

From the...

CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

April 2010

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The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary



NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD

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Woongki Lee

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A Word from the Director

As I write this month's edition of the newsletter, I am reflecting on my recent trip to the northeastern region of the United States and Canada. Last week, I had the honor to speak to several different church planters in diverse cultural and geographical contexts. I was able to spend some time with former students and meet some new faces in Columbus, Cleveland, Toronto, Syracuse, Northborough, MA, and Harrisburg, PA. One of the many things the Lord again brought to my attention is that the number of unbelievers in the U. S. and Canada is still a very large number. While driving through world-class mega cities and tiny rural communities, I was constantly reminded of the great need for the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches. It was a blessing to be able to spend some time with men and women serving in such fields in North America.

But additional laborers are needed for the harvest. If you are interested in finding out about serving in some of these least reached areas, please contact the Church Planting Center.

In this month's newsletter, you will get a chance to read about the internship recently completed by Woongki Lee. Having completed his church planting courses and internship experience, Woongki is making plans to serve in Madison, Wisconsin as a Nehemiah Church Planter.

Two guests are coming to campus in April. Jim Smith with the Illinois Baptist Convention (April 12, 14) and Gary Irby with the Puget Sound Baptist Association in Seattle, Washington (April 26) will be on campus hosting fellowship events and speaking with students interested in serving in their areas. If you are interested in attending these free events or speaking with these men, please contact Renee at churchplanting@sbts.edu.

Also, you will want to mark your calendar for the upcoming rural church training event. Dr. George Garner will be on campus, May 25, leading a seminar titled "Reaching Rural America with the Good News: The Rural Church in Missional Expression." Dr. Garner is one of the leading experts on the topic of the rural church. He is a sharp missiologist and comes with many years of experience of planting and pastoring rural churches in the United States. Whether you are a church planter, pastor, associational or state convention leader, let me encourage you to be a part of this one-day event (and students, if you are called to pastor churches, there is a good probability that you will be serving in a small town or rural area sometime in your ministry.).

Also, if you are a student and have not taken a church planting course, I want to encourage you to consider taking Introduction to Church Planting that I plan to offer in the fall semester. If you have already completed this course, let me encourage you to consider taking one or both of the advanced church planting courses that are offered this July (Models of Church Planting and Church Multiplication Strategies).

Until next time...

J. D.

Future Training:

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

FELLOWSHIP WITH NORTHWEST BAPTIST CONVENTION

Monday, April 26th
Representative: Gary Irby

RURAL CHURCH PLANTING SEMINAR

Tuesday, May 25th
9:00 – 3:00PM
Representative: George Garner

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: Woongki Lee

Name

Woongki Lee

Where did you serve as a church planting intern?

I did my church planting internship with Antioch church, a new multi-ethnic church at the south end of Louisville.

What were some of your responsibilities as an intern?

My responsibilities were building relationships among a Karen refugee people group, leading a Bible study with middle school students, and helping refugees with other needs such as shopping and their children's homework.

What blessings did you receive from your church planting work?

The church planting experience with Antioch provided me with new insights for my future church planting journey. The first blessing was being able to reach an ethnic group and understand them. The second blessing was the experience of the church planting process. The third blessing was the learning gained from this particular church planting model that used family groups. I hope to adapt the family group model in my future church planting labors. The last blessing from my church planting work was learning to use Bible Storying.

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

Before my internship, I thought the Evangelical population was so high in North America that there was little need for evangelism. However, during my internship, I began to understand there is a strong need of evangelism in North America. Now I believed there is a strong need for missionaries even in North America, especially to serve among the numerous immigrants with Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim backgrounds.

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

Before I started my internship, I was thinking about planting a Korean church, for I am a Korean. But, during the internship with Antioch church, the Lord has been leading me to change my vision to plant a church among internationals. The Lord has been guiding me to grasp the vision of a multi-ethnic church and to consider such a missionary strategy and methodology for my church planting journey.

