

From the...

# CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

September 2007

Volume 2, Number 5



The Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary



NORTH AMERICAN  
MISSION BOARD

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## A Word from the Director

It is difficult to believe that September has arrived. I want to extend a welcome to both new and returning students. May the Lord greatly bless your time at Southern; it is a great time to be a student on this campus. The Church Planting Center is here to serve you in any way we can. Let me encourage you to come and speak with us about how you can be involved in North American missions across this great continent.

Lord willing, over the next two semesters this monthly newsletter will introduce you to some of the students who have ventured from this campus to various parts of North America, while serving as missionaries in church planting ministries. You will have a chance to hear from Nehemiah Church Planters who are serving with the North American Mission Board as well as church planting interns who have recently completed short-term internships and have written to tell us about their experiences.

This month's missionaries are Steve and Sheena Grissom. Steve, a student at Southern, is serving as a Nehemiah Church Planter in Newfoundland, Canada. The Grissoms are the first Southern Baptist missionaries to serve in this province in the history of Southern Baptist missions. Pray for them and consider going to serve alongside of them. Also, in this month's newsletter is a profile of the Chicagoland area. I believe you will find this information challenging and humbling about this world-class city.

I hope your fall semester is off to a great start. Don't forget to participate in the numerous Church Planting Center events this semester.

Take care,

J. D.

## Church Planter Profile: Steve Grissom

### Name and family members

Steve and Sheena Grissom  
Sierra (5), Hershael (3),  
Shelby (17 months) and one  
due in February 2008.

### Location

St. John's, Newfoundland,  
Canada

### When will you graduate from Southern?

I plan to graduate in December 2007.



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 John Guillott  
& 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](mailto:churchplanting@sbts.edu)

**Please briefly describe your ministry.**

Sheena and I are serving as Nehemiah Church Planters and the first Southern Baptist missionaries in Newfoundland. We are working with Canadian Southern Baptists to begin multiple church plants throughout the province.

Currently, Sheena and I are primarily following up from the ten mission teams that were here this summer. There were many professions of faith in Christ and numerous people interested in our work. Presently, there are two ongoing Bible studies.

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

The church planting classes, resources, and counsel from Southern professors has greatly helped us in our transition to the field. We certainly have not felt like we have gone into this blindly. God used the knowledge and experience we received in Louisville to prepare us as a family to be aware of the problems and issues that many church planters experience.

Through the Nehemiah church planting program, our family was able to do a church planting internship on Cape Breton Island (Nova Scotia) prior to arriving in Newfoundland. God used this time to prepare our family for the cultural changes as well as the shift from secular work to a ministry position. We received much wisdom from the ministers and their families who mentored my wife and I during the internship.

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

The greatest blessing is seeing people start to grasp God's plan for their life.

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

The greatest piece of advice would be to work alongside a church planter at least for one week. I still remember vividly working alongside Mike Weaver, a church planter in Peru, and becoming excited about the task of church planting.

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

I would challenge established church leaders to begin a new work, assist other church planters, or form a church planting partnership.

**For more information on the work in Newfoundland or how to contact the Grissoms, check out the following links:**

<http://www.newlifefoundland.com>

<http://www.missionforhim.com>

## Future Training:

September 11-12  
INDIGENOUS CHURCH PLANTING  
CONFERENCE

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Charles Brock & Dr. J.D. Payne

Where: The Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

President's Reception Room

When: September 11<sup>th</sup>- 1:00pm-6:00pm

September 12<sup>th</sup>- 8:30am-3:00pm

Cost: \$25 (includes five books  
and lunch on the 12<sup>th</sup>)

