

Church Planting Today

A NEW WAY OF CONNECTING WITH CHURCH PLANTERS

Summer 1998

Volume I, Issue I

Welcome to the *premiere issue* of *Church Planting Today*, the quarterly newsletter of the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) Church Planting Group.

In the next several issues, you will be introduced to an exciting and useful resource for those who start churches and those who partner them. Richard Harris, vice president of the Church Planting Group, said, "It is our desire to create a widely circulated communication newsletter that touches church planters and encourages them in the trenches where the cause of Christ is so very critical."

Here is a newsletter for the missionaries on the field who need a link and a resource that lets them know of their importance to the North American missionary effort. *Church Planting Today* will provide church planters a motivational word from our vice president, ways of getting others involved in the cause of planting churches, stories of fellow church planter ministries, and a quick bulleted tool that lets you use the idea right where you work. In addition to special interest stories from every area of culture, society, and economic levels, this newsletter will feature a center pullout section designed as a training piece. The pullout will give a two-page training piece and two pages of training materials appropriate for discussion in a mentor training network or new church Bible study.

Future issues will include articles concerning priorities and strategies as aids for mission pastors and those who

work with them and evangelistic innovation articles for church planters. If you want to know where God can use you for ministry, you will want to look at one of the features on the state of church planting in a particular state or region. Perhaps you are considering going to seminary. You could check out the state of church planting in our seminary feature.

Do you like cartoons or humorous church planting stories? Then you will want to turn to the "Church Planting Stumps" section beginning in our next issue. Or, how about a system to help you grow your new work and reproduce other churches? You will find just that as you turn to the feature on the Church Planting Process!

Perhaps your church and you want to be part of seeing a nation come to Jesus through the launching of evangelistic church plants. Don't worry! Be happy! There is material to help you know how to partner a new work and help it grow.

Well as you can see, the state of church planting resourcing for our

field missionaries has gone interactive. This newsletter is designed with you, the mission-minded, in mind. But that is not the final word. Each time you receive *Church Planting Today*, you will be blessed with a short feature entitled "Peak Performance Principles for Planters." This closing word will be a spiritual tool to help the church planter grow personally, professionally, and spiritually. What a way to close out each issue as we are drawn back to the One we serve. You are special to those of us on NAMB's Church Planting Group staff who serve you. Therefore, you deserve a special newsletter to help you further your family relationships, work relationships, and ministry techniques. Welcome to *Church Planting Today*; the best is just a step of faith ahead.

*By Tom Cheyney
Enlistment Associate
Leadership Enlistment and Training Team*

A Model of Planting Multiethnic Churches

By John Yi, Associate
Asian Church Planting

Following the unchangeable mandate of the Great Commission, Asian churches in America are opening a new chapter of Southern Baptists' ethnic history. An example of this is the Cornerstone International Christian Baptist Church of La Puente, Calif. Under the leadership of its pastor, Paul Lacanilao, Cornerstone International church is not mono-ethnic focused but is multiethnic focused. This congregation willingly stands on the front line of reaching multiethnic people and planting Southern Baptist churches through the North American Mission Board's Church Planting Process.

Cornerstone International church started its ministry with 60 people in 1988. Today, Sunday morning worship averages 350 and Sunday School attendance 80. The most exciting and God-honoring result of this church has been the birth of its six daughter churches.

Lacanilao's vision is to plant multiethnic churches instead of building a single mega-size church. Cornerstone's church plants have been the Hispanic Southern Baptist Church with pastor Dan Gonzalez; Cornerstone Christian Fellowship of Orange County with pastor Tim Defiesta; Cornerstone Christian Fellowship of Moreno Valley with pastor Bernie Azarcon; Cornerstone Christian Fellowship of Eagle Rock with pastor Desty Pelayor; Cornerstone Christian Fellowship of Fontana with pastor Bernie Azarcon; and New Heart Community Church of Cerritos with pastor Danny Cortez.

In 1995, the Cornerstone International church also established the Los Angeles School of Theology, an Ethnic Leadership Development center accredited by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. The center trains ethnic church leaders and pastors to witness and develop church planters. Through this institution, hundreds of ethnic church leaders have received training that enables them to expand the kingdom of God.

Lacanilao is not just a dynamic preacher. He is also a strong personal soul-winner. He conducts a strong visitation program with his deacons. The Cornerstone International church also produces a radio broadcast, a monthly church newspaper, and uses local Filipino newspapers to advertise the church and its activities among the Filipino community.

