

From the...

CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

March 2010

Volume 7, Number 2



The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary



NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD

In This Issue

- Church Planter Profile:
John

Contact Us

J. D. Payne – Director
Renee Emerson – Assistant

Email:
churchplanting@sbts.edu

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

Phone:
1-800-626-5525, ext. 4498

A Word from the Director

As the semester continues on, let me begin this month by encouraging you from the words of the Apostle Paul:

“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person” (Col 4:3-6, ESV).

While it is easy to get into a semester routine that pushes our personal evangelism aside, may we each remember to pray for open doors, be intentional and clear with our gospel presentations, be wise with our time, and maintain grace in our conversations this term. These matters are important for our on-going witness.

One student who is applying these aspects to his witness is working with South Asians in Kentucky. In this edition, you will read about “John,” who did not wait until graduation to begin his work as a church planter. “God is bringing the nations to our doorstep,” he says, and “we can start doing missions here and now.” John took advantage of the church planting internship through the Church Planting Center and has been not only getting hands-on experience, but witnessing the gospel advance among South Asians.

The Church Planting center has several upcoming events where you can learn more about getting involved in church planting in North America. On Tuesday, March 23rd, from 11:30 to 12:30PM, the North American Mission Board will host a FREE brunch and Question and Answer time about serving with NAMB. If you are interested, this will be a valuable opportunity to discover more about the work of the Board in general and the Nehemiah Project in particular. On Monday, April 12, the Illinois Baptist Convention will host a FREE brunch from 10:00-11:00AM, where their representative Jim Smith will share about ministry needs and opportunities in Illinois. On Thursday, April 14th, the Illinois Baptist Convention will also host a luncheon for those interested in church planting in Illinois. To RSVP for any of these events, please contact the Church Planting Center.

Lord willing, I will be teaching two advanced courses in church planting this July. Models of Church Planting (33840) will be offered July 5th through July 9th, and Church Multiplication Strategies (33860) will be offered July 12th through 16th. If you have taken the pre-required course, Introduction to Church Planting, I would love to have you in one or both of these classes.

As always, if there is anything we can do to assist you, please feel free to contact the Church Planting Center.

Until next time...

J. D.

Future Training:

MISSIONS WEEK
March 22nd-26th

BRUNCH WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

Tuesday, March 23rd
11:30-12:30PM
Honeycutt 226
Representative: Kenny Rains
Please RSVP to the Church Planting
Center by March 15th.

BRUNCH WITH THE ILLINOIS BAPTIST CONVENTION

Monday, April 12th
10:00-11:00AM
Legacy 310
Representative: Jim Smith
Please RSVP to the Church Planting
Center by April 5th.

ILLINOIS BAPTIST CONVENTION LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 14th
12:00-2:00PM
Legacy 310
Representative: Jim Smith
Please RSVP to the Church Planting
Center by April 7th

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>

Dr. Payne's blog:

<http://www.jdpayne.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

Church Planting Intern: John

Name

"John"

Where did you serve as a church planting intern?

I am serving in Kentucky.

What are some of your responsibilities as an intern?

My official role on the team is the "Prayer Sheriff." I am in charge of leading the team in things regarding prayer, including sending out prayer requests and news updates to our supporters, setting up prayer events, and in general spurring the team on in prayer. In addition to my duties as the "Sheriff," I regularly meet with South Asian men to build relationships and mentor those who are receptive to the Word.

What is the greatest blessing you have received from your church planting work to date?

The greatest blessing has been my team. I have learned so much from my team leader and from my other teammates since I have started the internship. To see them burning out for the gospel and their daily love for Christ inspires me to become a better missionary.

How has your internship affected your understanding of North American missions?

I've known God's calling for me to be a missionary for some time now. But in my mind I always associated missions with being overseas, being far away. I now realize that is incorrect. God is bringing the nations to our doorstep. We can start doing missions here and now.

What has the Lord been teaching you through your church planting internship?

I have learned the most through mistakes that I have made during my internship. And I have learned that making mistakes is not necessarily a bad thing,