

From the...

CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

February 2008

Volume 3, Number 1



The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary



NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD

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A Word from the Director

Along with this newsletter comes a new semester at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Whether you are a first-time student or returning for your last semester of classes, the Church Planting Center extends to you a hearty “welcome back.”

I want to encourage you to take advantage of the numerous equipping opportunities offered through the Center this semester. In addition to opportunities to participating in our semester Church Planting Assessment, consider serving as church planting interns and Nehemiah Church Planters throughout North America. Also, take advantage of the three half-day conferences we are sponsoring this semester. These events are designed to better prepare you to serve as church planters in North America. In February, Rich Carey will be addressing the challenges of urban missions. In March, Jim Slack from the International Mission Board will be sharing about the present and future ethnic diversity and immigration in North America. Finally, in April, Bill Barker will assist us to better understand Appalachian peoples.

In this edition of the newsletter, we will hear from Nehemiah Church Planter, Matt Jones. Matt, a student at Southern, has been ministering in Cleveland, Ohio. Our focus area includes El Paso, Texas, and this edition concludes with part three of the historical timeline of the North American Mission Board.

I pray that your semester is off to a good start. If you are considering serving as a missionary in North America, please contact us. We would love to assist you with God’s calling on your life.

Until next time...

J. D.

Future Training:

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

FEBRUARY 27

BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by Scott Kelly and the Colorado
Baptist General Convention and the
Mile High Baptist Association

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Legacy Center 310

When: 10:00am-11:00am

RSVP by 2/19

Cost: FREE

DATE- TBA

BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by the Gary Irby and
The Puget Sound Baptist Association

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Legacy Center 310

When: 10:00am-11:00am

Cost: FREE

MARCH 26

BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by Chris Adams and the
Canadian Convention of
Southern Baptists

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

When: 10:00am-11:00am

RSVP by 3/18

Cost: FREE

APRIL 2

BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by the Minnesota-Wisconsin
Baptist Convention

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Legacy Center 310

When: 10:00am-11:00am

RSVP by 3/25

Cost: FREE

RSVP:

Church Planting Center
N167

502-897-4498

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Church Planter Profile: Matt and Stacy Jones

Names of family members

Matt

Stacy

Joanna

Location

Cleveland, OH

When will you graduate from Southern?

I plan to graduate in the fall of
2010.



Please briefly describe your ministry.

First and foremost, I am a missionary. My ministry involves developing indigenous leaders in a way that brings about transformation in their lives and in the lives of those around them.

What are your primary responsibilities in your ministry?

My primary focus is to make disciples that will impact the city of Cleveland and its East Side suburbs known as "the Heights." I also assist our Baptist association in coordinating a regional disciple-making strategy with NEO360. NEO360 is working through prayer, compassionate service, and church planting to be a catalyst for a city-reaching movement in Northeast Ohio, North America, and the world.

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

Southern offered a solid theological base from which to work out how the gospel must answer the deepest questions and meet the greatest needs of any city and its people. Without the gospel, the church has nothing to say. In particular, taking classes in church planting gave me a rich perspective on North American church planting throughout history and contemporary methodologies.

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

I have been blessed to see God transform people. There is no greater joy than seeing the gospel penetrate all aspects of a person's life and transform him or her into an agent of change that advances the kingdom of God into areas where it is most needed.

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

I would encourage them to experience different approaches of church planting in differing contexts. If you feel comfortable presenting the gospel to multiple types of people regardless of their race or class *and* can effectively equip multiple types of people to reach others, then church planting will likely result from your efforts.

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

You must pray and believe that God could call anyone in your church to plant a church. It is easy to unintentionally structure your ministry so that it excludes people from feeling empowered to share their faith, so attempt to expose your people to different methods of sharing the gospel. Show your congregation that the gospel can be shared over coffee, while meeting a physical or monetary need, or through addressing current events such as global warming. People who can truly articulate the gospel in a variety of ways will likely be able to see a vision God may have for a new church in a given area.

Future Training:

FEBRUARY 15
THE OPPORTUNITIES OF URBAN
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS TODAY

Guest Speaker: Rich Carney
*Strategic Focus Cities Coordinator,
North American Mission Board*

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
President's Reception Room

When: 8:00am-1:00pm

Cost: FREE
RSVP BY 2/7

MARCH 7
IMMIGRATION, CULTURAL SHIFTS,
AND CONTEMPORARY NORTH
AMERICAN MISSIONS

Guest Speaker: Jim Slack
International Mission Board

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Heritage Hall

When: 8:00am-1:00pm

Cost: FREE
RSVP BY 2/28

APRIL 4
MISSIONS IN APPALACHIA
Guest Speaker: Bill Barker
Appalachian Regional Ministries

Where: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Legacy Center 310

When: 8:00am-1:00pm

Cost: FREE
RSVP BY 3/27

RSVP:
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Focus Area: El Paso, Texas

- Population of El Paso: 604,156 (2005 est.).
- El Paso/Ciudad Juarez, Mexico Metro Area: 2,097,966 (2005 est.).
- The region's military bases assist in influencing the culture of the city.
- 22% of the population lives below the poverty level (2000 census).
- 69% of the population speaks Spanish at home (2000 census).
- Only 29% of the population speaks English at home.
- The city's labor force consists primarily of government service (22%), trade, transportation, and utilities (21%), and financial and business activities (15%).
- "The estimated median household income is \$37,000 (2003), compared to the national average of \$56,500.
- 90 churches comprise the El Paso Baptist Association.
- 248,507 people in El Paso County claim no faith tradition (thearda.com).



For more information about Southern Baptist church planting in El Paso, contact the El Paso Baptist Association www.elpasoba.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...

Edward R. Dayton and David A. Fraser. *Planning Strategies for World Evangelization*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1980; and C. Peter Wagner. *Frontiers in Missionary Strategies*. Chicago: IL: Moody Press, 1971. These are two of the best books addressing the development of missionary strategy. Though they are not the easiest to locate, they are worth adding to your library.

<http://www.northamericanmissions.org>

A site with weekly podcasts relating to a variety of topics addressing missions in North America.

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

Home of Asian American Christian Fellowship. AACF works to reach into the university and collegiate communities, primarily to those who are Asian-Pacific Americans, with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

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

Home of Reaching Japanese for Christ. A site serving to network believers to reach the estimated 500,000 Japanese in North America.

Did you know this about NAMB?

Historical Timeline — Part III (www.namb.net)

1959 - Cooperative Agreements with state Baptist conventions began, creating a major building block of national mission strategy.

1960 - Work with ethnic/language-culture groups became the Home Mission Board's largest program in budget and number of missionaries.

1963 - Following the constitution of South Burlington Baptist Church in Vermont, Southern Baptists had one or more churches in every state of the union.

1977 - Mission Service Corps was created.

1995 - The Home Mission Board celebrated its 150th anniversary. HMB staff moved to a new five-story office complex 22 miles north of Atlanta at 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Ga.

1995 - The Covenant for a New Century was approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1995 and implemented in June 1997. In the covenant, the work of the Brotherhood Commission, Home Mission Board, and Radio and Television Commission was combined in order to reach North America for Christ. The name of the new agency would be North American Mission Board.
