

## In This Issue

- Church Planter Profile:  
Jeff and Kim Pearson
- Focus Area: St. John's,  
Newfoundland
- Upcoming Events

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## Upcoming Events:

**Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> - Dessert Fellowship**  
Hosted by: The Baptist  
Convention of Pennsylvania-  
South Jersey - Barry Whitworth  
RSVP BY: 2/3

**Feb. 22 - Family Brunch**  
Guest Speaker: Laurie Ann  
Neeley ~ Come hear about the  
blessings and challenges facing  
church planting families.  
Children Welcome!!  
RSVP By: 2/14

RSVP for these FREE events  
with our office.

## A Word from the Director

Folks,

I hope that the start of this Spring semester is going well. This E-Newsletter is the first of several that will come from the Church Planting Center over the next year. Our desire is that it will serve as an encouraging and helpful periodical to you and your ministry. In addition to keeping you informed about the numerous events occurring through the Center each semester, it will also serve as a source of information about North American church planters and areas in need of significant missionary work.

Our prayer is that the Lord will bless you by allowing you to be involved in Kingdom expansion through the multiplication of churches. Let me encourage you to participate in the FREE, on campus activities this Spring to learn from other church planters as well as to hear about opportunities for mission involvement. You may want to consider participating in our 13-week church planting internship program. Whether you are serving in a well-established congregation or leading a church planting team, the Church Planting Center is here to assist you in being a part of the birth of churches among various people groups and population segments of North America and U.S. territories.

Take care,

J.D. Payne

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## Church Planter Profile: Jeff and Kim Pearson



From left to right: Jeff and Kim  
Pearson, Monet, Silas, and Griffin

Almost one year ago, this family of five landed on Kent Island, Maryland to build a "bridge." This bridge would not be constructed of steel, concrete or cables. Rather, incorruptible materials of prayer, love, and sacrifice would achieve their "bridge" of reaching those around them with the Gospel.

We had the privilege of interviewing Jeff about his experience with this avenue of ministry.

**Q:** When will you graduate from Southern? **A:** My goal is to finish up online and graduate in 2006. Kim left SBTS with a certificate from Seminary Wives Institute.

**Q:** What are your primary responsibilities? **A:** Church-Planting Pastor of "THE BRIDGE" - which is the name of our church.

## Events Coming Soon:

### March 9 - Dessert Fellowship

Hosted by: Utah-Idaho  
Convention - George Garner  
RSVP By: 3/2

### March 15 - Family Brunch

Guest Speaker: Mandy  
Montgomery - Come hear about  
the blessings and challenges  
facing church planting families.  
Children Welcome!  
RSVP By: 3/8

### March 16-17 - NAMB Interviews

Please call for more  
information!

### March 21 - Dessert Fellowship

Hosted by: Georgia State  
Convention - Jim Millirons &  
Terry Little. RSVP by: 3/14

### April 25 - Dessert Fellowship

Hosted by: Canadian  
Convention - Gary Smith. RSVP  
By: 4/18

**Q: Could you give us a ministry description?** **A:** We have been called to bring Christ's "real-deal" to Kent Island. It is hard to believe but our community is over 96% unchurched – by choice. In an area with elevated levels of education and high affluence, the people of Kent Island tend to have a "been there-done that" or "I'm doing just fine" attitude when it comes to eternal matters. Consequently, in many cases we are clearing stones and tilling soil in preparation for seed sowing and harvest. With that in mind, we have intentionally built THE BRIDGE on three pillars: 1. Biblical Truth; 2. The Great Commission; 3. Being Real & Culturally Relevant.

**Q: How did your church planting training at Southern help you in preparation for your work on the field?** **A:** Our training at SBTS was invaluable! There were two areas of particular distinction. First and foremost, the conservative, truth-driven theological training at Southern is second to none. The second noteworthy aspect of our training has to do with the comprehensive nature of our preparation. I can honestly say after being on the field for nearly a year, nothing has surprised me yet. That is not to say that I have all the answers or that Southern has some kind of Church-Planting Playbook that covers all the options...but the Graham School does a great job of expanding the students' horizons with the express purpose of preparing future Planters for just about anything. To that end, perhaps the most valuable principle of preparation Southern shares is its commitment to teach the students how to think biblically in the context of church planting.

As a final note, I cannot say enough about the value and blessing of Seminary Wives Institute. SWI is one of the key reasons we've been able to come out and hit the ground running. When you understand the value of your "home team" in ministry, then and only then will you begin to understand the value of SWI.

**Q: What is the greatest blessing received since you have been involved in church planting?** **A:** This one is simple. Watching the Lord build His church (THE BRIDGE) out of *transformed lives* is a tremendous blessing.

