

## CHURCH PLANTING TEAM REPORT

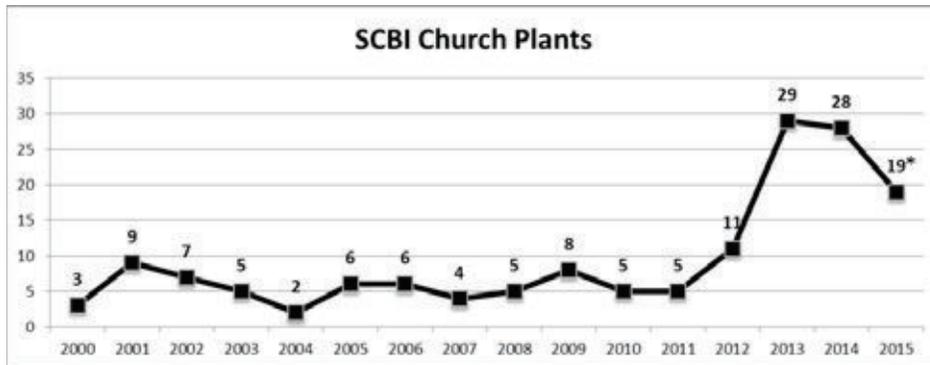
**John Horn, Team Leader**

God is doing **exciting things** in Indiana Baptist church planting! It has been an honor to serve Him on your SCBI Church Planting Team this year as a Church Planting Catalyst for Southwestern Region and as your new Church Planting Team Leader beginning in May. We are also grateful that in May the Lord brought Pastor Dale Eakes to join our team as the new Church Planting Catalyst in the Southwestern Region. In the following reports you will see that Indiana Baptists are being used to advance His Kingdom throughout our state. We are on a pace in which we could see more SCBI churches planted in one year than ever before!

At the same, our team is placing a **greater emphasis on the quality** of assessment, training, coaching, and support of our church planters and their families, while continuing to invest heavily in our established congregations so they can increase their sending church capacity. Together, we say, "To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever." (Ephesians 3:21)

### Church Plants

<u>Year</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Plants</u>
2000	3	2006	6	2012	11
2001	9	2007	4	2013	29
2002	7	2008	5	2014	28
2003	5	2009	8	2015	19*
2004	2	2010	5	<i>*as of August 15, 2015, the date of this report</i>	
2005	6	2011	5		



*\*as of August 15, 2015*

### **Church Planting – Southwestern Region**

#### **Dale Eakes, Church Planting Catalyst**

My family and I were blessed this year to be given the opportunity to live and serve in the Southwestern Indiana Baptist Association. In this new role it has been exciting to **see how the Lord is working** through Indiana Baptists to expand His Kingdom. In an area that is growing, it has been an honor to see pastors of all different backgrounds, ages and ideas serving together for one purpose – to see the Kingdom of God grow!

It has been refreshing, as I meet pastors, to discover that the **culture for church planting** is already being developed and a desire to see new works started is already built in as part of so many of the local churches.

We have **three starts** that we hope will become a reality soon:

- Hispanic plant in Evansville
- New plant in Cannelton
- New plant in Princeton

I am working toward the **further development** of a coaching and resourcing relationship with our new planters as well as our existing ones. We are also looking forward to starting a new semester this fall at the Southwestern Church Planting Center.

### **Church Planting – Central Region**

#### **Steve Blanchard, Church Planting Catalyst**

This past year has seen a whirlwind of activity with church planting in central Indiana. **Send Indianapolis** continues to be a powerful tool for calling potential church planters from across the U.S., as well as some who are home-grown, to serve in central Indiana. **New plants** that have been established or are in the process of being planted include:

- Legacy Stone Church in Westfield. Joe Lightner, lead planter, and Mark Caswell, teaching pastor, have led their church to begin meeting in the Regal Movie Theatre in Carmel. They rent two theaters for worship and children's ministries. They also focus on outreach events in their target area.
- Michael Peoples planted The Abundant Church in Pike Township on the west side of Indianapolis. They currently meet in the Baymont Inn & Suites near I-465 and 38th Street.
- Bryan Sullivan has been holding Bible studies in the Triton area southeast of Indianapolis. Redeemed Community Church will hold Sunday worship services in September, hopefully in the local middle school.
- Martin Mandal is reaching out primarily to people of Bangladeshi heritage through Northside Bangla Church. They currently meet at Northside Baptist Church.
- An outreach to people of Chinese ethnic heritage has been established on the campus of IUPUI by Michael Man through Indy Jaiyin Church or Good News Fellowship. They hope to establish outreach points in Carmel and in Pike Town-

ship.

