



Christ Awakening Servant Teams

Join the NEW American Revolution!

The Official C.A.S.T. Vision and How-to

Handbook

*Connecting Christians more fully to the person of Christ
by increasing their conversations about the glories of Christ*

Become a C.A.S.T. Facilitator.

**Develop your very own C.A.S.T. to Help Awaken
Your Church to More of God's Risen, Reigning Son Today!**

© David Bryant, 2025

Produced by the team at Proclaim Hope! and *ChristNow.com*
Sam Lincoln, project manager / Beth Wolsey, editor

Be sure to regularly visit ChristNow.com!

You'll find a wide variety of resources—**ALL FREE**—waiting to feed you, equip you, and expand your knowledge and vision of our reigning Lord Jesus Christ. This will empower you and your friends so you can spearhead and grow an awakening to Christ within your church!

Remember: *ChristNow.com* is committed to ensuring that every CAST is fully equipped to successfully accomplish its mission.

Sign up [here](#) to get our regular blog posts and vlogs!

**[Check out our extensive
ChristNow Free Resources Library!](#)**





First, What Is a CAST?

Note that the very *rationale* for a CAST is thoroughly biblical:

- Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34).
- Faith comes by hearing when what is heard is the message of Christ (Romans 10:17).
- The Lord gave the word, and great was the company of the proclaimers (Psalm 68:11).
- Let the message about Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom (Colossians 3:16).

In other words, CAST members will seek to “*connect Christians more fully to the person of Christ by increasing their conversations about the glories of Christ.*”

This handbook is about helping to raise up “thousands of CASTs” and planting them in thousands of congregations across our land. CASTs play the most strategic role in serving the movement emerging across our land—what *ChristNow.com* calls an “American CHRIST Awakening.”

CAST stands for **Christ Awakening Servant Team** and consists of disciples who have a burning passion to be fully alive in Jesus for ALL he is. Then, they invite fellow believers to join them in the pursuit of knowing more of his fullness as God’s reigning Son.

Tactfully and lovingly, CAST members seek to increase the focus among *Christians* on much more of the glorious supremacy of God’s reigning Son today. They do this by praying together, sharing with each other, and then speaking about the Lord Jesus Christ during everyday conversations—beginning on Sundays when most of the Body is gathered in one place. They desire to help deepen others’ awareness of and love for God’s Son to the full extent of his greatness today as our Redeemer and King.

We might say “a CAST serves by *casting*”—casting a much larger vision of our living Lord Jesus among fellow believers through everyday forms of communication. Put simply, the main work of a CAST ministry comes down to this:

***“Connecting Christians more fully
to the person of Christ
by increasing their conversations
about the glories of Christ.”***

Now, Let’s Explore These Key Points:

- **Key characteristics of a CAST**
- **A survey: Does your church need a CAST?**
- **The benefits a CAST brings to any church**
- **First steps in forming a CAST**
- **How to organize your CAST meetings**
- **Getting conversations started**



**Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message,
so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ . . .
Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.
(Colossians 4)**



Key Characteristics of a CAST

A CAST complements the ministry of church leaders. The CAST team nurtures a “climate of Christ” among church members, providing many opportunities for believers to open their hearts to a greater devotion toward Christ—the same goal the leaders in their church long for their people to discover and develop. By multiplying conversations about the fullness of God’s Son, CASTs provide reinforcement for their pastors as they shepherd God’s people into fuller dimensions of Christ’s reign.

A CAST works as a team. They support the team as they pray for each other, hold each other accountable, and report to each other the ways they see God connecting his children more fully to his Son by increasing their conversations about him. They strategize ways to increase effective, winsome conversations focused on the wonders of King Jesus. They pray for the seeds they are planting in people’s hearts and for a Christ Awakening movement within their congregation and beyond.

A CAST has one primary *short-range* goal. To share God’s word with God’s people in such a way that fellow believers walk away from individual conversations or group Bible discussions (or any other times Christians communicate) with (1) a little bit larger vision of Christ, and (2) greater reasons to put their hope in him.

