

# Multiply • Fall 2008



Mission to North America  
Presbyterian Church in America



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## Habitat for Humanity

A Unique Outreach Ministry

# Habitat for Humanity

## A Unique Outreach Ministry

Since its founding in 1976, Habitat for Humanity International has provided housing to hundreds of thousands of low-income families. A broadly evangelical parachurch ministry, Habitat has not only given the gift of homeownership to people in need, it has also provided many PCA volunteers with the opportunity to share the love of Christ with their neighbors.

“We tell every pastor that working with Habitat will do more to help a PCA church, or any church, to find a sense of unity, commitment and servanthood, than anything else they do,” says Bob Rosasco. Bob, an elder at Kendall Presbyterian in the Miami area, supervises PCA sponsored house building; he began with Habitat as a volunteer and led in establishing Habitat’s presence in Miami. Anne Manning, who attends Granada Presbyterian in Coral Gables FL, joined the staff of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami over ten years ago and currently serves as the executive director.



*Some PCA churches have participated in Blitz Builds (Miami last January is pictured here), events in which thousands of volunteers build multiple homes in a short span of time. “Every church should consider participating,” says Arklie Hooten, MNA ShortTerm Missions and Disaster Response Director. “If you are curious about how it works, consider joining in a Blitz Build outside your area. Your experience will equip you to replicate what you’ve learned in your own community.”*

Miami area PCA churches have been regular participants in Miami Habitat, providing support both financially and through volunteer work. Last year, members of Kendall, Old Cutler, Pinelands, Granada, Immanuel and Key Biscayne Presbyterian Churches worked side-by-side with a homeowner family to finance and build a home. Redlands Community PCA has also begun to participate in local Habitat projects.

Churches in Baltimore MD, Columbia SC and Bay St. Louis MS are also active with Habitat in building homes

on a regular basis. New Song in Baltimore and Lagniappe Presbyterian in Bay St. Louis welcome short term volunteer teams from across the PCA to join them in local projects.



*“Every Habitat building project has strengthened the respective churches and given the membership a unique and exciting way to reach out and do mercy ministry.” —Anne Manning*

“Working with Habitat affords PCA members the opportunity to use gifts and skills they may not use in other types of ministries. And even though the work is construction work, it’s not for men only – we have as many women helping with roofing, painting, laying floors and landscaping as men,” says Bob. Along with construction related skills such as laying floors and hanging drywall, opportunities abound for those who do not have the skills required for construction.

In keeping with Habitat’s Christian purpose, many volunteers share their faith with fellow volunteers and the homeowners while building the home. Some have expressed a desire to continue building relationships, and Bob says that Miami Habitat is forming a liaison group for that purpose.

Another important Christian principle of Habitat is that every workday starts with a devotion and prayer. Many of these are given by pastors and are an excellent opportunity for witnessing and preaching servanthood and mercy ministry.



Bob Rosasco

If your church is involved in a local Habitat, please contact MNA so interested volunteers can be referred to you. Those wishing to become involved with Habitat for Humanity in or outside the Miami area are welcome to contact Anne Manning for more information at 305-634-3628 or [anne.manning@miamihabitat.org](mailto:anne.manning@miamihabitat.org).

“When you build a home for someone, you’ve done something for them for life,” says Bob. “Every PCA church would have an uplifting outreach experience if it got involved in building a Habitat home.” ■

# Church Planting in New England

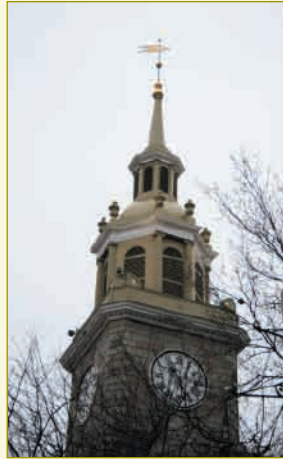
## Building a New Heritage



Once the center of the spiritual vitality of North America, New England's commitment to the Christian faith continues to decline. A recent Gallup Poll found church attendance in these states to be the lowest in the nation. "We're in the process of trying to renew and lay again a foundation of faith in New England," says Doug Domin, church planter and pastor of First Presbyterian in Concord NH. "Ministering here is more like ministering in Europe." Doug Warren, who pastors Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Portland ME, agrees. "The soil here is very rocky," he says, "but our God is able to draw men and women and boys and girls to Himself, no matter what the circumstances."



