A Word from the Director

Lord willing, students, in a few weeks you will complete another semester. Congratulations! And to those of you who are graduating this term… double congratulations!

Quite often, students ask me if I am looking forward to the break; and my response is always the same. Absolutely! Are you crazy or something? While I love teaching, the change in my normal routine is greatly welcomed. I don’t slow down; I just change gears. How about you? What are your plans after the semester is over? J-Term? Moving? New ministry opportunity? Rest? Reading something you are not required to read? I hope you are looking forward to the change in routine as well. But above all else, remember to take delight in the Lord (Ps 37:4).

In this newsletter, I want to introduce you to Aaron Jozwiak. Aaron served this past semester as a church planting intern, laboring among a diverse group of people at a multihousing community in Louisville. He shares some of his experiences in this month’s edition. Pray for Aaron, Tia, and their children. After this semester, they will be moving to Madison, Wisconsin to serve as Nehemiah Church Planters.

There are many church planting blogs in the world today. Check them out. In this newsletter, we want you to be aware of some of these. While I will not endorse all of these sites, I will add my approval to at least one. Let me strongly encourage you to check out www.cp4us.org. This new blog by Dustin Neeley will be a great blessing and help to you.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your service in the kingdom. We hope you have a great holiday season with friends and family members. Keep praying and looking for opportunities to share the gospel with others. As always, if the Church Planting Center can be of any assistance to you, please contact us.

One final note: Let me encourage you to consider some additional church planting training. I am teaching Contextualized Church Planting, January 11-15, 2010. This course will focus on effective church planting in cross-cultural contexts wherever you serve throughout North America or the rest of the world. I hope to see you in January.

Until next semester…

J. D.
Church Planting Intern: Aaron Jozwiak

Names: Aaron, Tia, Madison, Avery

Where did you serve as an intern?
I served in Louisville, in a multihousing community.

When will you graduate from Southern?
I plan to graduate in the spring semester 2011.

What were your primary responsibilities as an intern?
For the past few years the Lord has provided me with the job of being one of the maintenance men at the apartment complex where we live. Over the course of time, my wife and I realized my position opens many doors to communicate the gospel. Because of the nature of my job, I know almost everyone living in the community (800-1000 people). I was able to leverage my connections to recruit people to do ministry and then recruit people to attend that ministry. I was also the primary outreach coordinator. I also helped start and lead many different ministries: VBS, Backyard Bible Club, sports outreach, Bible studies, and weekly prayer meetings.

How did your church planting training at Southern help you in preparation for your work on the field?
My training helped me see the need for multihousing church planting and prepared me to begin working in such a needy area.

What is the greatest blessing received since you have been involved in church planting?
Where we live, God has brought to us a great number of refugee families from all over the world. None of these families are Christians. It is great to have Muslim and Hindu kids come to VBS or Backyard Bible Club and the adults come to the Sunday night Bible study. Recently, both a Hindu man and a Muslim man said that the Christians at the apartment complex are much nicer than anyone else they know!

What advice would you give to those who are wondering if God is calling them to be involved in church planting?
I have come to the conviction that if you are called to be a church planter you are probably already doing some type of church planting-related activities each day, particularly in the area of personal evangelism. There seems to be a growing trend of people wanting to become church planters, but not involved in sharing the gospel. If you are not already actively sharing your faith, you should not become a church planter.

Regarding church planting, what counsel would you give to those who are called to serve in established churches?
I would encourage established churches to search out multihousing areas and invest their time, money, and people in them. There is a great need in most multihousing areas for the gospel. There is also a great potential to train future leaders. For example, at my community, different men get experience by taking turns preaching/teaching the Sunday night Bible study. Also, with the diversity that multi-family housing units typically have, you can teach people how to contextualize the gospel to many different people groups.

To learn more about the Jozwiak’s church planting ministry hopes for Madison, please watch their Madison Church Plant Video, found here http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS9hLyP7cE.
Church Planting Blogs

- **Church Planting for the Rest of Us**: Dustin Neeley’s blog on church planting. You need to check this one out and add it to your favorites! Dustin is a good friend and missional pastor in Louisville, Kentucky.

- **Church Planting Wives**: A blog for the wives of church planters.

- **Planting Space**: A blog written by members of Passion 4 Planting, a church planting support organization.

- **Missional Church Planting**: Gailyn Van Rheenen’s blog about being a church planter.

- **Church Planting**: A blog about church planting in central Florida.

- **Incarnation Instant Breakfast**: A blog about church planting in Canada.

- **Converge USA**: A blog that offers church planting resources and networking.

- **Community Planting**: A blog of two future church planters, Todd Maberry and Erik Willits.

- **Planting a Movement**: A blog about a church planter’s experience with church planting.

- **The Church Planter Chronicles**: A blog of an anonymous church planter.

- **Planting Home**: A blog of church planter’s wives in Maryland / Delaware.

- **Redeemer Church Planting Center**: A blog for church planters within the Redeemer Church Planting Center network.

- **Women in Church Planting**: A blog written by church planter’s wives.

- **Envisaging**: Todd Wilson’s blog on church planting.

- **Resurgence—Church Planting**: The church planting blog connected to Acts 29.

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“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