consistently ranked one of the the most affordable cities to live in the U.S. according to *The Economist*. Yet, doing ministry in the urban core is still expensive. Therefore, we are seeking to raise \$160,000.00 annually in order to compensate for staff, renting space, purchasing start-up equipment, and still have funds left over for ministry and mission work. *Join us as we ask both individuals and churches to partner with us financially for three years in prayerful expectation that by our fourth year, Christ Central Church will be primarily supported internally through the faithful giving of our members.*



TIMELINE

Phase 1: Preparing to Plant

(September 2020 - December 2020)

- Connect with NAMB Network & finish application
- Develop prayer team and newsletter
- Finish Belmont's internship & exit strategy
- Relocate to Pittsburgh & establish family rhythms
- Continue to secure funding & long term partners
- Pray for the right people to join CORE team
- Sending Church Visit
- Develop CORE VALUES

Phase 3: Plant the Seed

(August 2021 - December 2021)

- Finalize church docs for incorporated status - GCB
- Equip & disciple CORE team w/ team leaders
- Practice evangelism & hospitality - monthly meals
- Seek additional CORE team members
- Equip potential leaders with facilitating MC's
- Find & establish ways to partner with the city
- Solidify possible meeting Venue (Manchester)
- Bring team leaders to SEND Training events
- Est. presence w/ CCAC - Community College
- Looking to launch 2nd MC/Teach Core Values

Phase 5: Growing

(July 2022 - & Beyond)

- Launch of Christ Central Church
- Corporate worship gathering each Sunday
- Begin MC formal training for leaders
- Start &/or multiply a 3rd MC
- Cultivate network partners
- Plan for future church plants - FAULT LINES
- Establish long term mercy ministry partnership

Phase 2: Cultivate the Soil

(January 2021 - July 2021)

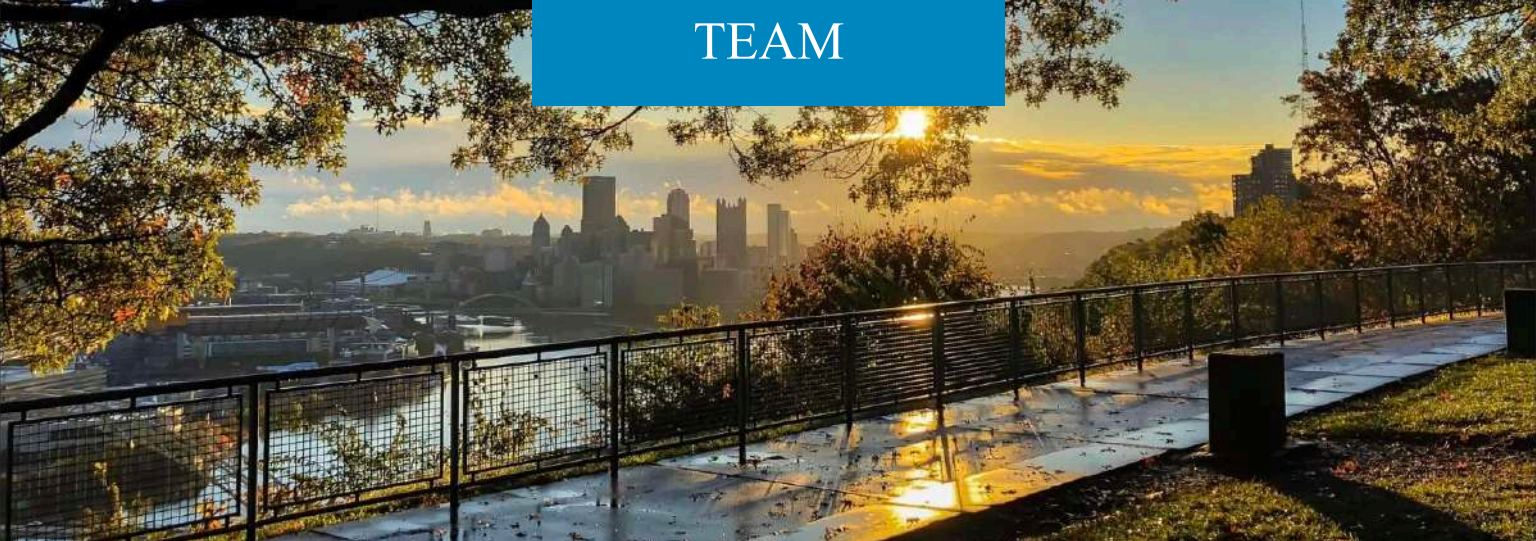
- Learn the culture & the city's story
- Assist other key leaders with relocating
- CORE team gatherings & monthly meals
- SEND Network training
- Start SEND Apprenticeship in PGH
- Secure funding for 1st Fiscal year budget
- Embrace CORE VALUES
- Solidify CORE team
- Sending church visit/mission trip
- Start 1st MC/ Teach CORE VALUES
- Identify possible meeting Venue (Manchester)

