

From the...

CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

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The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary



NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD

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Contact Us

J. D. Payne – Director
Kari Plevan – Assistant

Email:
churchplanting@sbts.edu

Website:
www.sbts.edu/churchplanting

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

A Word from the Director

Frontiers are all around us. Sometimes they manifest themselves according to geography, such as “The Arctic is a vast frontier.” Sometimes frontiers are related to medicine and science, as with the expression, “Her cancer research is advancing into new frontiers.” In missiology, we sometimes speak of new frontiers related to urban missions, worldviews, and unreached peoples. Depending on how you define “frontiers,” they are all around us.

Much of this newsletter is related to the frontier theme. For example, Jason and Pamela Douros are serving as Nehemiah Church Planters in Seattle. Recent worldview and cultural shifts have made the Pacific Northwest a frontier for U.S. Missionary work (some argue Seattle is a frontier because the gospel never had a place of prominence among its citizenry). Such an understanding of the area may have been what Patricia O’Connell Lillen was trying to communicate with the subtitle of her book, *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest: The None Zone*, noting that the religious preference, “none,” is the largest represented category marked on surveys conducted in the region.

Juneau, Alaska (the Frontier State) is the focus city for this month. Did you know that Mormons outnumber Southern Baptists in Alaska’s third largest city? If interested in frontiers, you may want to consider Paul Hattaway’s book in the resources section. Hattaway discusses how a group of unbelieving tribal peoples became one of the most churched groups in the world. Another frontier in North America missions is the frontier of the Native American/First Nations Peoples. Of the four million residing in the United States, it has been estimated that 92% are not followers of Christ. Several links related to these peoples are included this month.

Consider the various frontiers of North America and enter them with boldness and the hope of the gospel. If the Lord is calling you to serve as a missionary on this continent or to lead your church to be involved in church planting, please feel free to contact the Church Planting Center for any assistance.

Until next time. . .

J. D.

Church Planter Profile: Jason and Pamela Douros

Names of family members

Jason and Pamela Douros,
Xavier (7), Willoweve (4),
Quinn (2)

Location

Seattle, Washington

When will you graduate from Southern?

I am hoping to graduate in the spring of 2008.

Please briefly describe your ministry

I am serving as a Nehemiah Church Planter in West Seattle, working with the Puget Sound Baptist Association and the Northwest Baptist Convention. We are ministering in the oldest neighborhood in Seattle, a city where approximately 90% of the residents have no relationship with Jesus. We have been building relationships and seeing people inch slowly closer to acknowledging that God is working in their lives. Through spending most of our time in this diverse community of homosexuals, radical socialists, artists, and traditional families, we are beginning to be accepted by the people.



We plan to begin community discussion nights at a local coffee shop, as well as our first Bible Study, this fall. We are also in the planning stages of some neighborhood events to serve West Seattle and meet more people.

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

The church planting courses at Southern helped me develop a biblical ecclesiology and a contextualized approach to church planting in West Seattle. Dr. Payne's approach to teaching was also helpful in addressing church planting issues through the use of guest speakers and discussions we had in the classroom.

What is the greatest blessing received since you have been involved in church planting?

The greatest blessing has been hearing comments from people in the community such as: "You are the only Christian I can talk to."

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

Search your heart and pray. If you are called to plant a church, then do not let anything stand in your way, especially the lack of money. Calling is not dependent on the available finances. Bring many people with you wherever you go; it makes it much easier to get things started. Plant in a city, for the need is great and the planters are few.

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

Lead your church to be missional. Embrace evangelism as a means of growth. If you cannot send a planter out from your congregation, then partner with other associations and conventions to support church planting.

Future Training:

November 14
PURSUING THE MISSION OF GOD
IN NORTH AMERICA
MINI-CONFERENCE

Guest Speaker: John Bailey
*Director, Enlistment &
Missional Networks,
North American Mission Board*

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 303

When: 8:00am-1:00pm

Cost: FREE
RSVP BY 11/8

December 3
CHURCH PLANTING CENTER
FAMILY BANQUET
Childcare Provided

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Heritage Hall

When: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Cost: FREE
RSVP BY 11/27

RSVP:
Church Planting Center
N167
502-897-4498
[1-800-626-5525, x 4498](tel:1-800-626-5525)
churchplanting@sbts.edu

Focus Area: Juneau, Alaska

- Juneau is Alaska's third largest city.
- The population of the Juneau Borough is 30,711 (2000 census).
- Juneau's main road system is only 45 miles from end to end, but has 130 miles of hiking trails.
- The economy of Juneau is based on state, local and federal government, tourism, mining, and fishing.

- The racial/ethnic demographics of the city are estimated to be:

White, Non-Hispanic (73.3%);
American Indian (16.6%);
Filipino (3.4%);
Hispanic (3.4%);
Black (0.8%)



- It is estimated that 8% of the population is evangelical.
- The largest religious body is the Catholic Church (with 2 congregations and 2,199 adherents), followed by the Mormons (with 4 congregations and 1,018 adherents).
- There are three Southern Baptist churches with a total of 747 members.

For more information regarding Southern Baptist mission work in Juneau visit the Tongass Baptist Association's web site at:
<http://www.tongassbaptist.org>.

NAMB Resource Link:

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

To View Previous Issues of the Church Planting Newsletter Visit:

http://www.sbts.edu/campus_life/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 for the journey...

Gustavo V. Suarez, **Connections: Linking People and Principles for Dynamic Church Multiplication**. Friendswood, TX: Baxter Press, 2004. This work addresses many of the basics of church planting in North America. Suarez delineates six principles related to church planting. Can be obtained from www.amazon.com.

Paul Hattaway. **From Headhunters to Church Planters: An Amazing Spiritual Awakening in Nagaland**. Waynesboro, GA: Authentic Publishing, 2006. This book traces the spread of the gospel in Nagaland from 1872 to the 1990s. Hattaway discusses the persecution, spiritual warfare, and explosive growth of the Church in the 1950s that would eventually make Nagaland one of the most Christian areas on the planet. Can be obtained from <http://www.authenticbooks.com/search/isbn/1932805710>.

<http://www.alaskool.org>

This site contains an interactive map of Alaskan native languages. Audio files, dictionaries, language teaching and learning resources, and phrase books can be found here.

<http://www.alaskool.org>

This site contains information regarding Alaskan native history, education, languages, and cultures.

<http://www.churchplantingvillage.net>

This site offers an introduction to Native American ministries with the North American Mission Board.

<http://www.chief.org>

This is the site of Christian Hope Indian Eskimo Fellowship. Several links to helpful information, including links to Bible portions in native languages, can be located here.

Did you know this about NAMB?

Historical Timeline—Part I (*adapted from www.namb.net*)

1845 - The Southern Baptist Convention established the Board of Domestic Missions with headquarters in Marion, Alabama.

1855 - The Board of Domestic Missions was renamed the Domestic and Indian Mission Board, incorporating responsibility for Indian Missions.

1861-1865 - During the Civil War, the Board dropped most of its missionary work to supply chaplains for the Confederate Army.

1873 - The Board absorbed the Sunday School Board's responsibilities and debt. The name then became the Domestic and Indian Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

1874 - The Board was renamed the Home Mission Board (HMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

1882 - The HMB relocated from Marion, Alabama, to Atlanta, Georgia.

1887 - Every Southern state cooperated with the HMB by commissioning home missionaries and fostering denominational consciousness.
