A Word from the Director

This May marks the completion of another academic year at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Though the term is over, many exciting upcoming events are on the calendar. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the seminary. If you are in Louisville this June, you will want to be on campus for the dedication of the sesquicentennial pavilion (June 24th). Also, I want to encourage you to be involved in Crossover 09, the annual evangelistic event which precedes our annual Southern Baptist Convention, as well as attend the Southern Baptist Convention (June 23rd-24th). Drop by the NAMB and Southern Seminary booths; I may see you there.

There are many students who have recently arrived on the field or are leaving for the field in the next few weeks as church planters or church planting interns. Some of these are serving among some of the world’s least reached peoples. Please be praying for them and their labors across North America.

Michael Butterworth  Columbus, OH
Roger and Lisa Harris  Winnipeg, Manitoba
Tara Holtz*  Louisville, KY
Pete Wilkinson  San Mateo, FL
Dan Seidelman  Missoula, MT
Margret Sanchez*  Louisville, KY
David Vining  New York, NY
Joshua Price  New York, NY
Daniel Baker  New York, NY
Matt Simmons  New York, NY
John Armstrong  New York, NY
Terry Matthews*  Nashville, TN
Matt McBee  Cincinnati, OH
Jeremy Robinson  Fargo, ND
Nathan Tubbs  New York, NY
Jeremy MacMurray  Nashville, TN
Charlie Jones*  Louisville, KY

*Names changed for security matters

We hope that you have a great summer. May the Lord continue to bless you and your ministry. Please remember to pray and labor for the advancement of the gospel throughout North America. As always, if we may be of any service to you or your church, please contact us.

Take care,

J. D.
Church Planter Profile: Jeremy MacMurray

Names
Jeremy, Malaya, and Elianna
(2 years)

Location
Murfreesboro, TN

When will you graduate from Southern?
Spring 2011

Please briefly describe your church planting ministry.
I am serving as a Nehemiah Church Planter.

What are your primary responsibilities in your ministry?
I am the planter and pastor of The Bridge Church.

How did your church planting training at Southern help you in preparation for your work on the field?
Southern's training was essential to my preparation for church planting. Understanding how to implement an evangelism strategy was one of the most beneficial aspects of my training. As a church planter, I learned that I need to be contextual in my approach to reaching lost individuals.

What is the greatest blessing received since you have been involved in church planting?
The greatest blessing is the absolute reassurance that I am called by God to "make disciples." There is truly no greater, more profound, and undeserving purpose in life than to preach the good news. While on the field I have felt as though I am following Jesus around, watching His light shine in the darkest of places, and witnessing His grace and mercy being poured out in buckets. In short, Christ is more alive to me than ever, and I know it is because God called me out for this purpose.

What advice would you give to those who are wondering if God is calling them to be involved in church planting?
Those seeking God’s will for church planting should study, read, research, and have coffee with professors and other missionaries/pastors. Pray each time you meet with someone to talk about church planting. Pray that God would use them to give you wisdom in seeking His will. Instead of finding reasons to plant a church, find reasons not to plant a church. At the end of that journey, you should see clearly enough to determine God’s will.

Regarding church planting, what counsel would you give to those who are called to serve in established churches?
I served as a pastor of an established church for two years prior to church planting. In most areas of North America, an established church cannot take care of an entire community. There will be differing cultures that pop up and need to express their faith and worship. Be mindful of these changes and pray for them. In my experience, God will raise up people from established churches to reach these subcultures—and not simply to evangelize, but to establish churches. Teach, lead, and pray in that way.
Focus on Crossover 09

What is Crossover?
Held every year in conjunction with the SBC's annual meeting, Crossover is a series of evangelistic events designed to reach people in the host city for Christ. Opportunities are available for individuals, church groups, and entire families!

When is Crossover?
Crossover weekend is June 19 - 20, 2009, but additional Crossover activities will take place several weeks before. Check out a listing of all Crossover activities here.

How do I get involved?
You can join in this exciting opportunity by indicating your interest here.

Source: http://crossoverlouisville.com/

If you are a student at Southern Seminary or Boyce College and are interested in getting hands-on experience serving as a church planting intern, contact the Church Planting Center (churchplanting@spts.edu). There are several church planting internships available across North America throughout 2009.
People Group Profile

Some of the world’s least reached peoples are in our backyards. Here are two groups presently residing in North America in small numbers.

First, consider these questions:
- What are the possibilities for global evangelization by reaching these people in our back yards?
- As an American citizen, what is the likelihood that you will experience persecution, government opposition, difficulty in obtaining a missionary visa, and cultural shock in reaching these people in the United States?
- Why do you think we have no idea of the evangelical status of the Azerbaijani living across the street from us in this country?

Azerbaijani, North in the United States
- Population in the largest states on file:
  - California–200
  - New York–80
  - Virginia–70
  - Texas–50
  - Maryland–30
- Population in all countries: 8,571,000
- Primary Religion: Islam
- Christian Adherents: .01%
- Percent Evangelical: UNKNOWN

Arab, Sudanese in the United States
- Population in this country: 1,200
- Population in the largest states on file:
  - Texas–300
  - Iowa–300
  - Georgia–200
  - Nebraska–200
  - Minnesota–200
  - Utah–100
  - California–100
  - South Dakota–100
  - Missouri–100
  - Tennessee–100
- Population in all countries: 13,359,000
- Primary Religion: Islam
- Christian Adherents: 2.00%
- Percent Evangelical: 1.20%

Source: www.joshuaproject.net