

Church Multiplication Report

When reading once again through the book of Acts, one of the things that stood out to me is how Paul and other leaders in the church are so committed to strengthening and encouraging disciples all over the place.

*When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, **strengthening** the souls of the disciples, **encouraging** them to continue in the faith. Acts 14:21-22*

This pattern of strengthening and encouraging disciples and churches is seen over and over again (Acts 15:32, 16:5, 18:23, 20:1). I personally find great joy in coming alongside our pastors and churches in the Western Region to strengthen and encourage them to make disciples who make disciples. I envision networks of pastors and churches across the region strengthening and encouraging one another to start and multiply churches all over the place!

Here's a brief review of what's been happening with our church planting efforts:

- ❖ **Limitless Church (Santa Clarita)** – Pastor Elias Recinos and the Dream Team launched this new church in September. They mailed 50,000 invitations to homes in the community and reported on their Grand Opening Sunday - “300+ people today! 20+ said YES to Jesus!!” Pastor Elias is extremely encouraged in their first year. They completed a sermon series “At the Movies” which saw several more individuals commit their lives to Christ. God is giving greater clarity as they implement aspects of “The Jesus Way” that was learned in Guatemala: 1. Know God. 2. Find Freedom. 3. Discover Purpose. 4. Make a Difference. They have also been impacted by the book ***The Blessed Life*** and are seeing a new culture of generosity as millennials are starting to tithe.
- ❖ **Redemption Church (Loveland)** – It's been exciting to see the Redemption church family continue to move forward with the purchase and now refurbishing of their new church home. We are praising God for Mountain View Church (parent congregation) who made the funds available for an all cash offer – plus providing a matching grant of \$100,000 toward the estimated \$300,000+ build-out. This spring, Jeff Dillon has been freed up to serve on the pastor team. Please offer prayers for Wladimir Navarro (former member of pastor team at Mountain View and worship leader at Redemption) who continues to rehab from a brain tumor surgery. God is on the move in this young church.
- ❖ **Riverview Church (Surprise)** – Pastor John Williams is continuing his cancer treatments and shared:



“The cancer has left my stomach and is on the lining of my abdomen. There are a few spots and they are still located close to my stomach, which is better than running wild, but it limits our options on getting to them before they spread further.

The good news. The radiation in December was super effective. The tumor in my stomach is half the size that it was and it not active at this time. It shrank and is “dormant” for now. I am able to eat and drink with no issues at all. The piece in my esophagus is gone.....and there is only one node that is suspicious in there.

These spots that are outside could be related to what they saw in surgery a year ago, but they don't know for sure.”

Riverview Church continues to meet twice a month on Sundays at the elementary school. They are continuing to multiply small groups and trusting God's direction and timing to start weekly worship services. Pray with us for a pastor to join John and co-lead this young church family.

- ❖ **The Garden Christian Fellowship (new church plant in Arizona)** – Pastor David Kim and the Garden church family have been sending mission teams to Arizona to minister on the reservation for the past decade. Recently, they've committed to plant a church with Cecil Prado. Cecil has been a key leader in the development of this ministry. He got married this spring and will soon complete the assessment process and begin the course work for his credential.
- ❖ **Fall Pastors' Breakfasts and Lunch** – I was privileged to attend the pastors' breakfasts throughout the region. It was very encouraging to connect with our pastors and hear their stories. I particularly appreciated the message from Phil Graf challenging each of us to deal with issues within ourselves and within our church families that feed the enormous sex trafficking epidemic. It was a wonderful blessing to attend the Hispanic pastors' lunch in Carmichael, California with Mike Livingston and Pastor Toby Lazo. There is a great sense of community and energy for church planting!
- ❖ **WRPI: Practical Theology** – Last fall I had the opportunity to teach the Practical Theology course in our Western Region Pastor's Institute. This was more fun than I imagined and I truly enjoyed the weekly interaction with 9 students. Pastor Louis DeLuca assumed responsibility for the next course. The WRPI continues to be a great way to train up local elders, pastors and church leaders.
- ❖ **CPLF/National CM Team** – I participated in the Church Planting Leadership Forum with Ed Stetzer in Nashville in August. It was encouraging to hear how God is working in urban churches and how to engage more strategically for justice. At the CPLF in November, the focus was on ways God is working in rural churches and how to engage more strategically in coaching. Following the Forum, I met for two days with the MC National Church Multiplication Team. This was a great opportunity for collaboration and learning from one another. We also planned out some of the workshops and activities for the Shift National Conference in Fort Wayne next summer.
- ❖ **Nominating Committee for Missionary Church** – Since summer I've been serving on the National Nominating Committee. I stepped in to complete the final year of someone else's term. Our responsibility is to select those who will appear on the ballot at the National Conference next summer for President and GOC members. They've asked me to consider serving another term, so my name will be on the ballot at the National Shift Conference in Fort Wayne this summer.
- ❖ **Trip to Russia in January** – I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Russia for two weeks with John and Naomi Musgrave. Our home church in Bellevue has partnered with church planters in Anapa and Pytigorsk. I had the privilege of coaching the church planters, participating in two elder retreats, and preaching (with translation). It's amazing to see all that God is doing in Russia.
- ❖ **Catalyst Conference (Colorado)** – In March I headed to northern Colorado to partner with the Crossway Chapel Network of churches and to speak at their Catalyst Conference. This is a "catalyst" for future church planting teams in the region. The theme was ***Multiply!*** with an emphasis on the importance of multiplying disciples, leaders, groups and churches.



Once again, we are so grateful for your partnership together in starting and strengthening churches!

Dave

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