

MISSION
TO NORTH
AMERICAWorking Together to
Transform North America

Mission Report:

Creating an Environment for Church Planting in Philadelphia

Dear Friends: The newsletter you hold is the premiere edition of a new quarterly, replacing *Multiply*. Our objective: to offer a format that's not only quicker and easier to read, but also timelier in content. At the same time, we moved Intercessor (prayer requests), normally included in each issue of *Multiply*, to the Web: www.pcanet.org/mna. If you prefer, we'll mail you a printed version (see back page for details).

Besides a new quarterly for Mission to North America, we introduce a fresh vision, formulated in 2003 and now being actualized. Simply put, our vision is that God — through the cooperative prayers and efforts of PCA churches and presbyteries — will ignite a powerful church planting movement that will impact all of North America with the Gospel of Christ.

We also seek greater diversity by planting many more churches to serve varied ethnic groups — churches that we pray will lead multitudes to Christ. We hope as well to strengthen the PCA presence in major cities (for details, see my letter enclosed).

The growing church planting movement in greater Philadelphia, reported in this issue, demonstrates our vision and also shows how churches within a long-established presbytery can work together and plant churches to reach various populations. As a result, the Gospel is spreading in this historic city and lives are changing.

Please join with us in praying for these churches and for the dedicated church planters and others whom God is using to lead this movement.



Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator

“We believed it would please the Father and greatly glorify the Lord Jesus Christ for members of the Philadelphia Presbytery to work together to plant ten new churches by 2005.”

A decade ago, that statement originated as the vision for the newly formed Church Planting Committee of Philadelphia Presbytery. Bruce Finn had just been named chairman. At that time, there were twenty-two PCA congregations in the metro area. Today there are ten more churches and mission churches, with several additions scheduled to launch over the next two years.

“No one but God could have brought this about,” Bruce says of the progress in church planting since 1994. “We couldn’t possibly have invented a strategy that would achieve such an amazing result.” After ten years as chairman, Bruce’s enthusiasm is stronger than ever. Working with him are two other original committee members: Ron Lutz, pastor of New Life Presbyterian in Fort Washington and John Julien, pastor of New Life Church of Philadelphia. Since all three are church planters, they share a burden for planting Gospel-centered churches, as well as a keen understanding of how to go about it.

Bruce, a native of the Philadelphia area who had planted PCA churches in other regions, was called in 1986 to the suburb of Newtown to start a church from scratch — Bucks Central — which he still leads today. In time, Bruce grew aware of a need to plant churches that would proclaim the Gospel. Yet little was being done through the presbytery and not much was planned. That’s why, in 1994, a permanent committee on church planting was formed.

When committee members got started, they had little more than dedication — and no idea where to begin. After devoting time to prayer, they decided that, rather than steering the presbytery to plant churches, they would seek to create an environment in which member churches would plant churches. “We were convinced that God was at work in Philadelphia,” Bruce explains, “so instead of laying out specific strategies, we asked God to show us how He wanted us involved in His work.” For the most part, the committee didn’t even identify locations, but prayed for direction about where to plant.

By 1996, two churches had begun: New Life Northeast Presbyterian in Philadelphia, planted by Dave Miller (now led by Stephen Smallman, Sr.)

(Continued next page)

One of the ten new PCA churches planted in the Philadelphia area since 1994 is *liberti* (one word, no capital letter). The church focuses on postmodern urbanites in the neighborhoods surrounding the center city, as well as students of Temple University. Their mission typifies that of others in this thriving church planting movement: to love people with the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, so that together we might know and passionately live for God; thus, Philadelphia will be renewed and the greater world blessed by the Gospel.





Pastor Bagudekia (Bagu) Alobeyo, who was born and raised in the Congo, started All Nations in 2002 in the heart of Philadelphia's African community to reach immigrants from various African nations. He moved to the US in 1995 to study at Westminster Theological Seminary where he earned masters and doctoral degrees.



In south Philadelphia, Kin Lam is starting a Chinese mission for blue-collar Chinese immigrants, with Mandarin as the main language. Believing that the best way to reach these people is through community services, Kin has planned various programs for children which, he says, "will allow us to make contact with parents."



Pastor Steve Kim is church planter for Emmanuel City Line Mission in Philadelphia, a congregation of second generation Asian Americans. A daughter of Emmanuel Church, a Korean language congregation, the mission church began public worship several months ago and aims to serve people of varied cultures. Both churches are members of the PCA's Korean Eastern Presbytery.

