



central maine mission

*broken people
bound together in Christ
for his glory*

*As broken people, the central Maine mission
seeks God to transform us and our region.
Bound together in Christ, we live for his glory
and to see his gospel made known.*

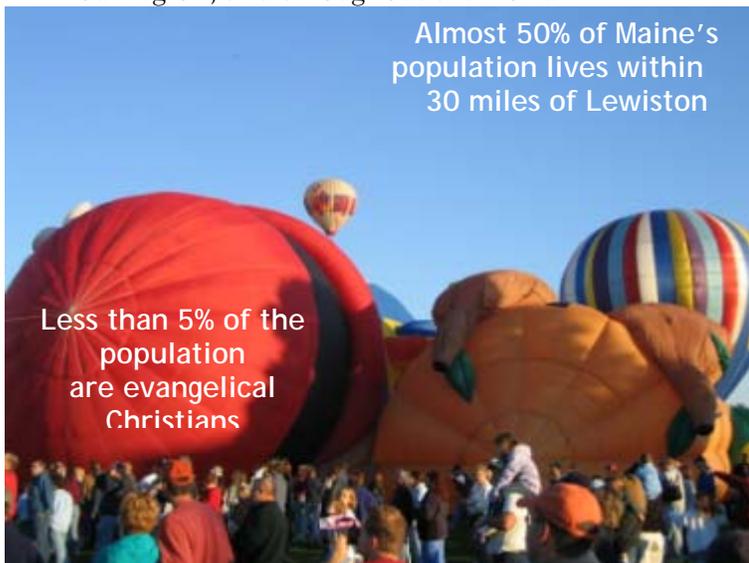
What is the central Maine mission?

God has a plan for central Maine. Our mission as broken people used by God is to seek him to transform us and our region. Bound together in Christ, we live for his glory and to see his gospel made known.

This is the essence of who we are and what God asks of us. It begins with our own brokenness, our own failings and need for Christ. Through the gospel we find healing, hope, meaning, and value in our lives. We must come together from our various communities to share both our brokenness and the wonder of the gospel. But it does not stop with us; we are called to join God wherever he is working – in us, our community, our region, and throughout the world.

Almost 50% of Maine's
population lives within
30 miles of Lewiston

Less than 5% of the
population
are evangelical
Christians



Who is central Maine?

This is a region steeped in Franco-American tradition, and saturated with a working class ethos. Many of the families in the region go back to the old mills and struggle in their absence. These families are bound to the region with deep ties; they need the gospel to break the bonds of sin built over generations.

Despite its history, central Maine is a region now struggling to understand its identity, to understand what it is becoming. Distinct new communities are bringing with them their own stories, traditions, and values. Immigrants from Somalia need the gospel to bring healing to their wounded lives. Young urbanites attending schools like Bates College struggle to find meaning and value in life; they need the gospel to show them that truth and meaning are found in Christ alone. Professionals come to work in the hospitals, courts, and colleges; they need the gospel to see the emptiness of their lives without Christ, despite the fullness of their large homes and garages.

In short, central Maine is a region of barriers - barriers between people and groups. It is a region that needs the gospel to break down the barriers built by their sin and brokenness.

Where is central Maine?

Situated midway between Maine's spectacular coastline and lush mountains, central Maine is known as the heart of Maine. Roughly 2½ hours north of Boston, central Maine is a region centered on the twin cities of Lewiston and Auburn that straddle the Androscoggin River.

Once an Indian fishing spot, central Maine was first settled by westerners in the 1700's. Its population and influence grew with the rise of the mills built alongside the falls in the river which powered their operation for almost 200 years. Those mills lay unused for years, leading to a sharp decline in the city's population and wealth. Now Lewiston appears on the brink of a renaissance, an exciting time in the region's history.



What motivates us?

