

# Shalom Grove Park

A New Church Plant in West ATL

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## Donations

**Online:** [donate.shalomgrovepark.com](http://donate.shalomgrovepark.com)

**Check:** Payable to "Shalom Grove Park"

(All donations tax deductible)

Perimeter Church

9500 Medlock Bridge Road

Johns Creek, GA 30097

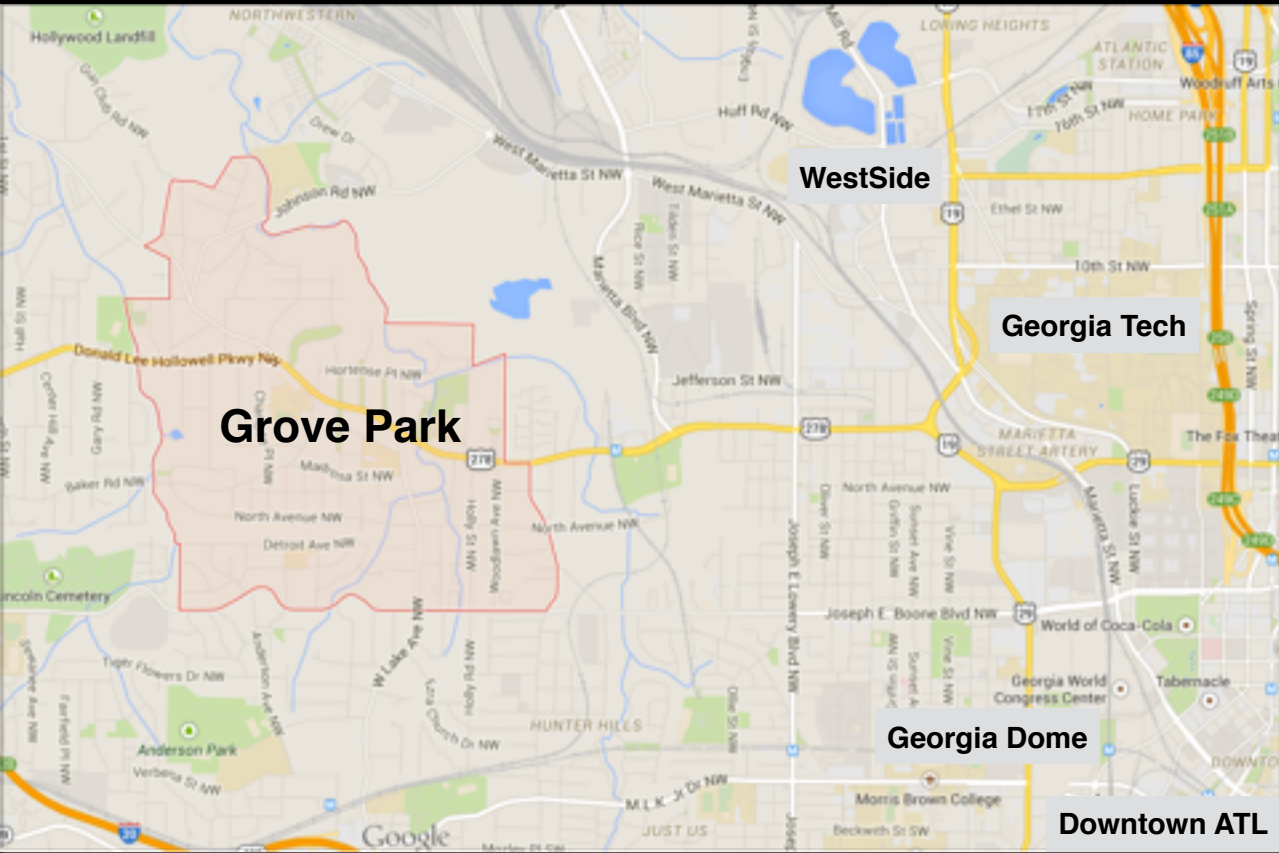




# THE PLACE

## GROVE PARK | Atlanta

Grove Park is a beautiful community in West Atlanta, Georgia (3 miles west of Georgia Tech). It is a place ripe with redemption, bursting with longing and potential that has been quieted and ravaged by racism, addictions, economic recession and crime. Nearly 30% of the buildings and houses are abandoned and in disarray – boarded up and closed off to their potential as businesses and homes where families can flourish in community. The need is great, the challenge to plant a gospel driven missional church will be hard, but the power of the Holy Spirit is unlimited. The glory God will receive and the redemption and flourishing that will be accomplished far outweighs the risk and struggles ahead to plant this church.