A CAST has one primary *longer-range* goal: To multiply themselves through a growing number of believers who follow their example by telling others about the greatness of Christ. A CAST models how all Christians can carry on Christ-focused, Christ-exalting conversations and discussions as a way of life.

A CAST ministry is thoroughly biblical. CAST members seek to get more of God's truth about God's Son into regular conversations with God's people. They pass along fresh insights and promises from the multitude of Scriptures about the majesty and supremacy of the Savior. These exchanges allow God's Spirit to connect (or reconnect) believers more fully to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A CAST ministry offers multiple ways to exalt Jesus. In very simple and practical ways, CAST members use ordinary opportunities for regular communications—whether one-on-one or in small group discussions, or perhaps using cards, emails, texts, or phone calls. In various ways, they help remind other disciples of the wonders of who Christ is right now. Any believer seeking to know Christ better and desiring to talk with other believers about their own fresh discoveries of who he is automatically qualifies for a CAST!

A CAST is “pro-Christ.” It is not “anti” anything. A CAST's members do not critique the spiritual vitality of their congregation or its leaders. They minister as servants to the Body of Christ. They desire to encourage fellow believers toward a more wholehearted devotion to God's Son for all he is. They do this by humbly and sensitively weaving the “truth that is in Jesus” (Eph. 4:20-21) into regular conversations.



A Survey: Does Your Church Need the Ministry of a CAST?

Here's how the survey works.

As you consider forming a CAST, you might want to take a survey by conducting a “Listening Tour.” Pursue it as a team over three Sunday mornings. You might consider inviting your pastoral staff and/or elders or deacons to join you in this experiment.

When you get to church on each of the three Sundays, instead of conversing with people, just listen to what others are talking about. Walk throughout the building, overhearing what people are saying to each other—in the fellowship hall, parking lot, or sanctuary before and after the service or during a Sunday school class.

Debrief the survey together.

After the three Sundays, CAST members—and church leaders who participated—meet to debrief, sharing your observations as you discuss these two questions:

1. **The name:** How frequently did you hear the name of the Lord Jesus Christ mentioned, even in passing, as believers talked with one another on the three Sundays? Not God. Not the Holy Spirit. Not the Bible. Not churchly activities. Not current events. No—Jesus himself. Of the dozens of exchanges you overheard, how many times was Jesus mentioned at all?

2. **The aim:** If you *did* hear Jesus' name brought up, did you witness even one believer sharing with another believer something they recently discovered about the worth and wonder of the reigning Savior—specifically to build up the other person's hope and passion toward him?

Most likely, your CAST and church leaders will be shocked by the findings!

As it has been for thousands of other leaders who've tried this experiment, you will discover that God's dear Son—for whose sake a congregation exists in the first place and in whom we live and move and have our being—is rarely mentioned in the course of normal conversations among the Christians where you worship. This is especially evident on a Sunday morning when God's people meeting in his name as his followers.

Remember: Jesus taught in Matthew 12 that what fills the heart is what will ultimately come out of the mouth. So, if Christians rarely talk to each other about their growing knowledge of and love for the one they claim is their eternal Savior and King, what does that tell you about the many other concerns that too often dominate their hearts?

Next, have a discussion.

What if every Sunday morning, the conversations within your congregation were full of Christ—sharing all we have discovered about him by living for him the previous week?

What if, as a way of life, young and old alike eagerly shared with each other what they are regularly discovering about the wonders of the Savior for whose sake we are joined together—because of whose reign we exist and for whose fame we live?

What if every time we're together, for whatever reason, we made it a point to exhort or challenge one another, warn or comfort one another, by lovingly passing along freshly uncovered insights into the “unsearchable riches” of God's Son (Eph. 3:8)?

If this marked our church's life together, after a while, how might such consistent Christward conversations lead toward a growing spiritual revitalization of your church family, possibly sparking a larger, deeper Christ Awakening movement among them?

So, is it time to begin a CAST among your people?

