A Word from the Director

It is hard to believe the semester is as far along as it is!

I trust that it is going well for you. This is the first newsletter from the Church Planting Center this semester. Along with a new semester, we have added new features to this periodical to better prepare you for missions in North America. Of course, we are still keeping the church planter profile, allowing you to hear from our students serving in the trenches. This month we hear from Nick Nye who is a Nehemiah Church Planter in Columbus, Ohio. Also, we are still keeping you informed of the upcoming Church Planting Center events scheduled for this term as well. Let me encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities during your time in Louisville. Starting this semester, we are going to begin briefly introducing you to the diverse people groups living in the United States and Canada, and the need for the gospel to be taken to them. This month we start with the Bengali, one of the world’s least reached peoples. Would you pray for the Bengali people and consider how you can serve them? Next, starting this semester, we are going to begin introducing you to some of the faces of the North American Mission Board. These individuals are available to assist you and your churches in reaching this continent with the good news. As Southern Baptists, you need to know about your North American Mission Board. This month you will be introduced to John M. Bailey. Dr. Bailey is part of the Church Planting Group of NAMB, where he serves as the team leader for the Missional Networks Team.

As always, the Church Planting Center is here to serve you. Please let us know how we can assist you in your missionary endeavors throughout the United States and Canada.

Until next month...

Take care,

J. D.
Church Planter Profile: Nick Nye

Brittany
Viola – 2 years old
Charlotte – 2 months old

Location
Columbus, Ohio

When did you graduate from Southern?
December 2007

Please briefly describe your ministry.
As a Nehemiah Church Planter, at this stage, I am presently focusing on three areas: 1) preaching the gospel; 2) building relationships with people in the community; and 3) serving the needs of the city.

What are some of your primary responsibilities in your ministry?
As a church planting pastor, I have several pastoral responsibilities. However, I am significantly involved in intentionally engaging the community with the gospel.

How did your church planting training at Southern help you in preparation for your work on the field?
My church planting training helped me develop a good theological backbone for being missional in the city. By studying under some brilliant professors, I was able to build a solid foundation on the Holy Scriptures.

What is the greatest blessing received since you have been involved in church planting?
The greatest blessing received since we’ve been involved in planting is seeing eyes opened to the gospel. Many people here in Columbus have never heard the gospel, and others have never owned the gospel for themselves. The gospel truly changes everything, and we are slowly seeing several people get that. What better blessing could you have?

What advice would you give to those who are wondering if God is calling them to be involved in church planting?
If you are thinking about church planting think, very, very hard and make sure your calling is confirmed by others who have planted churches. If you are not presently involved in evangelism, or know how to have friendships with non-Christians, or how to engage culture with Jesus, then you are not called to church planting. But if you do such things, and can lead people to the cross, then you may be called. For husbands, it is critical to have wives who are just as called to the church planting ministry. Perseverance is needed, especially when no one is coming to your gatherings and no one wants to hear about Jesus.

Regarding church planting, what counsel would you give to those who are called to serve established churches?
To those who are called to serve in established churches: resource, resource, resource. Church planters need your prayers, your money, and your time. Established churches have done a decent job resourcing mission efforts to our “Jerusalem” and even to “the ends of the earth,” but we have missed taking the gospel (or resourcing those who are) to Judea and Samaria (Acts 1:8). Encourage your church by leading them to partner with church planters working in such areas.
NAMB Staff Profile:

Dr. John M. Bailey
Team Leader for the Missional Networks Team, Church Planting Group

Responsibilities:
The Missional Networks Team (MNT) exists to influence the work of our Acts 1:8 partners and groups at the North American Mission Board, to share Christ, start churches, and send missionaries through:
• The establishment of Missional Gatherings
• The development of Missional Leaders
• The development of Missional Churches
• Connection and dialogue with Missional Leaders

Contact Information:
Telephone: 770-780-0095
Email: JMBailey@namb.net

Future Training:

November 13th-14th
INDIGENOUS CHURCH PLANTING CONFERENCE
Guest Speakers: Dr. Charles Brock and Dr. J. D. Payne
Where: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
President’s Reception Room
When: Thursday- 1:00pm-5:00pm
Friday- 8:00am-1:00pm
Cost: $25
RSVP BY 10/31

December 5th
CHURCH PLANTING FAMILY BANQUET
Limited Childcare Provided
Where: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Heritage Hall
When: 6:00pm-8:00pm
Cost: FREE
RSVP BY 11/24

If you are a student at Southern Seminary or Boyce College and are interested in getting hands-on experience serving as a church planting intern, contact the Church Planting Center (churchplanting@sbts.edu). There are several church planting internships available across North America throughout 2008.
PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:
Bengali of the United States and Canada

People Name in the United States and Canada: Bengali

Alternate Names: Bangla-Bhasa; Bangladeshi; Bengali, Muslims

Population in Canada: 35,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Evangelical Percentage in Canada: .30%

Population in United States: 156,000

Evangelical Percentage in United States: 0%

Word’s Least Reached Peoples: YES

(source: The Joshua Project, www.joshuaproject.org)

“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

For more information on the Bengali in the world visit:
http://www.joshuaproject.net/peoples.php?rop3=101254
http://www.peoplegroups.org/