



A Gospel Centered Creative Community



THE RED COLLECTIVE

Isaiah 33:17

**Your eyes will see the King in His beauty**

A thousand years ago Prince Vladimir the Great, the pagan monarch of Kiev, was looking for a new religion to unify the Russian people. Towards this end, Prince Vladimir sent out envoys to investigate the great faiths from neighbouring realms. When the delegations returned, they gave the Prince their reports. Some had discovered religions that were dour and austere. Others encountered faiths that were abstract and theoretical. But the envoys who had investigated Christianity in the Byzantine capital of Constantinople reported finding a faith characterised by such transcendent beauty that they *“did not know if they were in heaven or on earth.”*

*“Then we went to Constantinople and they led us to the place where they worship their God, and we knew not whether we were in heaven or earth, for on*

*earth there is no such vision nor beauty, and we do not know how to describe it; we only know that God dwells among men. We cannot forget that beauty.”*

Upon receiving the report from the Constantinople delegation of the unearthly beauty they had witnessed, Prince Vladimir adopted Christianity as the new faith for the Russian people.

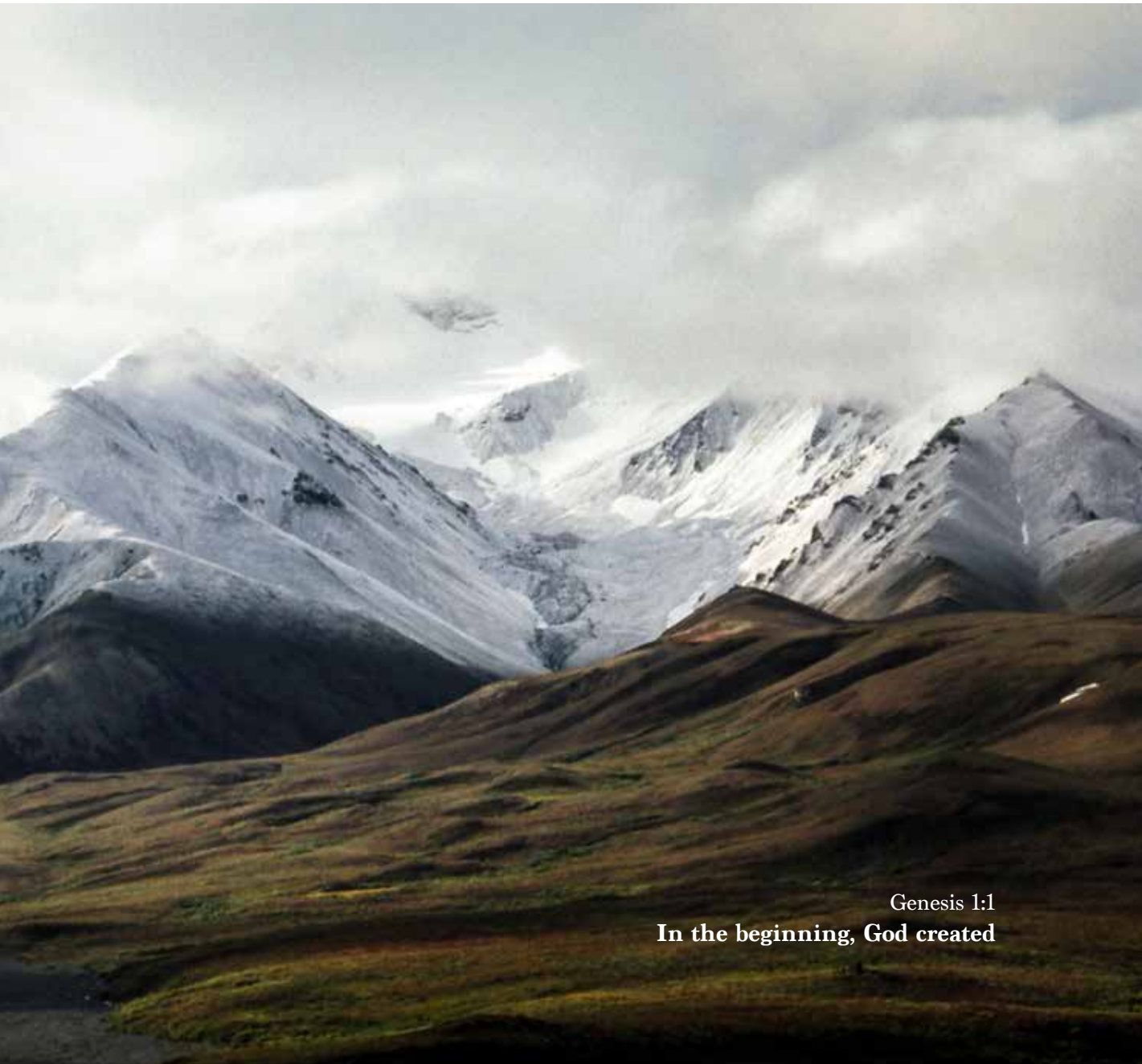
Is it possible that the Christian message can be communicated in terms of beauty? Along with apologetics and ethics, is there also an aesthetic that belongs to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Beauty is integral to the Christian message... to a generation suspicious of truth claims and unconvinced by moral assertion, beauty has a surprising allure.

