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the north west baptist

news from American Baptist Churches of the Northwest Spring 2009

*...new churches are
the most effective
at reaching the lost
and developing them
into fully devoted
followers. If we
have a passion for
making disciples
then it would be
logical for us to
have a passion for
planting new churches
since they are so
effective at making
disciples.*

The Region website has a new look and is frequently updated. Check it out, and sign up for email updates if you are not currently receiving them.
www.abcnw.org

Continuing the Legacy of Mission Northwest

Dr. Charles Revis, Executive Minister, ABC of the Northwest

No doubt you have heard the phrase: "Find out where God is working and join Him in it" (from Henry Blackaby, of course). So, what IS God doing? Where is He working? He's doing a multitude of things, but one thing in particular is at the top of His list. He's expanding His church, primarily through birthing new congregations. This is ancient-future work. Dating back to the aggressive growth of the first-century church and continuing into the present, Jesus has never tired of expanding His church. He promise to build His church (Matthew 16:18), and He has never backed away from it. He's an indefatigable church builder.

Some of the most dramatic church growth is transpiring in places hidden from Western eyes, e.g., China, India, Vietnam and some mid-Eastern countries. But not all of it. There is a resurgence of church planting all across the U.S. Many of these churches have quickly grown into large churches. Some are dispersed through their community as a vibrant network of cells, small groups or house churches. Many of the new churches look radically different, and may not be recognized as a church by established churches. Others are fairly mainstream. Regardless of their variety, most are intent on connecting the people in their immediate context with the Living Christ and His life-changing power. They exist to help people fall in love with Jesus. According to the research, these new churches are far more effective than established churches in reaching the de-churched, people far from God and younger generations.

So, if God is expanding His Kingdom through new churches do we stand on the sideline and simply watch? Or, should we join God? The answer is JOIN GOD! God compels us as faithful disciples to join Him in this exciting, world-changing work. In doing so we will please Him. He will bless us. And, furthermore, it honors our American Baptist DNA.

Continued next page

We are a mission-centered denomination and we have always been at our best while on mission, at home and abroad.

There is no more concrete form of mission than growing existing congregations and planting new ones. This is true overseas, and it's true in America. As a far-flung association of churches we have unfinished work to do together. Namely, to reach the Northwest for Jesus Christ. One of the fundamental strategies for completing this mission is through the planting of new churches. That is, continuing the legacy of Mission Northwest, a Region campaign launched more than a decade ago.

So, what can you do specifically to join God in Church Planting? I'm glad you asked:

- ◆ Lead your church to pray for our new Region-sponsored churches. This newsletter is full of stories and pictures to inform and inspire you. Have your church pray for a different new church every Sunday.
- ◆ Receive a special offering for the church plant closest to you.
- ◆ Place church planting—Mission Northwest—in your mission budget. Or, designate a portion of mission giving to a specific church plant. The Region Office can assist you with this.
- ◆ Purchase a specific piece of equipment for a church plant. (Many new churches need sound equipment, video projectors, publications, chairs, espresso machines, trailers, etc. Check out the needs of each church in this issue.)
- ◆ Invite an ABCNW church planter to visit your church and tell the story of what God is doing.
- ◆ Strategically plan along with the churches in your Area for a new church plant, or join in with current plans that are underway. (There are great stories from our Leadership Learning Communities about the projects that are being launched, have launched, or have become stand alone churches. Just about every LLC has had, or is currently having, success in supporting a new church plant. Awesome!)

Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not be able to stop my church's expansion." I can not think of a more exciting and challenging work than to join our Lord in His church building enterprise. I hope you will be a part of this work that He is doing.



Dr. Charles Revis is helping the ABCNW to grow healthy, mission-focused churches that multiply disciples.

Read more online:
www.abcnw.org/church-planting/why-church-planting/

What are you doing with the rest of your life?

Patti Duckworth, Associate Executive Minister
ABC of the Northwest

Yes, I know this is kind of an "in-your-face" question, but it is important -- especially if you are among those who a number of restaurants and other businesses consider "senior" enough to give discounts to. Somewhere in the next few years, you will have some or lots of time on your hands, and lots of experience in your pocket. What are you thinking of doing with it?

Add to that question this fact: A recent newspaper article reported that something like 35% of churches will be without pastoral leadership in the next 10-15 years because of retirements. And the gap will not be filled immediately because there aren't an equal number of younger pastors coming into leadership to take their places.

If you are looking for some possible answers to either this question or this reality, I urge you to consider participating in the upcoming introduction and initial training for interim ministry.

