

## Organization Strategy

2009

*“Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
And righteousness shall look down from heaven.”*  
Psalm 85:11

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## Letter from the Board of Directors

Truth Spring has chosen to compile this document in order to provide necessary information on our overall organization strategy and plan for community development in the North Highland area of Columbus, Georgia. As an organization committed to transparency and accountability among our stakeholders, we desire to make our strategy freely available for the purposes of both review and critique. We invite all interested parties to consider this document and provide any helpful feedback to us.

The goal of this document is to adequately express the overall strategy of Truth Spring in developing the North Highland community. We seek to explain our motivations, inspirations, and proposed thoughts on community development in the North Highland area. By making this document freely available to all those who are interested, we are intending to welcome constructive dialogue and investigation into the matter of community development in North Highland.

As this document will clearly show, we believe firmly the Lord Jesus Christ is the ultimate solution to all of the problems and negative issues the North Highland community faces. We believe that without a Christ-centered mentality towards addressing these problems, North Highland will continue to lag behind other areas of Columbus and remain a perceived blight in the city as a whole. Nevertheless, we are convinced that through the power of God in Christ Jesus that North Highland can be a beacon of light and hope to a dark world.

The Truth Spring Board of Directors

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## Christ-Centered Community Development

In developing its programs, Truth Spring looks first and foremost to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as the author and model of all community development initiatives. In doing so, we also build upon the work of certain time-proven program models such as those offered by the Christian Community Development Association. Our preeminent belief is that without the Lord Jesus as the focal point of any community development program, the program is destined to either fail or produce insufficient results.

One such way we look to the Lord Jesus is by following His pattern of providing not only physical food to those in need, but spiritual food as well. The Lord Jesus often coupled His humanitarian efforts (providing food, healing, etc.) with His kingdom work (preaching the gospel). The two were not separate functions, but intrinsically related activities. In doing so, Christ did not merely provide spiritual food, but was the spiritual food itself. Every wound Christ healed and every piece of bread He provided always drew people to Him. To bring people to Christ and bring Christ to people is at the very heart of Truth Spring's community development efforts.

Truth Spring believes that rather than narrowing itself to a single program or activity it can best serve the North Highland community by addressing the diverse needs of the population there through carefully crafted programs. Truth Spring intends to meet its mission by offering programs that seek to fully address the multifarious issues and needs of its clients.

*"Let us fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."*

Hebrews 12:2



## Christ-Centered Community Development

Truth Spring realizes the issues causing or at least contributing to the current state of the North Highland community are multi-faceted. Truth Spring believes there is no single cause of the poverty and destitution of the North Highland community and, because of that, there is no “blanket” solution to be applied. Since the work of Truth Spring is often done on the micro level, working with individuals and families, we realize the need to tailor programs around specific needs rather than taking a “one size fits all” mentality.

Instead, Truth Spring intends to take a unique means to meet the needs of its clients in a holistic and substantial fashion. By implementing programs that not only address the basic needs of its clients (such as employment, shelter, etc.), but also addresses the higher needs (self-esteem, a sense of belonging and community, etc.), Truth Spring takes an innovative approach that enables clients to develop without seeking potentially damaging behaviors (substance abuse, gambling, etc.) in attempts to find fulfillment. Truth Spring intends to present Jesus Christ as all in all for its clients in a way that helps them develop into the people they were made to be. This is Christ-centered community development.

*“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

Philippians 4:13



## Addressing the Needs of the Body, Soul, and Spirit

The Holy Bible teaches that human beings have a body, soul, and spirit. The body is the physical vessel that has a variety of physical (physiological) needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Within the body is the soul, which contains the mind, emotion, and will. The soul itself has a several psychological needs that must be fulfilled such as the need for love, belonging, and self-esteem. The human spirit is the organ that communicates and fellowships with God. The highest human need for God is fulfilled by God when the human spirit is regenerated by receiving the Holy Spirit through believing into Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

By receiving the Lord Jesus as the Holy Spirit into our being, a person's highest need for communication and fellowship with God is now capable of being met. Upon this, God Himself, through His Spirit, meets the additional physiological and psychological needs of the individual. In other words, it is not until a person receives Jesus Christ into their being as the Holy Spirit that all of their fundamental needs can be met, allowing them to develop into the person they were made to be. Without this, substantial development of the individual and community cannot occur. In order for an individual and/or community to become an integral part of the kingdom of God, Jesus Christ must be at the center of any and all development measures.