And everything about Jesus is beautiful.

**Brian Zahnd**







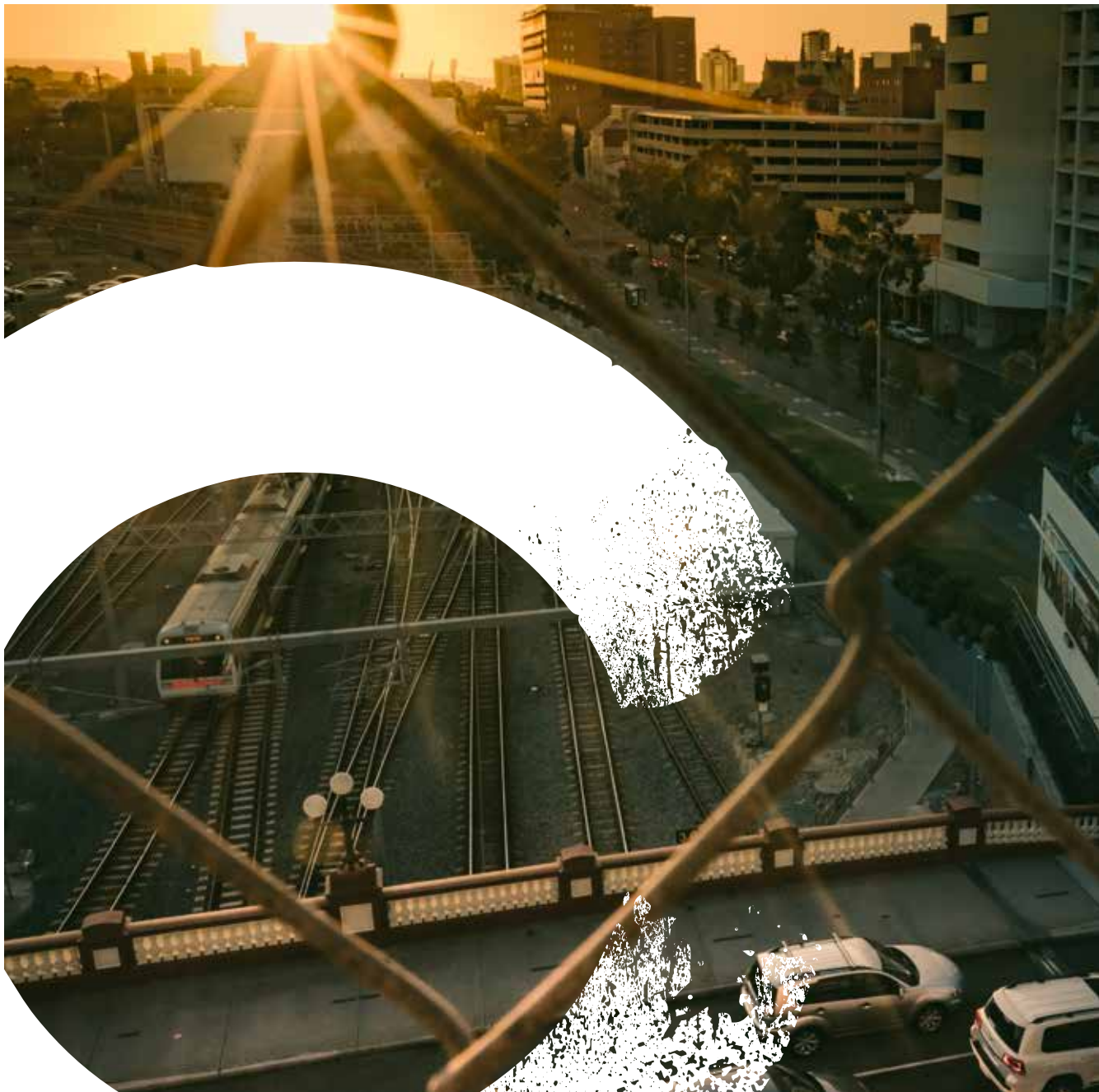
Genesis 1:1  
**In the beginning, God created**

