

STRONGER

• *Craig Rees*

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Refresh

We believed then, and believe even more strongly now, that what God is revealing to us is a future worth the sacrifice.

The Stronger Challenge is about changing the way our church engages with the world around us. We believe that God will judge our church not on how many we seat, but by how many we send.





CENTRAL
students



CENTRAL
students







Central





THE LOCAL CHURCH



But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

And We Rise



Churches that take Jesus' promises and the Great Commission seriously are committed to sending out some of their best leaders into the mission. Honestly, this is one of the hardest things for me to do: finding someone with great potential, developing them,

and then watching them leave to establish a ministry somewhere else. Down in your heart you know you ought to be happy about this — but still, they are no longer there benefiting your church.

JD Greear, *Gaining by Losing*

Should we not also be sending our best? Can we really expect to extend the kingdom if we do not? Do we expect that God builds his kingdom differently in our day than he did in Jesus' and Paul's day? Blessing comes only through sacrifice. God calls his leaders, not to a platform to build a great ministry for themselves, but to an altar where they die unto themselves.

This means sending out our best with abandon...Sending and planting is rarely good — in the short run — for our church's attendance or budget bottom line. Of the twenty-five domestic and ninety international churches we have planted, not one has ever contacted us and said,

“We had such a surplus budget this year we wanted to give some back to you!” Church plants are like teenagers — they only want your money and affirmation and then for you to stay out of their way. (Smile.) Sending is costly and painful, but the harvest is a thousand times worth it.

JD Greear, *Gaining by Losing*

BY 2050

United Nations
Estimate

408 million

US Census Bureau
Estimate

418 million

2013

314 million

2005

250 million

**82% of the growth will come from
immigrants and their descendants.**



Playland

March 3–April 29

12,000

Check-ins

6,000+

Unique

85% No Affiliation with Central

36 children now attend Central Kids

These are big numbers but behind every number there's a person who needs the Hope and Life of Jesus. The Playland has been giving us opportunities to start the conversation.

FINANCE

Initial 2016-17 Goal:	\$800,000
Revised 2016-17 Goal:	\$2,000,000

Thank You!

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