*"...Your Father in heaven knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."*

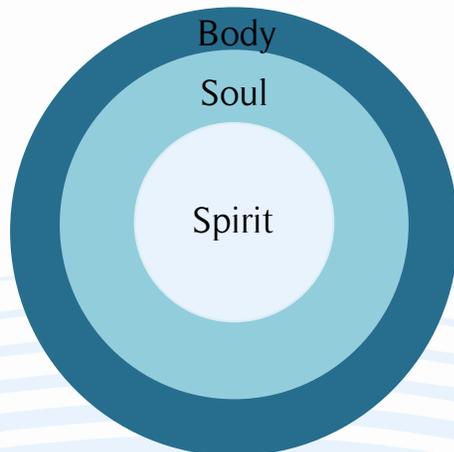
Matthew 6:8



## Addressing the Needs of the Body, Soul, and Spirit

Truth Spring unequivocally believes that God, through Christ Jesus, is the only single source of absolute, complete fulfillment and gratification for all human beings. Without Jesus Christ no one has access to God and without God no one has access to the fulfillment God desires for them. No human being can be fulfilled without God and, lacking that fulfillment, no worthwhile community development can occur. Truth Spring seeks to augment this necessary provision of Jesus Christ into the North Highland community.

Human Being



Christian



*"...And may your spirit, soul, and body be preserved complete..."*

1 Thessalonians 5:23

## Addressing the Needs of the Body, Soul, and Spirit

Truth Spring has witnessed the failed application of programs that do not meet the various needs of the individual and the community. By providing only for the physical need of the individual, the psychological and spiritual needs are often neglected. Individuals may go to a particular program to meet their physical needs (such as going to a food pantry) but will end up turning to damaging behaviors (such as substance abuse, gambling, and gang activity) as a way to attempt to fulfill their higher needs for community and self-esteem. Through its programs, Truth Spring presents Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of all things as a way to counteract this dangerous cycle.

Truth Spring does not intend to present Jesus Christ in a formal, or necessarily religious fashion, but in a genuine, relational way. We believe that Jesus is the very bread we eat, water we drink, clothes we wear, shelter over our head, and is the joy in our heart. By presenting Christ as a person, an actual living reality, our clients are able to experience Christ in a significant and life-changing way. Our goal is to have clients see Christ lived out in the lives of Truth Spring staff and volunteers and to touch Christ in their own spirits. By doing so, they can see and experience the reality of Jesus Christ, the one who brings real growth and change to all who are His.

*“...Know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled up unto all the fullness of God.”*