## **The picture is bigger than the one that got framed**

We think we know a lot about many things, including God. And we've created a box or a frame for this knowledge because it gives us some sort of context to explain what is unexplainable. But what if all that knowledge won't fit in the box? What if we get a bigger box and it still won't fit? What if all that we think we know has been forced into the wrong frame? We can keep looking at the picture, knowing there is something off about it, or we can take it down from the wall and reframe it. We need to rethink what we know about God and how we relate to Him. Then perhaps we can reframe the relationship. Maybe we can give it something a little roomier. Possibly a bigger frame for our understanding of God will mean a bigger life for us. **Brian Hardin**









## **What is the The Red Collective?**

A place to dream, to explore, to develop, and network. A place to gather the creative artists from across the church of Perth for regular discipleship, support, community, and collaboration in an environment of love, support, and release. A space where the creative process can be engaged in, not in isolation, but in community.

Undergirded by the values of discipleship, unity, prayer, and collaboration, we desire to serve and bless our city in the name of Jesus with the artistic gifts and abilities He has given us.

Discipleship is primary and best cultivated in smaller groups. As trust grows in these small groups, creative concepts find refinement and encouragement.

No matter the nature of your artistic expression we long to see the Kingdom of God revealed in and through your work. No matter the context of your expression you are welcome.

The Red Collective is compelled by a vision for the transformation of our city through the beauty of Jesus and His Gospel.

