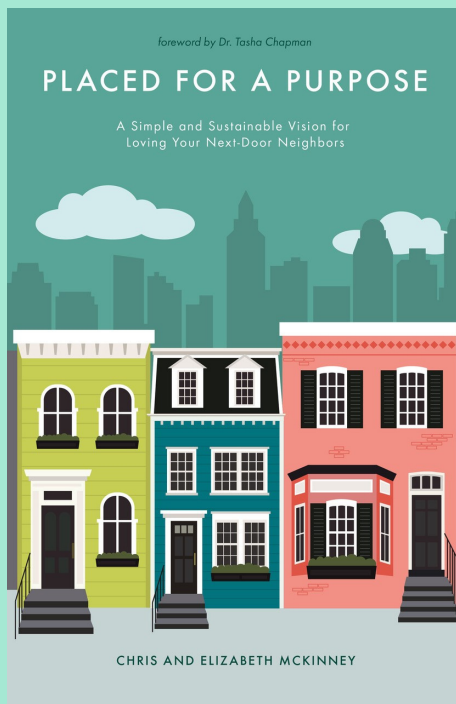


# Placed for a Purpose:

*A Simple and Sustainable Vision for Love Your Next-Door Neighbors*

*"If you've ever had the desire to see God work in and through you right where He has you, then Placed for a Purpose is the perfect practical and heart-engaging guide. In the words of Rosaria Butterfield, get ready for an adventure of 'making strangers into neighbors, and neighbors into the family of God.'"*

—David Robbins, President and CEO of FamilyLife



*Placed for a Purpose: A Simple and Sustainable Vision for Love Your Next-Door Neighbors*

Chris & Elizabeth McKinney

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Release:



## Much-Needed, Hope-Filled, Creative Course for Learning to be a Good Neighbor - Literally

Does it matter who lives near us physically when our fast-paced, hurried, highly individualized lives don't seem to intersect much with the people in our neighborhood?

Yes, it DOES matter - you were placed for a purpose.

**Cru City's Chris and Elizabeth McKinney** wrote *Placed for a Purpose: A Simple and Sustainable Vision for Loving Your Next-Door Neighbors* to provide a template for Christians to learn how to, quite literally, be a good neighbor—a topic rarely discussed in church and long forgotten in our broader culture.

*Placed for a Purpose* is already being used in small group studies across the country and is also perfect for individuals and families who are looking to learn "neighboring" to experience a deeper understanding of God's grace, and our part in His redemptive work.

The book leads us through Scripture to provide examples of why and how God calls us to be truly present—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—with our neighbors. *Placed for a Purpose* also provides a discussion guide at the end of each chapter underscoring that Biblical insight, as well as plenty of questions to encourage conversation, prayer, and even assignments to help readers turn their good intentions into action.

In *Placed for a Purpose*, the McKinneys write: "Maybe you're like us. Maybe you're wondering how and where neighboring could possibly fit into your life. Maybe you're barely keeping afloat as it is and you're just waiting until the end of the day when you can finally have some downtime. We get it. But what if we were to expand our belief that home is primarily a place to escape? What if we developed a mindset that home can also be a place to engage? What if God not only wants to provide healing and restoration for you at home but for your neighbors as well? And what if your neighbors are a means of grace in your life to heal and restore you?"

Get ready to see your neighborhood in a whole new way... God's way!

# About the Authors

## CHRIS AND ELIZABETH MCKINNEY

live in Columbia, MO with their four daughters and a Pomeranian. They work for Cru City and serve as associate staff at their church, The Crossing. They write, speak and are passionate about helping people love their next-door neighbors.

**Their Neighboring Story:** We certainly weren't looking for one more thing to do. We had just moved into a new home and were in the most stressful season of our lives. As an introvert, I (Chris) was already maxed with directing a local college ministry and commuting to seminary, so reaching out to the neighbors just wasn't on my radar. Elizabeth was sapped and barely keeping her head above water while balancing ministry responsibilities along with caring for our four young kids. Home was a place of survival mode where we hunkered down and tried to do the next urgent thing.

Looking back, we were really at a crossroads.

Despite the persistent pull to stay in our busy, overwhelmed, and insulated bubble and leave our neighbors alone, there began to grow in us a sense that we needed people right around us. And, we thought, maybe it could be something fun and life-giving in the midst of our monotony. So, we threw a small fish fry. Little did we know at the time that God was pulling us out of the cultural story of neighboring and sweeping us into his story of redemption in our neighborhood.