After all, how could any Christian ask for a more strategic—or more life-giving—ministry to fellow believers than what a CAST offers? What more personal approach is there for fostering Christ Awakenings where you live?

Are you ready to serve God's people like this? Are you willing to help “connect Christians more fully to the person of Christ by increasing their conversations about the supremacy of Christ”?

Many believe this initiative is the greatest hope of the hour for the Church in our nation for raising up a true Christ-exalting revival in our land. Your CAST can begin to pursue the fulfillment of that hope in this very strategic way.



The Benefits a CAST Brings to Any Church

Like a summer shower, a wealth of blessings flows from the ministry of a CAST. Consider, first of all, those inherent in the “key characteristics” listed above (page 5). Review them to note the benefits implied by each one, not only for your CAST but for the church you serve.

In addition, three others should be emphasized.

FOCUS. When we Christians turn from mostly talking *around* Christ to actually focusing on and talking *about* him, the Lord Jesus will become so much more real for us. The Holy Spirit will take full advantage of every opportunity to enlarge our passion for God’s Son.

In this way, we will be fulfilling Colossians 3:16, as we allow the message about Christ “*to dwell among us in all of its richness*” because together we “*teach and admonish one another*” with the wisdom that Christ himself is for all of us.

This is how any congregation can begin to replicate, like the body of believers we read about in Acts 5:42: “*Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.*” We grow in our abiding relationship with Christ, learning to know him in deeper ways, to the degree we share more about him with fellow believers—helping each other to become wholly alive to the whole vision of the whole Christ as Lord of all.

RENEWAL. When the wider truths about God’s Son—his majesty, greatness, glory, vastness, supremacy, and inexhaustible love—become the overriding themes of our life together, the Christian community will enter into new dimensions of discipleship.

Seeing afresh the wonders of our reigning Redeemer today, we will be transformed by more vibrant worship of him, stronger prayer gatherings for his sake, enriched studies of God’s Word as it takes us to him, sharper abilities to see how to love and serve one another the way he shows us—and a growing desire to join him in fulfilling his Kingdom purposes. The desire to share Christ with unbelievers around us will become more compelling for us.

Bottom line: Wherever God’s people give God’s Son his rightful place among them, God’s Spirit comes down to bring Christward renewal, revitalization, and awakening at every level of Christian growth, prayer, fellowship, and mission.

GROWTH. Think about this maxim: *God cannot lead us into a deeper relationship with his Son based on a vision of the glories of his Son we fail to give to each other.*

On the other hand, *there are no limits to how far God can take us in our relationship with his Son if we regularly share with one another the abundance of truths from God’s Word about the magnitude of the person of Jesus today and what his reign is all about.*

Since, as the Bible says in Romans 10:17, “faith comes by hearing, if what is heard is the message about Christ,” then the more often we plant more of the meaning and majesty of our Lord in the hearts of believers, the more likely they will be to take bold, new steps in their daily walk with him. As their numbers multiply, the result is an emerging Christ Awakening movement right where you live.



First Steps in Forming a CAST

Consult with your spiritual leaders. Every step toward forming a CAST should be taken in prayerful consultation with the spiritual leaders of your church. A CAST exists to serve leaders and their people.

Consider sharing this handbook with your pastoral team to help unpack the vision of a CAST and how its ministry can enrich your congregation. Get their blessing to press ahead.

Set your first time to meet and plan. To start organizing a CAST, set up a meeting with no more than four to six individuals. Recruit fellow Jesus followers who already demonstrate a growing hunger to know more of the greatness of their King—who also express longings to see him receive more fully his rightful focus and dominance in the lives of all believers.

This gathering might include, for example, people who facilitate or attend prayer groups, guide discipleship groups, or lead outreach efforts—perhaps those who serve as deacons or elders.

Agenda for the first meeting. After some time of prayer for a fresh awakening to Christ for all he is, each of you might share just one aspect of your deepening vision of Christ's glory and greatness with the whole team.

Then, proceed with time to review, discuss, and pray about ideas presented in this CAST document. Decide where you sense God wants you to go in the future.

