

CHURCH PLANTING REPORT

Bobby Pell, Church Planting Team Leader

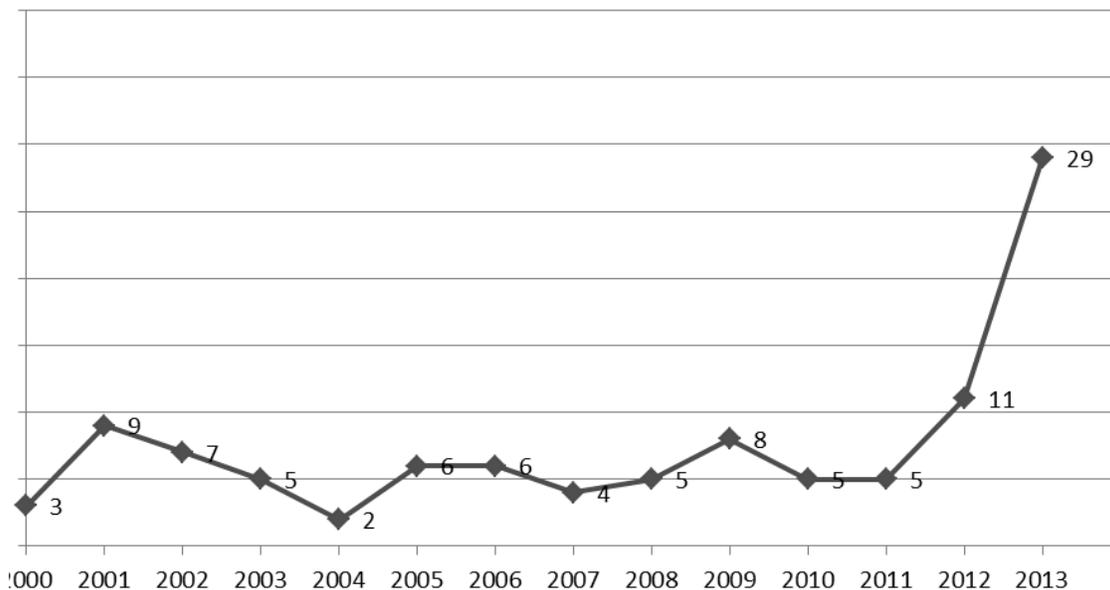
The work of church planting is extremely exciting and at the same time, difficult. SCBI church planting catalysts experience both ends of this spectrum. Over the next few pages of this report, you will see their efforts described in church planting across Indiana. Recognize that for every exciting moment of church planting there are also birth pains associated with the church plant. I challenge you to be an encouragement to these catalysts as they are often overlooked ministers for the sake of the kingdom of God.

Church Plants

<u>Year</u>	<u>Plants</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Plants</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Plants</u>
2000	3		2005	6		2010	5
2001	9		2006	6		2011	5
2002	7		2007	4		2012	11
2003	5		2008	5		2013	29
2004	2		2009	8		2014*	14*

**As of August 1, 2014*

Plants



Southwestern Region

John Horn, Church Planting Catalyst

Since September of 2013, the Bridge Church plant in Evansville (Brandon Lindsey) has constituted as a church and River City Community Church in Evansville (Ed Collins, Bryce Palmer, Ty Hauer)

has begun having weekly worship services. Three church plants have also begun meeting for Bible studies:

- Life Transformation Community Church in Evansville (Chris Cole)
- Hispanic Bible Study in Dale (Omar Aleman)
- Grace and Truth Church in Ireland (Bruce Seivers)

In addition, there are two church satellite campuses in Evansville considering becoming autonomous church plants this year. The work has begun to help assess their future planters.

During this year monthly meetings have been held with five planters to provide coaching, supervision and resources for their plants. Relationships continue to be cultivated with potential planters and sponsoring (sending) church pastors. New planters have been assessed and Basic Training has been provided. During the 2013-2014 year the Evansville Church Planting Center class met at NorthWoods Church, where we averaged five potential planters each week.

