

Ephesus House: Raising up the Next Generation of Leaders

For years, finances have been one of the greatest barriers to young people stepping into full-time missionary and church-planting work. They hear and sense the call. They have the capacity. But they haven't been able to figure out how to survive financially while they learn. Ephesus House removes that barrier.

Through an outpouring of generosity, including some funding from E3 (a ministry-focused organization committed exclusively to church planting and disciple-making), the financial barrier has been removed. We now have the resources to house, subsidize, and train young leaders in the middle of the harvest right here in Los Angeles. It's not a classroom. It's a residency, and it's an answer to prayer.

Just What Is Ephesus House?

Ephesus House is a live-in leadership residency for young men and women who've been called to church planting and disciple-making. It's designed to give them a runway, a real, grounded, hands-on environment where they can grow into the calling God has put on their lives, without being crushed by financial pressure.

They will live in community. They will find jobs to cover their own personal expenses and help them learn to be responsible. They'll commit to a simple but powerful weekly rhythm:

- Two hours every week in the harvest. In their neighborhood, and in nearby ethnic communities.
- Two hours every week in a house church. They'll learn how to participate in and eventually lead the kind of simple church gatherings we're multiplying across Los Angeles.
- Two hours a week in training. They'll focus on the theology and practice of disciple-making and church planting.
- And finally, they'll focus on abiding daily in Christ. They'll be expected to stay rooted in the Word and in prayer.

These are adults, so we don't plan to micromanage them. In fact, the list above is the complete set of expectations we're going to place on them. We're not going to tell them exactly where to go or how to do the ministry we're inviting them into.

We're going to train them. We're going to run with them. And we're going to release them.

This isn't a Christian commune. Nor is it a passive observation program designed to give people head knowledge and allow them to watch other people do the work. It is not a lecture-based Bible school with minimal get-your-hands-dirty mission experience.

And this is really important. It is not meant to be a permanent arrangement. We're asking for a one-to-two-year commitment from each resident, yet still leaving room for flexibility, depending on individual circumstances. The key issues are discipleship, leadership, and fruitfulness, rather than hard rules about structure.

Where are they?

We currently have two Ephesus House locations in development. The first is in Buena Park, California. It's a four-bedroom home with a pool and a jacuzzi.

This house belongs to a widow in our network whose son is connected to E3. She was struggling with depression and isolation following the death of her husband. Opening her home to this residency has been life-giving for her.

She gets to stay in her house, she now has community, she has a renewed purpose, and her expenses are covered through E3 subsidies. It's a win for her, it's a win for the residents, and it's a win for the kingdom. We're setting up two rooms for men and two rooms for women.

The second location is coming together, but not yet locked down. It's in Northern Los Angeles and will be led by Tre and Rachel, a couple relocating from Memphis, who will serve as house leaders. Our goal is to find a triplex or a large single house where Tre and Rachel can live with their family while running both the men's and women's sides of the residency.

Ephesus Houses Are Part of a Broader Mission

These residents won't simply be training in isolation. They'll be joining a living, active, moving apostolic network. They'll be plugged into the Los Angeles Metro team, learning alongside seasoned church planters and missionaries who are already doing what Ephesus House will be training them to do.

Missionary Training

They'll also have exposure to some of the wider movements God is funding, visiting, and building. For example, they'll be involved in missionary training through Neighbors and Nations' existing training track.

Prison Ministry

They'll also be involved in prison ministry.

This is a growing area of kingdom work in Southern California and Texas, connected to a movement with deep prophetic roots going back to the Azusa

Street Revival of 1906. The vision is simple, but it's powerful: We go into the prisons to raise up leaders from within. We find hungry men and women already serving time, who can spend decades making disciples behind bars. Then, at their release, these disciples walk out carrying the fire with them, having the DNA of multiplication deeply embedded.

International Connections

As part of the ongoing training and exposure, these residents will hear stories and meet people connected to gospel movements around the world. What's amazing is that the world has come to the Los Angeles Metro area. Each of the Ephesus House locations is literally minutes away from Little Arabia and Little Vietnam, with significant Sikh, Hindu, Orthodox Jewish, and other people groups to whom these young men and women will be ministering.

How are the Ephesus Houses funded?

We've received grants of \$5,000 per month for the Buena Park site and \$7,500 per month for the Northern LA site. Additional grants and funding opportunities are in process.

This funding doesn't just pay for housing. It allows us to operate a real training environment, without asking residents to fundraise their way in before they even get started.

What's amazing is that donors connected with various movement networks are giving specifically to see church planting and disciple-making multiplied. They want to hear the stories. They want to see how their investment is producing fruit. Part of the Ephesus House culture will be capturing those stories in writing, in conversations, through our networks, and getting them back to the people who made this possible.

Why Now?

Jesus told us to pray for laborers, and we've been doing that. And now there are young people showing up, some from out of state, some from right here in Southern California. They're committed to learning and want to run. They just need a place to land and a team to run with.

Ephesus House is that place.

If you know someone hungry for this, someone ready to give a year or two to learn what making disciples and planting churches looks like in the middle of one of the most diverse and least reached metro areas in the United States, send them to us.

The doors are open. The funding is here. The harvest is ready.
Come and see.