

From the...

CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

February 2007

Volume 2, Number 1



The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary



NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD

In This Issue

- **Church Planter Profile:**
Dustin Neeley
- **Focus Area:**
Baltimore, Maryland
- Some resources you may find helpful on the journey...
- Did you know this about NAMB?

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A Word from the Director

Welcome to a new semester!

Whether you are a new student or returning to classes this spring, we want to encourage you as you begin classes. By now you are probably feeling the syllabi-shock and your Palms are already filled with numerous deadlines. Hang in there and work hard this semester. Be faithful with your studies and you'll do fine. Make certain that you continue to spend time with the Lord each day. Be active in serving in your church and sharing your faith this semester. Take time to have fun; and, yes, make certain that you rest. Before we know it, the summer will be upon us.

The Church Planting Center is here to serve you. Consider taking advantage of the numerous equipping opportunities the Center will provide this semester. If there is anything we can do to assist you in your calling to make disciples of all nations, please contact us.

In this edition of the newsletter, we gain a glimpse into the church planting work of Dustin Neeley here in the Louisville area. Recently, Baltimore was selected as a Strategic Focus City so we will turn our attention and prayers in that direction. Maybe you will be the next church planter to serve in this very influential area of Maryland. Along with a new year, we've added a couple of new features to the newsletter (see page 4 for address to previous editions). I have listed a few church planting resources that may be helpful to you in your ministry. Also, we are beginning a section that allows you to gain a glimpse of the North American Mission Board.

Take care,
J. D.

Church Planter Profile: Dustin Neeley

Names of family members

Dustin, Laurie Ann, Nathan (3),
Annalee (2), Simon (5 mos.)

Location

Louisville, Kentucky (Lyndon,
East End)

When will you graduate from Southern?

I should graduate
December 2007



Dustin Neeley with his wife Laurie Ann and their children, Nathan and Annalee

Find out about Church Planting Opportunities in North America: Fellowship Events are FREE!

February 23

LUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by David Jackson & The Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware

Where: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 303

When: 11:30am-12:30pm

RSVP by 2/15

Cost: FREE!

March 2

LUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by Brad Veitch & The Baptist Convention of New York

Where: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 310

When: 11:30am-12:30pm

RSVP by 2/22

Cost: FREE!

March 21

BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by Gary Irby & The Puget Sound Baptist Association of Seattle, Washington

Where: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 310

When: 10:00am-11:30am

RSVP by 3/14

Cost: FREE!

April 20

LUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by Gary Smith & The Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists

Where: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 310

When: 11:30am-12:30pm

RSVP by 4/12

Cost: FREE!

RSVP:

Church Planting Center
N167

(502) 897-4498

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Primary responsibilities

I am the lead planter/pastor of Crossing Church and my primary responsibilities include preaching, raising up new leaders, leading the church to be on mission, and coaching the church planters we are sending out from our congregation.

Ministry Description

Our vision is to establish a vibrant, missional, congregation in Louisville's East End that will reach our area and beyond. Our mission statement is, "Journeying together to become like Christ and invite others into God's family." We are pursuing evangelism and discipleship within the context of healthy biblical community. It is our desire to see individuals and communities transformed by the Gospel. In the current phase of our strategy, we are both missional and attractional. We equip and encourage our people to reach their spheres of influence with the Gospel as well as reach out to the community at large through strategically designed "Bridge Events."

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

My training provided a sound theological foundation and exposed me to a variety of different church planting methods. I also formed a number of relationships that will benefit me for years to come.

What are the greatest blessings received since you have been involved in church planting?

The greatest blessings are at least three in number. First, it has been a blessing to see peoples' eternities and daily lives transformed by the Gospel. We have been fortunate to see a number of people come to faith and many others grow in the faith. Second, we have been able to send out two church planting teams and we are just over one year old. Third, it has been a blessing to see our children LOVE to go to church.

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

Trust God to do great things and be patient with the process. Church planting is one of the most difficult things you will ever do in your entire life. It is truly a God-sized task. Listen for God's voice through prayer, His Word, and the counsel of those who have gone before. Only those who feel specifically called to plant and have seen that calling confirmed by other believers should undertake church planting. Pray like you've never prayed before. Keep others praying for you. Realize that the Great Commission is more than just evangelism, but disciple-making. Don't give up. Most church plants do not become mega-churches. If you are called to church planting, stay the course. I think many guys quit too soon when they don't see what they thought they were going to see.