George Barna said, "vision is the insight God provides to instruct you and direct your paths." May we all experience God's presence in our lives and ministries as we step out into the vision He gives us for His eternal kingdom's expansion.



Church Planting in North America "100,000 by 2020"

By Richard Harris, Vice President
Church Planting Group

The commitment to plant churches in the United States and Canada continues to rise. The need to plant new congregations has surfaced as a high priority for most, if not all, denominations. The population shift that started with urbanization in the early twentieth century left tens of thousands of churches in deserted rural areas and racially changing urban centers. The past three decades witnessed thousands of churches caught in the population shift disbanding and locking their buildings.

Southern Baptists have joined a multitude of U.S. and Canadian denominations in an attempt to re-church North America. Statisticians who followed the church-to-population ratio through the twentieth century reported 27 churches for every 10,000 Americans in 1900. By 1950, the ratio had dropped to 17 churches for every 10,000. In 1996, there were only 11 churches for every 10,000.

Does the United States and Canada need to be re-churched? I believe the answer is yes. What part will Southern Baptists have in this re-churching effort? I believe Southern Baptists need 100,000 congregations by A.D. 2020.

To reach that goal, Southern Baptists will need to start approximately 2,700 churches annually. But it is not quite that simple. The North American Mission Board (NAMB) tracked newly constituted churches of the past 20 years and discovered a 75 percent survival rate. Realistically, Southern Baptists need to start approximately 3,000 congregations annually. Is this a goal that Southern Baptists can achieve? I believe the answer is yes.

State directors of missions, representing the 40 state conventions and fellowships, have set a church planting goal of 2,300 for 1998. Enthusiasm for church planting grows in the Southern Baptist Convention annually. Each year the concept of planting churches that multiply themselves gains a greater acceptance among church planters. A goal of 100,000 Southern Baptist congregations in A.D. 2020 is reachable.

This goal does not spring from a desire to boast of size. It is a desire to reach the unchurched. Planting healthy, reproducing churches with evangelistic passion is one of the best methodologies for reaching North America.

NAMB's Church Planting Group has produced a system called the Church Planting Process (CPP). The CPP is designed to be a more effective method of discovering church planters, a more efficient manner of resourcing church planters, and a more edifying model for supporting church planters.

Is it possible to have 100,000 Southern Baptist congregations in A.D. 2020? Yes! What part will Southern Baptists have in the re-churching of North America? This question is yet to be answered.



CHURCH PLANTING IN A.D. 2020

What will the state of church planting be in the year 2020? Will it be similar to what we know and have seen during the past few decades of the twentieth century? Consider five facets of church planting in the year 2020:

INDIGENOUS LEADERS - God will raise up an army of leaders from the harvest. These will be leaders indigenous to their settings. College students will pastor campus churches ranging in various sizes and ethnicity. Business leaders will lead congregational units in the workplace. Most will meet in office buildings convenient to their parishioners. Church will be conducted in many different locations but will be near the center of activities for its members. The indigenous leader will be defined for his or her ability to be genuine, authentic, and relational. The leaders' Bible skills will be experientially and not philosophically based.

MINISTRY TRAINING - Training events will emphasize learning and will be practical in content. Events will focus on developing specific ministry skills. Training will be conducted in terms of days and not years. Theological training will revolve around training networks. Training networks will be developed through and by faith groups. Some of these groups will include entrepreneurial Christian leaders, pastors, church staff members, and global ministry networks. The networks will offer training in key locations, on the Internet, and through other forms of telecommunication.

COMMUNICATION - The most radical change will be in the way people communicate. The telephone will largely become obsolete. Personal computer units will be replaced with multiple units, each customized to do a particular task. CD ROM type disks will replace most printed materials, including educational textbooks and all forms of instructional materials. The Internet will be the primary source of communication. Relationships will be initiated through telecommunication as emotions, beliefs, and philosophies will be primarily transmitted through those means.

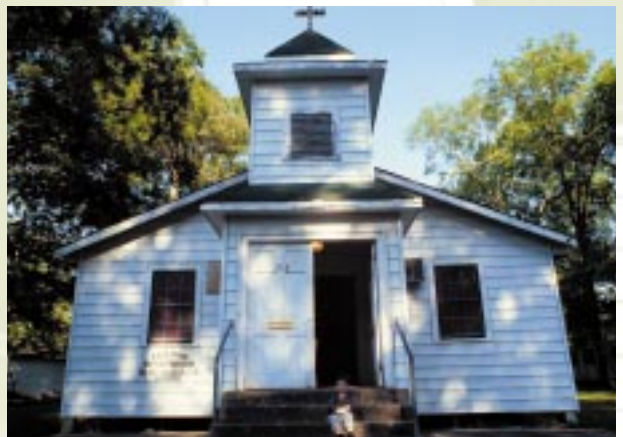
MULTICULTURALISM - North America will become a global village. People from every part of the world will know someone living in the United States. People of Hispanic, Chinese, Arab, and eastern European descent will dominate the American society. The global

village will have many forms of religion, art, recreation, culture, diet, and family lifestyles. People groups will emerge along both economic and cultural lines. These people will live in closed communities numbering up to 50,000 per community. Each community will be self-sufficient and self-propagating.