See more on this in the section below on how to organize regular CAST meetings.

Regather regularly to report. Share what the Spirit is doing with your ongoing conversations about Jesus' supremacy with other believers. Describe what you've been talking about and how people seemed to respond. Be honest about times you struggle to bring Christ into a conversation and try to figure out why this was so. Brainstorm better ways to sensitively initiate and deepen conversations about Jesus. Share stories of any evidence of a Christ Awakening you see beginning to emerge within your congregation.

Don't forget to keep your spiritual leaders informed of what you are doing and observing. Invite them to rejoice with your CAST in ways you see the Spirit "connecting Christians more fully with the person of Christ by increasing their conversations about the supremacy of Christ." Invite them to attend any of your meetings.



How to Organize Your CAST Meetings

If possible, meet for one hour each week. A good time might be before or after church services each Sunday, so you don't need to schedule a special gathering during the week.

Begin the meeting with prayer. Pray first for Christ Awakenings among your church family, then for a similar Christward revolution in the churches of America. Next, offer prayers of rededication to God for calling your CAST to this vital ministry for Jesus. Finally, focus your prayers on praise for what the glory and greatness of Jesus Christ means to you, your church, our nation, and the world. This might include a time worshiping the Lord Jesus with hymns and songs of praise that exalt his magnificence and his reign over all of heaven and earth.

Around the circle, share one fresh insight on Jesus. In your private times of reading and studying Scripture and your times of prayer the past week, what did you uncover that gave you a better understanding of some truth about who Jesus is as Lord of all? What has made you more excited about him since your CAST last met? Enrich each other's lives by serving as Christ proclaimers with each other first, the way you want to do for others.

Share conversation experiences from the past week. Talk about the times you were able to give fellow believers more of the riches of Christ. Share your specific approach, how the person responded, and the way the conversation ended. Did you learn anything from the encounter that will help you and your CAST do better next time?

Develop plans for the coming week. Brainstorm ideas on how to make God's Son more glorious for other believers. Consider outreaches like writing on social media, sending emails, texts, or cards, making phone calls, having simple conversations at church gatherings, or meeting someone for lunch or coffee, etc.

Along this line, you might want to carefully consider the strategy outlined in the "Side Bar" at the end of this handbook, which tells about how one CAST did it in their church.

Also, refer to the next section immediately below, which discusses creative ways to get conversations started.

Conclude with a "sending" prayer. Pray for each other and the ministry opportunities the Spirit will give you in the coming week as you serve as Christ proclaimers. Pray also for those with whom you will be sharing conversations about the glories of Jesus—that many will become more awake and alive to him and become more passionate for him as a result.



Getting Conversations Started

Here are four unique approaches to share more of the wonders of the Lord Jesus Christ, Christian to Christian.

SEEK AND SPEAK. First, start with the SEEK part. Throughout the week, each member of the CAST spends enough time in God's Word and prayer for the Spirit to quicken in each heart at least one fresh truth about the greatness of Christ that you would want to share with other believers. Then, SPEAK. On the following Sundays, share the nugget you've uncovered with at least one other believer. You might quote a specific Scripture that touched your heart, an insight gained as you reflected and prayed, or inspiration from a book you read.

Then, SPEAK. On the following Sundays, share the nugget you've uncovered with at least one other believer. You might quote a specific Scripture that touched your heart, an insight gained as you reflected and prayed, or inspiration from a book you read.

You might initiate these conversations over coffee in the fellowship hall, during Sunday school discussions, or right before worship begins with someone sitting close to you. Continue sharing recent insights throughout the coming week in letters, cards, emails, phone calls, etc.

SAY AND PRAY. Every time God gives you an opportunity to share some aspect of the fullness of Christ with another believer, conclude that conversation by asking your friend to join you as you lead the two of you in brief praise to the Father for who Christ is, based on that facet of his supremacy. Conclude by asking God's Spirit to plant this greater vision of the Lord Jesus you've just discussed in both your hearts.