Creating an Environment for Church Planting in Philadelphia *(Continued from page 1)*

and Christ the King Presbyterian in Conshohocken, planted by Adam Brice. Both congregations are now well established and growing. Christ the King is planting a daughter church: Grace and Peace Presbyterian Mission, led by Bill Mayk.

The committee was determined to reach the area's growing non-Anglo ethnic groups and asked God to send indigenous pastors to lead them. Gradually, they made connections with godly men who could meet that need. Today, five of the ten PCA works planted since 1994 minister primarily among non-Anglo populations. Three serve immigrant groups: Chinese, Africans, and Russian Jews; one serves Asian Americans and another, African Americans.

Tenth Presbyterian, one of the city's oldest and largest PCA congregations, has been a significant participant in church planting over this ten-year expansion period. "Their sizable resources are important to our church planting activity," Bruce points out, "and Tenth's senior pastor, Phillip Ryken, is strongly committed."

Four years ago, another organization dedicated to church planting was founded in Philadelphia:

CityNet, an association of reformed and evangelical churches focused on "saturating greater Philadelphia with Gospel-centered churches." Bill Krispin, a 38-year veteran of urban ministering, joined as executive director. In addition to a background in church planting and pastoring, he spent 27 years as the founding executive director of the Center for Urban Theological Studies (CUTS), an urban church leadership training center. "CityNet enjoys a close alliance with Philadelphia Presbytery and we continuously work together in planting churches," Bill says.

Bill recruits and meets with prospective church planters, trains and counsels launch teams, helps with vision casting and strategizing. As churches get started, CityNet performs important services, from training and coaching church planters to bookkeeping and fund-raising. Among those the organization has assisted is *liberti*, a new church plant designed to reach postmodern urbanites in the neighborhoods surrounding center city Philadelphia (home of 70,000 18- to 20-year-olds).

Church planters Geoff Bradford and Steve Huber are partners in this work, which began public worship in January of 2003. Attendance already averages 160-200. The long-range plan is to establish a movement of small neighborhood congregations. A second site was launched in April and a third is being considered.

The church also reaches out to students at nearby Temple University, as well as others (a total of 350,000 attend colleges and universities in the area, of whom 115,000 are Philadelphia residents). Steve Lutz works with *liberti*, bridging the campus to the church. He has made inroads on the Temple campus and found receptivity among those who have never received the Lord.

Church planter Kin Lam, who first came to the US from Hong Kong to attend MIT before going on to Westminster Seminary, is laying groundwork for South Philadelphia Chinese Mission. Kin is seeking to develop relationships with residents and also works full-time at a hospital in the area as program manager for a Chinese health information service, a position he took as a

means of getting to know the Chinese community.

Church planters in the growing Philadelphia movement include (left to right) Bill Mayk, Grace and Peace Presbyterian near Pottstown; John Kinyon, Cornerstone Presbyterian, Coopersburg; Lance Lewis, Christ Liberation Fellowship, Philadelphia; Ilya Lizorkin, Rock of Israel, Philadelphia; Bruce Finn, Bucks Central Presbyterian, Newtown, and chairman of the Church Planting Committee; Bill Krispin, executive director, CityNet, a church planting network; and John Julien (foreground), New Life Church of Philadelphia and a member of the Church Planting Committee.



In the urban Overbrook Park section of Philadelphia, church planter Lance Lewis has led Christ Liberation Fellowship since 2001 with a vision of impacting African Americans with the reformed faith — aiming, says Lance, “to equip folks to apply the Gospel in their worship, their walk with the Lord, and their witness.” Residents across the region have been attracted through Lance’s weekly radio program, *Word of Liberation*, as well as through monthly concerts geared to young people. The congregation includes not only converts, but also

people who have been restored to the faith. “It has been most rewarding,” Lance points out, “to see people, who were once



wounded by a church experience, come to Christ Liberation, renew their commitment to the Lord, and blossom in the faith.”

Over the next two years, Philadelphia Presbytery has plans for a multiethnic work in Norristown, a suburb of Philadelphia; a Hispanic American church in an urban neighborhood; and a third new church on US 202, a major commuter corridor near King of Prussia. ●



Butch Patrick, a student at Westminster Theological Seminary, interns at Christ Liberation Fellowship. Butch and youth leader Patricia Little have succeeded in attracting high school students to a weekly Bible club through their regular visits to area schools where they speak in classrooms and lunch with students.

The city of Philadelphia is teeming with a multitude of cultures, every imaginable lifestyle, and huge masses who never attend church. Recognizing that the need for Gospel proclamation was urgent and that the best way to reach the greatest number was through a church multiplication movement, the Church Planting Committee of Philadelphia Presbytery set about, with God’s guidance, to create an environment for church planting.

