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Working Together to Grow the Kingdom

LEADERSHIP NETWORK®

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## Home Is Where the Church Is

GROWING WITH  
GOD'S  
GUIDANCE

### FEATURED CHURCH:

Cross Timbers  
Community Church

**LOCATIONS:** Argyle,  
Keller and Denton, Texas

**ESTABLISHED:** 1999

**SERVICES:** 8 weekly

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 5,000

Cross Timbers Community Church's living-room beginnings may have been small in size, but they were large in vision.

A group of founding couples, sensitive to God's direction in prayer, has witnessed Cross Timbers grow from 14 families obediently praying in a living room in 1999 to 150 people worshipping at a dude ranch in 2000 to thousands gathered at one church in four locations in three cities in northeast Texas in 2006. The transition is a story of clear vision, open hearts and utter faith in God's plan.

### A STATE OF TRANSITION

Cross Timbers has the vision of opening a new church every year. As God supplies the churches, the leadership plans to be ready.

"We will have seasoned pastors already prepared to lead with the DNA of the church," says Jim Kuykendall, associate pastor at Cross Timbers. The experienced pastors will not only help facilitate growth but will also increase unity among the geographically separate campuses.

The main campus, located in Argyle, Texas, offers two worship locations—one large and one small. This

difference in size is intentional, and designed to make the church more accessible. Providing worshipers with two distinctly different options "tears down any possible barrier that would keep someone from coming in and meeting Christ, whether that be dress, service times or church size," says Jim.

The second campus is located in Keller, Texas, approximately 20 minutes from the Argyle campus. Although Jim admits this "breaks the multi-site ministry rule" that campuses should be at least 30 minutes from each other, they saw a real need in Keller.



Crowds gather at University of North Texas for Cross Timbers' Easter celebration.

Fall 2006 marks the launch of Cross Timbers' third campus, located in Denton, Texas, home to the University of North Texas and Texas Women's University. Cross Timbers has already been approved as an on-campus organization at the nearby universities and plans to begin powerful campus ministries.

### DEVELOPING LEADERS

Cross Timbers seeks to expand the Kingdom by cultivating leaders within the church. In fact, they're planning a new position, Director of Leadership Development, to focus on doing just that.

"We let people serve, empower them to serve and open their eyes to opportunity," Jim says. They plan to use a mentoring program to "train pastors from within and take key leaders to each new campus."

It's Senior Pastor Toby Slough's extreme love for people that pushes him to keep finding ways to develop their potential and share their love with those who need it most.

Members can develop this potential by leading a weekly life group. Group leaders have curriculum approved by the church but are encouraged to develop their own unique spin on communicating the message.

## 'WE LET PEOPLE SERVE, EMPOWER THEM TO SERVE AND OPEN THEIR EYES TO OPPORTUNITY.'

### COME AS YOU ARE

Cross Timbers is structured to be a place where everyone, from lifelong churchgoers to those questioning their faith to those with addictions, feels welcome and comfortable. This idea is reflected in the church's theme for 2007: "Come as you are."

In fact, Pastor Toby describes the church as an "unchurchy church"—an idea that one would easily understand after a Sunday morning of sharing donuts with a leather-clad biker, a business professional and the pastor (who has been known to deliver the sermon in shorts on hot summer Sunday mornings).

### WHAT LEADERSHIP NETWORK MEANS TO ME



I'm a huge fan of Leadership Network. I read Bob Buford's "Halftime" book, and it changed my life. It gave me a new direction for my future. Leadership Network is tremendous in the area of networking with other churches. [Senior Pastor] Toby has made invaluable connections with great people through the Next Generation Pastors Leadership Community. Leadership Network is a huge blessing. They are a bunch of great people. It is an all-around awesome resource.

—Jim Kuykendall, Associate Pastor, Cross Timbers Church

## HOME REDEFINED

*Cross Timbers is so well-accepted in the community that it has been asked to plant a campus in a new, radical-concept housing addition planned for McKinney, Texas. "Adriatica" is an exciting new neighborhood designed to resemble a Croatian fishing village. It will consist of a small lake, cobblestone streets and European-style buildings. Although Cross Timbers has not yet finalized an agreement, they are learning that God wants them to expect the unexpected.*

And although the church leadership would like to see every seat filled every Sunday, they know that people may sometimes have to miss services. So that those on the road can still feel connected, Cross Timbers launched "Reel to Real," a series of independent messages about a central theme.

The theme for summer 2006, for example, was "faith." The Bible-based messages included clips from different hit movies—from "Cinderella Man" to "National Treasure"—to illustrate Biblical points in an understandable, practical and real-world way.

### PEER SUPPORT

Cross Timbers is very involved with Leadership Network's Leadership Communities. This allows church leaders to network with other churches experiencing similar situations. Cross Timbers participates in three communities: Multi-Site Churches, Recovery Ministry and Next Generation Pastors.

Just over two years ago, major changes were made to narrow the church's ministry focus. They transitioned from about 60 working ministries to 5, a number they could pour their energies into more fully. This difficult decision was influenced by the guidance peer churches provided.

By more tightly focusing its efforts, Cross Timbers learned that it could make an even deeper and more lasting impact for the Kingdom.

Cross Timbers' welcoming atmosphere, its ability to transition and change according to God's calling, and its willingness to serve the Kingdom show the impact a multi-site church can have. Cross Timbers is truly "home" to anyone who needs one. **LN**