

# **CHURCH PLANTING REPORT**

**John Horn, Church Planting Team Leader**

Despite our challenging budget constraints this year, we have continued to see God plant new churches and change lives across Indiana. In addition, we have celebrated that our church plants have seen an increase in baptisms and Cooperative Program giving during 2016-2017. Now more and more of our plants are taking intentional steps to multiply leaders for the purpose of multiplying churches.

God has used our Team of SCBI Church Planting Catalysts in partnership with our associational leaders (Directors of Missions, Associational Coordinators, etc.) and sending pastors to start and strengthen church plants in a variety of ways. Together we have complied with NAMB's new higher standards for assessing church planters by hosting White Label Assessments in Indianapolis and by participating in the Send Network Assessment process. Also, we have offered two Basic Training Events to sharpen the skills of these approved planters, have begun steps to offer NAMB's new Multiply Training cohorts for them in northern Indiana/southern Indiana/Indianapolis, and have initiated actions to expand and improve our church planter coaching ministry for planters and their wives.

The mission of our Church Planting Team is to assist SCBI churches with advancing God's Kingdom through multiplying disciples, multiplying leaders and multiplying churches. As we enter a new NAMB fiscal budget year in October, we are excited about having increased resources to fulfill this mission! We also realize the important role that bi-vocational pastors and planters play in our task, and we are enthusiastic about offering strategic assistance for them in 2017-2018.

## **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	30
2004	2	2010	5	2016	17
2005	6	2011	5	2017	14*

*\*As of the date of this report*

## **Church Planting- Southwest Region**

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

God has continued to move in a mighty way this year amongst our church plants. Our current plants are:

- Torre Fuerte in Huntingburg, planted by Oscar Lopez
- New Life in Cannelton, planted by Keith McCahey
- The Princeton Church in Princeton, planted by Wayne Wester
- Servant Fellowship Church in Boonville, planted by Ryan Moore
- Rios de Agua Viva in Evansville, planted by Alfonso Soto
- Redeemer Fellowship in Evansville, planted by Matt Castro

Each plant has a special story of how God has used it to reach the lost community in which they are located.

- Torre Fuerte continues to minister to Hispanic families in the Huntingburg region. They are effective at helping families not only see their need for Christ but also how to grow as a healthy family unit.
- New Life has a knack for finding those individuals who seem to be outcast by the community, and they love them and show the love of God to them. This plant does well at helping people in life who need another chance and a hope for the future.
- The Princeton Church has taken a dilapidated building and turned it into a focus of the Princeton community. This building has become symbolic for the community of what God can do in their lives. The Princeton church has been effective in communicating that God can take you where you are and make something beautiful of your life if you submit to His leadership.
- Servant Fellowship has developed a successful ministry in a community of people that can tend to be close-minded to new “things.” Their success stems from their ability to minister to the community in multiple ways. They have developed nursing home ministries, apartment ministries, school outreach ministries and prayer walk ministries just to name a few. Their purpose is not to overload with ministries, but to use every opportunity to reach they people around them. This past Easter, they sponsored a community Easter Egg Hunt and hosted over 600 people at it.
- Rios De Agua Viva has focused on developing relationships for the purpose of discipleship. This plant relies on its ability to build relationships with individuals to see development from

the point of salvation to deeper discipleship. They seek to engage people where they are and help them understand their sinful state and their need for a Savior.

- Redeemer Fellowship has a gifted ministry of reaching and serving the students on the campus of USI. They work hard to help develop relationships with the students through unique bible study groups, like movie groups and rock climbing groups. They seek to make an impact, not just on the student body, but the entirety of the campus population.

It was a blessing to have several mission teams from out of state to come and help with the evangelistic efforts of our local plants and churches. These teams did everything from construction to personal evangelism, children events and even Laundromats ministries. In addition, we saw an increase of ministry partners both financially and physically. God has sent the support our leaders have needed.

We had a new church planting residency program start up in 2017 at The Bridge Church in Evansville, IN.

We head into 2018 with excitement as we have several planters in process of preparing to plant. Several of our established churches in the process of developing a church planting residency program. We are prayerfully looking for new ways to discover and develop future planters.

In 2018, we hope to see several rural church plants help reach some of the smaller communities in Southwestern Indiana. We will also look to increase our opportunities of leadership training while looking for other opportunities to make our current plants stronger.

We invite you to join us in prayer and even consider how you might become a part of what the Holy Spirit is accomplishing in Southwestern Indiana.