## **No one single church will reach a city**

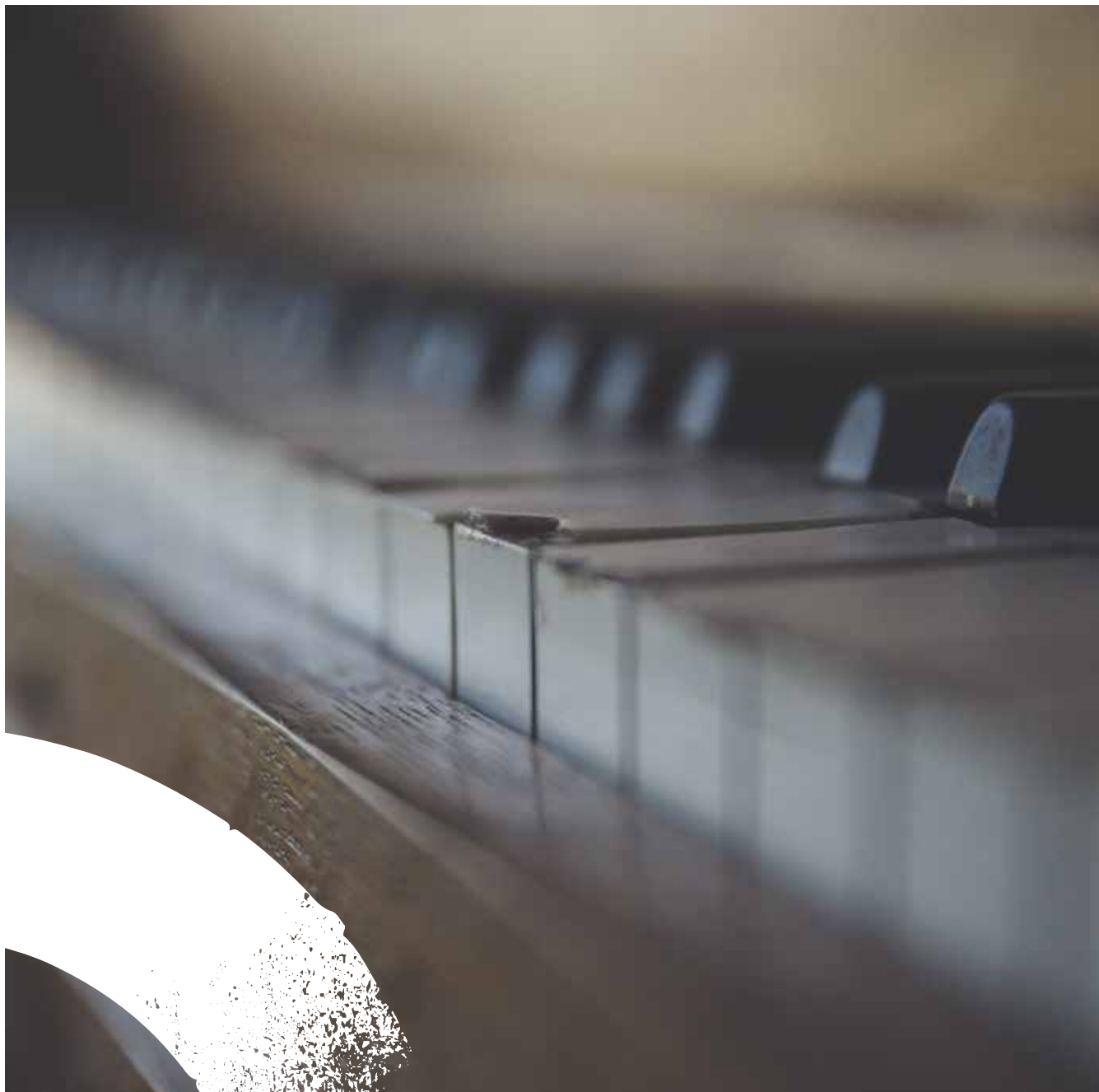
Unity is not uniformity or conformity. It's not about creating a structure that contains, restricts or controls. It's not even coming to a combined agreement on particular difficult issues. Unity is simply relationship. It's a way of standing with others, despite differences in form and style, and saying 'we are one'. We reside under one name; the name of Jesus. Scripture points to a oneness with each other and with Christ that is not optional. Being 'as one' is the desire of Christ. In separating, dividing or disputing, we throw doubts upon the oneness of the Christian faith and we take glory away from Christ. The world will not be persuaded

by doctrine or a good argument. It will not yearn for communion with the Father on the basis of well-argued theology. It will not turn from destruction to hope because of moral judgements and condemnation. The world will yearn for the Father, when it sees a Church that is one in Christ.

It's our faith in the blood of Jesus that makes us a family.

The Red Collective.







## **We are not all the same**

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

### **The Message**

It's our differences that prove our unity in Christ is real.



## **Like a moth to a flame**

We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it. **Madeleine L'Engle**







De Create!



## **No one is creative in isolation**

I think community is crucial for artists - whether they realise it themselves or not. We spend all week pouring ourselves into the work. We care about how the work is being perceived by the wider audience and how it fits into the current scene. We pretend it doesn't matter what anyone thinks, but when someone whose opinion we respect says something good about it - it gives us sustenance. **Richard van der Aa**

Whether it be prayer, encouragement, idea brainstorming, collaboration, network sharing, and feedback, these all reach fulfilment in community.

