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In This Issue

- **Church Planter Profile:** Chuck Cruise
- **Focus Area:** Dearborn, Michigan
- **Book Review:**
Beyond Church Planting
By Robert E. Logan and Neil Cole

A Word from the Director

Folks,

Last month, the United States' population reached 300 million. We are the third country in the world ever to reach such a mark. As I write this newsletter, a cover story of the USA Today notes that the U.S. is growing faster than any other industrialized nation in the world. We are projected to add another 100 million by 2040 in less time than we added the last 100 million. It is estimated that 40% of our population growth comes from immigration. These facts alone continue to remind us of the truth that our area of North America is quickly growing and culturally diverse.

These facts also remind us of the great need to plant churches in North America. In this edition of the newsletter, we will take a quick look at Dearborn, Michigan. When you walk certain areas of this city, it is easy to believe that you are somewhere in the Middle East. Here is a place where church planters find a large Arabic population in the upper Midwest. During this month, recent Southern Seminary graduate and church planter, Chuck Cruise shares about church planting in Pennsylvania. I have also provided you with my review of Bob Logan and Neil Cole's new resource, *Beyond Church Planting*.

Take care,
J. D. Payne

Church Planter Profile: Chuck Cruise

Names of family members

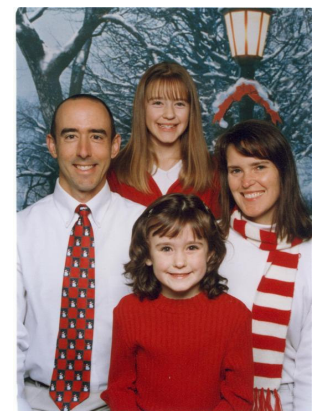
*Chuck Cruise, Laura Cruise, Jessica (11),
Tara (6)*

Location

*Hanover Fellowship Church
Hanover, PA*

When did you graduate from Southern?

May 2005



Chuck Cruise with his wife
Laura and their two daughters
Jessica and Tara

Contact Us

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Find Out About Church Planting Opportunities in North America:

Fellowship Event is **FREE!**

**NOVEMBER 8-
BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP**

Hosted by Aaren Gushwa
Director of Missions, High Desert Baptist
Association, Oregon

Where: The Southern Baptist Theological
Seminary

Legacy Center 303

When: 10:00am-11:00am

RSVP BY 10/31

Future Training:

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Strategic Planning for
Church Starts

Dr. J.D. Payne

Course No.: 33860

January 8-12, 2007

MTWRF 8:00am-5:00pm

3 hours seminary credit

RSVP:

Church Planting Center

N167

502-897-4498

1-800-626-5525, x 4498

churchplanting@sbts.edu

What are your primary responsibilities in your ministry?

While I was in seminary, I was asked to become the church planting pastor for a small group of people who had relocated to Hanover, Pennsylvania. Once a month from August, 2004 to May, 2005, I flew from Louisville to Hanover to meet with the core group, establish our vision, and hold public worship services in a rented room at the local YMCA. I also held coordination meetings for all the sponsoring partners.

Upon graduation from SBTS in May, 2005, I moved to Hanover to become the full-time church planting pastor. My primary responsibilities now include tending the flock and being a good steward of our financial resources.

Please, briefly describe your ministry.

By God's grace, our church has grown from the initial core group of twenty-four to an average weekly attendance of 100. We now meet in the local movie theatre and have a variety of thriving ministries.



Pastor Chuck Cruise performing a baptism

I view my ministry as "equipping the saints for the work of service" (Eph 4:12). I take the preaching of the Word very seriously. I also work hard to provide our members opportunities for outreach (e.g., biweekly servant evangelism outreaches, a strong visitor ministry, and a mission trip to Peru this summer).

How did your church planting training at Southern help you in preparation for your work on the field?

The Lord used my church planting training at Southern to give me the confidence I needed, and to connect me with a community of individuals, both in the classroom and on the field, who were successfully engaging in similar endeavors.

Most of all, Southern Seminary helped prepare me to "rightly divide the word of truth" and to trust in God's sovereign grace to grow a church.

What advice would you give to those who are wondering if God is calling them to be involved in church planting?