Future Training:

FEBRUARY 14 SPURGEON'S STRATEGY FOR MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

Guest Speaker: Dr. Rod Earls
*Nehemiah Equipping Manager,
North American Mission Board*
Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 303
When: 10:00am-11:00am
Free Brunch!
Cost: FREE
RSVP by 2/7

FEBRUARY 21 CROSS CULTURAL CHURCH PLANTING IN NORTH AMERICA

Guest Speaker: Dr. Van Sanders
*Missiology
Implementation Manager,
North American Mission Board*
Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 310
When: 8:00am-1:00pm
Free Lunch!
Cost: FREE
RSVP by 2/15

MARCH 16 RURAL CHURCH PLANTING: NO INSIGNIFICANT PLACES OR PEOPLES IN THE ACTS 1:8 COMMISSION

Guest Speaker: Steve Neger
*Strategic Places Team Manager,
North American Mission Board*
Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 303
When: 8:00am-1:00pm
Free Lunch!
Cost: FREE
RSVP by 3/8

APRIL 18 CHURCH PLANTING IN MULTI-HOUSING COMMUNITIES

Guest Speaker: Bob Burton
*Multi-housing and
Urban Church Planting,
North American Mission Board*
Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
North/South Galleries (Honeycutt
Campus Center)
When: 8:00am-1:00pm
Free Lunch!
Cost: FREE
RSVP by 4/12

MAY 1 CHURCH PLANTING FAMILY BANQUET

Childcare Provided
Guest Speakers:
George & Barbara Garner
Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Heritage Hall
When: 6:00pm-7:00pm
Cost: FREE
RSVP BY 4/25

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

God puts His people in strategic places that are different. Not everyone is called and equipped to plant churches. First, be catalytic in encouraging your congregation to become more missional at every level, especially in personal evangelism and giving to missions. Encourage your congregation to think more strategically about putting an "outward face" on what they are already doing. Remind them that North America is one of the largest mission fields in the world. Second, adopt a church planter(s) for prayer (and potentially financial support). Get pictures of the planters. Get emails. Inform your people about what they can do to help. Third, speak well of church planting every chance you get. Many people in established churches do not have church planting on their radars. Talk with your congregation about reaching the people other churches are not reaching. Inform the congregation that it takes different kinds of churches to reach different kinds of people.

For more information about Crossing Community Church email info@crossinglouisville.com or visit www.crossinglouisville.com.

Focus Area: Baltimore, Maryland

- Known for its cutting edge medical facilities and businesses
- Proximity to the nation's capitol makes it a bedroom community for government personnel
- Recently named by *Fromme's Travel Guide* as one of the world's top ten destination cities

- Population 600,000: 82% African-American, remaining percentages divided between Anglos, Hispanics, and other nationalities



- 60% of the population live below the government's self-sustaining standard
- One third of the population does not have transportation
- Recently named by NAMB as a Strategic Focus City, with much emphasis to be placed on evangelism and church planting over the next few years
- Many church planting opportunities require a heart for the city, someone who can identify with urban people, and are comfortable with an urban lifestyle

For more information about serving in Baltimore, contact the Church Planting Center.
502-897-4498, churchplanting@sbts.edu

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

“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

Some resources you may find helpful in the journey...

Tom Jones, ed., *Church Planting From the Ground Up* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004). Contains numerous chapters written by church planters addressing a variety of topics. A very practical resource.

Daniel Sinclair, *A Vision of the Possible: Pioneer Church Planting in Teams* (Waynesboro, GA: Authentic Media, 2006). Addresses pioneer church planting among unreached peoples of the world especially Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. Covers practical matters and written by an author with twenty-nine years of ministry experience.

<http://www.newchurches.com/>

The New Churches.com website of Ed Stetzer. This outstanding site offers a great deal of practical information related to church planting. Contains a huge gateway to other sites.

<http://www.church-planting.net/>

The Passion For Planting website. This site offers tools, resources, and information for church planters. This site is sponsored and run by church planters who seek to help other church planters succeed in their church planting efforts.

<http://www.northamericanmissions.org>

Site of North American Missions.org, website of J. D. Payne. This site is dedicated to equipping the Body of Christ for the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches throughout North America. Contains numerous resources, including weekly podcasts, related to church planting.

Did you know this about NAMB?

- Mission Statement: “To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, start New Testament congregations, minister to persons in the name of Christ, and assist churches in the United States, Canada and U.S. territories in effectively performing these functions.”
- In 2006: Southern Baptists established 1,725 new congregations, 61% of which were non-Anglo congregations.
- In 2006: An estimated estimated 194,872 Southern Baptists participated in short-term projects through NAMB.