## Humility

The first demand any work of any art makes upon us is surrender. Look. Listen. Receive. Get yourself out of the way. (There is no good asking first whether the work before you deserves such a surrender, for until you have surrendered you cannot possibly find out) **C.S. Lewis**

The Red Collective hold to the value of humility, because we can learn from anyone, no matter where they are on the journey. Our times together are a “criticism-free zone”, and your involvement means you agree to hold to the following values:

- Discipleship
- Reverence
- Servanthood
- Delight
- Humility
- Freedom to explore gifts and calling
- Approachability
- Non-reactivity
- Taking Responsibility
- Courage
- Honesty

When conversations about a work occur a good five step model we follow that is based on the Scazzero CTR model:

Encouragement > *I appreciate ...*

Clarification > *I'm puzzled by ...*

Feedback > *I notice ... and have you considered ...*

Development and Networking > *New information ...*

Dreams and Wishes > *I hope ...*





## **Our Lens**

**Is it creative, as God is creative ?**

> Genesis 1:1

**Does it edify the body of Christ ?**

> Ephesians 4:12

**Does it promote unity ?**

> Ephesians 4:1-6

**Does it exalt and glorify Jesus and allow us to enjoy him ?**

> Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Is the Gospel message presented ?**

> Romans 1:16

**Is the presentation of the Gospel a little different to convention ?**

> 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

**Is it promoting a lifestyle of worship ?**

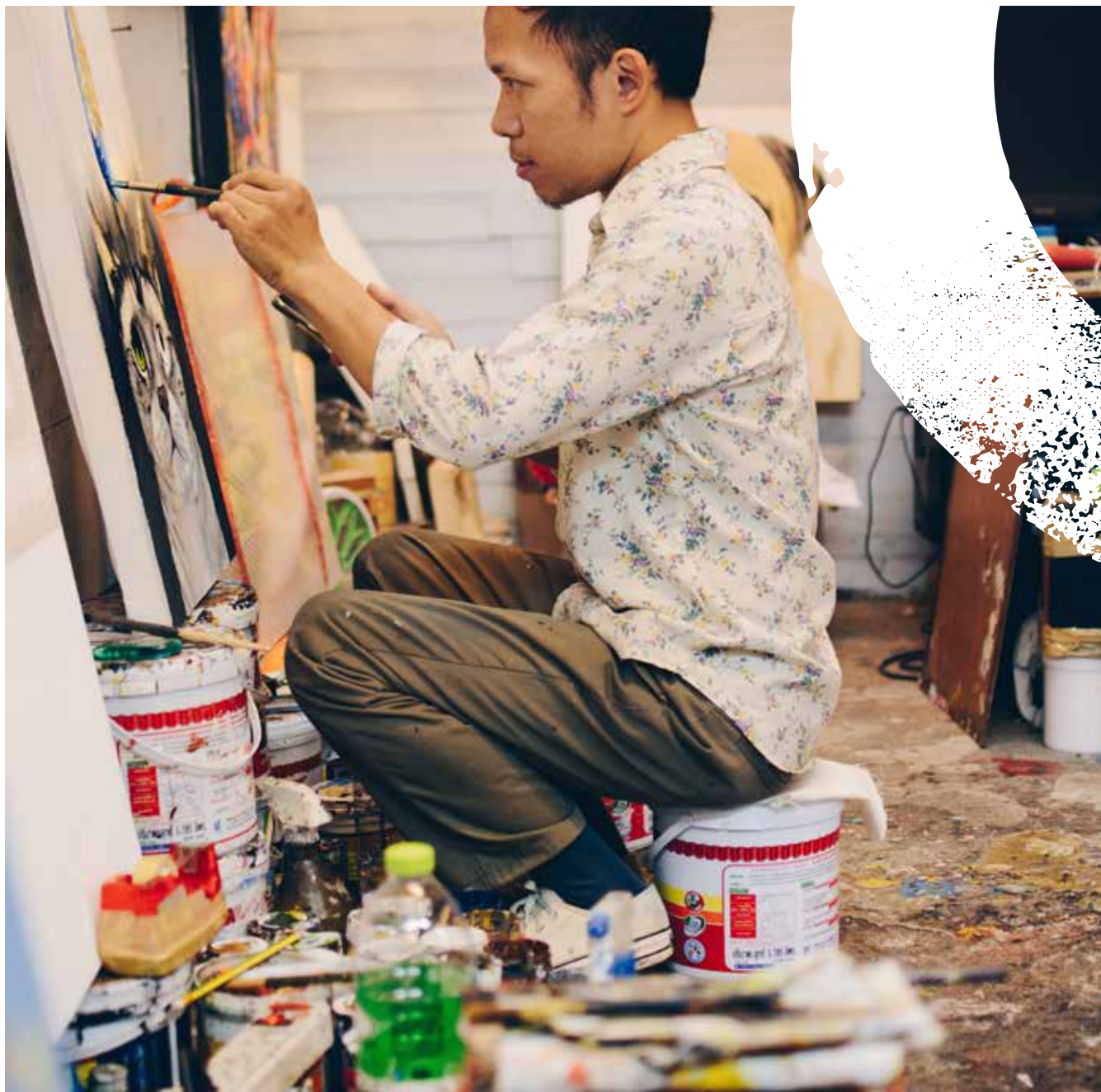
> Romans 12:1

**Will it get others involved in the praise and glory of God ?**

> Philippians 1:9-11









## Is this for you?

We think about the world in all the ways that we experience it. We think visually, we think in sound, we think kinaesthetically. We think in abstract terms, we think in movement... **Ken Robinson**

This is not an exhaustive list, but we think it is pretty close. If in reading this document, your heart resonates and your gift and calling is on the list below, we would love to invite you to be part of The Red Collective.

Animator	Fashion designer	Potter
Architect	Fine artist	Production designer
Art administrator	Floral designer	Sculptor
Artisan	Graphic designer	Set decorator/dresser
Arts administration	Hairstylist	Set designer
Chef	Illustrator	Sound Engineer
Ceramics artist	Interior designer	Spoken-word Artist
Chief creative officer	Jewellery designer	Stand-up Comedian
Colorist	Lighting technician	Videographer
Composers	Lyricist	Vocalist
Concept Artist	Make-up artist	Web designer
Curator	Media designer	Writer
Dancer	Musician	.....
Design director	Painter	
Design strategist	Photographer	
Essayist	Photojournalist	
Event planner	Playwright	