Dr. J. D. Payne once told me that relationships are everything. People called to church planting must not only prepare to immerse themselves in the work of caring for a disparate group of individuals, but they must also work with their ministry partners (i.e., sponsoring church, state convention, local association, other churches in the area). You need to develop good interpersonal skills to work with others. Also, you must have a vibrant devotional time with the Lord and a strong family life!

Regarding church planting, what counsel would you give to those who are called to serve in established churches?

Try to understand the church planters. Get to know them by spending time with them or taking them out for lunch. You should consider offering your unconditional help, even if they do not accept it.

NAMB Resource Link:

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

To View Previous Issues of the Church Planting Newsletter Visit:

http://www.sbts.edu/campuslife/Church_Planting_Center/Resources.aspx

You need to participate in church planting opportunities. Make certain that you are prepared to allow church plants to grow, to adopt their own unique vision, and to become self-governing according to how the Lord equips them.

To find out more about Hanover Fellowship, visit their website:

<http://www.hanoverfellowship.org/>

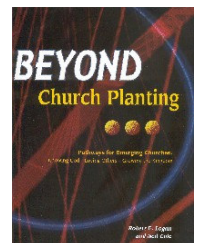
Focus Area: Dearborn, Michigan

- Home of the Ford Motor Company's World Headquarters
- Estimated population 96,670 (2003)
86.9% White, 3% Hispanic or Latino, 1.3% African American, 1.5% Asian
- 25.4% of the population is listed as "Foreign born"
- 38.7% of the population use a language other than English at home
- Home to the largest Arabic population outside of the Middle East
- 33 Mosques in Metro Detroit area
- Home of the Arab American National Museum



Book Review: Beyond Church Planting

Robert E. Logan and Neil Cole. *Beyond Church Planting*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2005. 184 pp., U.S. \$95.00



This is by far Logan's best resource to date. He and Cole have teamed up to produce a high quality, principle-based church planting resource, rather than a model specific tool. Their approach to this resource makes it valuable for both Western and non-Western mission fields. Readers familiar with Logan's works will quickly notice that *Beyond Church Planting* follows the traditional Logan-esque format—a three ring binder with seven audio cds, plus a cd containing corresponding power point material and pdf files.

Aside from being principle-based, this work also differs from other church planting resources in that it maintains a focus on facilitating grassroots church multiplication movements and contains numerous worksheets to assist in applying the principles.

Divided into seven chapters, plus a Frequently Asked Question and Resources section, this work seeks to instill within church planters the need for a healthy biblical ecclesiology and the importance of methodologies and strategies that are highly translatable from context to context.

Chapter one casts the vision for church multiplication and notes challenges facing church planters. The second chapter discusses the need to see the church in more organic/relational terms and less in an institutional/programmatic manner. Here the reader is exposed to the D.N.A. of the local church—Divine Truth, Nurturing Relationships, and Apostolic Mission. Chapter three addresses the concept of effective evangelism. The authors write from the perspective that churches are to be birthed from the harvest, rather than simply a transfer of believers from an established church to the new church. Also, they strongly advocate that church leadership should emerge from the harvest as well. Evangelizing through *oikos* units is discussed in this chapter. Several principles are shared related to locating persons of peace. In chapter four, the authors discuss and share practical ways to reproduce disciples through a simple grassroots system. Chapter five addresses the multiplication of leaders by learning principles from Jesus' approach and the value of coaching and mentoring. Chapter six is entitled, "Organic Development" and discusses the necessary components for sustained organic growth, leadership multiplication, and decentralized and centralized church networks. The final chapter assists the reader in implementing the principles/concepts covered in the previous chapters.

The seven audio CDs complement and correspond to each chapter. The authors' recordings were made during a conference with two other church planters, Mike Perkinson and Tom Johnston. These recordings are an excellent addition to the resource. Here the presenters share the resource's principles and illustrate with stories of their application.

Though I believe this is one of the best church planting resources published to date, it is too expensive. The publisher, however, does provide discounts for bulk purchases.

-- J. D. Payne

This review first appeared in *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, Vol. 42, No. 3, pgs. 395-396.

"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