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CSBC Church Starting

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Church Starting Group: 678 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA 93710 559.256.0863, www.csbc.com

"No, he really loves Jesus"

By Joe De Leon

Most Monday morning greetings come with an attached question: "... and how was your weekend?"

Thank you for asking. Let me share with you one of my weekends. It started with the installation of a new pastor in a location with great potential. I was privileged to preach the installation sermon. A bilingual pastor is reflective of the community, and by the grace of God this church will be reaching their community for His glory.

As the weekend continued, we worshiped in an East Bay church, and what a joy it was. I was reminded of my early years of ministry. When we greeted the pastor, he shared that their pianist was ill, so we were going to sing acappella. I shared that my wife is a pianist and would be happy to play for the worship service. I was then even more warmly welcomed to the church. In the past, I have been called as pastor because she played the piano. She is a true helpmate.

Please see *he loves Jesus* on page 2

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

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"If God forgives our sins, what happens to the sins we commit after our conversion?"

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

Congregations find new digs



Pastor Brian Chandler

Discovery Church was started in November 2006 in Vacaville by Brian Chandler, his family, and two other families. He had a couple of vision-casting nights with about 36 adults attending. He shared the vision God put in his heart to reach those who are far from the Lord and those who don't have a church home.

Out of those meetings 16 families committed to join a launch team to start this new work for the Lord. In January 2007, the team started meeting Sunday nights for leadership training, vision-casting, prayer and worship.

Two preview services in March drew 102 people each. The launch Sunday was Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007, at Vaca Peña Middle School, where 156 people attended.

In the first year many people came to know the Lord and 20 people were baptized in members' backyard pools.

New Hope relocates, Discovery moves in
By Sally Miller Wyatt/Reporter Correspondent "The Reporter," Vacaville

What happens when one door closes? A window of opportunity opens.

At least that's what occurred when the congregation of New Hope Christian Fellowship moved into a brand-new building last month, completing a plan set in motion more than five years ago.

New Hope's move left a vacant space at 730 E. Main St., and that proved to be an opportunity for The Discovery Church.

"We were basically a 'church in a box,'" explained Discovery Pastor Brian Chandler. The fledgling church, founded on Easter 2007, had been holding Sunday services at Vaca Peña Middle School. After services, "all the chairs, screens, projection units, everything" would be bundled and packed into a trailer and hauled away by truck.

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Lunch was with one of our church planter strategists and one of the new converts from the people-group with which he works. As we shared, we discussed the message of the morning service. The question this brand new believer brought up was that if God forgives our sins, "what happens with the sins we commit after our conversion to faith in Christ?" WOW, what an opportunity to share the difference between salvation by grace and by works. We talked about how Mohamed, as he died, did not know what allah would do with him. He had no assurance. But Jesus gives us assurance of our salvation by faith.

As we shared, I made the comment that our church planter strategist really loved the people group he was working with, but this new believer stopped me and said "No, he really loves Jesus." What a testimony about the quality of our strategists. I praise God for their dedication to our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless them.

In all our efforts to start new work we must not forget that it is based on relationships. Relationship with our Lord and then with the unbeliever and in the case of unreached people groups, it is relating the believer (church) with the unbeliever in actions of kindness and love. This we do to express the love of God to all people, and in God's wonderful grace they become believers.

Basic Training from page 1

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
March 27-28 and April 3-4	Basic Training 1 – English	New Hope Church of Pensacitos 10330 Carmel Mountain Rd San Diego	Howard Burkhart 707.746.8782 E-mail Howard Burkhart
May 1-2, 8-9	Basic Training 1 – English	Bay Area TBD	Howard Burkhart
May 29-30, June 5-6	Basic Training 1 – English	First Baptist Church 9280 Maple Ave Hesperia	Rick Curtis 661.273.8917 E-mail Rick Curtis

For additional information and registration, please contact:

Howard Burkhart, Basic and Mentor Training Coordinator

707.746.8782

[E-mail Howard Burkhart](#)

