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CSBC Church Starting

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

Great Job, Church Starting Group!!

by Joe De Leon

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In the past 17 months you have been instrumental in starting 153 new churches in California. Of these, 23 are African-American, 48 Anglo and 82 language churches. God is honoring your hard work. We are all humbled to think that God would allow us to be part of this great ministry. As you can see from the numbers we are on target for new church starts in 2008. Praise His Name.

As I was reading C.H. Spurgeon recently, I noticed these words of encouragement to church planters.

"A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time." Isaiah 60:22.

"Works for the Lord often begin on a small scale and they are none the worse for this. Feebleness educates faith, brings God near, and wins glory for his name. Prize promises of increase. Mustard seed is the smallest among seeds, and yet it becomes a tree-like plant, with branches which lodge the birds of heaven. We may begin with one and that 'a little one,' and yet it will 'become a thousand.' The Lord is great at the multiplication table. How often did he say to his lone servant, 'I will multiply thee'? Trust in the Lord, ye ones and twos; for he will be in the midst of you if you are gathered in his name.

"A small one." What can be more despicable in the eyes of those who count heads and weigh forces! Yet this is the nucleus of a great nation. Only one star shines out at first in the evening, but soon the sky is crowded with countless lights.

"Trust in the Lord, ye ones and twos; for he will be in the midst of you if you are gathered in his name."

"Nor need we think the prospect of increase to be remote, for the promise is, 'I Jehovah will hasten it in his time.' There will be no premature haste, like that which we see at excited meetings; it will be all in due time; but yet there will be no delay. When the Lord hastens, his speed is glorious. "'And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.' John 12:32.

"Come, ye workers, be encouraged. You fear that you cannot draw a congregation. Try the preaching of a crucified, risen, and ascended Saviour; for this is the greatest 'draw' that was ever yet manifested among men. What drew you to Christ but Christ? What draws you to him now but his own blessed self? If you have been drawn to religion by anything else, you will soon be drawn away from it; but Jesus has held you, and will hold you even to the end. Why, then, doubt his power to draw others? Go with the name of Jesus to those who have hitherto been stubborn, and see if it does not draw them.

"No sort of man is beyond this drawing power. Old and young, rich and poor, ignorant and learned, depraved or amiable all men shall feel the attractive force. Jesus is the one magnet. Let us not think of any other. Music will not draw to Jesus, neither will eloquence, logic, ceremonial, or noise. Jesus himself must draw men to himself; and Jesus is quite equal to the work in every case. Be not tempted by the quackeries of the day; but as workers for the Lord work in his own way, and draw with the Lord's own cords. Draw to Christ, and draw by Christ, for then Christ will draw by you."

One church planter's story – Emmanuel Star Lee

By Tracy Lee



Gary Lee and his wife, Tracy, are church planters in Oakland. They started Urban Grace in Emeryville in August 2007, which is a gathering of Christ-followers who seek to serve the East Bay, which includes: Berkeley, Oakland, Emeryville, Piedmont, Richmond, Albany, Alameda, San Francisco, Fremont, and many other neighboring cities.

Led by Pastor Gary Lee, Urban Grace offers many ministries for people of all ages and walks of life who are looking to strengthen their relationship with Christ. The mission of Urban Grace is to delight in the Triune God and to make gospel disciples who love Jesus Christ, love others, and declare the supremacy of God to all people. Please see more information about Urban Grace at www.UrbanGraceEastBay.com.

The Lee's welcomed their third child, Emmanuel, January 17. Below is their story of God's grace in action.

“For the Greater Progress – Emmanuel Lee’s Story”

Twenty-six days, 29 nurses, 17 chest x-rays, nine pediatric cardiologists, four major heart medications, three ambulance rides, two chaplains, and one whopping open-heart surgery later, Emmanuel is finally...home!