Doug Warren and Doug Domin have been instrumental in building church planting momentum in New England. First Presbyterian, begun in 1996, has been helping Pastor Jon Taylor plant Church of the Redeemer in Manchester NH and is assisting in the renewal of Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashua NH. Christ the Redeemer, begun in 2000, is sponsoring the launch of Free Grace Presbyterian in Lewiston ME. The growth of other PCA churches in New England communities has been steady, and plans to plant several more are underway.



Perhaps the most important requirement for church planting is that each church have a **commitment to intentional evangelism**. Through praying members, home fellowship groups and leadership training, spiritual vitality is continually renewed, and even very young and small churches are equipped to plant other churches. Realizing that they, too, are broken people in need of the Gospel, church leaders and members can confidently share the Gospel with their neighbors.

**Church planters are trained through apprenticeships.** The apprenticeship is a mentoring relationship in which an ordained pastor is trained by another pastor experienced in church planting. The apprentice develops specific skills, such as evangelism and leadership development, and then leads in planting a new church. Per Almquist served under the mentorship of Doug Warren and is now establishing Free Grace Presbyterian in Lewiston ME. Jon Taylor completed an apprenticeship through First Presbyterian before beginning Church of the Redeemer in Manchester NH. "The great thing about mentoring in New England," says Doug Warren, "is that it affords the unique opportunity of working under a Presbytery where mentoring is very much the focus."

Perhaps the most important requirement for church planting is that each church have a **commitment to intentional evangelism**. Through praying

**A church building** is vital to the health of both mother and daughter congregations, says Doug Warren. "New England has a lighthouse or an historic church no matter where you look. This, along with the culture of unchurched people, makes not having a building a huge hurdle. When people hear you meet at a school, they think it's odd." A building also says to the community that the church is committed to it for the long term. "People need to see that we're not just a fly-by-night operation," says Doug Domin. "A church needs to be visible and a building is part of that visibility."

**Intentional relationship building as well as serving the community in practical ways** is another means of conveying commitment to small towns and communities. "Here in New England, we must build a relationship of trust before people will actually listen to us," says Doug Warren. First Presbyterian uses Christianity Explored, a course designed to answer basic questions about Christianity, to create a dialogue with nonbelievers. They and Christ the Redeemer also have participated in local



*Jonathan Taylor; Dan Troy; Wenderson Freitas; Jason Wakefield; Doug Domin; Mark Saltzman. The session of the Concord church, which includes Dan, Mark and Doug, is providing leadership to Manchester, led by Jonathan, and the Nashua church pastored by Jason; a Brazilian, Wenderson is a seminary intern working at the Nashua church.*



community events, making information available about their churches. Doug Warren and Per Almqvist have partnered with a mercy ministry called the Root Cellar in Portland and have been instrumental in starting an extension of that ministry in Lewiston.



*Per Almqvist and Doug Warren. Doug was church planter for Christ the Redeemer in Portland ME beginning in 2000; after serving a church planting apprenticeship with Doug, Per is leading a mission church in Lewiston.*

**The leadership of ruling elders** is essential to church planting. “We’d be nowhere without our ruling elders,” says Doug Domin. Elders are one of the most important ways that a young church with limited resources is able to move forward in planting daughter churches. Members of a young congregation often must take on many different tasks. Elders play a key role in assisting with these tasks, such as leading services when their pastor is away assisting a daughter church. Elders also provide emotional and spiritual support by shepherding home fellowship groups. Because there are a limited number of PCA churches in New England, elders often serve double duty – or more. The session of First Church in Concord provides leadership for both the Manchester and Nashua churches.