Another key part of church planting is training for sponsoring (sending) churches. In the fall of 2013 in Evansville we completed NAMB's Churches Planting Churches Training for pastors and key leaders. This will be offered again on September 12-13, 2014, at Eastern Heights Baptist Church in Jeffersonville. Go to www.sendnetwork.net/cpct for updated training information.

Central Region **Steve Blanchard, Church Planting Catalyst**
Send Indianapolis has helped the central region of Indiana give major emphasis to church planting in the last year. We have seen some church plants go the next step in growth:

- Soma Church led by church planter Brandon Shields was able to buy a building near the Broad Ripple area of Indianapolis that will allow them to grow.
- Church Planter Jason Hampton led Redemption Hill Church to lease space in the Weaver Arts Center in Fountain Square. They are remodeling that space with the help of volunteer groups so that they can make the eventual move from the south side of Indianapolis where they are currently worshipping.
- Kevin Carpenter and Jon Fearing and their families began serving at Living Faith Church in Danville. This church was re-established from an existing church as a campus site for Living Faith Church, Indianapolis. In addition, Yale Wall was made lead pastor of the IUPUI campus of Living Faith Church.
- Barry Rager has led New Circle Church in the Mapleton-Fall Creek area of urban Indianapolis to begin Sunday afternoon

worship at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in their target area. They are planning to transition to a new location for Sunday morning services. They also sponsor several other outreach points around the city.

In addition, new church plants were being established including:

- Legacy Stone Church in Westfield with Joe Lightner as Lead Pastor and Mark Caswell as Teaching Pastor.
- Kerry and Twyla Jackson are building a core group among cultural creative-type people in downtown Indianapolis to begin Circle City Canvas Church. Kerry is an artist who uses his art in worship and as a means of evangelism.
- City Life Church in Greenwood, led by planter Mike Wiggin, obtained space in a shopping center just off of Main Street. They experienced great growth during the year.
- Christopher Elliott established Oasis of Hope Southern Baptist Church which is focused on reaching people with food insecurity. He had to move his target area to other apartment complexes when his original apartment complex was closed by the city.
- Indianapolis Grace Ethiopian Church, which had been planted by Yosef Desta, became a part of our convention. This church is focused on Ethiopian and Eritrean immigrants.

We also had several church planters who, facing a lack of success in their target area, have either moved or joined forces with other existing church plants. These included:

- Jim Wright, who was working to establish Pathway Church in the Westfield area, has moved his efforts to the Greenwood area.
- Anthony Gibbs, who began St. Matthew Baptist Church on Indianapolis' west side, also moved his focus to Greenwood.
- Josh Hall, Stephen Boldin and Rodney Mileski ceased their church planting efforts in their original target areas.

When the North American Mission Board trustees met in Indianapolis this winter, they were treated to visits with Yosef Desta, Kerry Jackson, Chris Elliott, Barry Rager, and Yale Wall. They were able to visit the places where these plants were doing ministry and hear the passion for reaching the lost from these church planters.

I worked with a team of assessors to evaluate potential church planters in a new coaching-style assessment process. This has been a significant improvement over our prior method of assessing church planters. As a team we also worked together to provide Basic Training for Church Planters in several sessions through the

year.

A trend that we noted was established churches becoming a part of the state convention. This included Castleview Baptist Church of Indianapolis pastored by Eric Bancroft. This church had already been working with us in sponsoring some of our newer church plants.

Asian Church Planting

Steve Blanchard, Church Planting Catalyst

The Burmese churches in Indianapolis continued to maintain a growth pace ahead of all other Asian churches in the state.

- Calvary Zomi Baptist Church began worshipping at New Whiteland Baptist Church. They later moved but their former pastor, Hang Go Thang, began a new work called Grace Zomi Baptist Church in the same building.
- Pastor Hre Mang led the Falam Christian Church to buy a building and property on South Meridian Street. They moved out of Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood, where they had been fostered.