Ephesians 3:19



## A Scientific Approach to Community Development

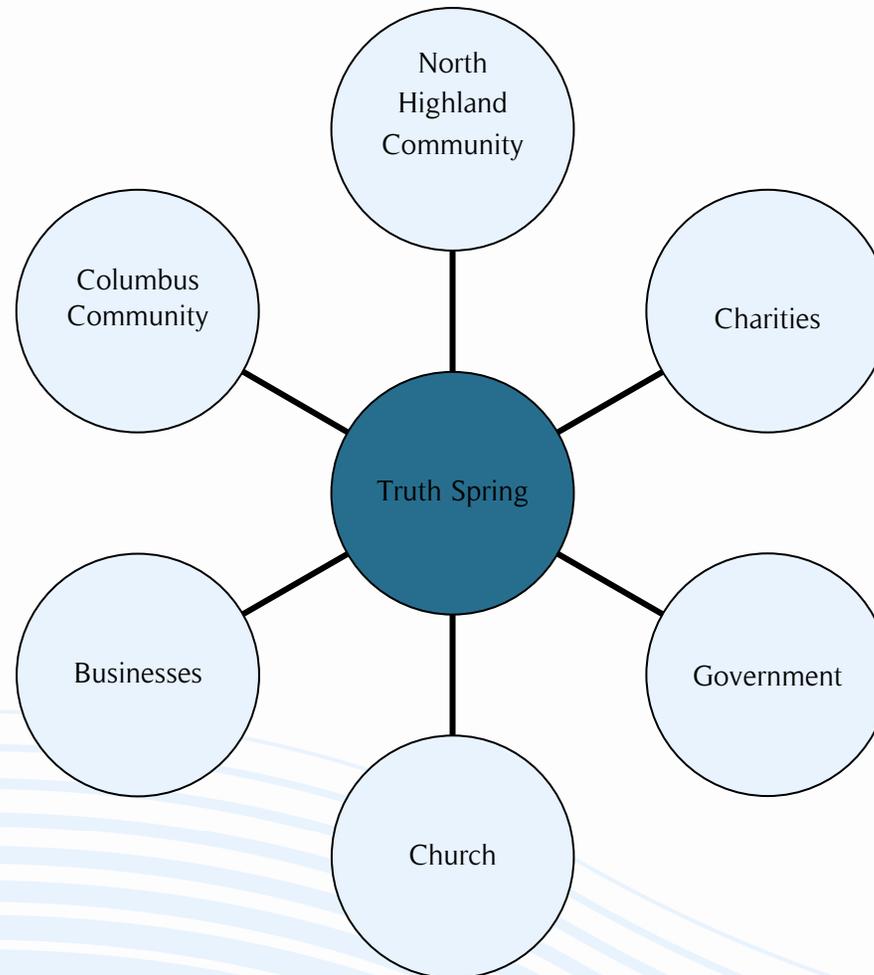
In addition to its faith-based approach to community development, Truth Spring also implements scientific advancements and research into its program planning, though it does not see science as a replacement for the irrevocable truths of God revealed in the Holy Bible. Truth Spring utilizes research into the local community as well as larger humanitarian issues as a means to adequately develop programs to meet the needs of its clients. By considering the research and analysis conducted by the scientific community Truth Spring believes it can develop programs to advance its mission.

Such scientific pursuits that Truth Spring includes in the development of its programs are surveys and analysis of target populations, evaluation of similarly-implemented programs in other parts of the country/world, as well as scientific models that may provide insight into the community as a whole. For example, Truth Spring utilizes the research work provided by the Fanning Institute of Government for the Chattahoochee Valley in considering certain program areas to develop. Likewise, Truth Spring has considered the work of Abraham Maslow in developing programs that address the various needs of the community.

Truth Spring does not consider itself a scientific organization nor does it consider itself qualified to make accurate assessments of any scientific research. Rather, Truth Spring believes that the scientific community provides insight into the natural world and the Holy Bible provides insight into the spiritual world. Jesus Christ bridges the gap between both. Truth Spring firmly believes the only viable solution to any community development needs can only be met by God in Christ Jesus.

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And righteousness shall look down from heaven.”*  
Psalm 85:11

## Strategic Model



*“...They being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding...”*  
Colossians 2:2

## Strategic Model

North Highland Community – Private individuals living, working, or otherwise operating in the North Highland area of Columbus, Georgia.

Charities – Nonprofit organizations, including foundations, whose primary focus is community development.

Government – All relevant U.S. government entities.

Church – All Christian churches, regardless of denomination and background, who share the common faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, possessing His Holy Spirit.

Businesses – For-profit organizations who have a vested interest in the development of the North Highland & Bibb City communities.

Columbus Community – Other local communities outside of the North Highland area of Columbus, Georgia who have an interest in developing the area served.

*“...one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

Ephesians 4:6

## Strategic Model

This model represents the relationship Truth Spring has between its stakeholders, as well as its interaction with other interested parties. Truth Spring serves as an intermediary and service provider, utilizing and collaborating with a variety of different organizations and community strata to achieve its mission. As represented in this model, Truth Spring seeks to meet its mission by utilizing resources of and working with a variety of different organizations and communities.

