

the Challenge



Calendar of Events

Gulf Coast Mississippi Missions; July 6-10, 2009

Puebla, Mexico Missions;
July 25-August 2, 2009

Eastern Caribbean Missions; June 2009

MMBA Annual Golf Tournament;
Monday, September 14, 2009

10,000 Sharing; 1 Million Hearing:
MMBA Annual Missional Church Summit
October 3, 2009 5 - 7:30 pm
Faith Family Church

Marriage Conference with Dr. Danny Akin and
Minister/Spouse Appreciation Dinner;
November 6 - 7, 2009, Northwest Baptist Church

Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child
Missions; Charlotte, North Carolina;
December 3-6, 2009

Vancouver, B.C. "More Than Gold" Missions
September 2009
February 19 - 28, 2010

For more information or to sign up online, go to
www.wecare.org.

theChallenge

theChallenge is published 4 times a year; March, June, September, and December by the Mid-Maryland Baptist Association for the churches and members of the association. It can be accessed online at www.wecare.org/resources.

A Publication of Mid-Maryland Baptist Association
June 2009

Church Multiplication— Mid-Maryland Churches Ask "Where Next Lord?"

By Sharon Mager

All living things reproduce. That's a fact kids learn in their first Biology classes. Church planters and leaders in the church-planting world will say the same thing. Living churches will produce.

"It's a natural thing to do. As the church raises disciples they will naturally be missional and that collective unit will reproduce," Dan Hyun, pastor/planter of The Village Church said. The Village Church is a plant of Grace Life Church in partnership with Northwest Church.

The Village Church

The Village Church in Hampden is still a baby, just launched in Sept. 2008, but its pastor Dan Hyun said the new work is already running and walking.

Church members recently invited several bands in for a concert to raise money to provide food for hungry people in the neighborhood. Those bands brought their friends and followers to the church, providing immediate outreach opportunities.

Members have also been working with the local community center to clean up litter and working to rebuild a nearby playground that burned. While lending a helping hand, members are working side by side with their neighbors. The church is trying hard to get to know their neighborhood and to be known. And as the church moves out into the community, they're finding locals moving into the church.

"More and more people from the community are joining us to see what The Village is doing. I think it reflects a spiritual dryness that's been here for a long time," Hyun said.

Hyun said people are also drawn by the genuineness of The Village. "We're not a big lights and smoke show." Hyun said he's just preaching and being true to the Word.



The Village working on neighborhood cleanup and at the community center



Broken people are coming, responding to the love of the church, and to the pure gospel. "People are skeptical", Hyun said, which is why he said he's "going more for depth than breadth."

"Hampden is going through a lot of economic challenges. People coming in are reflecting that as well," the young church planter reflected. "Almost every family here has been touched with problems with addiction and brokenness."

The church's vision was to reach the 20 to 30-year olds and while that's still the target, God is making the church diverse ethnically, socio-economically, and generationally.

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Northwest Church

Gary Glanville, pastor of Northwest Church, said their church did not intentionally set out to multiply itself. "We were simply praying 'how can we be used?'" Glanville said.

God answered that prayer by making Northwest a reproducing church. They didn't even have to go out and look for ways to start and restart churches. Opportunities presented themselves and churches came to them.

They started a church in Pennsylvania about four years ago when members began moving over the state line and couldn't find churches they wanted to attend Northwest sent several additional families to help along with Chuck Cruise, who became their planter/pastor.

When Hampden Church was declining, Hampden members approached Northwest Church asking for help. Northwest stepped in and took control, providing "life support" - pulpit supply and daily operations.

Chestnut Ridge was in a situation similar to Hampden and they called Northwest. Glanville first told them that Northwest had too much on its plate and couldn't help, but after prayer, he felt God indeed wanted Northwest to help once again. The church sent several families and Jeff Blaylock, then Northwest's youth pastor, to be the planter.

"A lot of things we learned from 'Experiencing God' - going where God is working and joining Him," Glanville explained. Northwest Church lost members and strong leaders in the process of helping other churches, but God was moving and brought new leaders to Northwest. "It's been a great experience. People are crying out 'we need to do more,'" Glanville said. "This was an answer to prayer."

The most recent plant Northwest has helped is The Village Church. Northwest negotiated a way to bring Hampden Church and The Village Church together in a unique way. While the small Hampden Church congregation still meets at the building on Roland Avenue, they now share the facility with The Village Church.

The Hampden congregation is kingdom minded and knows that a new "out of the box" church may be able to reach the young families in the area differently.

Glanville said the partnership is structured so that eventually The Village Church will inherit the Hampden Church facility and continue the legacy of the church.

Ichthus Mission Church

Ichthus Mission Church has church multiplication in its DNA. As God sends people willing to go, the church trains them and sends them out, explained Yeong Liptak, who directs missions at the church with Senior Pastor Seung Chan Jun. "It is important for us to plant the church. That is our commitment to share the Gospel about Jesus Christ."