Showing Love and Mercy to People of Other Cultures

Each year, PCA Women in the Church (WIC) designates a ministry to receive funds raised through the WIC Love Gift campaign. For 2004, funds will go to MNA in support of

- 1) efforts to guide churches in developing English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and
- 2) an MNA Hispanic American movement leader to facilitate church plants and train leaders.

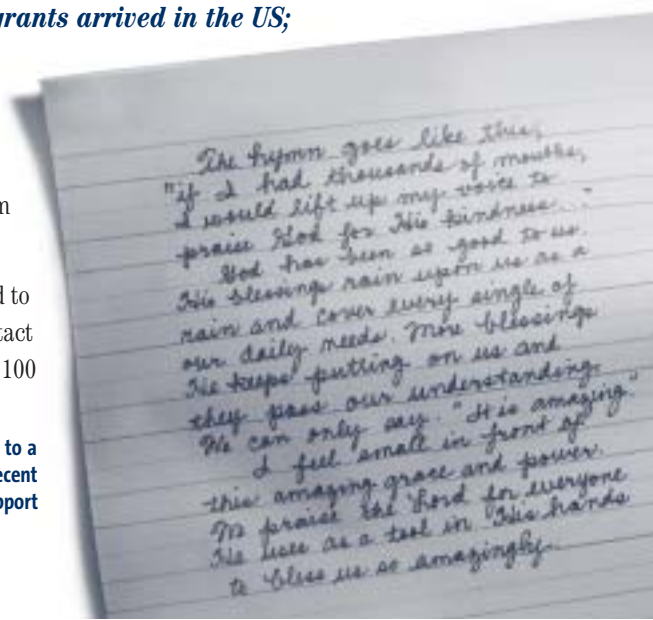
In view of the steady increase of people from other cultures into North America, the PCA seeks to serve spiritual as well as practical needs of immigrants — such as teaching them English. In fact, ESL classes are effective in connecting with immigrants of all ethnic groups by satisfying their desire to learn the language and also to gather with others of like cultures. Even those who might never attend church for worship will come to learn English. Thus, a growing number of PCA churches offer ESL programs — most of them directed and taught by women.

Since 1990, more than 11 million immigrants arrived in the US;

an estimated 1.5 million more move in each year. Hispanic Americans make up the largest percentage (currently 12 percent of the population). We must work diligently to plant additional churches to serve them and develop leaders from among their ranks.

For more information about the WIC Love Gift and to request supporting materials for your church, contact Christian Education and Publications: 678-825-1100 or cep@pcanet.org. ●

The letter reproduced here was written by a young woman to a teacher of an ESL class at a PCA church in her community. A recent immigrant, she was extremely grateful for the love and support she found through the ESL classes and through the church.



10 NEW PCA CHURCHES AND MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS

New Life Northeast Presbyterian
Philadelphia, Stephen Smallman Sr.

Christ the King Presbyterian
Conshohocken, Adam Brice

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church
Coopersburg, John Kinyon

All Nations Mission
SW Philadelphia, Bagudekia Alobeyo
African Immigrants

South Philadelphia Chinese Mission
Philadelphia, Kin Lam
Chinese Immigrants

liberti Mission
Downtown Philadelphia, Geoff Bradford
& Steve Huber
young urbanites, college students

Christ Liberation Fellowship
Philadelphia, Lance Lewis
African Americans

Grace and Peace Presbyterian
Philadelphia, Bill Mayk

Rock of Israel
NE Philadelphia, Ilya Lizorkin
Russian Jewish and Muslim Immigrants

Emmanuel City Line Mission
Philadelphia, Steve Kim
Second Generation Asian Americans

Check Out the Conference Calendar

MNA Crossroads Conference

"The Power of the Gospel"

Naperville, IL July 20-22, 2004

Designed to sharpen skills in outreach, evangelism, and growing healthy churches. You'll learn, worship, fellowship, rejoice with others facing similar challenges, and come away refreshed. For church planters, pastors, wives, MNA chairmen, network leaders, and others interested in church planting.

This annual event has a new look: shortened format, flexible cost structure, central location, excellent speakers reflecting diversity of ministry. For details and registration: www.pcanet.org/mna. Or contact Tina Smith at tsmith@pcanet.org or 678-825-1253.

Embers to a Flame Conference

"On Nurturing Church Vitality" (Two locations)

Jacksonville, FL September 30 - October 3, 2004

Main speakers: Harry Reeder, Archie Parrish, Tom Lutz

Birmingham, AL January 20 - 23, 2005

Main speakers: Harry Reeder, Archie Parrish, Wilson Benton, Tom Lutz

For details: www.pcanet.org/mna. Or contact Carolyn Phillips: 205-776-5399 or embers@briarwood.org.

