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CSBC Church Starting

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678 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA 93710, 559.256.0863, Fax: 866.279.4659, www.csbc.com

“Looking away to Jesus . . .”

By Joe De Leon

In times like these when we have an abundance of “Chicken Littles” crying out the woes of our world, we must do as the writer of Hebrews says: *“Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2*

If we do not look away to Jesus, we will be torn by confusion and discouragement. Though things do not look good, our cause has not changed and our Lord has not called for retreat – but to be on the offensive and not looking to the problems. We are to despise the woe and shame, yes, even to weather them and not let them have an effect on our race. Surely we are to make all preparation for the task as the writer says: *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1*

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Basic and Mentor Training for 2009

Basic Training for church starters equips starting teams with the necessary tools for effectively starting new congregations. Church starting is the most effective means for penetrating communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Basic Training helps starters explore the strategic issues of a church starting process and assists them in developing a customized strategy for planting healthy, reproducing churches.

Who should attend?

1. The church starter
2. The spouse of the starter
3. The mentor or sponsoring church leadership
4. The church starting team
5. Directors of Missions

“Church starting is the most effective means for penetrating communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

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1st Preview Service for South Bay Church

By Filipe Santos

“Many people responded with commitments, including five people who said they were committing their lives to Jesus for the very first time.”

Wow, we had an incredible morning! There were 175 people at South Bay Church’s 1st Preview Service. It was so exciting to see people from many different nations, faith levels, and backgrounds all together. All this is a dream coming true for those of us who moved across the country to help launch South Bay Church.

Our goal for this morning was 100 adults and God definitely did more than we hoped. The Kid’s Ministry (BayKids) was exciting, the volunteers were incredible servants, and God was exalted in the main service!

Many people responded with commitments, including five people who said they were committing their lives to Jesus for the very first time!

It is so amazing to think that more and more people will have the opportunity to hear the most powerful message on Earth in a way they can relate to.

Thank you to all who have prayed, given, and served to make this happen. There’s so much more ahead, but we’re anxiously anticipating the day when thousands of people from every nation in the Silicon Valley will find the joy and peace of living life in relationship with Jesus Christ.



South Bay Church 1st preview service

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What is the anticipated outcome?

The church starting team will gain:

1. A draft of a vision statement.
2. A rudimentary list of focused values.
3. A draft of a mission statement.
4. A prayer team enlistment strategy.
5. A beginning plan for evangelism.
6. A potential church systems design.
7. A flowchart of critical mileposts.

Date	Event	Location	Local contact
January 23-24, 30-31	Basic Training 1—Hispanic	Bay Area	Joe Robledo 408.224.5357 jrobledo@csbc.com
May 29-30, June 5-6	Basic Training I — English	First Baptist Church 9280 Maple Ave Hesperia	Rick Curtis 661.273.8917 rcurtis@hdba.net

For additional information and registration, please contact:
Howard Burkhart, Basic and Mentor Training Coordinator
707.746.8782

[E-mail Howard Burkhart](mailto:Howard.Burkhart@csbc.com)

By Josias Robledo

Crossing bridges and handing out Bibles have to do with church planting. Members of Iglesia Bautista Monte Sinai in San Rafael, smile as they open a new box of Bibles given to Language Church Starting missionary Joe Robledo.

Donald Aguirre knows bridges; he crosses the Golden Gate twice a week for this new congregation. It is sponsored by Primera Iglesia Bautista, San Francisco. Pastor Planter Donald told Robledo that the group had their first public service Sunday, November 9. Pray for the volunteers to continue to be ready to receive all new visitors, and that the Gospel reaches many.



Joe Robledo distributes Bibles

Planter Pastor David Lozada of a new start in San Leandro celebrates attendance of more than 80 at Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel. The building space is full at the East Bay Baptist Association location. He tells Joe Robledo that he needs more space. What a great problem to have! Pray that we find a larger location to fill up.



Pastor David Lozada and members of Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel

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We cannot expect to win the race if we do not make the necessary preparations. We find encouragement in those who have gone before us and purify ourselves to make sure that nothing keeps us from running with endurance to the end.

This year we have done well in new church plants and I am so thankful to the faithful group of strategists and specialists – you have been working very hard and continue to run with endurance.

As we keep our focus on Jesus for this next year, let us lay aside all encumbrances so we can run faithfully and complete the race set before us.

As of the end of November 2008, we have reported 125 new works. Our goal of 120 has been met even before the end of the year. Good work to all those involved in church starting. There have been 130 new works reported in the past 12 months.

Where is your faith?

By Jason P. Franklin

Luke 8:22-25

"One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, Let us go across to the other side of the lake. So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. And they went and woke him, saying, Master, Master, we are perishing! And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, Where is your faith? And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

A bit more than three years ago God called me to plant a church in Westwood, California (that's Northern California, not Los Angeles). The past three years have seen some high points and low points. We have seen attendance over 50 where as now it's down to just three families. I have at times been intensely depressed and discouraged. This is not going at all as I had planned.

I had begun to wonder, not about the call to come up here, but about a possible reason behind the call. Maybe God brought me here to gain experience in some other area to do something else somewhere else. I even began to look at other options. Then I read Luke 8:22-25.

Jesus had climbed into a boat with his disciples and told them they all would cross the lake. When the storm came, the disciples lost hope. After rebuking the storm, Jesus simply asked the disciples, "Where is your faith?" Jesus had told them they would cross the lake, not *attempt* to cross the lake. Unpleasant as the storm was it had absolutely no bearing on whether they would cross the lake or not. Where was their faith?

As unpleasant as the storms of my life may have been, they have absolutely no bearing on whether this church will be planted or not. God has called me to Westwood to plant a church. So things haven't gone the way I expected. Where's my faith?

Too many pastors of evangelical churches (SBC and not) leave a church after only a couple of years. Things get difficult (or were difficult from the start), storms rage, things aren't going the way they thought they should go. They begin to look for greener pastures. That is not biblical. What has God called you to? The storm is raging. The boat is floundering. You feel as though you are perishing. Where is your faith?



*Jason and Jennifer Franklin
Maggie, Abbie, and Amie
Son, Jonathan, not pictured*