Liptak said Ichthus is an international church that strives to reach the different cultures and generations within those cultures. "We're excited to reach out to others," Liptak said.

The church has planted a second-generation English speaking Korean church and a Hispanic church that both meet at Ichthus. Their most recent plant is Nadulmok Church.



Ichthus on mission in Mexico



Nadulmok Community Church

Barnabas Kim came to Ichthus, was ordained at the church and was led, with the encouragement of the church deacon's council and the support of Ichthus, to begin Nadulmok Community Church.

"Our primary target group is called the 'status adjusters', which include immigrant families, second generation, young professionals, and international students. Our main planting strategy is the house church," Kim said.

Nadulmok has four house church meetings that combine for Sunday worship. "We have a plan to plant "international house churches," Kim said. The house church is the most effective evangelistic tool for us since Nadulmok started," he said.

They're also reaching out to Asian-Americans. One of the church's members is a Chinese immigrant.

Nadulmok's other ministries include an ESL ministry and shelter for homeless Latino people in the Tacoma-Langley park area.

Church members also do an outreach to international students offering final exam care packages each semester and an annual dinner and concert to welcome incoming international students and their families in the fall.

Nadulmok Pastor Kyoung Soo Kim and church members



"The church multiplication movement is God's heart for unreached people. Personally speaking, God makes me a real Christian during the church planting process, and I realized that ministry flows out of beginnings," Kim said.

Hampstead Church

"Church planting is a biblical mandate that flows out of the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20, "Chris Brammer, pastor of Hampstead Church said. "Church planting should be done out of love and obedience and undergirded with prayer," he said. "It I should include: Prayer, Partnership, Planning, and Action."

Hampstead Church is planting churches that plant churches. The church started New Hope Baptist Church in La Florida, Mexico, and continues to support the church planter, Javier Esquivel. Hampstead members also visit their "baby" church each year. In November 2008, Hampstead sent a team of 20 adults and teens, along with translators from Southeastern Theological Seminary; to New Hope Church for a carnival day, evangelistic preaching and street witnessing.

Now Hampstead is working with New Hope Church to plant a grandbaby church in a small

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Training Women Leaders

By Brenda Yarema

Judy Andrews of Faith Family Church in Sykesville, and Patty Applebee, Founder of Women at the Well Ministries, met many years ago and have worked as a ministry team several times over the years.

Their most recent venture included Faith Family Church members Grace Shank and Deb McCarty who traveled to Nicaragua to provide training, mentoring, resources, and prayer for the women of this country.

In a unique partnership with Dr. Bob Dayton, Baptist International missionary and founder of the Nicaraguan Bible Institute, these women from Maryland joined women from across the United States at the annual conference in Nicaragua to prepare local women leaders to be able to share the word of God in churches throughout Latin America.

Even with today's current U.S. economic decline, Judy Andrews feels we live abundantly in the United States. Judy felt it was time to share the many blessings God has given to her and to share God's love with others.

The women from Faith Family Church took their first trip to Nicaragua in January of 2007. After this initial trip, all three women knew it was imperative they return each year.

Although Nicaragua today is a presidential democratic republic, it is a male dominated culture. Women, however, are a vital partner in the success and growth of local church life. "Godly Leadership", this year's conference theme, included classes in how to start a women's ministry, teaching strategies for sharing God's Word in practical ways within



Nicaraguan women attending classes

the local culture and starting a one-to-one mentoring program.

This year's conference had over 150 Nicaraguan women in attendance; many were pastor's wives and leaders in the local church. Many of these women traveled far distances to attend. Full scholarships were available to pay for the conference, travel, and lodging.

As a special treat, each conference attendee was given a gift bag containing soaps, pencils, reading glasses, and miscellaneous items. Although easily accessible items for people living in Maryland, this small gift brought great joy to its recipients.

"More important than our course content was the goal to awaken Nicaraguan women to increased leadership roles available with their



Mission Team from Faith Family and Women at the Well Ministries

local church." Judy added, "God uses us to help women's ministry across the world. It's simply God's call and a willing heart". The result: women reaching women through the local church.

Judy Andrew shares the story of one local woman who attended the leadership training. This woman was able to identify the great work God has called her to do. Through this local woman's passion, a new excitement was building within her church as she established a children's ministry and just recently developed her church's Sunday school curriculum.

Judy, Grace, and Deb all agree they will be heading back to Nicaragua each year in January to continue this vital work. For more information how you can partner with these women and provide needed resources, contact Judy Andrews at jamusic53@yahoo.com.

For these Maryland women, this yearly Leadership Training Conference is their way of sharing God's love with others. It's God's calling and their willing heart.

Is it Time to Have a Baby?