- Thang Tun has established Soul Winning Mission Church to reach those of the Matu tribe of Burmese immigrants. Most of the people the church is reaching are political refugees.
- In Greenfield John Maples has gathered a team to establish Total Restoration Church. They currently meet at the Holiday Inn Express on Sundays.
- Nathan Shaver and his family have moved to Speedway to begin a plant called Christ Community Church.
- In Noblesville, Matt Brewer has found space for Restoration Church to meet for worship and Bible study on Sundays.
- Chris Dean has been meeting with people living in the Bates Hendrick area of Indianapolis' near south side near Garfield Park. They plan to establish Sunday worship soon.
- Dan Pride has targeted people living in downtown Indianapolis to take part in CityWay Church. He has been having introductory gathering meetings downtown and at Central Academy. They hope to be the first church to meet in the new CityWay YMCA which will open late in 2015 or early 2016.

Our new Hispanic strategist, Jesus Pacheco, is leading Hispanic church planters to consider work in central Indiana. These efforts are in his report.

**Recently established churches** are continuing to gather strength, including:

- Circle City Canvas Church, led by Kerry Jackson, has recently moved to the Indy Fringe Theatre on Massachusetts Avenue.
- New Circle Church, established by Barry Rager, has moved to the Oaks Academy. They are looking at the possibility of establishing more churches both downtown and in some outlying cities.
- Christopher Elliott established Oasis of Hope Southern Baptist Church to help those in multi-housing areas find a spiritual home. He is currently reaching people in several apartment communities.
- Yosef Desta continues to reach people of Ethiopian and Eritrean heritage through Indianapolis Grace Ethiopian Church.
- Living Faith Downtown Church is led by Yale Wall on the campus of IUPUI. They are looking for a new permanent location for worship and ministry near campus.
- Hang Go Thang leads Calvary Zomi Baptist Church which meets at New Whiteland Baptist Church.

Unfortunately, we had a couple of planters that have **closed** their work. These are:

- Kevin Carpenter, Living Faith Church, Danville
- Seh Min Shin, Indy West Korean Church, Indianapolis (Pastor Shin retired from active full-time ministry.)

Several established churches in central Indiana have decided to **become a part of the**

**Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)** through the local fellowship. These include New Life Community Church in the Nora area of Indianapolis and Hope's Point Baptist Church in Shelbyville. Castleview Baptist Church had been an at-large member of the SBC, but recently was accepted as a member of Crossroads Baptist Association.

### **Asian Church Planting**

#### **Steve Blanchard, Church Planting Catalyst**

Most of the growth in Asian church planting has taken place in central Indiana. However, several works have begun in the past years in other parts of the state targeting people of **Chinese** heritage. This has taken place in the university towns of West Lafayette (Chinese Baptist Church led by Matthias Wu) and Muncie (Muncie Chinese Christian Fellowship led by Michael Lin).

### **Hispanic Church Planting**

#### **Jesus Pacheco, Hispanic Church Planting Catalyst**

It has been an exciting and challenging opportunity to reach the Hispanic community in Indiana of approximately **400,000 people**, representing 21 countries. I praise the Lord for opening doors and providing resources through our local churches, associations, SCBI and the North American Mission Board. I began in 2015 getting to know the 14 existing Hispanic churches by having a pastors and planters retreat. Praying for workers for the harvest has been our priority and, praise God, 12 people participated in our first Hispanic Basic Training on May 8-9, 2015. Currently we have about seven planter candidates for the next Basic Training on September 18-19, 2015.