ROLE OF THE CHURCH - The churches will become spiritual centers, taking two forms. One form will contain multiple congregations, with each practicing a particular belief. The other form will deal with specific spiritual issues attempting to meet specific spiritual needs of people. These will not be based on particular beliefs but customized according to needs. This will present the greatest opportunity for the church to share the claims of Christ, as people will seek spiritual answers to everyday problems. Distinction between the secular and non-secular will disappear. The church will need to be specific in its belief, focused in its programs, and experimental in its worship. People will look for a church offering them stability, answers to their questions, and a means of expressing their emotions.

The day has come to broaden our concept of church planting to include the entire body of Christ. The year is A.D. 2020, and God will use ordinary means to reap the harvest of ordinary people who possess extraordinary virtues.

*By Russell Begaye, Manager
Multiethnic Church Planting*





"The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding" (Neh. 2:20 NIV).

A pilot project designed for building leaders committed to impacting North America . . . one church at a time!

A GREAT CHALLENGE

The reaching of two nations

The North American Mission Board has been given the awesome responsibility of leading out in the reaching of North America for Christ. The task is daunting:

The United States is the largest post-Christian nation on earth; is the third largest unchurched nation; and leads the world in every category of violent and domestic crime and social decay. With an unchurched population of 195 million, the task is awesome.

With only 3 to 5 percent of Canada's population claiming any affiliation with evangelical Christianity and only one Southern Baptist church for every 225,000 persons, the task is just beginning.

The Building of Leaders

The Nehemiah Project sets its sight on the raising up of leaders committed to . . .

- Planting churches that are committed to new mission settings
- Planting churches that plant churches that plant churches
- Planting churches that raise up leaders out of the harvest
- Planting churches that equip and empower an "on-mission" people

A STRATEGIC RESPONSE

Vision

We envision prepared church planters, planting healthy churches in new mission settings, creating a better world.

Values

We value the uniqueness of the calling, giftedness, and temperament of each individual.

We value practical equipping that combines the latest thinking and technologies in church planting with hands-on experience.

We value the penetration of new mission settings in all of our church planting.

We value the role of mentoring in developing healthy leaders.

We value the opportunity to partner with others in church planting.

We value the planting of churches that plant churches.

Purpose

To discover students with the calling, giftedness, ability, and temperament necessary for church planting.

To equip students by bringing together the best in academic preparation with hands-on church planting.

To send out prepared church planters into new mission settings.

PARTNERSHIP

By establishing centers for church planting on some of our seminary campuses, the North American Mission Board will join hand-in-hand with other Southern Baptists in equipping church planters.

PROCESS

Discover—through a weekend Assessment Workshop on various campuses, the North American Mission Board will partner with other Southern Baptists to provide the opportunity for students to develop an understanding of their individual gifts, abilities, and temperaments.

Equip—Through partnership with our seminaries, we will work hand-in-hand in providing the best equipping by combining the best in academic preparation with practical hands-on church planting.

Send out—By partnering with Southern Baptist churches, students can be sent out as Nehemiah church planters into strategic church planting opportunities. Working together through the North American Mission Board, state conventions, local associations, and church partnerships, salary and benefits are provided for two years. In addition, ongoing equipping and mentoring are part of any deployment.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE

A challenging task, a strategic response, and an opportunity to choose. . . . Why not join the Nehemiah team!

- I would like more information on the Nehemiah Project.
- I am interested in the assessment workshop.
- I am interested in the M.Div. with Church Planting degree.
- I am interested in a church planting internship.
- I am interested in church planting courses.
- I am interested in being a Nehemiah Church Planter.
- I am interested in knowing if I qualify for a Nehemiah scholarship .
- I am interested in being a Nehemiah partner.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Email _____

For additional information about Nehemiah, please contact or return to:

Church Planting Group
North American Mission Board
4200 North Point Pkwy.
Alpharetta, GA 30022-4176
(770) 410-6218

Dear Friends,

The Church Planting Group of the North American Mission Board is committed to partnering with Southern Baptists in discovering, developing, and deploying church planting leaders. The Nehemiah Project is a work in progress for developing the types of partnerships and equipping processes that will make a difference. Beginning this fall we will pilot this project on selected campuses.