**Church Planting- Central Region and Asian**  
**Steve Blanchard, Church Planting Catalyst**

During the past year, I have focused on several goals related to church planting. First, I supported the current plants that launched, or are in the process of launching. This included

coaching several of the church planters through the growing pains of growing a new work. This included: Chris Dean, Great Mercy Church in the Bates-Hendricks area just south of downtown Indianapolis; Michael Man, Indy Jiayin Church, Indianapolis; Bryan Sullivan, Redeemed Community Church, Acton; Brad Nally, The Good Shepherd Church, meeting in an apartment complex near the University of Indianapolis; John Maples, Total Redemption Church, Greenfield; Nathan Shaver, Christ Community Church, Speedway; and Josh Crisp, Gospel Grove Church in Bargersville. I have also met with other planters for informal discussions and they are in the process of being coached by other SCBI leaders.

Another way I have supported these planters has been through assisting with the Basic Training for Church Planters. Finally, my wife, Cathy, and I have taken an active role as members of the Gospel Grove Church in Bargersville where I helped by leading the worship music for a time and served in other leadership and support roles.

A second very important goal has been to nurture potential church planters through formal church planter assessments and meeting to discuss the various aspects of starting a church. This included using tools such as the North American Mission Board Church Planting Projector.

A third goal has been in helping church planters establish their plants. For Indianapolis and central Indiana, these planters and plants included:

- Jon Hearing who is working on the beginning stages of a plant in Pike Township on the Northwest side of Indianapolis.
- Kent Livingston, Soma Church Downtown Indianapolis
- Bobby Barbour, Soma Church Northwest Indianapolis, which, at this writing, plan to begin regular worship services in September 2017.
- Jesus Christ Worship Center, Elie Jean Vendredi, which has been attracting mainly Haitian families
- To keep the pipeline of church planters running, I am working with a number of individuals who are in various stages of preparing to plant, from getting practical training in a church plant, to assessment, and recruiting sending and supporting churches. Several of these potential planters are from various ethnicities, including Burmese, Haitian, Hispanic and Kenyan.

As I related to the Crossroads Baptist Association, I also worked with existing churches that wanted to formally relate to the SBC. I usually met with the pastor to explain how churches relate to the SBC through a local association and then helped them meet with the association leadership for formal inclusion. The churches that have newly affiliated include:

- Ritter Avenue Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Earl Chestnut, Pastor
- Geist Community Church, McCordsville, Matt Walker, Pastor

### **Church Planting- West Region**

#### **Bob Weeks, Church Planting Catalyst**

Churches plant churches. To facilitate that, 2017 has been a year of working on the infrastructure of a church planting network by investing in the health of the West Central Region's churches. The West Central Region of Indiana includes three Associations of churches: White River, West Central and Wabash Valley. That is not to say that we have not been actively planting because we have. God is at work! We have seen God answer our cry for new churches as new works have begun in Terre Haute, Francesville and a new Spanish-speaking mission has started in Lafayette. Of course, we are also thanking God for the continued growth of the church plant in Zionsville.

We recognize that if a church planting movement is to sweep through Indiana it will be because churches are planting churches! We are praying for and working toward church health.

In 2017:

- Churches have undertaken rigorous self-examinations utilizing available Church Health Assessment tools and begun "course corrections" based on the results.
- Pastors have banded together in Regional Leader Labs, recognizing we are better together than we are alone.
- Churches have sent members to work at other church's events because the King calls us to be Kingdom minded.
- New churches have joined our convention as they recognize the distinct advantages of being in partnership with like-minded Southern Baptists.
- Young Christian leaders in the secular realm are in the process of training to preach and lead in the church through evening events that meet their busy schedules.
- Churches are stepping up to be Sending Churches, acting as "parents" of new church plants.

The future belongs to God. If He comes during our lifetime, let Him find us busy working on expanding His Kingdom.

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

We have a great opportunity to unite resources and efforts as the Baptist family in Indiana to work together for His Kingdom to reach the growing Hispanic community in Indiana. Our good Lord has blessed us this year with five new church plants and two plants in process to start this coming fall.

- Wabash Valley Baptist Association: Wea Ridge Baptist Church, Lafayette. First service was held on June 18, 2017. Planters Noe and Carolina Tapia.
- Northeast Baptist Association: Lifeline Connect Church, Hicksville Ohio, Family of Faith Hispanic Church, volunteer planters Elio and Sonia Miguez
- Southeastern Baptist Association: Sellersburg Hispanic Ministry, Sending Church Cooper Chapel Baptist, Louisville, Ky. Indian Oaks Pointe Trailer Park. Volunteer Planters Victor and Juana Tapia.
- Crossroads Baptist Association: Speedway Baptist Church, Indianapolis. They are meeting at homes now until finish they finish the process. Planters Pedro and candida Guzman
- South Central Baptist Association: Seymour, Indiana, they are meeting at homes now, looking for a meeting place. Planters Sebastian and Josefa Nicolas.
- East Central Baptist Association: Anderson/Muncie Mission work, Old Town Hill Southern Baptist Church, sending church. Planters Danilo and Elizabeth Rodriguez. Still in the process to start on October 1, 2017.
- Crossroads Baptist Association: Metro Baptist Center, Vida Eterna Baptist Church sending church. Washington, downtown area. Planters Antonio and Yildrey Dominguez to start in October 2017.