**Elkhart**, with a Hispanic population of about 20,000 people, was the first mission work established with Jose Alfredo Alejo as the planter. Hope's Point in Shelbyville is the sending church of a new Hispanic mission started on August 1, 2015. Sebastian Nicolas is the church planter who expects to establish a multiplying church and extend it to Greensburg and other areas.

The areas of Carmel/Fishers, Greenwood, Madison, Washington and Clarksville have **new works with assessed planters**, but are waiting for sending church approvals to start. There are many more opportunities to start Hispanic churches in Evansville, Fort Wayne, and Hammond. The next goal is to start a Church Planting Center in Jasper during the fall. In addition, we hope to start a Leadership Development School next year. The vision is to start 50 new Hispanic churches in the next ten years and to have about 100 trained planters and pastors.

*"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession."* Psalm 2:8

By His Grace and Mercy

### **Church Planting – East Region**

#### **Bobby Cox, Church Planting Catalyst**

The East region continues to develop **indigenous church planters**: recruited, assessed, trained, and sent out. Over the past 12 months Meadow Lane has become an autonomous church and continues to reach their community with the Gospel under the leadership of Pastor Troy Caudill. We have several new plants which are in beginning stages:

- Athens Church, Columbus (Aaron Lentz)
- Richmond Legacy Plant (Dan Conrades)
- Hispanic Bible studies (Fransico Llerena in Madison; Sebastian Nicolas in Greensburg and Shelbyville)

We also have **Bible studies** in Greensburg (Hispanic, Sebastian Nicolas), and Lovett (Donnie Yates). We continue to work with South Central and Whitewater Associations to recruit possible sending and sponsor churches for Anglo Bible studies in Batesville and Greensburg. A partnership covenant has been formed between four churches and one association for the Hispanic Bible study with Fransico Llerena.

**God's work** has been evident in the East Region this year. Four church planters have been helped with coaching and resources. The East Region has opened a Church Planting Center located at Christ United Church in Richmond. In the first semester, 11 were enrolled including three planters and one potential planter. At a recruitment visit to Clear Creek Baptist College, five men stopped to ask questions about church planting. Sending church and sponsor church information continues to be promoted throughout the associations and local churches in the region. I have had the opportunity to go through the Church Planter Growth Projector with four planters, participate in four church planter assessments, two basic trainings, and one church planting partnership from South Carolina.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to see where God is working in the upcoming year. To God be the glory! Thank you for praying for HIS glory to be revealed.

Partners in the Harvest, 1 Corinthians 3:9

### **Church Planting – North Region**

#### **Doug Jividen, Church Planting Catalyst**

**Miami Association** has seen God powerfully work in two ways. First is the revitalization of the church in Tipton. Last year we closed the doors and had a time of prayer asking God for His movement to reach this town. God brought Chris Ellis to lead the restart called Market Road Fellowship. Sunnycrest Baptist in Marion is their sending church. Market Road is about to celebrate their first anniversary with 40 to 50 members. They are doing an outstanding job reaching their community. Presently they are in the process of working on a plant of their own. Second, Pathway Fellowship

Church was started this year with DeWayne Chadwick in Arcadia. He is beginning this work to reach people in Atlanta and Cicero as well. He has been working hard this summer with three Vacation Bible Schools and other ministry opportunities.

**North Central Association** is experiencing exciting work. Journey Church in Plymouth began this year and has seen several salvations. This church plant has grown to well over 30. It is pastored by Tim Lee. The After Church was birthed this year to reach South Bend close to the Notre Dame Campus. Sweh Velilla came to lead the church and the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Notre Dame and IUSB. They are just getting off the ground and need your prayers as they begin to grow. Southside Baptist in Elkhart with Plez Lovelady as pastor began a new work in the Hispanic community. The planter, Jose Alfredo Alejo is mentioned in Jesus Pacheco's report. This is such a powerful demonstration of how God uses teams to accomplish His plan.