It is our goal that we place in the hands of every potential church planter the opportunity to . . .

- Serve beside an experienced church planter.
- Benefit from the wise counsel of an effective church planting mentor.
- A church planting equipping process designed to bring the latest and best in technologies and church planting thinking to the planter.
- Peer relationships and support for greater encouragement and effectiveness.

The Nehemiah Project is being piloted as an intentional strategy for providing the best possible process for preparing church planters for healthy church planting in new mission settings for creating a better world. The Nehemiah Project is our response to a great challenge; it's your choice.

See you at the wall,

Church Planting Group, North American Mission Board



ONE CHURCH PLANTER, ONE CHURCH THAT TOUCHED A NATION, AND A DENOMINATION

By Jaime G. Prieto, Manager
Asian Church Planting

Eugene L. Gibson Sr., of Chicago, Ill., entered the ministry in his mid-30s. Although a bivocational pastor in Chicago, he didn't feel he was accomplishing much. He suffered a heart attack that required a triple bypass operation. While convalescing, he felt God's direction to establish a church "based on faith and a strong Bible teaching program." Following God's vision to plant a Southern Baptist church in Chicago, Gibson left his current pastorate and founded the Mission of Faith Baptist Church in 1977. It affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) from the start. The congregation met in a mortuary that was later transformed into a sanctuary.

Charles Chaney, vice president of the Church Extension Section of the former Home Mission Board, described Gibson's strategy as "spontaneous church planting in the inner city." He further observed: "They have developed one of the strongest Sunday School programs in the nation among predominantly black SBC churches." (Charles Chaney, *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century*, 1991, p. 225)

Gibson had planted a church in a city where he became a recognized and revered moderator of the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association, and president of three Southern Baptist groups—the Illinois Baptist State Association, the Southern Baptist African American Fellowship, and the Fellowship of Southern Baptist State Presidents—at the time of his death earlier this year at age 62. As a Baptist leader, Gibson is best remembered as a bridge builder. He built bridges across racial, social, and geographical barriers. Bob Wiley Jr., executive director, Illinois State Baptist Association, recalls, "Dr. Gibson was a very influential leader who identified leaders needed for the various segments of ministry and communities."

Phil Davis, director of NAMB's New Congregation Implementation Team, and former Sunday School director of Mission of Faith Baptist Church, testifies: "Dr. Gibson was a mentor of leaders for the next generation. I thank him for seeing in me what I could not see in myself,

and for encouraging, rebuking, and inspiring me to get involved and to make a positive difference in the local church and denomination."

Robert Wilson, African-American Church Planting manager, comments: "I saw him as an unusual leader who played an important role in the life of African-American Southern Baptists."



Eugene "Gino" Gibson Jr., who serves as associate minister of Mission of Faith Baptist Church says, "Just as my Dad influenced me to follow his footsteps, so he did for countless Baptist leaders as he personally touched and bless their ministries."

2020 VISION

By Roberto Gama, Associate Hispanic Church Planting

The Lord Jesus challenges us to see the fields ready for the harvest. Our field comprises the United States, Canada, and their territories. According to the Bureau of the Census by February 1, 1998, the U.S. population numbered 269,440,000.

Following these trends, by the year 2020 the projected total U.S. population will be, again in the millions, 322,742. The following charts below indicate predicated ethnic distribution.

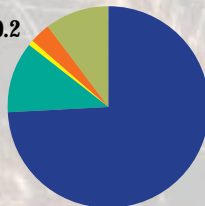
These figures correspond to the median projection of the Bureau of the Census. They do not include the population of Canada and its territories, Puerto Rico, and the undocumented residents of the United States.

By the year 2020, the Christian church will be challenged to reach about 70 million more people than today. The increases will be, again in the millions: Anglo, 32,583; African-American, 10,386; Native American, Eskimo, and Aleutian, 786; Asian and Pacific Islanders, 9,426; and Hispanic, 22,692.