## **Extracts and recommended reading**

Living With A Creative Mind **Jeff and Julie Crabtree**

Beauty will save the World **Brian Zahnd**

Images and Idols **Thomas J Terry & J Ryan Lister**

Herding Tigers **Todd Henry**

Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative **Ken Robinson**

Your Church Is Too Small **John H Armstrong**

Ekklesia **Ed Silvos**

Talking To Strangers **Malcolm Gladwell**

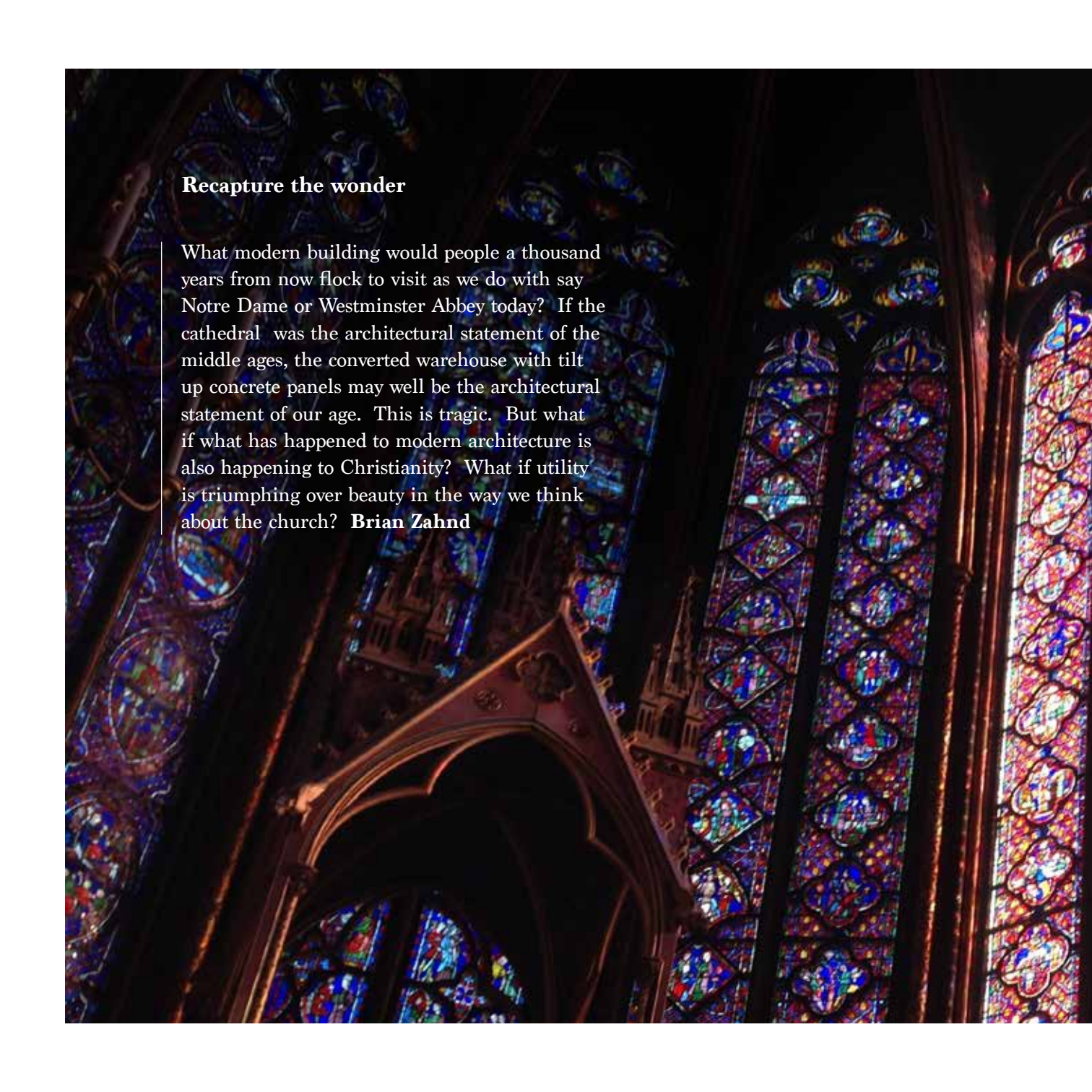
The Medici Effect **Frans Johansson**

Shaped By The Gospel **Timothy Keller**

Walking on Water - Reflections on Faith & Art **Madeleine L'Engle**

All That is Made - A Guide to Faith and the Creative Life **Alabaster Co**






## Recapture the wonder

What modern building would people a thousand years from now flock to visit as we do with say Notre Dame or Westminster Abbey today? If the cathedral was the architectural statement of the middle ages, the converted warehouse with tilt up concrete panels may well be the architectural statement of our age. This is tragic. But what if what has happened to modern architecture is also happening to Christianity? What if utility is triumphing over beauty in the way we think about the church? **Brian Zahnd**