### Grove Park

- 4K population (3K decline last 15 years)
- 95% Black, 3% other, 2% White
- \$22-30K avg household income
- 20% plus unemployment
- Food Desert

### Zipcode 30318

- 50K population
- 60% Black, 30% White, 10% other.
- \$40K+ avg household income
- 32% living below poverty line
- Population Growing



## Why Grove Park?

Grove Park is filled with amazing human beings made in the image of God and full of endless potential. Like the buildings and houses, many of these precious lives (especially the children) have suffered because of someone's sin and are experiencing the outcomes of systemic generational poverty and brokenness. Who will intervene to bring hope unless the People of God do?

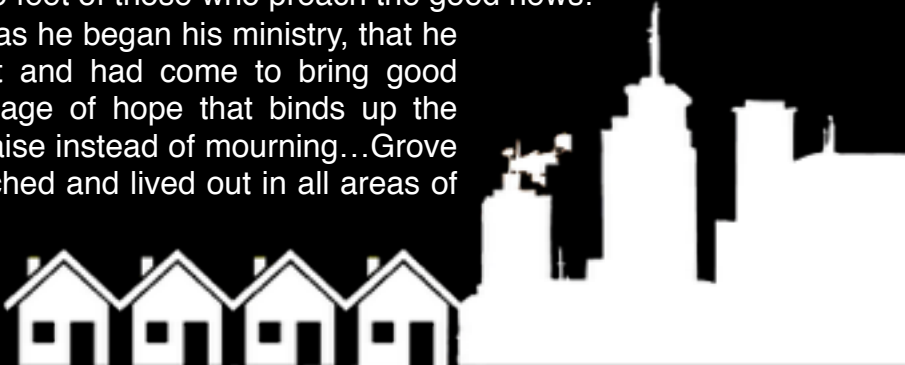


Grove Park is broken and beautiful at the same time. It is a community uniquely positioned to have a huge impact on the city of Atlanta's most vulnerable and marginalized population. Only miles from downtown Atlanta, Interstate 20, various universities and the new belt line, Grove Park has access to numerous resources. Still untouched by the gentrification that has displaced longtime lower income residence in other parts of the city, Grove Park has the potential to be a haven for mixed income housing and a place where racial reconciliation can be an ever increasing reality in and through the Church as life is shared in community.

Many Christian community development-minded investors have begun investing in buying and renovating the run down community assets for the purpose of helping develop the community in a way that benefits the least of these. Grove Park needs a missional and multicultural Church to strengthen God's people in this work of reconciliation and renewal.

Romans 10:14–15 says: "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Jesus announced in Luke 4, as he began his ministry, that he was anointed with the Spirit and had come to bring good news to the poor – a message of hope that binds up the brokenhearted and brings praise instead of mourning...Grove Park needs this gospel preached and lived out in all areas of life by Spirit-filled followers of Jesus. Who will go? Who will send them? How will this mission be accomplished?





**Danny and Kimberly Iverson** met while in college and fell in love 3 years later while Danny was running an inner city ministry in Newark, NJ. Their hearts for the poor and marginalized of society, and the conviction of God's love and redemptive purposes for such places, drew them together on mission and continues to be a driving force as they follow God's calling to plant a church in Grove Park that is focused on reconciliation and renewal. They love being on mission with their six children, Daniel Josiah (9), Trinity (7), Katy-Grace (5), Benjamin Zion (3), Malachi (2), and Judah (6 months). They currently live in Atlanta, GA and are in the process of fundraising and gathering a team to launch sometime in 2016.

**Danny** grew up as a lower-income minority in Chiba, Japan as a missionary kid. He is the oldest of nine, speaks Japanese and loves sushi, anime and anything Asian. His senior year in high school he had a powerful encounter with Jesus after getting suspended. In his brokenness and failure his father showed him radical grace and God used that experience to awaken his heart to the gospel. Despite four generations of pastors before him, Danny swore he would never become one and studied business at James Madison University. He went on to start 2 businesses and began to climb the corporate ladder. In 2003 God broke into his world and called him into ministry. For the last 12 years he has been doing Kingdom community development in urban and marginalized places and has been a pastor for 7 of those years.

Danny is passionate about Christ's Church being strengthened to bring justice to the oppressed and hope for the hopeless through the faithful proclamation of the gospel in Word and deed. In 2009, after founding and running a community development organization called Safe Haven in inner city Newark NJ, the Iversons felt a call to plant churches that would strengthen God's people to discover and display the Shalom of Jesus in the under-resourced and marginalized places of our cities. In 2013 the Iversons moved to Atlanta to begin that vision. Danny studied at Reformed Theological Seminary and is a teaching elder in the PCA. He has recently been commissioned by Perimeter Church ([perimeter.org](http://perimeter.org)) to start a missional and transcultural church in Grove Park, an inner city community in West Atlanta. In preparation for his church plant, Danny has been serving and training in a residency at Renovation Church ([renovationchurch.com](http://renovationchurch.com)) while they raise their start up funds and build their team.