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PlacedForAPurpose.com

# Suggested Interview Questions

- ➔ For the two of you, “neighboring” started with a fish fry. How did that happen?
- ➔ What are some of the obstacles the two of you have encountered as you engage with your neighbors?
- ➔ One of the Biblical passages you discuss is the Good Samaritan. How does Jesus “flip the script” in this parable?
- ➔ How does Jesus lead by example in showing us the importance of truly seeing people? Why do we need to see our neighbors as “glorious ruins”?
- ➔ One of the assignments you give in *Placed for a Purpose* is to watch the Fred Rogers documentary, *Won't You Be My Neighbor*. What lessons can we learn from that film?
- ➔ Talk about “living a life of hospitality.” How can it mean different things for different people? What is at the heart of it?
- ➔ In the book, you point out that Jesus and the apostles often used soil and farming as a metaphor as they talked about what it meant for the kingdom of God to advance. What are some of the ways that applies to modern-day neighboring?
- ➔ You talk about doing even very small things as a way to serve your neighbor. What are some COVID-appropriate small ways to serve?
- ➔ How can you tell when a non-Christian neighbor is open and willing to have a conversation about faith?
- ➔ In your work, what has proven to be a good “first step” for most people when it comes to reaching out to your neighbor for the first time? What if you need to mend a relationship with your neighbor - what seems to work as a good first move in that case?

## MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Contact Judy McDonough at [judy@karencampbellmedia.com](mailto:judy@karencampbellmedia.com)  
or Karen Campbell at [karen@karencampbellmedia.com](mailto:karen@karencampbellmedia.com) to schedule an  
interview!

# What people are saying about *Placed for a Purpose...*

“The McKinneys remind us how biblically rooted and practical ‘loving your neighbor’ really is and thereby inspire us to return to the ‘old ways’ of doing small group gospel outreach through building relational bridges with our neighbors. This excellent resource trains our church planters why and how to engage in neighboring.”

—**Philip Douglass, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Applied Theology, Covenant Theological Seminary; Director of Church Planting for Missouri Presbytery of the PCA**

“I have no doubt that *Placed for a Purpose* will be the catalyst behind thousands of changed lives. The invitation from the McKinneys into the practice of neighboring will impact countless families and neighborhoods. The ripple effect is immeasurable. Their approach to building and strengthening community with those we live around is theologically rich but also refreshingly practical. It’s easy to read, full of insight, and provides a clear—yet approachable—call to action. The McKinneys, pulling from their decades of relational ministry, show us we don’t have to go far at all to make an impact on the world. There is so much potential right where we live. After reading *Placed for a Purpose*, you simply won’t ever see your neighborhood the same.”

—**Polly Conner, Co-founder of *Thriving Home*; Co-author of *From Freezer to Table & From Freezer to Cooker***

“Chris and Elizabeth live this out in their own lives! Their approach is rich in theology and easy to apply in a multitude of different ways. When you read *Placed for a Purpose*, you will find yourself wanting to create a margin in your life so you can be more present with the people who live right outside your front door. They will help you to overcome the awkwardness that many of us feel about meeting and getting to know our neighbors. They are the real deal and these tools will help you to live out the Great Commandment.”

—**Dave Runyon, Co-author of *Art of Neighboring***

“Over the course of two years I enjoyed watching Chris and Elizabeth develop a ministry they called ‘neighboring.’ They both served in campus ministry for many years and had proven experience in reaching college students with the gospel. But neighboring was different in significant ways. And they had to find new ways of doing ministry that were intentionally relational and neighborly. As I watched this change as their pastor, I saw them having a lot of fun and neighbors were responding in large numbers. As Chris completed his Master of Divinity degree in seminary, he and Elizabeth were able to bring an interesting biblical theology into neighboring that has excited and equipped many others in our church to do likewise. I was so excited about what I heard that I had them present their new materials to our 70-person staff team. The material in this book is really good—insightful, educational, motivating, and actually fun to do while you make new friends and become more, well, neighborly.”

—**Dave Cover, Co-lead Pastor, The Crossing, Columbia, Missouri**

“This book could radically change the way we view and engage our neighbors. Most of us know that Jesus told us to love them—our neighbors—but we struggle to know how to do that in concrete, practical ways. Grounding us in the biblical story, Chris and Elizabeth McKinney show us what we need to know, what the posture of our heart needs to be, and the actual steps we can do to be a good neighbor. *Placed for a Purpose* will both compel and equip you to open your door, say hello, and love the people who live next door, across the street, upstairs, and in your community. May the kingdom of God be advanced in our neighborhoods as we learn what it means to truly be a good neighbor.”

—**Courtney Doctor, Coordinator of Women’s Initiatives, *The Gospel Coalition*; Author of *From Garden to Glory: A Bible Study on the Bible’s Story***