Interim ministry is an essential part to a church's solid ministry. Those who fill this vital role help congregations work through the times of transition. Even more importantly, interim ministers can help put a church's next steps forward on solid footing in such a way that gives the next called pastor an extra advantage.

The Rev. Dr. Jamie Munro, the Executive Director for Interim Ministries-ABC, will conduct the training. Interim Ministries is a program of the ABC family to recruit, train and provide regions with qualified interim pastors. Dr. Munro has a number of years of experience as an interim pastor and currently is a member of the board of Interim Ministries Network, Inc.

If you have ever wondered about what interim ministry is about or thought you might like to get involved in it at some point, this will be an important and profitable event for you. Don't hesitate to contact either Jamie Munro (800-222-3872, ext. 2062) or me (406-453-0460). Registration deadline is April 17.

www.abcnw.org/2009/03/seminar-on-interim-ministry/

New Church Profiles



Web: www.yellowstonechurch.org
Email: info@yellowstonechurch.org
Phone: 406-839-9145
Mike's Blog: mike-iverson.blogspot.com
1050 S. 24th St. W Billings, MT 59102

Yellowstone Church (Est. July 2007) Billings, MT
Pastor Mike Iverson

Our church has been steadily growing by reaching unchurched people of Billings and people that are new to the area. We have found success through teaching Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* and by creating an environment where people can come and learn to apply God's Word to their everyday life. We have grown to where we are consistently over 60 people in attendance, with many more that call Yellowstone Church their church home. People who never would have dreamed of attending church on a regular basis now can't imagine their lives without it.

Pressing Needs: As with most churches, our financial giving is down. Pastor Mike is working two jobs to make ends meet. We are on the verge of outgrowing our current facility and don't know how we will be able to find something larger that is affordable. We are also constantly on the lookout for musicians and worship leaders.

How ABCNW Churches Can Help: Send missionaries to Billings—especially those interested in helping start a worship team at a new church. If we do find a larger place to worship, we will need more stackable or folding chairs.

River Christian Church (Est. 8/1/2008) Eagle, ID
Pastor Dave Griewe

We are a brand new church with our launch set for Easter. We already have a total of 6 staff: 3 full-time and 3 part-time, all on raised support. We also have all our equipment necessary for our launch along with a core of about one hundred people! We have had excellent support from the ABC churches in the Treasure Valley and the ABCNW, and Transformation Ministries in the Southwest.

Pressing Needs: Currently all our daily needs are met. We are praying for a great grand opening on Easter; for us that means a minimum of 200 people, settling down to 135-160 on a weekly basis.

How ABCNW Churches Can Help: We are looking for additional churches to consider financially supporting us as part of their mission giving for 2009.

Web: www.riverchristianchurch.com
Email: pastordg@aol.com
Phone: 208-570-3732
Dave's Blog: pastordg.blogspot.com



Meets at Sevenoaks Elementary School
2510 E. Brierfield Dr. Eagle, ID 83616

New Church Profiles

Tabernaculo Biblico Bautista de Utah (Est. 2006) Ogden, UT Pastor Mario Majano

God has transformed many lives in this Hispanic ministry, and it is still here, thanks to God. In December we had 12 people baptized...God has always guided us through. Our vision is to win Utah for Christ.

Pressing Needs: Materials for the kids, the youth, and also the grownups. We would also like to have a seminary to grow spiritually. The most important thing that we need is prayer for this ministry and for a new one that we are trying to open soon in Salt Lake City.

How ABCNW Churches Can Help: Thanks for being interested about this ministry and for your help. God bless you. If there is any help that anyone is willing to give us, we would be more than happy to know about it.



Web: www.tabernaculobiblicobautistadeutah.com
Email: tabernaculobautista@hotmail.com
Phone: 801-985-0537
Meets at First Baptist Church Ogden
2519 Jefferson Ave. Ogden, UT 84401

Currently we have approximately 15 children and 35 adults attending services regularly, with up to 70 at special events. Comunidad De Esperanza currently provides classes for the community that include Driving Training, Citizenship, and Basic English. People from classes have started attending services as well. We volunteer at Abraham's House to help the needy with everything from clothes to furniture, and provide a church service. In the last ten months, about 50 people from our church and Abraham's House mission have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. Four of them have been baptized. We also dedicated 9 children to the Lord Jesus Christ, and performed weddings for people outside the church. Three of our members attended the "New Church Planting Training" which was conducted by DCPI and provided by ABCNW. Seed money has already been donated for the next church to be established in our area.

Pressing Needs: To grow in the Lord and meet the budget. Currently we are running at 60% of budget. We also need children's Sunday school and program material, and a copier for day-to-day tasks and church business.

