A Word from the Director

The semester is quickly coming to an end. Those connected with the Church Planting Center hope that you will have a great summer walking in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). In this month’s newsletter we hear from Darin Avery, a church planter working among multihousing communities in Ohio. We also turn our attention to Vancouver, British Columbia. I was in Vancouver a couple of years ago. It is a beautiful and exciting city yet in great need of the gospel. The largest faith denomination according to the Canadian census is “no religious preference.” Please pray for Darin in Ohio and for the people of Vancouver.

As your summer plans unfold, please remember to prayerfully look for opportunities to share the gospel. I also want to challenge you to be looking for unreached people groups and population segments along your daily journeys. Why not consider beginning a Bible study with such people? Maybe the Lord will use you to be involved in the birth of a new church this summer. If the Church Planting Center can be of any help to you or your home church, then let’s talk.

Take care,
J. D. Payne

Church Planter Profile: Darin Avery

Twenty-nine year old Darin Avery desires to see a church planting movement in Hamilton, Ohio.

As Darin shares his passion for Kingdom growth, we hope you get as “fired-up” about seeing the same in your area and around the world!

Q: When will you graduate from Southern? A: Fall of 2006
Q: What are your primary responsibilities? A: To facilitate the establishment of a network of churches with a desire to see a church planting movement as its aim in Southwestern Ohio.

Continued on page 2...
Q: Could you give us a ministry description? A: The following are components of my work:

- The identification of persons of peace in targeted communities (neighborhoods, trailer parks, apartment complexes, etc.) who have a desire and willingness to host a home Bible study.
- To help persons of peace identify and cultivate their relational spheres of influence—family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates—by inviting them to participate in a weekly gathering and monthly outreach activities/service projects.
- The identification and development of lay-leaders from existing churches and from the new churches to continue the multiplication of disciples and churches.
- Organize quarterly network-wide celebration service for all churches in our fellowship.
- To share vision and seek strategic partnerships with area SBC churches and individuals.

Q: How did your church planting training at Southern help you in preparation for your work on the field? A: It exposed me to the notion of church planting movements on the international scene and the potential for such movements in North America.

Q: What is the greatest blessing received since you have been involved in church planting? A: The greatest blessings have been learning to trust the Lord for provision and being content with less. Also, it has been a blessing to find ultimate fulfillment in serving God when, where, and how He has called and gifted me to serve.

Q: What advice would you give to those who are wondering if God is calling them to be involved in church planting? A: If you are sure about it, start today! Get yourself around other church planters, Associational, State Convention, NAMB, or IMB personnel, or of course Dr. J. D. Payne who can help clarify your calling and show you the awesomeness of starting a new work in the Kingdom! Finally, do whatever it takes to get around lost people! Move off of the seminary campus, get a secular job, or hang out at a local university. Get some prayer warriors!

Focus Area: Vancouver, British Columbia

- The modern history of British Columbia begins with the First Nations people, who have lived on these lands for thousands of years. First contact by Europeans was in 1778 on the west coast of Vancouver Island.
Vancouver, British Columbia is world-renowned for its breathtaking natural setting and a cosmopolitan flair, complemented by beautiful parks and gardens, beaches, and a variety of cultural and recreational facilities.

- Vancouver is British Columbia’s largest city and the financial center of the province.
- The climate is mild year-round with warm summer days and cool and rainy winters.
- North America’s second largest Chinese community is located in Vancouver, B.C.
- The largest gay population in Western Canada lives in this ocean-wrapped and snow-capped city.
- After English and Chinese, the most common mother tongue languages spoken are Punjabi, German, Italian, French, Tagalog (Filipino) and Spanish. More than half of Vancouver’s school-age children have been raised speaking a language other than English.
- The population of the City of Vancouver in 2004 is estimated at 583,296. Greater Vancouver’s estimated total population for 2004 is 2.1 million, 50.8% of British Columbia’s population of 4.2 million.
- According to the latest Canadian Census, the largest religious group in Vancouver is the “no religious preference” category.

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“Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you”

2 Thessalonians 3:1 NASB