

From the...

# CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

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The Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary



NORTH AMERICAN  
MISSION BOARD

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## A Word from the Director

Did you know...

- according to data collected regarding U.S. counties, Aleutians West (AK), Lake and Peninsula (AK), Alpine (CA), Costilla (CO), Gilpin (CO), Oneida (ID), Camas (ID), Franklin (ID), Storey (NV), Wasatch (UT), Juab (UT), Daggett (UT), Rich (UT), and Piute (UT) had no evangelical churches in the year 2000.
- that China and India send the most college students to the United States of all the countries of the world (Japan is number four on the list)?
- that the number of Vietnamese students sent to the U.S. (2007-2008) increased by 45%—the largest increase among any nation?
- that most churches in the United States are not aware of these three previous facts?

Every year, the United States receives a large number of international students. These men and women travel from various locations from across the globe to study in our colleges and universities. Many of these young people represent some of the world's least reached people groups. Following the completion of their education, many will return home. Are we prepared to love, serve, and share the good news with such men and women? Are we prepared to reach them, teach them, and equip them with church planting skills to apply in their homelands? (For additional thoughts on this matter, check out my recent podcasts at [www.northamericanmissions.org](http://www.northamericanmissions.org). You can find them [International Students in the U.S. Part 1](#), [International Students in the U.S. Part 2](#), and [Vietnamese Students: Where the Growth is in the U.S.](#)) We have included a list of links in this newsletter to assist you in gaining a better understanding of ministry to such migrants. In this month's newsletter, Dan Seidelman shares with us his church planting intern experience in Missoula, Montana. Dan spent this past summer serving the people of this city through a variety of ways.

Let me encourage you to participate in the Church Planting Center's upcoming events this semester. Steve Nerger with the New England Baptist Convention will be speaking at a Brunch Fellowship on Wednesday, November 18th. Are you aware that 20% of those with no religious affiliation reside in the New England and Middle Atlantic regions? For those of you who are interested, you can listen to my podcast on this topic [American Nones: The Profile of the No-Religion Population](#) and read the [Kosmin and Keysar report](#) released in September. Also, a second information meeting will be held for those interested in being part of the new network that is forming among those serving with minority people groups. Please come and participate in this event on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Finally, on January 11-15, 2010, I will be teaching the course "Contextualized Church Planting," so plan your schedule now for this training event.

Until next month...

J. D.

## Future Training:

### CHURCH PLANTING AMONG MINORITY PEOPLE GROUPS

DESSERT FELLOWSHIP  
October 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:30 PM  
Legacy 310  
RSVP: October 9th

### GREAT COMMISSION EMPHASIS WEEK October 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

### BRUNCH WITH THE NEW ENGLAND BAPTIST CONVENTION

Guest Speaker: Steve Nerger  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:00 AM  
Legacy 310  
RSVP: November 5th

### CHURCH PLANTING FAMILY BANQUET December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00 PM President's Reception Room RSVP: November 23<sup>rd</sup>

### CONTEXTUALIZED CHURCH PLANTING (33830) January 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Pre-requisite: Introduction to Church Planting

RSVP:  
Church Planting Center  
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502-897-4498  
1-800-626-5525, ext. 4498  
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## Student Profile: Dan Seidelman

### Name

Dan Seidelman

### Where did you serve as a church planting intern?

I served with Convergence Ministries in Missoula, Montana.



### What were some of your responsibilities as an intern?

Convergence Ministries had nine NAMB Summer Missionaries, including myself; I was in charge of leading them. Also, we had four different short term mission teams come to help prepare for the church's launch service; I was also given the responsibility of organizing and leading these teams. Some common tasks for me involved leading Bible studies for the missionaries, outreach for the church, cleaning the facilities, and engaging with non-profits organizations in Missoula – especially a children's shelter - to impact both the leadership and the kids.

### What was the greatest blessing you received from your church planting work?

With a job like mine this summer, I spent almost all of my time with the eight other college interns for Convergence. After pouring my life into them for a couple of months, I made some amazing friendships. Within the first week or so, we moved beyond surface level friends and really began to share our hearts with one another and really began to act like the descriptions of the early church: sharing everything, eating together, worshiping together, and studying the Scriptures together. These eight missionaries are people I love and will not soon forget.

### How did your internship affect your understanding of North American missions?

This summer I really learned what it means to contextualize the ministry. I had to use missionary strategies instead of what I've always done with established churches. Moving from the seminary context in Louisville to Missoula, Montana was involved a cultural shift. Montana has never had a sweeping revival or awakening and is largely ignorant regarding the church. I encountered many people who were actually hostile toward me simply because I had a religious affiliation. Studies say that only 4%-6% of Missoula is evangelical, with only 12% claiming some sort of spirituality or religion (lots of Mormons and New Age syncretism there). People are postmodern to the core, and I often encountered people with the attitude that "it's awesome you found Jesus, but that's just not for me."

### What did the Lord teach you through your church planting internship?

God taught me so much this summer. I learned things such as the importance of community groups for personal support, the dire need for prayer before everything, the peril of putting ministry before my walk with God, and the importance of focusing on individuals over crowds. Most importantly, I learned that I need to depend fully on God for my strength and wisdom.

## NAMB Resource Link:

<http://www.churchplantingvillage.net/>

**To view previous issues of the Church Planting Newsletter and additional resources from the Church Planting Center, visit:**

<http://www.sbts.edu/churchplanting>

*“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

## Websites and Articles on International Students in North America

1. [http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Whats\\_Hot&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18564](http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Whats_Hot&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18564) : an article entitled “Students on the Move: The Future of International Students in the United States.”
2. <http://www.isionline.org> : the official website of International Students Inc., a Christian ministry to international students.
3. <https://www.intervarsity.org> : InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is an organization that works to share Christ with international students.
4. <http://www.usaprogram.org> : the United Students Association promotes cultural awareness and aids international students.
5. <http://www.ismc.ca> : the official website of International Student Ministries Canada, an organization devoted to serving international students.
6. <http://globalfriendsdc.org> : Global Friends is an organization that connects international students and Americans through events and cultural exchange.
7. <http://www.educationusa.state.gov> : Education U.S.A.’s website that offers assistance on becoming an international student.
8. <http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org> : Open Doors is a comprehensive information resource for international students.