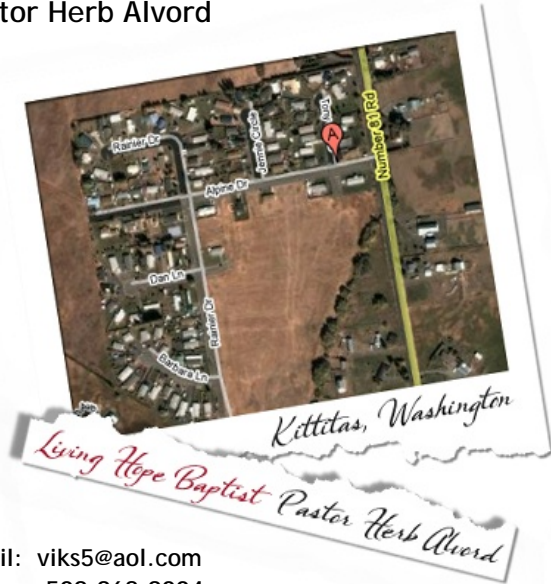
How ABCNW Churches Can Help: Adopt our Hispanic Ministry in the Far West Area of ABCNW and pray for our vision to establish 2 more churches in the next five years.

Comunidad De Esperanza (Est. 6/1/2008) Bremerton, WA Pastor Oscar Vega



Email: oscarsara50@hotmail.com
Phone: 360-373-6960
Meets at First Baptist Church Bremerton
1410 Ohio St. Bremerton, WA 98337

Living Hope Baptist Church (Est. 2007) – Kittitas, WA
Pastor Herb Alvord



Email: viks5@aol.com
Phone: 509-968-9004
Meets at Kittitas Community Center
1102 Tony Circle, Ellensburg, WA 98926

We are a church plant in the city of Kittitas. We have launched youth and children's groups. We have ages 0-13 in Sunday school and Sunday night Kids Night. Ages 12-14 meet once a week as do the 14-18 year olds. Adults are involved in weekly fellowship and are presently studying *Experiencing God*. Almost everyone is involved in one or more of these. God has been causing us to grow not only in numbers but also spiritually. We have outgrown our first meeting place and are now looking to find a new one. We are sure that God will provide.

Pressing Needs: Space, or the ability to section off the great room that we are in, and still be able to hear.

How Can ABCNW Churches Help: Pray that we will be in the center of God's will, able to see what he has next for us; for funding to upgrade our second-hand audio/visual system; and more suitable space for our growing congregation. A local school building would be our best option but is reluctant to grant us usage on an ongoing basis.

Comunidad Cristiana El Camino (Est. 2006) – Richland, WA

Comunidad Cristiana El Camino has baptized new believers every year since we have been in existence. In the past three months alone we baptized 6-7 people. We have 25-35 attenders and many of them come from Catholic backgrounds.

Pressing Needs: We have need of Spanish Bibles, bilingual Sunday school literature, and financial help.

How ABCNW Churches Can Help: We need a projector to put songs and sermons on the walls for people to see.

Phone: 509-943-3735
Meets at Southside UP Church

Pastor Guadalupe Vasquez



Email: luquin316@aol.com
Phone: 509-654-7032
Meets at First Baptist Church Yakima
516 E. Yakima Ave. Yakima, WA 98901

Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana La Verdad (Est. 2003) Yakima, WA
Pastor Manuel Luquin

Currently, the church is comprised of 10 families with a variety of generations represented. Some of the ministries include worship service, Sunday school, children & youth teaching, outreach events, and men's and women's ministries. In January 2009, the congregation voted to merge with First Baptist Church of Yakima, who voted likewise. The new church is multicultural & multiethnic with English and Spanish. It is exciting to witness the Hispanic Ministries congregation taking steps of growth in leadership, service, and ministering together with the English speaking congregation. The church is in the process of selecting a new name.

Pressing Needs: Spiritual growth, evangelism and outreach, new ministries, strengthening leadership, and financial support.

How ABCNW Churches Can Help: Prayer, ministry partnerships, financial support.

New Church Profiles

Everett Community Church (Est. 10/26/2008)
Everett, WA
Pastor Peter Gatata



Web: www.everettcommunitychurch.org
Email: petrosgatata@hotmail.com Phone: 206-239-8947
Meets at First Baptist Church Community Center
3120 Wetmore Ave. Everett, WA 98201

Over the last year or so, even before the launch, we started an outreach effort to reach the African refugees and immigrants in North Everett. Many of these individuals come to America with damaged souls and trauma due to the war and conflict in their home countries. When they get to the United States, due to language, social, and economic background, they are unable to integrate well into the society. This is where our church shines as a beacon of light to receive them, love on them, share Christ with them, and hopefully help them move past their trauma and show love and forgiveness to those who hurt them.