On March 3rd, I was carrying my six-week old son, Emmanuel, when he suddenly became blue and unconscious. I called 9-1-1 and within seconds, Manny was surrounded by paramedics and transported to the local children's hospital. In the ER, Emmanuel deteriorated into full respiratory arrest. My husband and I prayed fervently for God to revive our precious son. Once stabilized, Manny was transferred to the ICU. Doctors discovered a 10-millimeter hole in Emmanuel's tiny heart, along with an extremely rapid heart rate.

As we painfully wondered when this trial would end, Philippians 1:12-13 gave us one of the best explanations: *“Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment (in this case, Manny's hospitalization) in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else...”* At first, I disliked the bed spot where they placed us, a prominent corner with little privacy. But soon, the Holy Spirit completely changed my attitude. Because Manny was in such a strategic location, I couldn't help but hear about every child's condition there. How wonderful that I could then pray for and talk to these families about Him!

Nine-year-old Tina was ensconced in a separate room when Manny arrived next to her. Tina contracted E. coli after eating contaminated spinach and had to have emergency surgery on her intestines. On Good Friday, I saw her return from her first outing in a wheelchair and ventured to give her a children's Gospel tract. By God's grace, the next day, He allowed me to share the true story of Easter using the

See page 3 - Emmanuel Lee

“...within seconds, Manny was surrounded by paramedics and transported to the local children's hospital.”

Emmanuel Lee

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wonderful “Resurrection Eggs” with Tina and her five-year-old roommate. As they excitedly opened the eggs to find a symbolic surprise in each one, it was easy for them to identify with Christ as Sympathizer of their every hurt, for these girls well knew what it was like to experience tremendous pain. As the visitation hour ended, both girls prayed to know Jesus!

Then there was Adam, a teenager on a ventilator wheeled right next to Manny. His parents frantically followed the helicopter from their car to the hospital. He had attempted suicide. If anyone needed salvation, it was this boy! I prayed for an opportunity to know this family. God answered my prayer when I returned later that evening and saw Adam’s parents in the waiting room. When they saw me, Adam’s father asked, “What does your son’s name mean?” How convenient to tell them Emmanuel means “God (is) with us”! I had the privilege to pray for them and visit Adam. I told him there are only two ways to live when it comes to where we will spend eternity and left him a tract (twowaystolive.com). Please pray that Adam and his family are trusting Christ for the abundant life!

The hole now repaired and heart rate under control with medication, Emmanuel recently weighed in at nearly nine pounds. He is finally the size of...a newborn. His cardiologist is pleased by how much progress Manny has made so far. May God receive all the glory for the greater progress of His Gospel!

“What does your son’s name mean?”

Training available for church planters

CSBC Church Starting Group

Summer	Basic Training 1 - English	Hesperia	Rick Curtis - 661.273.8917 dom@hdba.net
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Basic Training is an 18-hour Church Planting training event. Fifteen units are designed to help the church planting team develop a vision and mission statement, evangelism, small group and leadership development components to the church planting process; several other topics are covered as well. This training concentrates on facilitating individual church planting team work time to develop rough drafts of the various components for their own church start. When possible the church planter is encouraged to attend with 3-5 team members.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Howard Burkhart at 707.746.8782 or hburkhart@csbc.com.

If you need to schedule Basic Training for Chinese or Korean planters, please contact:
 Chinese Basic Training 1: Andrew Chan, 626.359.1839 or achan@csbc.com
 Korean Basic Training 1: Song Sik Kim, 714.871.2828 or skim@csbc.com

California Church Starting Strategists are here to help

California Southern Baptist Convention has numerous individuals throughout California who are waiting to hear from you about planting a church. Whether you are the planter, the sponsoring church, a mentor for church starters, or at the “what’s church planting all about?” stage, contact the Church Starting Strategist nearest you for more information.

African-American Church Starting Strategists:

Thomas Blackwell

Serving Crescent Bay-W Los Angeles, Los Angeles & Long Beach Harbor areas
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