The Bible Training Center for Pastor and Leaders now has six teaching locations: Jasper, Seymour, Louisville and Southern Indiana, Logansport, Shelbyville and Indianapolis. There are more than 100 students registered, and we are training and developing leaders and preparing our future pastors and planters for the harvest to come. To God be the Glory for His faithfulness and provision.

## **Church Planting- East Region** **Bobby Cox, Church Planting Catalyst**

The east region continues to recruit, develop and deploy both indigenous and external candidates. This training includes pre-assessment, assessment, basic training, projector analysis, and coaching. Previous plants continue to show growth in spiritual foundations, including but not limited to goals in attendance, finances, and unity. Athens and Crosspoint have completed projector reviews, while Hispanic plants in Madison, Greensburg, and Columbus are in various stages of completing their projector review.

The Hispanic work in Seymour is ready to achieve planting status by the end of August 2017. Pastor Sebastian Nicolas has been developing the core while averaging 20-25 in weekly attendance, which currently are meeting in an apartment complex. The work is developing their relationship with the Sending Church and are close to cementing that partnership at which time they will obtain their SBC ID Number.

My goal for 2017/2018 is to catalyze four plants in the east region including two bi-vocational plants in Batesville and Greensburg. I have exegeted these two communities and found they were ripe with plant potential. Batesville is currently averaging 10-15; and with prayer and support of partnerships have been able to move from the Amack's Well coffee shop to a larger facility in Batesville. We are developing relationships with potential Sending and supporting church and churches. The second bi-vocational work in Greensburg currently meets at Morning Breeze assisted living community. I lead a Bible study every Wednesday evening averaging 10-14. I am mentoring Chuck Sims who I believe will be ready to become the church planter in the next 12 months. We have eight solid participants from outside Morning Breeze and 5-6 within who attend on a regular basis. The administration is considering a proposal that would allow us to become The Morning Breeze Baptist Church using their building for the same.

Our potential work in Seymour is just starting under our newly assessed planter Jeff Mathews. I will continue to exegete this community over the next 3-6 months while the planter builds the core group. We will secure a Sending and supporting church and churches over the next 12 months.

The other community I will continue to exegete is Edinburg. This community is a part of the Send city network. It is my burden that this area is ready to explore the opportunities for a new Caucasian work. We will need to recruit a local planter and develop partnerships for the area.

I have been active in promoting church planting within the associations and individual churches for partnerships and potential Sending churches.

I will be going to South Carolina to attempt to build partnerships with five churches in that area. I have spent many hours with two local churches that were interested in replanting or revitalization. After consultation, discussions, panel meetings, and much prayer, First Baptist Knightstown merged with Total Restoration Church, and Calvary decided to go with revitalization.

God has truly blessed His work in church planting in the East Region in 2016/17. We are looking forward, with great anticipation, to see where God is working in the new upcoming year. To God be the glory! Thank you, Executive Board, for praying; and for your service for HIS glory.

**Church Planting- North Region**  
**Doug Jividen, Church Planting Catalyst**

This year, North Central Association has seen a time of strategic thinking and implementation of processes to accomplish the task of reaching this region for Christ. We are developing a solid prospectus for the region to connect with planters that may come to touch the people groups in this Northern section of our state. In that prospectus are multiple outreach points that have been touched by the pastors in the association through Vision tours. We have also been working to build on the Hispanic work in Elkhart, pastored by Jose Alfredo Alejo. Mike Cramer and New Life, Osceola are becoming major contributors in the future of this work that has been reaching this people group in the region. We are presently developing a potential second Hispanic work with Franz Gonzales that will have a focus on the Goshen/Elkhart corridor.

Planters Tim Lee, Plymouth, and Sweh Velilla, Mishawaka, have witnessed God's blessing their plants with growth and multiple

baptisms. Sweh is planting on the Bethel College campus reaching college students and young families for Christ.

Miami Association has seen a blessing of rebirth for the church plant Market Road Fellowship in Tipton. Pastor Chris Ellis has finished his funding, and the church is stable and now moving forward as never before. We are focusing in Miami on a potential Hispanic work in the fall/winter. Miami is blessed to have a Hispanic pastor's school in Logansport. Hispanic Church Planting Catalyst Jesus Pacheco has been deeply involved with regarding training. This school is helping many of our regions with new pastors that will touch our communities.