Pressing Needs: Our church is in dire need of musical instruments and equipment to assist in our worship service. Africans in general are enthusiastic about singing and dancing for Jesus, so the musical instruments will add great value to our services. We need outside financial and resource assistance before we will be able to pay full-time staff. Means to support a part-time worship leader is greatly desired at this time.

How ABCNW Churches Can Help: Churches can first and foremost pray for us. Without the help of God, this church is nothing—we cannot carry out the mission to make disciples who can disciple others. Churches can volunteer to help us undertake outreach projects in the summer, fall, and spring. Churches can also partner with us in missions projects locally and internationally, and help us to advocate and mentor refugee teens, children, and adults through programs such as ESL (English as a Second Language).

Arlington Community Church (Est. 3/8/2008) Arlington, WA
Pastor Gale O'Neil

We just celebrated our one year anniversary with 115 in attendance. On a weekly basis 30 to 50 people worship together. We sponsor a child overseas, feed a homeless schizophrenic, and choose music because it has meaning. Our church attempts to express the heart of the gospel.

Pressing Needs: We need to penetrate Arlington. Our mailings are aimed locally.

How ABCNW Churches Can Help: Pray. Share your musical talents with us.

Email: galewoneil@copper.net
Phone: 360-445-2636
Meets at Arlington Seventh Day Adventist
Mail to: 21307 Bluejay Place Mt. Vernon, WA 98274



Blessed Life Church (Est. 9/1/2007) Bellevue, WA Pastor Simon Tam

Blessed Life Church started as a church planting fellowship out of Seattle Chinese Baptist Church in May of 2005 for the purpose of establishing a Cantonese speaking church on the east side of Seattle. I joined this church as a full-time church planter at the beginning of 2009. We now have around 60 adults and 10 children attending Sunday service every week. We thank the Lord for providing the Newport Covenant Church for us to worship this year. We also thank Pastor Paul Burnham and the Newport Hills Community Church for hosting our church since 2005 and partnering with us to bring people to Christ in this community. After moving to the current facility, we have a more steady worship attendance. We believe this would be beneficial to the outreach to the Chinese community in the Bellevue area. This Easter we will baptize six new believers. One couple moved to this country from mainland China several years ago. From these brothers and sisters we could testify that the gospel of our Lord miraculously changed and blessed their lives.

Pressing Needs: We need to look for open doors to reach out to non-church going people of all ages in this community. We plan to launch small group ministry in May in order to administer caring to every individual in our church. May the Lord bless this ministry so that we could bring more people to Christ. Also, we need to teach our congregation with the Word of God systematically through the pulpit, small group bible study and Sunday school in order to build up their faith with a deeper understanding of the Word. Teachers and meeting facilities are needed.



How ABCNW Churches Can Help:
Prayers of intercession.

Web: blessedlifechurch.org
Email: STam@blessedlifechurch.org
Phone: 425-829-9055

Meets at Newport Covenant Church
12800 SE Coal Creek Parkway
Bellevue, WA 98006

Established Churches That Were Plants Just a Few Years Ago...

Shalom Church—Wenatchee, WA
Pastor Sam Detwiler
Phone: 509-421-2276

Shalom Church has a unified focus to reach out to people who are enslaved by addictions. Pastor Sam leads the church to help people find Jesus and be set free through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Update: We are currently starting a support group for families of the incarcerated, and are working with a half-way house with men coming out of prison. The Apple Blossom Festival is coming up, April 23—May 3, and our church has been asked to work a Safety Zone one of the nights.

Prayer Need: The enemy has been after our elders, physically.

New Community Church — Union, WA
Pastor Terry Oliver
Phone: 360-898-7855

Update: We are working on developing our facility, moving through the process of obtaining necessary permits and reports for Mason County. Our hopes are to move our office to the new location by the end of summer, and by next spring, to have a simple multi-purpose space for the church and the community on the new site. We are also focusing on discipleship and expanding our small group ministry.

Prayer Need: New Community needs God's guidance through the steps of goals and transition, and to find favor with county officials in getting permits, etc. Pastor Terry also wants to be of service to other church plants— partner with them to encourage and help them get things going.

Go to missionnorthwest.blogspot.com to read updates about churches around the Region, and other insights from Dr. Charles Revis. Once there, you can subscribe by email or RSS feed to receive all new posts.



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www.abc-usa.org/biennial/2009pasadena/index.htm



american baptist churches of the
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Growing healthy, mission-focused
churches that multiply disciples

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