RSVP BY 9/3

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@sbs.edu

## Focus Area: Chicago, IL

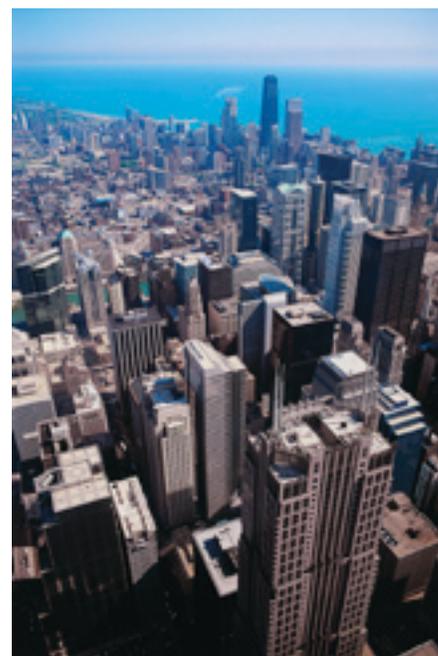
### Some general information (including Chicagoland)

- Chicagoland is comprised of the city of Chicago and many suburban communities in Wisconsin and Indiana.
- Chicagoland consists of 9.4 million people.
- More than 120 significant languages are spoken in Chicago with the top fifteen being: English, Spanish, Polish, Tagalog, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Italian, Greek, Korean, German, Russian, Arabic, Urdu, Gujarathi, French, and Hindi.
- Chicago is the 2nd largest Polish city in the world outside of Warsaw.
- Chicagoland is the largest "collegiate town" in the U.S., with over 550,000 college and graduate students.
- Chicagoland is served by four SBC associations consisting of more than 300 churches. Chicago Metro, Fox Valley, Lake Country, and Three Rivers.
- The four associations are planting approximately twenty churches per year.
- Chicagoland is predominantly Catholic and Lutheran.
- 40% of the population is not affiliated with any religion.



### The needs of the area

- Over the last nine years in Chicagoland, there has been a net loss of one church per week.
- There is one church (Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant) for every 1455 people.
- Evangelicals need to be planting 500 churches per year for the next 20 years to make a significant impact on the Chicagoland population.
- Many of the Chicagoland people groups have no evangelical church or very few evangelical churches serving them.
- There are people groups living in Chicagoland without a known Christian among them anywhere in the world.



For more information about SBC missions  
in Chicago see: <http://www.chicagobaptist.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](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

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## Resources for the Journey:

Tom Nebel. *Big Dreams in Small Places*. St. Charles, IL: Church Smart, 2002. This book is a good work addressing church planting in smaller communities. Nebel challenges readers to consider beginning their church planting missionary activities in the rural areas of the United States. Can be obtained from <http://www.churchsmart.com>.

Tom Nebel and Gary Rohrmayer. *Church Planting Landmines: Mistakes to Avoid in years 2 through 10*. St. Charles, IL: Church Smart, 2005. This work examines many of the problems that church planters face and how to avoid such problems. The authors address issues such as ignoring personal health and growth; lack of leadership development; leadership backlash; evangelism entropy; money; underestimating spiritual warfare; hiring staff inappropriately; and delaying missionary work. Can be obtained from <http://www.churchsmart.com>.

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

The Urban Impact website. Urban Impact is a community outreach ministry for New York City. The ministry hosts youth and adult missions teams that come to New York to do missions among unreached people. Their work is primarily with Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu immigrants. This site offers resources, background information, a newsletter, and contact information.

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

The World Impact website. This site is dedicated to providing information and resources on planting churches in urban America.

<http://preachingtoday.com/39669>

Tim Keller's article, "A New Kind of Urban Christian," addressing how the Church can transform the culture by incarnating herself in the urban environments.

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## Did you know this about NAMB?

- Dr. Geoff Hammond is the new president of the North American Mission Board.
  - In 2006: A total of 153 new chaplains received SBC endorsement through NAMB. The total chaplain count was 2,671, and more than 5,700 people came to Christ through their faithful sharing of the gospel in settings such as prison, military, institutional, corporate, and healthcare facilities.
  - In 2006: Domestic Hunger Funds (funds benefiting the hungry in North America) totaling more than \$1.4 million were distributed to the states. More than 2,000 hunger ministries reported more than 30,000 professions of faith.
  - NAMB's missionary count was 5,153 on December 31, 2006. Of this number, 2,942 are missionaries and their spouses operating under various levels of cooperative funding with state conventions and local associations, and another 2,211 are long-term Mission Service Corps missionaries.
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