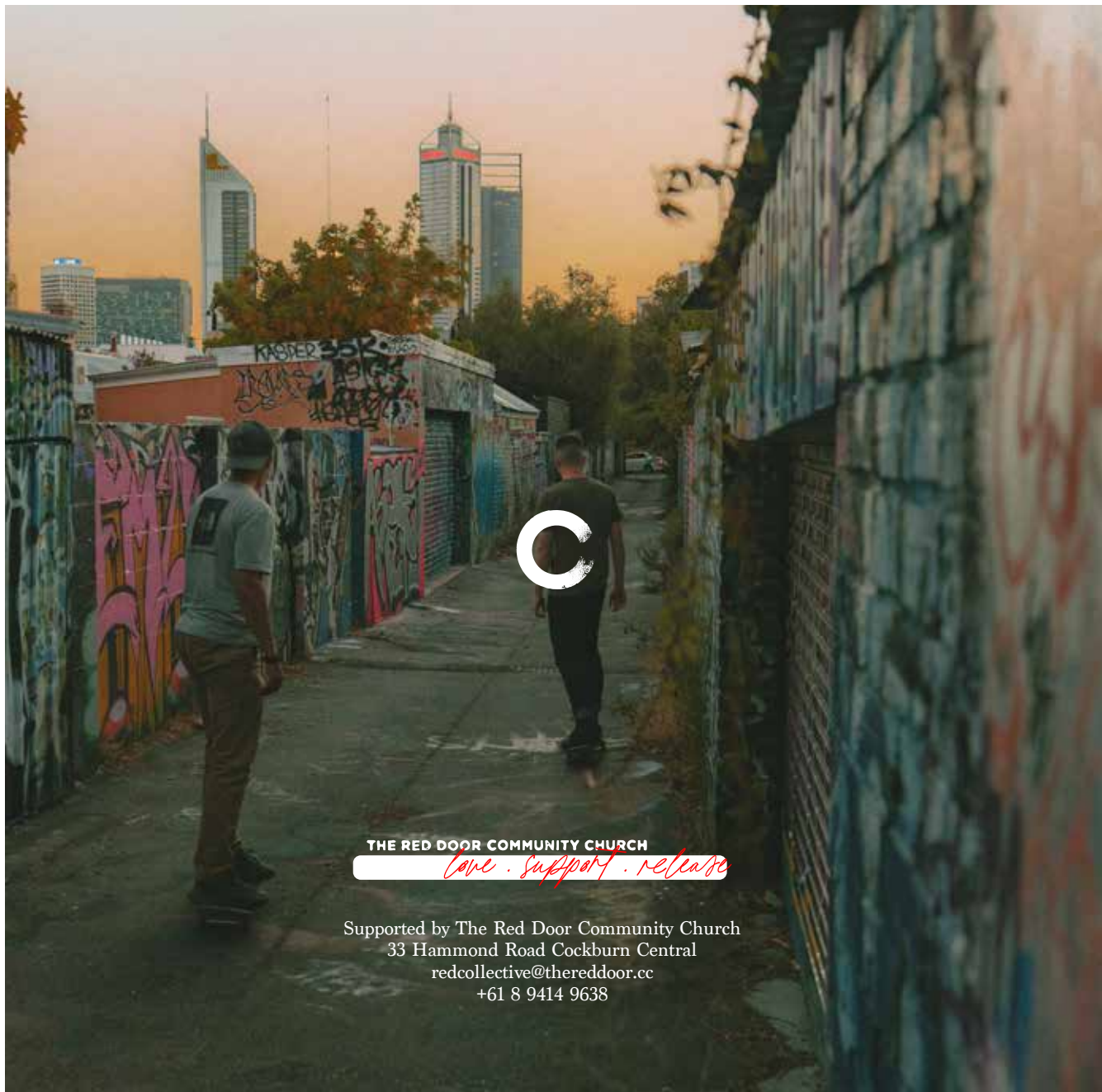


The image shows a book page with a textured, light blue background. A large, irregular circular cutout is positioned on the left side, revealing a dark, crumpled fabric underneath. The text "A little space to be creative" is printed in a simple, black, sans-serif font in the upper right quadrant of the page. The overall composition is minimalist and artistic, emphasizing texture and light.

A little space to be creative







THE RED DOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Love . Support . Release*

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