We had several church planting efforts directed toward those of Chinese heritage in Indiana:

- In Muncie, an existing Chinese work, Muncie Chinese Christian Fellowship, constituted as a church. They are currently being led by two professors from Ball State University, Dr. Jianshenyng Jason Yang and Dr. Shaoen Wu, but they eventually hope to find a person to pastor them officially.
- Another work among Chinese is taking place in West Lafayette led by Matthias Wu.
- Michael and Shouchin Man have begun a work focused on Chinese heritage students from IUPUI and other Indianapolis downtown professionals.
- Northeast Baptist Association is working on a church planting ministry to Cantonese-speaking people in Fort Wayne.

West Region

Garry Jones, Church Planting Catalyst

First Haitian Baptist Church in Washington was formed last fall and was meeting in the Calvary Baptist Church building with an average attendance of forty each Sunday. Perdue Farms had hired around eighty Haitians to work in their Washington farm and a church planter from Georgia came to start the Haitian work.

There is a growing Chinese work in West Lafayette. Matthias and

Helena Wu moved from Louisville to West Lafayette to continue counseling education at Faith Church. They started a Bible study and are averaging around thirty adults. They have started the process to become church planters with SCBI and NAMB and hope to get final approval as church planters by September. Wea Ridge Baptist in Lafayette has agreed to be a sponsor church.

West Central Association has wanted to plant another church in Terre Haute for several years. A church planting catalyst from Michigan is interested in planting a church in Terre Haute. He is already in process with NAMB and SCBI and should be ready to be on-site this October. Victory Baptist of Clinton is praying about being the sponsor church for this plant.

East Region

Bob Cox, Church Planting Catalyst

The East region continues to develop indigenous church planter/pastors. Currently, there are four church plants in various stages:

- Oasis Church in Lawrenceburg (Justin Billig, planter) averages weekly attendance of 20-25. Oasis is in their first year and recently secured an abandoned Nazarene church building in the Lawrenceburg area to have worship services and small groups. The sending church is Christ United Baptist Church in Richmond.
- Meadow Lane in Liberty continues under the leadership of planter/pastor Troy Caudill. This is a Legacy plant currently in the second year. They continue to develop all areas of local ministry, averaging 20-30 in attendance weekly. The sending church is Western Avenue Baptist Church in Connersville.
- The Crossing is the name of a future plant that will be located in Eaton, Ohio. Brian Underwood will be the planter/pastor. The core group is being assembled and developed. They are planning a start date for September 2014. The sending church is Christ United Baptist Church in Richmond.
- Central Baptist Church in Richmond closed their doors the last day of April, 2014. They voted to become a Legacy plant in the fall of 2014 or spring of 2015. A non-indigenous person is being considered as the church planter, depending upon requirement and guideline fulfillment. The core group is being assembled and trained at this time through the sending church, Western Avenue Baptist Church in Connersville.
- Mosaic Church is a non-denomination plant in Richmond that is seeking a fresh start as an SBC plant. They are currently seeking guidance through their potential sponsoring church, Christ United and the local Church Planting Catalyst. They are current-

ly considering a non-indigenous planter.

Two regional interns sense a call to church planting in 2015:

- Jeremy Huddleston, Christ United, Richmond
- Donnie Yates, Bible Baptist Fellowship, Harrison, Ohio

All of these are at various stages from assessment, Basic Training, Church Planting Projector and/or coaching. We continue to pray about beginning a Church Planting Center in 2015.

North Region

Doug Jividen, Church Planting Catalyst

This year has been a powerful year of seeing God at work in the regions that I am able to serve. Since last year we have seen new works continue to grow, new churches added to our ranks and existing churches strengthened in many different facets.

In North Central Association we have Pastor Clarence Smith working hard in developing a new work in the North South Bend and Niles, Michigan, area. He is reaching many for Christ. Warsaw Baptist Church is working through a vitalization program with Josh Goepfrich as their new pastor. They are touching lives in powerful ways.

