

**Jesus Culture** is an international [Christian revivalist](#) youth outreach ministry based at the [Bethel Church](#) of [Redding, California](#). Jesus Culture Ministry hosts conferences and operates a record label, Jesus Culture Music, to share its message and spread worship. Jesus Culture is to move to plant a church in Sacramento, with meetings starting in 2014.

## **History**

Fall of 1999, when the youth group at Bethel Church in Redding, California, led by youth pastor Banning Liebscher, launched the first Jesus Culture conference. Tony Cummings, music editor of [Cross Rhythms](#), described the ministry as "one of the most significant Christian movements in post-war America".<sup>[1]</sup>

According to Jesus Culture's website, "The heart of these gatherings was to serve other churches and lead young people to experience the radical love of God."<sup>[2]</sup>

As of July 2013 it is planned that Jesus Culture will move to [Sacramento](#) to plant a church, with meetings starting in 2014.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **Conferences**

Growing from the original conference in Redding, the organization now hosts annual conferences in Redding, [Atlanta](#), [Las Vegas](#), [Dallas](#), [Cleveland](#), and locations in [Australia](#) and the [United Kingdom](#). The conferences bring thousands of young people from around the world to the host cities.<sup>[4]</sup>

The conferences bring together a number of pastors and ministers to preach to the conference attendees.<sup>[4]</sup> Worship is led through song, featuring a number of performers, including the Jesus Culture band.

## **Jesus Culture Music**

Jesus Culture Music is the music label for the Jesus Culture Ministry. Its albums feature the worship of the Jesus Culture band, performing a mix of original and cover songs.<sup>[5]</sup>

Youth worship leaders [Kim Walker-Smith](#), Melissa How and Chris Quilala, long active with the youth group at Bethel Church in Redding, became the core of the Jesus Culture band.<sup>[6]</sup> Jesus Culture states the purpose of music in

their movement is to "ignite revival in the nations of the earth... compel the Body of Christ to radically abandon itself to a lifestyle of worship... and... encounter His extravagant love and raw power."<sup>[2]</sup>

Since 2006, the band has released a number of albums on the Jesus Culture Music label. Their 2011 album, *Awakening (Live From Chicago)*, appeared at No. 133 on the Canadian SoundScan charts.<sup>[7]</sup> The album was reviewed by [Christianity Today](#), who critiqued that "**...amps of staggering sound leave little room for thoughtful reflection or deliberate contemplation...**"<sup>[8]</sup>