# THE PLANTERS



**Kimberly** grew up as a pastor's kid and can't remember a day when Jesus wasn't her LORD. After losing her mother to cancer at the age of 15, Kimberly met Jesus in a powerful way and felt a call to ministry. She had no idea what God had in mind, but she knew the Lord wanted to use her to help others meet Jesus and experience the abundant life found in him. She loves teaching children and utilizing music and dance to help them memorize Scripture in a way that is fun and unforgettable. She is passionate about her mission to share everyday life with her neighbors and point them to Jesus, and loves discipling women from different cultural backgrounds than her own. With a strong gift of hospitality, Kimberly loves having every type of person into their home and exposing the six Iverson children to all the beautiful people and cultures God has uniquely designed, whether it be international students from the Middle East or inner city teens in need of a stable home. Doing inner city ministry alongside Danny these last ten years has uniquely equipped Kimberly to disciple and train marginalized mothers who are struggling. Putting her English degree from James Madison University to work, she enjoys writing out her adventures as mother and missionary for the Kingdom on her blog, which has been spotlighted nationally numerous times. She is currently working on her first book called "Radical Tabernacle."





# THE PLAN

**Our Vision:** To see the Shalom of God holistically transform Grove Park, Atlanta, and the World.

**Our Mission:** To awaken, strengthen, and multiply Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus who are discovering and displaying the Shalom of God in all areas of life.

- Prayer walks, fundraising, and launch team recruiting begins. Strategic community asset mapping is utilized.
- Iverson family and new launch team members move into community.
- Assimilation into community life and intentional neighboring – listening and connecting.
- Launch team members begin serving local institutions and casting church vision to fellow community members and partners.

- Church particularizes with well equipped staff and elders.
- ShalomHouses multiply out and transform blocks and entire communities.
- Church planters sent out each year to export model around city and world.

**Phase 1: 1/15-8/15**

**Phase 2: 9/15-8/20**

**Phase 3: 9/20 onward**

- ShalomHouse gatherings begin and multiply with a focus on service, relational evangelism, and discipleship.
- New staff added to support growth. Elders and Deacons trained
- Worship Celebration begins and expands in local rented space.
- Partnerships with non-profits and other community institutions expand with a focus on empowerment and holistic renewal.



**ShalomHouses** are homes where most of the Church's discipleship, fellowship, hospitality, worship, and mission happens. They are groups of 20-25 people in a specific area who live out the Church's core values as they intentionally share life throughout the week with each other. Through block parties, service projects, relational evangelism, and worship gatherings, ShalomHouses reach their neighbors with the Gospel. As leaders are awakened and strengthened through discipleship, they deploy to other needy areas and multiply new ShalomHouses for the sake of renewal.

**\*Shalom** is the Hebrew word for *holistic peace*. It is a word used throughout Scripture to describe the absolute joy, flourishing, fulfillment, and bliss found in the presence of God, and the beautiful interdependent relationships God's people eternally share with Him, each other, and all of creation. Shalom is what has come into the world through Christ, and is made complete when Christ returns and fully eradicates sin and death forever. God is glorified as Shalom happens. We have a mission as God's people to discover and display the Shalom of God's Kingdom to this hurting world by faithfully proclaiming the Gospel in WORD and DEED as we share life with our neighbors and seek the peace of Atlanta.

## Core Values

### Discipleship

Jesus came on mission from the Father to fully display the Kingdom of God and make disciples who do the same thing. *Because* we believe this reality, we make and multiply disciples of Jesus everywhere.

### Community

God exists as community and by the Spirit we, as His people, are mysteriously in community with Christ and each other. We love and care for each other, and share life together NOW, in every aspect possible, because we will be doing so for eternity.

### Celebration (worship)

Because God celebrates, so do we. We celebrate the redemption HE is accomplishing by gathering for festival and feast to sing, dance, pray and listen to His Word being faithfully preached. We celebrate by baptizing and coming to the Lord's table together as a community in humble worship of Jesus.

### Diversity

God's redemptive plan is to form a family for Himself from all peoples. The beautiful mosaic of humanity brings him great glory, and therefore we as His people value diversity and strive to be a community that loves and accepts others regardless of social, economic or racial status.

### Service

Because we have a God who loves and serves us, we seek to love and serve each other. We joyfully give our lives away in service to our church family, our neighbors, and our city, for the sake of developing transformed disciples who do the same all around this hurting world.

## NextSteps to involvement

- Pray and investigate if this might be a mission God is calling you to.
- Take a tour of Grove Park and attend an informational dinner at the Iverson's home. (Schedule is on the website at [ShalomGrovePark.com](http://ShalomGrovePark.com))
- Pray some more. If God is calling you on our team to help launch this Church, fill out a Launch Team Covenant, get involved in a ShalomHouse, and begin intentionally sharing life with your neighbors.
- If you do not live in Grove Park yet, consider moving in.
- Attend Launch Team trainings and gift assessments.
- Faithfully play your part to launch our discipleship ministry and community celebrations (worship services).