Truth Spring seeks to bridge the gap between the three main sectors of American organizations: public, private, and nonprofit. By collaborating with corporate and community partners, as well as providing services of its own, Truth Spring seeks to alleviate the demand for service provision on the government and reduce redundancy in charitable provision by other organizations.

By placing itself at the epicenter of community development in its service area (the North Highland and Bibb City communities), Truth Spring seeks to prevent itself from becoming a niche organization. That is to say, Truth Spring does not desire to become another service provider in an area of Columbus already inundated with charitable service providers. Truth Spring also does not desire to replicate those services already being provided by others. Rather, Truth Spring seeks to fulfill areas of need not already being met, as well as work with its partners to develop a Christ-centered approach to developing the North Highland community.

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Galatians 3:28

## Christ First, Christ Last, and Christ In-between

Truth Spring believes that only by centering all programs in, on, and around the Lord Jesus Christ can worthwhile community development occur. Truth Spring is committed to a larger goal of permanent, substantial change in the North Highland community as a whole. It realizes such a goal is a substantial investment of both time and resources. Truth Spring also realizes that it will at times both stumble and succeed, but will ultimately press on towards the goal of the kingdom of God being furthered.

Truth Spring not believe that providing clients with homes or jobs alone will cause the change that God desires for the North Highland community. Often times we have witnessed the degradation that occurs when Christ is left out of the equation in charitable initiatives. This causes people to become dependent on a service, making them into people who merely absorb handouts rather than actually developing their person. By placing Jesus Christ at the forefront of all programs, we help people to further their walk in Him while at the same time providing necessary charitable activities. The intention is that over time clients will be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit in them to the point where they are able to operate independently of any social program or welfare initiative. This is the state where North Highland community actually develops.

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Matthew 6:33

## Christ First, Christ Last, and Christ In-between

Our goal at Truth Spring is not to become another charitable provider in an area of town already saturated by charities. Rather, the goal is to facilitate the growth of the kingdom of God in the North Highland community by working with churches and other nonprofits to bring about substantial change to the very nature of the community itself. Truth Spring takes a Christ-centered approach to all of its programs and goals, believing only this method will bring North Highland community out of the pit of hopelessness.

Truth Spring does not believe sustainable economic growth is equivalent to genuine and substantial community development. In the same way, improved green space or community aesthetic is not the mark of worthwhile community development. Truth Spring sees these things as simply byproducts, results of, Jesus Christ working in the community. It does not believe these things or other charitable activities, absent of Christ, are sufficient to provide the level of community development God desires and people need. Because of that, it does not aim for these material markers, but rather, seeks to gain Christ.

Truth Spring has not set elaborate goals for itself. It does not seek to eliminate homelessness, poverty, drug use, etc. from the North Highland community. Truth Spring is aware that, until the Lord Jesus comes back, poverty and dark forces that seek to undermine His work will be present. So instead, the goal is Christ Jesus. He is the very object we press towards and He is the very power that we use to reach Him. For us, Christ is the beginning and the end.

*"I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."*

Revelation 22:13

## Conclusion

Truth Spring does not practice charity for the sake of charity. It believes charity should have a goal it intends to meet, an ends it intends to produce. That goal is not to make money. That goal is not to indoctrinate people into a belief system. That goal is not to make people feel good. The goal is Christ. The goal is for the body of Christ to be built. The goal is for God's glory to be expressed. The goal is for God's kingdom to come.

Truth Spring provides charitable services when necessary, but these services are not its end goal. The goal is to be useful vessels to the Lord in order to produce what He desires on this earth: a glorious expression of Himself in mankind--for His body to be built. Any charitable services provided are directly related to and focused on meeting this goal. In the process of doing so, Truth Spring seeks to work with a variety of partners across different sectors to help produce substantial development to the North Highland community.

All interested partners are invited to meet with Truth Spring and press on towards the goal the Lord has set. Truth Spring looks forward to working with those individuals, communities, organizations, and other partners who are looking to join with in prayer and action to further the Lord's will for the North Highland community. This, as is with all things, is for the glory of our God and Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of His Holy Spirit.

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16