By Dr. Joel Rainey, DOM



"Nickels and noses." For decades, the church in North America has measured its success almost solely in terms of the number of people in the worship service and the number of

dollars in the offering plate. To be sure, there is nothing wrong with seeking to quantify—at least to some degree—the growth and health of your church. At the same time, using the two measuring sticks of dollars and numbers, by themselves, has to a large degree left us doomed to growth by addition. Couple this with the fact that the North American population has for many decades outstripped the growth of the church, and you begin to realize just how insufficient it has been to measure growth and health by internal numbers alone. In order to have the impact on our culture that God desires, we must move from addition to multiplication. We must begin to see the reproduction of new churches out of existing churches as a preeminent measuring stick of ecclesiastical success. This month's issue of *The Challenge* seeks to showcase MMBA churches that have already added this measuring stick. As your church grows and you begin to face the very positive problems of limited space, inadequate staffing, and the other hard choices related to buying and building, let me suggest that instead of growing via the traditional route, you consider that it may be time to have a baby. Read the stories of how God has blessed our churches who have chosen to extend the Kingdom through multiplication; pray and seek God's face about how a daughter church might fit into His plans for your congregation.





Bethel Baptist

VBS, Boomerang Express, July 19 - 24, 6 - 8:30 pm

Bethany Lane

Church Picnic, May 31, 2009

Great games and events for kids and adults. Live band, BBQ, great food and fellowship!

VBS, "Crocodile Dock"

July 12 - 16

6 - 8:15 pm

Kids 2 years - 5th grade

Centri-Kid Camp "Jesus 360" is a week-long away

camp, for students who have completed 3rd - 5th grade. July 20 - 24

Spy Camp

August 10 - 14, 2009, 10 am - 2 pm

This camp is for all kids who have completed 3rd - 5th grade and will complete the entrance test to the C.I.A. (Christ's International Agents) This camp is a day camp held mostly at Bethany Lane Baptist Church. However, in the afternoons we do go out on field trips like swimming, laser tag, etc. The cost is \$50 and covers lunches and outings. Scholarships are available.

Kingdom Showing, September 26, 2009 The Kingdom is a Bibleland that the children of BLBC have built. It goes from Genesis to Revelations with buildings to represent the lessons and stories they learned in each book. The kids give the tours. This September we will have most of the Old Testament completed and tours will be given. There will be food and games during the showing.

CrossLife Community

CrossLife will host its **5th Annual Track and Field Camp** at Long Reach High School in Columbia, MD, from June 22 - 26. Children will learn the exciting world of running and field events along with the God's love for them during a fun-filled week



Elkridge Baptist

VBS, Join in the Bayou for CROCODILE DOC! "Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light", July 5 - 10

6 pm- 8:30 pm Free Classes for ALL ages - Birth through Adult

Friendship Baptist

VBS "Truth Trek"

July 12 - 16, 7 - 9 pm

Gethsemane Baptist

VBS "Boomerang Express"

July 27 - 29, 9 am - 12 pm.

Hampstead Baptist

VBS "SonRock Kids Camp", Monday - Friday, June 22 - 26, from 9 am - noon. Children ages 4 - 8th grade are welcome!

Through their exciting camping adventures, children will learn about God's amazing love. They will also have a great time with lively songs, hilarious dramas, puppet skits, creative crafts, exciting games, and tasty snacks - all of the things that make VBS so much fun for children.

Hope Baptist

Savage Festival Parade and Food Booth June 7

Youth Camp, June 21-26

Mission Trip to Ohio June 28 - July 3

VBS "Boomerang Express", July 19-24

Women of Faith, Verizon Center, July 31-Aug.1

Block Party, August 22

Liberty Baptist

VBS Lifeway's Boomerang Express, July 13-17

Jr. High youth, **Centrifuge** at

Skycroft, June 28 - July 3

Sr. High, Portsmouth, VA for **World**

Changers, July 4 - 11

Mount Airy Baptist

VBS, "SonRock Kids Camp", July 20 - 24, 9 am - 12 noon.

Taneytown Baptist

VBS Pre-Registration at TBC (Hawaiian Theme) Water Slide, Dunking Booth, Hot Dogs & Smoothies

Saturday, June 13, 10 am - 12 pm

VBS - 2009, "Outrigger Island"

(children age 3 - completed 6th grade)

June 28 - July 3, 6 - 8:30 pm

Westminster Baptist

VBS, "Boomerang Express", July 13-17, 9 am - 12:15 pm, children age 2 to completed Grade 5.

WBC Youth VBS, August 11-14, 7 - 9 pm



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village called Rancherías. Brammer said they've met with some opposition, including having rocks thrown in the home where their planning meeting was held, but they're persevering.

The church has also assisted in church planting in Myanmar, Nepal, and Romania. The church in Romania has started ten churches since 1990.

Now Hampstead is working to plant a church in Upperco at the location of an SBC church that recently closed after 160 years of ministry.

"Even as we are in the planning and action stages of our new church plant in Upperco, the question in our hearts is 'where next Lord?'"