Fruit of the Thanksgiving Offering

"New Beginnings is a new beginning for young kids," says Mario Gaddy. "It helps them rise above their circumstances and find Jesus Christ." Mario knows firsthand what New Beginnings Community Church, led by pastor Julian Russell, means to its neighborhood in Memphis, TN. A child of the projects, he's thankful for the opportunities the church gave him. Now in college, he returns each summer to do his part with the kids.

Mario is only one of the developing PCA leaders assisted by the Thanksgiving Offering, a campaign of MNA Mercy Ministries. Each year, PCA churches are asked to participate in this offering, which is dedicated to preparing indigenous leaders for the PCA. For information, go to www.pcanet.org/mna or call 678-825-1200.



Intercessor Now on the Web

Intercessor prayer requests are now on the Web: www.pcanet.org/mna. We urge you to review requests frequently and pray regularly for church plants and church planters. We'll update requests often. If you don't have Internet access or you prefer to receive Intercessor in print, call: 678-825-1239, email: jclark@pcanet.org, or mail: John Clark, MNA, 1700 N. Brown Rd., Ste. 101, Lawrenceville, GA 30043.

ESL: If You Don't Know the Language

Want to begin an English as a Second Language (ESL) program in your church? It's an excellent way to connect with people of other nations whom God has brought to your community. MNA can help by providing an ESL Starter Kit, which includes a notebook and audio tapes to walk you through the process, as well as handouts. It's available for a \$75 donation to MNA. To order online, go to www.pcanet.org/mna and click on ESL Starter Kit, or email tsmith@pcanet.org for additional information. If you prefer to order by mail, send \$75 by check or money order, payable to MNA and designated for the ESL Starter Kit, to: Tina Smith, MNA, 1700 N. Brown Rd., Ste. 101, Lawrenceville, GA 30043. Or call 678-825-1253.

MNA is developing materials for ESL teachers and administrators, including a Bible-based curriculum, and will schedule future training events when there is sufficient interest. As we work toward calling an ESL staff member, please pray for the Lord's leading to this special person, and pray for generous giving to the 2004 WIC Love Gift and other initiatives that will help fund this position.

You Can Help Change Lives

Proclaiming the Gospel to new people calls for planting new churches. And when the Gospel is proclaimed, lives are changed. You can help advance church planting with your prayers and gifts to Mission to North America. If you prefer giving online with a credit card, visit www.pcanet.org/mna, or use the envelope enclosed.

The PCA Foundation can provide free information about reducing taxes and preserving assets. Call today for a brochure: 888-256-5571.



MNA Disaster Response

When Tim Muse, pastor of Brandon Presbyterian in Brandon, MS, heard that a camp for underprivileged kids had been severely damaged by a tornado, he immediately called upon members to clear away downed trees. Fortunately, there were no human injuries. "We could react quickly because of our involvement with MNA Disaster Response," says Tim, who chairs the Disaster committee for Mississippi Valley Presbytery. "We're strongly committed to this ministry." Led by Ron and Judy Haynes, Disaster Response serves a vital need by providing churches with the framework and coordination methods for responding to disasters. Visit www.pcanet.org/mna and click on Disaster Response to request brochures, or call 678-825-1200 or email rhaynes@pcanet.org.

Leading People of Diverse Cultures to Christ: From the start, the Church Planting Committee of Philadelphia Presbytery was determined to plant churches to reach the growing non-Anglo ethnic groups, so they asked God to send indigenous pastors to lead them. Gradually, they made connections with godly men who could meet that need. Today, five of the ten PCA works planted since 1994 minister primarily among non-Anglo populations. Three serve immigrant groups: Chinese, Africans, and Russian Jews; one serves Asian Americans and another, African Americans.

These new congregations are quite effective in reaching people who don't know Jesus Christ. Experience has proven that new churches represent one of the most effective means of evangelism, and that has been the case in these fledgling churches. The congregation of Rock of Israel, for instance, which focuses on a large and growing number of Russian Jewish and Muslim immigrants, is composed completely of new converts. Church planter Ilya Lizorkin is himself a Russian Jew.

Mission to North America (MNA) serves the churches and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), providing leadership in church planting initiatives, as well as placement and training services for church planters in the US and Canada. In addition, MNA coordinates Chaplain Ministries, Church Vitality, Mercy Ministries and Disaster Response for the PCA in North America.

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