**Prayer, financial support and short term missions participation from across the PCA** are indispensable to

building a momentum in planting mother, daughter and granddaughter churches in New England. “In the last year,” says Doug Domin, “five un-churched people became a part of First Presbyterian, really through a foundation of prayer – not only because of our own prayer but because of the prayers of God’s people across the PCA.” He adds that outside financial help is needed to fund a church building. “When you’re a church plant, it’s a struggle to pay the pastor and the daily bills of the church,” he says. “Adding a mortgage to that is a big deal. We need help from outside the Presbytery until we can build our own heritage here.”

Christ the Redeemer in Portland is forming Gospel Friends of New England, a group encouraging Christians to pray for outreach to



*Northern New England Presbytery members*

New England and to join in the effort through short term missions. PCA churches have sent teams to assist with soccer camps, helping widows in their homes, public school outreach and mercy ministries.

Currently, Christ the Redeemer in Portland ME is seeking a summer intern who can help coordinate their ministry teams. First Presbyterian in Concord

NH also welcomes college or seminary students for summer internships. For information on New England short term missions contact MNA ShortTerm Missions and Disaster Response Facilitator Sherry Lanier at 678-294-3012 or slanier@pcanet.org. You can visit MNA ShortTerm Missions on the web at [www.pca-mna.org/shortterm](http://www.pca-mna.org/shortterm). ■

## Church Plants in New England:

- Christ the Redeemer in Portland ME is planting in Lewiston.
- First Presbyterian Concord NH is planting Church of the Redeemer in Manchester and assisting renewal of Christ Presbyterian in Nashua.
- Christian Community Church of Danbury CT (Portuguese language) is planting Christian Community of Bridgeport.
- Christ Presbyterian New Haven CT is planting Christ the Shepherd Danbury CT, and also planted Trinity Providence RI, who is planting Christ Our Hope in Wakefield RI.
- Presbyterian Church of Manchester CT planted Christ Community Presbyterian West Hartford CT.
- West Springfield Covenant Community Church in MA is planting Springfield Presbyterian.
- Christ the King Cambridge MA is planting English language churches Citylife Boston and Christ the King Dorchester, and is planting Portuguese language churches Christ the King East Boston, New Life Presbyterian Community Framingham, and Bethel Presbyterian Marlborough.
- Christ the King East Boston is planting Christ the King Quincy.



# Christ the King

## Ministering Among the Changing Cultures of North America



*Christ the King Portuguese language/mother church*

Christ the King Cambridge (CTK) in Cambridge MA began in 1994 when an English language PCA mission church led by former MNA Coordinator Terry Gyger joined with two Portuguese language congregations. One of the latter was led by Osni Ferreira, who continued as pastor along with Terry. Led by current pastors Rick Downs and Naama Mendes, Christ the King Cambridge combines two culture and language groups within one church, both with a vigorous commitment to church planting.

Earlier this year, CTK Cambridge established an additional English language worship site in Dorchester. CTK Dorchester grew from the desire of church members living in Dorchester to have a church based in their community. Initially led by CTK Cambridge staff, Dorchester welcomed Dan Rogers as pastor in July of this year. Dan is looking forward to leading the church in ministering among a racially and economically diverse community.

Stephen Um pastors Citylife, an English language CTK church plant in Boston. The church began in 2004 and has

*Christ the King English/mother church*



*East Boston/daughter church*

grown rapidly. "We're a multiethnic but monocultural church," he says. While Citylife includes over thirty ethnicities, most are young urban professionals. Citylife has a ten year vision to develop five different worship services in three different locations.

CTK has launched Portuguese language churches in Marlborough and Framingham MA. An East Boston church changed its affiliation from PC(USA) to PCA, joining CTK's network. Christ the King East Boston then led in establishing a Portuguese language church, CTK Quincy.

The PCA Portuguese language congregations comprise mainly first generation Brazilian immigrants. Even though first generation immigrants wish to maintain a separate community, nevertheless they assimilate rapidly into American culture; this assimilation moves even more rapidly as children of new immigrants grow up in American culture speaking English as their primary language. "It's a constant discussion to see how to facilitate assimilation but honor the Brazilians' convictions that segregation means a

*Citylife Boston/daughter church*



*Christ the King Quincy/planted by East Boston*

more effective Brazilian community," says Rick.

Juliano Socio, a CTK assistant pastor, adds that first generation immigrants, having left their extended family in their home country, look to the church as their family. He and Naama strive to meet that need while providing a strong bilingual and bicultural church for second and third generation immigrants.