**East Central Association** is also seeing God's work. Remedy City in Muncie with Pastor Jeremiah Kinney is reaching their community through salvations and baptisms. This church plant recently moved to a larger facility and is growing in a powerful way. Church Planting Intern Brian Hopkins continues to see growth at New Day in Muncie as well. This is one of the ministries out of Chris Hubler's New Day churches. He is reaching a people group that has not been touched before and it is a real blessing. Finally, Muncie Chinese Christian Fellowship, meeting at Haltemen Vilege Baptist, has a new pastor, Michael Lin, to lead this church plant. He is doing a great job and seeing the church move in powerful ways.

#### **Church Planting – Southeastern Region**

##### **Mitch Whidden, Church Planting Catalyst**

It has been a busy year for church planting in the Southeastern region of Indiana. One of the things that continues to stand out is that a **church does not need to be large** and have a big budget to plant churches. Journey Church in New Albany and Fellowship Baptist Church in Hardinsburg have proven that. Journey Church with Pastor Jeff Jackson has planted two churches since last year. First, they sent out Pastor Richard Pimpleton to plant Empowerment Church in New Albany. Empowerment has been growing strong through effective outreach and already has two people awaiting baptism. They have been renting space for worship while renovating an existing building that they hope to move into soon. Journey has also sent out Pastor Shea Allen to plant Refuge Church in Sellersburg. Refuge Church meets in the local American Legion. They have had several preview services and are scheduled to do a public launch service on September 25. Journey Church continues to demonstrate their commitment to multiplying churches by sending out their associate pastor Brad Walker, who will be planting Redeemer Church in Jeffersonville this fall. While Journey is planting in our more urban areas, Fellowship is working to plant in rural areas. Fellowship Baptist has sponsored the start of Faith Fellowship Church in Elizabeth with Pastor Jason Walton, who is already thinking about how he could plant more rural churches. Mean-

while, First Baptist Church in Charlestown with Pastor Jimmy Walls continues to send out planters by sending Dan Conrades to plant in the Richmond area.

As we continue to pursue planting rural, urban, and suburban churches, we are also setting our sights on various **cross-culture and language groups** in the area. Fellowship Baptist has members who are actively reaching into the Amish community and looking into the possibility of planting a church with an intentional strategy to reach Amish and former Amish people. First Southern Baptist Clarksville with Pastor Russ Lievers is working towards a Hispanic plant in Clarksville. Since last year's "Churches Planting Churches" training, Eastern Heights Baptist in Jeffersonville with Pastor Chris Gustafson is also considering a new church plant. Please pray for more rural planters and for help in identifying and investing in the various language groups of our region.

### **Conclusion**

#### **John Horn, Church Planting Team Leader**

When I was presented to the SCBI Executive Board for this position as your new Church Planting Team Leader, I spoke about the **great challenges** ahead for us in church planting and quoted from Ephesians 3:20, "*Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think - according to the power that works in you...*" I said that when God calls us to a great task it will always be more than we could ever ask or think—and then I asked the question, "What if?" What if God is calling us to join Him on mission to impact the tremendous lostness in our State by planting more than 30 churches a year? Perhaps 35, 40, 45 per year? With this increased rate at the end of 15 years we would then have more 1,000 SCBI congregations proclaiming the life-changing Gospel, multiplying disciples, and transforming communities.

And then you would ask, "How can we do this?" with our limited resources and the changes happening in our culture now. **God-sized visions** will always be more than we can ask or think, requiring us to depend completely on Him. Ephesians 3:20 reminds us that God's amazing power is at work within us as Indiana Baptists to complete that which He has called us to do. It is not impossible for Him to enable us to both strengthen our existing congregations and to facilitate a rapid church planting movement taking place in our State. Then, Ephesians 3:21 challenges us that the glory for all that ultimately happens will belong solely to God and not to SCBI.

I ask that you join us in **Paul's Ephesians 3 prayer** for Indiana Church Planting—something greater, more powerful, more glorifying to God than we have ever asked or thought of before. Pray for our Church Planting Team as they lead us in addressing the formidable challenges we face to birthing new congregations in our State. Pray for new planters, for new sending churches, for our current planters and their families, and for new ministry partners who will help support their work. Then we will give Him all of the praise and thanks for what happens in the days to come!