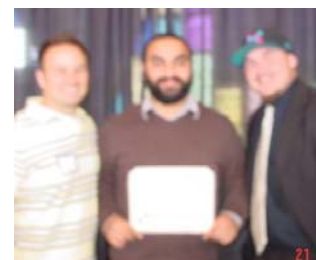
New and newly affiliated congregations receive recognition

The Church Starting Group on behalf of California Southern Baptist Convention presents each new or newly affiliated congregation with a Certificate of Partnership. Below are a few of the testimonies we have received from those who have presented certificates to our new churches.

Thomas Blackwell, African-American Church Starting strategist, presents a certificate to Pastor Victor Forkland of Lakewood Church International, Long Beach.



Dennis Fredricks, DOM of Sacramento Association, delivers the certificate to Lifepoint Christian Fellowship, Diamond Springs. “The church was very excited, supportive and appreciative. I extended congratulations to LCF on behalf of CSBC and thanked them for being part of a team reaching people for Christ in California. I thanked them for their support of the Cooperative Program.”



Lawrence Edwards, African-American Church Starting strategist, presents a certificate to Pastor Marwan Aboul-Zelof and his administrator, Richie Vanburen, of The Path, San Diego.

New digs from page 2

But now Discovery has a permanent home, thanks to that window of opportunity first opened by New Hope's pastor, Ben Randall, on Christmas Eve a year ago. That's when some Discovery Church members were in Andrews Park, handing out turkey dinners and gifts to the homeless, working with a Christian group that has prayed for and fed the needy at the park on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons for eight years.

On this particular occasion, New Hope's Pastor Randall was among the volunteers. "He mentioned to some members of our congregation that New Hope would be moving and he suggested that 'If your pastor wants a church, to come here,'" said Chandler. Despite growing from a congregation of about 13 to more than 80 in just over a year, Discovery Church wasn't actually looking for a building.

"We're a very young church; it's almost impossible to get loans before a church is three years old," Chandler said. "But God orchestrated this. It's a miracle at this point. ... We're growing as a church body, and God must have great things in store for us." Chandler is particularly pleased with the church's Main Street location because it is so close to Andrews Park, where members will continue to minister to the homeless.

Over at New Hope, meanwhile, Randall believes in a few miracles himself. New Hope conducted its first services at 4910 Allison Parkway on Dec. 21. "It all came together beautifully," he said. But getting to that point "has been a long journey," he conceded. The congregation of 400 to 500 members has been working toward this goal for "at least five years, and we've undergone a number of difficult challenges."

It started back in 2003. New Hope had already outgrown its East Main Street location and wanted to move to a larger, existing building in the industrial park on Allison Parkway. But the church bumped up against Vacaville zoning policies that prevented it from moving into areas zoned for industrial or commercial use. The city agreed to review the policies, but then an industrial park business owner and several nearby residents also protested. It took several years to resolve the issues, but eventually New Hope was permitted to build its 20,000-foot facility on seven acres. Randall is proud of the building, but he is "even more proud of the work and commitment of the congregation" to see it through to fruition. Many congregation members volunteered their time and resources to make it a reality. "We had professionals come in to do certain things, such as air-conditioning, heating, sprinklers and the like, but there were an incredible number of people who stepped up and gave of their resources and time to actually help build the structure," Randall said.

New Hope also received a surprise last August when Pastor Dave Patterson took his congregation from The Father's House to the New Hope construction site one Sunday for a joint prayer vigil. They also brought a generous gift: a check for \$130,000. "It brought me to my knees," Pastor Randall said. "It allowed us to complete construction of our building."

Despite a difficult economy and so many fits and starts, New Hope held services in its new facility just in time for Christmas. "Yes, 2008 did come with its difficulties and some will carry over into the new year, but the gospel said there is peace in the midst of difficult times, an oasis in dry land," Randall said. And, perhaps, a few windows of opportunity.