**Q: What advice would you give to those who are wondering if God is calling them to be involved in church planting?** **A:** 1) Make sure you are called to YOUR ministry before you go. Church planting is not an "off-the-shelf" calling. 2) It is impossible to overstate the value and necessity of a true parent/partner church! 3) Figure out why God called you there, create an identity that answers that question... find creative ways to communicate your identity, and then spend about 20 hours a day trying to find and meet the REAL (not just "felt") needs of your community. Bathe everything you do in prayer and trust the Lord as He leads. 4) Count your costs up front. 5) Try to find a good mentor/coach that can be a real friend as well. 6) Ask yourself if you can embrace my friend Russ' quote: "You just can't beat Church Planting!"

**Q: Regarding church planting, what counsel would you give to those who are called to serve in established churches?** **A:** At the risk of sounding abrasive, don't get caught up in a Christian cocoon that is inwardly focused. *Every* ministry needs to be *committed* (talk is cheap) to fulfilling the Great Commission. Some are called to "go" and others are called to "send."

**Take a closer look at this church plant at [www.HISbridge.com](http://www.HISbridge.com).**

Is God calling YOU  
to be  
"On Mission" in  
Newfoundland?

For more information on  
how to partner with the  
Canadian Convention of  
Southern Baptist in  
Newfoundland,

Contact: Mark Puckett,  
Church Starting Coordinator  
902-962-2640  
Kingsway@pei.sympatico.ca  
Or  
Gary Smith  
Church Starting Strategist for  
Eastern Canada  
514-265-8486  
Churchstarting@yahoo.ca

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### Upcoming Mission Trip

St. John's,  
Newfoundland  
May 21-27, 2006

Contact The Great  
Commission Center of  
Southern Seminary for  
more information:

1-800-626-5525, ext. 4594  
Or visit:  
[www.sbts.edu/greatcommission](http://www.sbts.edu/greatcommission)

NAMB Resource Link:  
[www.churchplantingvillage.com](http://www.churchplantingvillage.com)

## Focus Area: St. John's, Newfoundland

### Newfoundland (new-fund-LAND)

- The first place in North America to see the sunrise each morning is Newfoundland.
- It was the first place seen by English explorers in the New World. In 1497 John Cabot sailed into the harbor of modern day St. John's.
- Newfoundland remained a British colony until joining Canada in 1949.



### The Place

- Newfoundland is in the North Atlantic, approximately 1,000 miles east of Boston.
- It has a population the size of Oklahoma City (half million), spread across an area the size of the state of Oklahoma.

- The economy has historically been from fishing, but this came to abrupt halt in the early 1990s when centuries of relentless over-fishing wiped out the rich stocks of the Grand Banks off Newfoundland's coast.
- Today, a burgeoning wave of new prosperity awaits Newfoundlanders as they develop a rich oil field off their shores in the Atlantic.

### The People

- Because of its remote, isolated location, Newfoundland is demographically, uniquely homogenous among Canada's populated regions. Settled by the British and Irish, and remaining a British Colony until the mid-1900s, Newfoundland remains a thoroughly "Anglo" culture.
- Its remote location also contributed to the development of a unique Newfoundlander culture.
- Newfoundlanders are incredibly proud of their land, culture, and heritage. They think of themselves as Newfoundlanders first, and Canadians second.

### St. John's

- The capital city, St. John's, is the political, cultural, financial and educational hub of the island.
- The population of metro St. John's is 173,000.

### Faith

- The religious landscape is overwhelming entrenched in a cultural Catholicism and Anglicanism. Newfoundland was settled by the English and Irish who brought with them their cultural faiths: Anglican and Catholicism.
- St. John's is only 8% evangelical, the island as a whole only slightly

### *Future Training Opportunities*

**July 3-8, 2006:** Introduction to Church Planting 33820  
3 hour course taught on campus at SBTS

**July 10-14, 2006:** Church Planting Methodologies 33840  
3 hour course taught on campus at SBTS

more so.

- Pentecostals and the Salvation Army are the only two evangelical groups of recognizable size on the entire island.
- While Newfoundland has a population the size of Oklahoma City, OKC has 161 Southern Baptist churches and missions. Newfoundland has NONE.
- The Baptist presence in Newfoundland is limited to eleven small churches, none of which is Southern Baptist. St. John's has only three Baptist churches. According to census figures, there are 310 reported Baptists among the 100,000 residents of St. John's and only 645 in the entire province of a half million.
- According to the organization *Outreach Canada*, the metro St. John's area alone needs *133 additional* evangelical churches.

**“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**