The Gospel

The gospel is central to all we are and do. It is the good news that Jesus willingly entered into our broken world so that we might be made whole. He was broken, despised, rejected, and crucified for us so that we could receive the healing, forgiveness, hope for reconciliation, and love that come from him alone.

Broken People

We know ourselves to be broken people, broken by sin and misery, and our lives to be painful and unpredictable. This brokenness makes us desperate for the grace, the healing, and the comfort that we receive only from God.

Radical Transformation

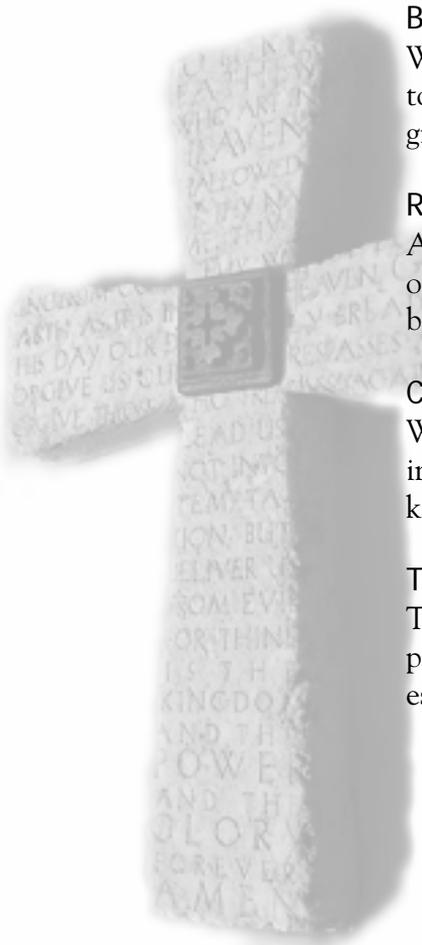
As the gospel impacts us it becomes a way of life, transforming us in every facet of our lives. The gospel is not merely a passive belief, something we do on Sunday, but an active way of life; it is a renewing of heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Community

We do not live life alone. Through the gospel, broken people are bound together in Christ. As we live this out we bear witness to and enjoy a foretaste of Christ's kingdom.

The Kingdom

The gospel is not ours to hoard. If we are broken people who care about broken people, we must go forward with the gospel in Maine and in the world, establishing churches to proclaim the kingdom of God.



Who are we?

These teams are committed to seeing Christ glorified in central Maine. Each one is crucial. We work together, as God has called us.

PRAYER TEAM: Prayer is the foundation of the central Maine mission. As God's people come to him in Jesus' name to seek first his kingdom, all else shall be given to them.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TEAM: Prayer is the means through which God provides for us. A team-planted church in New England is not a cheap endeavor. God's provision for this is already evident, and this team carries out the gift of daily bread for our mission staff.

THE PLANTING TEAM: Thus far, God has called two families to be a part of this team and we continue to pray for more to be called.

**Team planted churches
are at least four times
more successful than
solo plants**

http://www.growinghealthychurches.org/art/art_257.shtml



Per & Beth Almquist (Kyle, 8, Jason, 6, and Scotty, 2) are the lead church planters. Their preparation has included serving at Covenant Seminary and Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Portland, a congregation planted in 2000 and currently the only PCA church in Maine.

Ken & Linda Morris have also been called to be a part of the planting team. Linda is being called to serve as the church administrator. God has prepared her by giving her a variety of business experience and serving with Stephen Ministries as well as her local churches.

Ken is being called to respond to one of central Maine's primary needs, the difficult struggle with addictions. Ken is a licensed counselor who also holds a degree from Covenant Seminary. He is being called to serve as the director of counseling for the central Maine mission, with the task of establishing a counseling center to bring the healing power of the gospel to those struggling with addiction and other issues.



THE LARGER CHURCH

The central Maine mission is not going it alone. Our team extends beyond individuals to including the larger church. It is being planted as a daughter church of **Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church** in Portland – planted in 2000 as the only PCA church in Maine. The elders of Christ the Redeemer will oversee the work of the central Maine mission until it is able to elect its own elders.