Traditionally, the Anglo population is more open to the gospel, followed by African-American, Native American and the Aleut, the Hispanics, and finally the Asian population, which comes from a non-Christian background. Based on numbers, the greatest effort should be put on those groups with the most significant growth: Anglo; Hispanic; African-American; Asian Pacific, Native American, and Aleutian. The North American Mission Board suggests a goal of 100,000 Southern Baptist churches by 2020. Because of the significant increment of all non-Anglo groups, it is expected that at least 20,000 new churches will start from among these groups. This goal is reachable if we lift up our eyes to see the fields ready for the harvest and we ask the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to the fields.

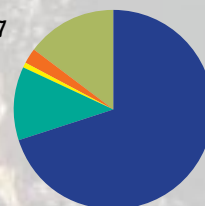
**Ethnic Distribution
U.S. Population, 02/1/ 1998
in Millions**

Anglo -222.3
African-American -34.2
**Native American,
Eskimo, and Aleut -2.3**
**Asian and
Pacific Islanders - 10.2**
Hispanic - 29.9



**U.S. Population, 02/1/1998
in Millions**

Anglo -254.8
African-American -42.6
**Native American,
Eskimo, and Aleut -3.1**
**Asian and
Pacific Islanders - 9.7**
Hispanic - 52.7



1998 Training Events



Mentor Training

Indiana Mentor Training
August 17-18, Tentative

Georgia Mentor Training
Atlanta, Ga. September 21-22, Tentative

Hispanic Mentor Training
Dodge City, Kan.,
September 21-22, Tentative

Refocusing

Hispanic Refocusing
Roswell, N.M.
June 28

Hispanic Refocusing
Fairbanks, Alaska
August 29-30

Convenors Training

Mobilization Events

Reach 98
San Diego, Calif.
September 8-11

Breaking Ground for the Harvest
San Diego, Calif.
November 13

Breaking Ground for the Harvest
Los Angeles, Calif.
November 14

BASIC TRAINING

African-American Jump Start Conference
Texas, August 27-29
Tentative

African-American Jump Start Conference
U.S. Virgin Islands
November 12-14

Anglo Basic Training
Ohio, September 28-
Oct. 1

Anglo Basic Training
N.C., October 21-24

African-American Asian/Hispanic Basic Training, Chicago, Ill.
July 16-19

Hispanic Basic Training
Salt Lake City, Utah
July 21-24,

Hispanic Basic Training
Detroit, Mich.
August 20-22

Hispanic Basic Training
Dodge City, Kan.
September 23-25

Hispanic Basic Training
Murietta, Calif.
October 19-21

Multiethnic Basic Training
Ft. Worth, Texas
August 17-21

Multiethnic Basic Training
Anchorage, Alaska,
August 26-29

Anglo Church Planting Seminars, Fla.,
June 15-19

Asian Basic Training
Los Angeles, Calif.
July 10-15

Asian Basic Training
Atlanta, Ga.
August 22-26

Asian Basic Training
Fort Worth, Texas
October 10-15

NAMB Challenges State Leaders To Double Church Plants by A.D. 2020

by Lynne Jones
News and Information Specialist, NAMB

North American Mission Board leaders have challenged state leaders with a "God-sized" vision which would result in more than doubling the number of Southern Baptist churches during the next 22 years by planting new churches. Richard Harris told state leaders at the church planting leaders meeting on February 19, in Houston, Texas, that an ambitious goal can only be reached with intentional preparation, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Calling it the "20/20 Vision for the Twenty-First Century," Harris, Vice President, Church Planting, outlined the church planting process for planting new churches as follows:

Mission Preparedness. We need to operate out of a biblical foundation, catch God's vision by getting on His agenda and undergird all our efforts with fervent prayer. Intentional prayer support for starting new churches keeps church starting from being mechanical and avoids an assembly line mentality.

Mobilization. Mobilization includes enlisting, assessing, and training at least 50,000 church planters by the year 2020. Any realistic plan of mobilization must involve large numbers of laypeople and bivocational ministers.

Mentoring. Mentoring is the transferring of wisdom based on experience, effectiveness, and godly example. In addition, church planters need to be exposed to a wide variety of successful models. Storefronts, multihousing units, and business high-rises have unique characteristics and nonconventional methods.

Multiplication. The church cannot accomplish the Great Commission as long as the population is multiplying while the church is merely adding. This is a God-sized task. It will take supernatural intervention for us to accomplish the vision.

"The 20/20 Vision for the Twenty-First Century" is the passion of Richard Harris' heart and the heart of the Church Planting staff. "It is the general passion of NAMB leadership," said Dr. Reccord, president of NAMB. "To fulfill this vision," continues Reccord, "it will take a mobilization of leaders who have a heart passion for evangelism and a mentality for mobilization."

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