Phase 4: Taking Root

(January 2022 - June 2022)

- Recruit sister church to attend Launch of CCC
- (4-6) Dry run church service(s)
- Host a mission team to serve Northside PGH
- Identify deacons and volunteers
- If possible multiply a MC group
- Seek to serve AG-hospital, CCAC, MYDC/UIF

TEAM



Reginald & Courtney Johnson

Reggie has been married to Courtney for 12 years and together they have three children; Elizabeth, Abigail, and RJ. Courtney and Reggie met at a community college in Virginia and have been best friends ever since. Courtney is a registered nurse (RN) and does the bulk of homeschooling. Reggie is passionate about people, philosophy, and the multiethnic church. Prior to ministry, Reggie worked as a case manager in the prison system in both VA & NC and with at-risk youth. Reggie's experience led to a full-time job with Southeastern Seminary while he attended The College at Southeastern in Wake Forest, NC. Since, Reggie has finished an internship at Open Door Church in Raleigh, NC and has served as the Missions Director at Belmont Church in Roanoke, VA while completing an apprenticeship there as well.



Lucas & Jessica Jackson

Lucas is married to Jessica and they have been married for three years and they have two children Jeremiah, and Lydia. Lucas and Jessica met at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. Jessica has served in the military and has spent a stint in the Army Reserve. She is passionate about Christian counseling and advocacy. Lucas is passionate about discipleship. He has experience working with college students and was heavily involved with the Baptist Student Center at Ole Miss. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and is currently finishing up a Master's degree in Collegiate Ministry from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Steven Nicoletti

Steven has a heart for discipling young adults. He has a background in construction and landscaping. Steven has worked at Christian camps in North Carolina and has hopes of discipling the next generation. Steven is pursuing a BA in theology from The College at Southeastern. He is passionate about theology and basketball.





Ways to Partner

1

Pray

Through your prayers, the mission of God continues to move forward. Please sign up for our monthly newsletter for specific ways to pray for our family and the work here in Pittsburgh. Contact Reginald Johnson at christcentral.pgh@gmail.com.

2

Pledge

Through your giving, the message of God meets those near and far in a tangible way. To learn more about monthly giving or a one time gift, contact Reginald Johnson at christcentral.pgh@gmail.com or (434) 632-4373.

3

Partner

Through cooperation, the people of God accomplish more together than they can apart. Do you know of someone relocating to Pittsburgh, PA? Maybe the Lord is calling you. If so, I'd love to connect with you and tell you more about Christ Central Church. Contact Reginald Johnson at christcentral.pgh@gmail.com or (434) 632-4373.

4

Promote

Through promoting, we invite others into a far better story. If you have family or friends who would benefit from being a part of a new bible believing church in Pittsburgh, please connect them to us. Do you know a church looking to invest and partner in the Northeast? Contact Reginald Johnson at christcentral.pgh@gmail.com or (434) 632-4373.

Sending church:

- **Belmont Baptist Church**, Roanoke, VA
-

Supporting churches:

- **Open Door Church**, Raleigh, NC
 - **Mecklenburg Community Baptist Church**, South Hill, VA
 - **The Hill Church**, La Mesa, CA
 - **The Hill Church**, Roanoke, VA
-

Affiliation with:

- **The Southern Baptist Convention** www.sbc.net
- **The North American Mission Board** www.namb.net
- **The SEND Network** www.namb.net/send-network
- **The Pillar Network** www.thepillarnetwork.com