East Central Association experienced Church Planter Cedric Anderson in Muncie, launch a wonderful church in Grace Community Missionary Baptist Church. He is reaching inner city Muncie for Christ. We have seen a new planter pass assessment and will be implementing his ministry in the coming year by the name of Zachariah Houghton. He will plant in the Elwood area. Matt Brewer, Noblesville, and Restoration Church are leading in this plant.

We are working in a powerful way with Northwest Association and their DOM, Wes Rankin. Wes is doing a phenomenal job in this region. We have many targets for this next year for planting, and they have a strong planting team ready to minister to this region.

As is the case with all church planters, we have been coaching planters in our region and in others as well. We recognize that the success of planters is often impacted by the support system they have around them. Thus, all of our CPC's are coaching multiple planters.

In addition, we have had training to develop pastors to be the next generation of coaches for our planters. Jeremiah Kinney, Remedy City, Muncie is my first resident coach ministering to Zachariah Houghton.

Our Leader Labs have been consistently meeting on a monthly basis to reach pastors with leadership principles in all three associations. In Northwest, they are doing the same calling these connection points the Pastor's Round Table. We also work to develop our planters through Leader Lab as well.

This has been a good, yet challenging year for all of us. Thank God, He is always on the throne leading our ministries in Indiana and beyond.

### **Church Planting- Southeast Region** **Mitch Whidden, Church Planting Catalyst**

It has been a great year for church planting in the southeastern region of Indiana. I am glad to report that our existing church plants for the past three years are not only surviving but thriving. Baptisms have increased among our church plants as well as great numerical growth. These are the existing church plants for the past three years that are still going strong. One of these church plants is already multiplying! Richard Pimpleton with Empowerment Community Church has become a sending church for Michael Dorsey in Jeffersonville.

- Empowerment Community Church in New Albany (Pastor Richard Pimpleton)
- Faith Fellowship Church in Elizabeth (Pastor Jason Walton)
- Refuge Church in Sellersburg (Pastor Shea Allen)
- Redeemer Church in Jeffersonville (Pastor Brad Walker)
- New Albany, (Hispanic) planter Yurian Santiesteban with the sending church Charlestown Road Baptist
- Clarksville, (Hispanic) planter Ugandi Infante with the sending church First Southern of Clarksville
- River Ridge Church (Pastor Patrick Lynch) sending church Eastern Heights Baptist

In addition to coaching and working with our existing church plants to ensure they stay healthy and strong, we are continuing our partnership with the Greater Cleveland County Association from Shelby, North Carolina. This summer, they brought over 50 people to our area to work in the communities of several church plants and existing churches.

These two churches were planted this year:

- Sovereign King Community Church with planter, Joseph Spurgeon
- House of Refuge Community Church with planter, Michael Dorsey

Sovereign King has been meeting weekly in Bible studies averaging about 40 in attendance. They have a great plan for future outreach and continue to grow in northern Sellersburg/southern Memphis.

House of Refuge church plant started at a barbershop in Jeffersonville. They are averaging about 30 in attendance for regular worship services on Sunday morning as Michael and Shirl share Jesus with everyone who comes in for a haircut.

The future also looks bright for church planting with a brand new planter, Maurice Ball, who just arrived on the field and is working to plant in the Jeffersonville area.

## **Conclusion**

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

You can see we have much to praise God for in church planting this year, and there is more we could share from our Indiana partners in planting. Yet, regardless of all this good news, we are still asked by some individuals, “What’s in it for us?” Here are some of the benefits of being a church that plants churches:

- The joy of giving. Participating or providing in planting a church is an act of selfless giving in much the way that the giving of tithes and offerings is. The Lord gives joy to those who give, both with tithes and with church planting.
- The joy of parenting. Just as raising a child gives much joy (through some challenges), so does being a “parent” to a new church plant.
- The joys of seeing dozens of people come to Christ through a new church. Seeing the congregation you have helped plant lead people to the Lord is a wonderful experience!
- The joy of obedience. When the Lord leads you to serve Him by helping to plant a new church, there is a great feeling of joy when we obey!
- The sense of God’s pleasure. There is nothing compared to the feeling of knowing that God is pleased with what you have done.
- The excitement of tackling a big challenge. The adventure of helping to advance God’s Kingdom in Indiana is rewarding.\*

We’re grateful to Indiana Baptists for all that you’ve sacrificed to multiply disciples, multiply leaders and multiply churches in 2016-2017! We are also praying that all our churches will experience the benefits of church planting next year as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission in our State!

\*Adapted from Churches Planting Churches Training Leaders’ Manual by DCPI, p68