We are working with our new pastor, Jacob Wysong, in developing Fellowship Community Church in Akron.

God is opening the door through Chinese students in South Bend to potentially reach a people group at Notre Dame and other schools in our area. This connection may tie in with our Chinese church in Muncie.

We have revitalized our Tipton church with the help of their new Pastor/Planter Chris Ellis. We are blessed that Sunnycrest has been a wonderful sending church for this ministry. We also have seen growth in our church plant in Kokomo under Pastor Frank Gribble. This new work is also sent through Sunnycrest Baptist Church in Marion.

We have seen the merging of two churches into one called The Pointe in Marion led by Pastor Dan Dye. God is blessing richly in this new work.

East Central has seen tremendous blessings in the addition of a new Chinese work led by one of our professors at Ball State. This

new work is sent by Halteman Village Baptist of Muncie with Pastor Tim Overton. Remedy City launched their Sunday morning services and is reaching downtown Muncie under the skilled hands of Pastor Jeremiah Kinney. Integris Church in Albany has moved to a new building and continues to grow as our new plant being led by Pastor Greg Haisley. Pastor Chris Hubler has continued to grow in a multi-site plan in Alexandria and Pendleton. He has launched a new work in Muncie alongside Brian Hopkins and God is richly blessing this new work.

Southeastern Regional Mitch Whidden, Church Planting Catalyst *Transition*

This has been a time of transition to southeastern Indiana. It is a new role, moving away from the pastorate to serve pastors and church planters has been an adjustment, but one I am enjoying.

In the Works

I have found that the churches here are excited about planting new churches. Many pastors have expressed a desire to help support church plants in areas where the need is greatest. Just in the last two months we have had four churches express their commitment to planting new churches: Pastor Bill McCary from Fellowship Baptist in Hardinsburg, Pastor Nathan Millican from Oak Park Baptist Church in Jeffersonville, Pastor Jeff Jackson from Journey Church in New Albany, and Pastor Keith McWhorter from Corydon Baptist. In addition to these we have had several other churches express interest in church planting as well. We are currently working to establish a legacy plant in New Albany. In an area where many other churches have left the neighborhood known as “White Court,” we are coming back in to share the Gospel and establish a new church. We are also in the beginning stages of planning a church start in the Southern Corydon area.

Looking to the Future

I have met with five potential lead church planters who are interested in our area. I’m looking forward to having them assessed and working with them to impact lostness in southern Indiana. On September 12-13 we will host a Churches Planting Churches Conference at Eastern Heights Baptist Church in Jeffersonville. We expect this conference to produce excitement and necessary training for churches to better understand what church planting is all about. We also expect to launch a Church Planting Center this fall with Journey Church in New Albany. Fall will be a great time for recruiting future leaders from Southern Seminary and Boyce College

when the students return to campus. Pray for a sweeping move of God across Indiana and that God would call out and raise up many laborers for the harvest.

Conclusion

Bobby Pell, Team Leader

It is enjoyable to see churches being birthed across Indiana, bringing new life, even with the birth pains. To date, we have seen fourteen churches planted. With those plants, we have seen seven people baptized. It is my desire to see not only churches planted, but a church planting movement take place in Indiana. Imagine with me what it would be like for Indiana to have hundreds more churches across the state. It would not be for the sake of reaching a numerical mark, but for the sake of seeing the Gospel being given at an exponential rate. Simply said, we desire to see the Gospel have a major impact in Indiana through evangelistic Southern Baptist churches being planted.

All of our regional Church Planting Catalysts are working hard searching for church planting opportunities, for church planting partners who can be mobilized and for church planters who can be a resource for the sake of the Gospel. The current greatest church planting need in Indiana is for more church planters who are called by God. We are praying for planters who can take the Gospel into the fields, sow the fields and reap the harvest for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Please pray along with us that we would find the laborers (church planters) who will go into the harvest and reap. In the meantime let us celebrate what God is doing in church planting. When you meet a church planter, love them, encourage them and remember where there is a birth there is pain as well.