Naama Mendes is working with Renato Bernardes, MNA Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches Coordinator, to launch a Portuguese language church in Fort Lauderdale FL. Renato comments, "The sacrifices of Christ the King, Naama Mendes and the unified leadership of the Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches are all working together to develop a new Portuguese language work in Florida."

For more information contact Renato Bernardes at 973-444-3314 or [rbernardes@pcanet.org](mailto:rbernardes@pcanet.org). For MNA's booklet and DVD, *Ministering Among the Changing Cultures of North America*, go to [www.pca-mna.org/mnavideo.php](http://www.pca-mna.org/mnavideo.php). ■

*New CTK congregation meeting in Dorchester*



# Chaplain Ministries

## Serving God at Sea



The sailors who serve on the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman rarely slow down. Working up to eighteen hours a day, the men and women provide support to U.S. Navy Combat Operations in the Arabian Gulf and are separated from their families for months at a time.

PCA Chaplain Ken Counts oversees four other chaplains on the ship and is committed to ministering among the 5,200 sailors who work and live there. “We have over thirty-three weekly events in the Religious Ministries program of services,” says Ken. In addition to leading four different worship services each Sunday, the chaplains offer daily Bible studies and devotions and minister among the sailors at their workstations. When the ship docks at foreign ports, the chaplains organize community service work for the sailors in schools, orphanages and hospitals.

The sailors minister to each other as well. “Our sailors wrote a play promoting the message of Easter and performed it for the whole crew,” says

Ken. “In April, the Christians were invited to join the Jewish community for their observance of Passover.”

Ken asks for prayer for the men and women aboard the USS Truman in the following ways: For safety in flight operations and at sea, for the health of the families of the Chaplains (each of the men has family members with potentially serious health problems) and for the grace and wisdom to know how to minister creatively and compassionately aboard the ship. Ken also expresses gratitude “for the incredible support from the churches and from individuals who read the prayer requests in the *Guardian*” (available at [www.pca-mna.org/chaplainministries](http://www.pca-mna.org/chaplainministries)).

### DOUG LEE ASSUMES ROLE OF MNA CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

As announced last year, Retired Army Chaplain (Brigadier General) Doug Lee will assume duties as MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator on October 1, 2008, when current Coordinator Dave Peterson retires from the position. Chaplain Ministries has grown



David Peterson and Doug Lee

substantially under the leadership of Dave Peterson, and MNA is profoundly grateful for the work he has done.

“Dave has done an unbelievable job in taking the role of a Chaplain Endorser to a new level,” says Doug. Doug is looking forward to serving the military and civilian chaplains and helping with the challenges they face as they work away from their home churches and families for extended periods of time. “By God’s grace, I hope to maintain what Dave Peterson has done, in providing pastoral care for our chaplains, recruiting new ones, and keeping the PCA (and partner denominations) informed of their incredible ministry,” he says. ■

## MNA conferences (details at [pca-mna.org](http://pca-mna.org))

From Embers to a Flame  
Conference  
Sept. 11 – 13, 2008  
Deltona Alliance Church  
Deltona FL

Developing Church Planting  
Networks  
Oct. 7 – 8, 2008  
Park Cities Presbyterian Church  
Dallas TX

From Embers to a Flame  
Seminar  
Oct. 17 – 18, 2008  
Proclamation Presbyterian Church  
Bryn Mawr PA

PCA Gathering at  
CCDA  
Oct. 22 – 26, 2008  
Hyatt Regency-James Knight Center  
Miami FL

MNA serves PCA churches and presbyteries as they advance God’s Kingdom in North America by planting, growing, and multiplying biblically healthy churches through the development of intentional evangelism and outreach ministries. For a list of MNA staff, visit our website at [www.pca-mna.org](http://www.pca-mna.org). Material in *Multiply* may be reproduced with permission. Address comments to: Fred Marsh, Managing Editor/Photographer. Writing and design provided by Big Bridge, Asheville, NC ([www.thebigbridge.com](http://www.thebigbridge.com)). *Multiply* is published by MNA.