Beyond even Christ the Redeemer, the work is being done under the authority of the **Northern New England Presbytery** of the **Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)**. **Mission to North America** (the PCA's church-planting agency in the US.) has endorsed Per & Beth as church planters and is providing training and counsel.

When will this happen?

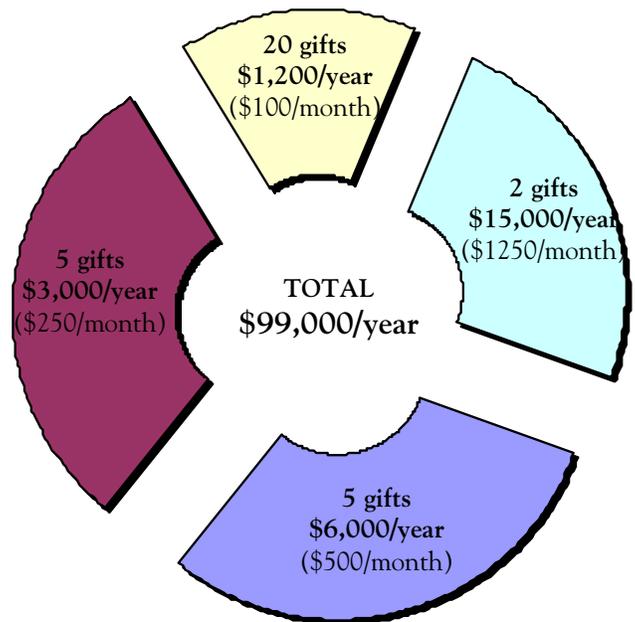
JULY 2007 – JUNE 2008	move to Lewiston	counseling center opens	develop launch team	begin home groups
JULY 2008 – JUNE 2009	expand and focus community involvement	begin worship services	begin developing ministry teams	
JULY 2009 – JUNE 2010	begin leadership training	counseling center self-supporting		
JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011	expand and deepen ministry	call a church planting apprentice		
JULY 2011 – JUNE 2012	ordain officers	begin planting a daughter church		

How can you help?

There are many ways to join in the work of the Central Maine Mission. These ways are not merely “good works” but a real part of the work of expanding God’s kingdom in central Maine. To join any of the teams of the Central Maine Mission please let us know by filling out a pledge card or contacting us.

If God is leading you to give financially to the central Maine mission you may pledge or give a gift by returning the pledge card below. Please make your checks out to Mission to North America and include our name on the memo line. For information on making payments by credit card online at <http://www.pca-mna.org>; or setting up an electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank, please contact us.

What will this cost?



STATEMENT OF PLEDGE TO SUPPORT **central maine mission**

MINISTRY OF PER & BETH ALMQUIST

LEWISTON, MAINE

Yes, I (we) would like to express my (our) intent to pledge support to the central Maine mission and to MNA by:

- PRAYER:** I (we) would like to pray for the development of this ministry and for the hearts of people to be touched by the Gospel.
- FINANCIAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS:**
- ❖ One time gift of \$ _____
 - ❖ Ongoing gift of \$ _____ per _____ for _____ years
(M)onthly, (Q)uarterly, (A)nnually up to 5 years
- RECEIVE OUR PRAYER LETTERS** by mail (every 2 months) by e-mail (every month)

NAME:	_____		
	(Title: Mr., Mrs., Ms.)	(First)	(Last)
ADDRESS:	_____		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	
TELEPHONE:	E-MAIL:		
SIGNATURE:	DATE:		

Please make checks payable and mail to:
 Mission to North America
 1700 N. Brown Rd., Suite 101
 Lawrenceville, GA 30043

This contribution will be made with the understanding that Mission to North America has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds, to assure their use for the intended exempt purposes. This statement may be revised or cancelled at any time should circumstances necessitate.