HOME THRONE. Encourage parents to enlarge their family’s vision of Christ regularly, such as during family devotions or conversations around the dinner table. To help them do so regularly, suggest they might want to set aside a special chair in the house (or at the dinner table) to visibly *represent* Jesus’ throne in heaven. You might drape it with a shiny, golden cloth or richly embroidered banner. It will serve as a constant reminder that in the life of your family, Jesus really is actively reigning as Lord, right here and right now.

SERMON SPRINGBOARDS. Here’s an exciting way for CASTs to work with your pastor and spiritual leaders in your overall mission. It might go something like this:

First, the pastor announces at church a sermon text for the following Sunday, asking *everyone* to reflect on it during the coming week.

Next, CAST members meditate on the text, identifying insights or implications about Christ’s glory and greatness—foreshadowed in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament.

Then, arriving at church that following Sunday, CAST members share with their friends some of their discoveries from the text for today’s sermon. Conversing like this can unfold quite naturally since *everyone* was invited to reflect on the passage a week earlier. CAST members use the sermon text as a springboard for talking about Christ before and after the congregation hears the message.

This approach not only enhances the impact of a specific message on everyone, but it also strengthens the pastor’s efforts to help the congregation become increasingly awake and alive to the glories of Jesus.

A variation on this approach: During the service, the pastor might ask those willing to do so to turn to someone around them and take 30 seconds to tell them what they discovered as they reflected during the previous week on that Sunday’s sermon text. Or have them share on this topic as soon as the sermon ends.

Those who do so automatically become, as it were, a “CAST-in-the-making”!



Conclusion

RESOURCES: Check out the many free tools and resources waiting to feed you and equip you at *ChristNow.com*. Some resources there might not only help your CAST get started but also continue to empower your CAST to carry out its mission. Many tools there will show you new ways to help you get conversations started in so many creative ways.

LINK UP: If you'd like to link up with other CASTs across the nation, let us know of your interest at info@ChristNow.com.

KEEP MOVING. A new day is dawning! Christ Awakening movements are emerging across our land. *Christ Awakening Servant Teams* offer a strategic step toward fostering awakenings to the majesty and supremacy of our Lord Jesus Christ in any local church or other Christian group. And the CAST ministry is so simple virtually no one can fail.

CONTINUED ENCOURAGEMENT. David Bryant hosts Zoom meetings for 30 minutes once a month with any CAST facilitators who want to participate to hear your reports and offer encouragement and trouble-shooting as needed.

It's all about this:

“Connecting Christians more fully
to the person of Christ
by increasing their conversations about
the glories of Christ”

SIDEBAR: **Here's how one CAST did it in Seattle**

The lead pastor of a Seattle-based church writes:

Try this: If your church leadership is focusing on a specific text of Scripture for an upcoming Sunday, consider that to be a common text that now “belongs” to the entire congregation.

Since you, as part of the congregation, have been asked by your leadership to dwell on this text, it is appropriate for you to share with anyone in the congregation what you see in that text, especially highlighting ways that Christ is exalted and is shown as supreme—and you will be building Christ-honouring bonds in relationships in the process.

Consider our church’s practice. The pastor selects both a worship text and a sermon text for a given Sunday and publishes that information more than two weeks in advance.

The CAST picks up on that information and treats it as an assignment to study those texts personally and devotionally before Sunday. Out of their study, they identify specific truths about Christ’s glory and greatness that they can share in their conversations with various people at church.

And, because the pastor has drawn attention to both the worship and sermon texts in the worship service, when the CAST members talk with various members of the congregation about their discoveries from within those texts, in one sense, they are only carrying out the pastor’s desires by sharing their delight in Jesus from those texts.

Further, from the perspective of those benefiting from these conversations, it is quite natural to be involved in such talk since they all share those two Scripture texts in common. Thus, the CAST’s effectiveness in this church comes from the strategy of the pastor presenting common texts to the entire church, which CAST members use as the content or basis for talking about Christ with people at church.