

From the...

CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

October 2007

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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

The fascinating thing about the television program *Antiques Road Show* is that many ordinary people quickly discover they possess extraordinary items. What was thought to be a lovely picture collecting dust in a corner of a room actually turns out to be appraised at several thousand dollars. A chair hidden away in someone's attic is discovered to be worth tens of thousands of dollars. I always enjoy watching the expressions on the faces of the owners whenever they are told the value of their possessions.

This low budget, no-professional-actors-required program has resulted in many Americans digging around their attics, basements, and closets looking to discover something they never thought they possessed.

You never know what valuables you will find until you start looking.

Sometimes valuable opportunities are also awaiting discovery.

Though this newsletter is not *Antiques Road Show*, I am sharing two opportunities that I believe few students have discovered. The first opportunity is the internship through the Church Planting Center. Every year numerous students participate in this hands-on experience assisting church planters and becoming better equipped for future missionary work in North America or elsewhere. In this newsletter, former interns share about their experiences. You will have a chance to read about Mike and Elisabeth Embrey who spent this past summer in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

A second opportunity for you to consider is the fact that the Appalachian region is ripe for missionary opportunities. We are profiling this region in this newsletter. For those of you living in Kentucky, do you realize that Appalachia is less than a three-hour drive from Southern's campus? Appalachia is a diverse area in many ways and greatly in need of the gospel and not more religiosity.

I highly doubt that discovering the internship or being on mission in Appalachia will make you rich. However, I do believe that these are enriching opportunities, and your participation can bring eternal riches to the lives of those living in spiritual poverty.

Until next time,

J. D.

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

October 16
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 10/10

October 30
LUNCH FELLOWSHIP
Hosted by
The Dakota Baptist Convention
Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 310
When: 11:30am-12:30pm
RSVP BY 10/22

November 6
LUNCH FELLOWSHIP
Hosted by Rick Biesiadecki
& The Missouri Baptist Convention
Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
President's Reception Room
When: 11:30am-12:30pm
RSVP BY 10/29

RSVP:
Church Planting Center
N167
502-897-4498
1-800-636-5525, x4498
churchplanting@sbts.edu

Intern Profile: Michael and Elisabeth Embrey

Where did you serve as church planting interns?

We served in LaCrosse, Wisconsin this past summer.

What were some of your responsibilities as interns?

As interns, we worked with a church planter in the community of LaCrosse. During the summer we were involved in community surveys. We visited over 600 houses and developed a good understanding of the spiritual condition of the area. We were also involved in numerous administrative and outreach tasks, including organizing Bible studies, working with mission teams, Backyard Bible Clubs, and nursing home ministries.



What was the greatest blessing you received from your church planting work?

There are three blessings that we would like to mention. First, it was a great blessing to reach out to people we are not being reached by others. Second, we were able to establish great friendships with the people in LaCrosse. Finally, our time as interns allowed us to change people's misconceptions of church.

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

The internship opened our eyes to the need for more workers in Wisconsin in particular and in North America in general. People truly need to know that God does not desire religious tradition, but a sincere relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Our time in LaCrosse opened our eyes to the difficulties of church planting. We saw what it takes for church planters to reach people with the gospel and keep from being discouraged and overwhelmed by the great task.

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

We learned numerous lessons during our internships. He taught us the need to depend on Him alone and to persevere in the ministry. He also taught us the value of a team approach to church planting. A team of mature believers who have a heart to reach unbelievers with the gospel is a must. We also learned that a call to ministry means that you must be willing to sacrifice a lifestyle of comfort, and trust in Him and His strength.

For more information on the church planting internship program at SBTS see www.sbts.edu/churchplanting or write churchplanting@sbts.edu. For more information regarding work in LaCrosse check out www.cbaow.net. If you are considering serving in Wisconsin, you may wish to visit the state convention's web site at www.mwbc.org.

Future Training:

October 26

KOREAN CHURCH PLANTING
MINI-CONFERENCE

This conference will be presented in Korean

Guest Speaker: Steve Lee

National Missionary,

North American Mission Board

Where: The Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary

Legacy Center 303

When: 8:00am-1:00pm

Cost: FREE

RSVP BY 10/18

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

churchplanting@sbts.edu

Focus Area: Appalachia Region

- Appalachia includes parts of West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, incorporating 397 counties covering 195,000 square miles



- Appalachia has a current population of over 20 million, representing many cultures

- It is estimated that there are 13 million unchurched people in Appalachia with some counties being comprised of an 80% unchurched population

- The Appalachian people have ethnic and national backgrounds from Native Americans, Ireland, England, Scotland, Germany, and Poland

- Southern Ohio has 1 SBC church for every 16,600 unchurched persons; WV has 1 SBC church for every 7,500 unchurched persons, Southwest Pennsylvania has one SBC church for every 61,000 unchurched persons



- Central Appalachia has been described as “the poverty pocket of America”
- Of the 100 poorest counties in the United States by median household income, the following are in Appalachia:

Kentucky-29
West Virginia-6
Tennessee-1
Virginia-1

For more information about SBC missions in Appalachia see www.arministry.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...

The Appalachians. Produced by Evening Star Productions. 186 min. 2005. DVD. This three-part DVD presentation tells the story of the people and the land of Appalachia. The film uses interviews with ordinary people, scholars, and musicians like Loretta Lynn, Marty Stuart, Rosanne Cash, and Johnny Cash. Can be obtained from www.amazon.com.

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

The Appalachian Regional Ministry web site. ARM is a partnership ministry of the North American Mission Board, the Woman's Missionary Union, and eleven state conventions within the Appalachian Region. The Vision of A.R.M is to accelerate missions and to strengthen and establish Southern Baptist work in Appalachia. The Objectives of A.R.M. are to meet needs, share Christ, and start new churches among all the people of the region.

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

Home of the Christian Appalachian Project, an interdenominational, non-profit Christian organization committed to serving people in need in Appalachia by providing physical, spiritual, and emotional support through a wide variety of programs and services.

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

Home page of Appalachian Trail Servants, mission organization dedicated to serving the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of hikers so that they may take the next step towards Christ.

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

Home of God's Appalachian Partnership, a needs-based organization dedicated to serving the needs of Appalachian communities.

Did you know this about NAMB?

The North American Mission Board's Church Planting Group has several leaders working to serve churches, associations, and state/Canadian Conventions in the area of ministering to particular people groups. Here are a few representatives and their contact information. For additional information and other people group representatives, contact NAMB at 1-800-634-2462.

Enio Aguerro, Hispanic Peoples - eaguerro@namb.net

Steve Lee, Koreans - slee@namb.net

Aslam Masih, Middle Eastern/South Asian Peoples - amasih@namb.net

Ledtkey McIntosh, Native American/First Nations Peoples - Imcintosh@namb.net

Mark Hobafcovich, European/Russian Peoples - mhobafcovich@namb.net

Jeremy Sin, Filipino/Japanese/Vietnamese/Chinese Peoples - jsin@namb.net

Leroy Fountain, African Americans - lfountain@namb.net

George Thomasson, French Canadians - gthomasson@namb.net
