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CSBC Church Starting

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

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"It was like he had come this way just to give me a word of wisdom on my way up."



A Conversation with Wisdom

by Joe De Leon

As we walk along life's way, we have a need to converse with those who have walked that way before. It makes for good company, especially if one is a learner. One's life is enriched by the journey.

I once traveled up a hill in an off-road vehicle trying to conquer the mountain. I thought no man had ever been that way before; I must be the first to meet this challenge. It was tough, but I could not and would not give up even if I had to push the vehicle up the hill. I had something to prove to myself and the world.

To my amazement, about a mile or so up the hill I met someone in an old beat-up Jeep. It looked like it had been through a war; broken lights, worn tires, dented sides, dirty and sputtering. The driver was also a mess.

I stopped to talk and hear his story. He had gone my way many years before and was on his way back down. He shared his thrilling experience with pleasure. It was like he had come this way just to give me a word of wisdom on my way up.

Just a few weeks ago one of our old-timers started mentoring some young men. It has cost him, not only the years of hard work but even now it is costing him as he provides this valuable conversation with those who are just starting their journey. He is not being reimbursed, not even for the copies he has to make of material he has written.

I am impressed by those who are willing to stop and have a conversation with wisdom. Wisdom is always ready to converse.

The Baptist Association Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment



The most powerful force on Earth is the life-changing message of Jesus Christ proclaimed by His church. As it moves into a new century of existence, the local Baptist association is positioned to assist its churches in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission. As churches are faithful to their calling, and as the Baptist association stands with them, lives will be touched and our world will be changed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Having celebrated the 300-year anniversary of the Baptist association in America in 2007, the association must now seize its divine moments in 2008. Divine moments require urgency of action. Let's not miss them!

Throughout the past 300 years in the Baptist association, one common thread has always existed: assisting the local church in its task to fulfill the Great Commission. The Baptist association stands now at a key moment in its history as it moves with urgency to assist local churches in accomplishing this great task.

Even though Associational Emphasis Week is officially May 18-24, your church can celebrate with your association anytime during the year.

A California association, Crescent Bay-West Los Angeles, was featured on one of the North American Mission Board bulletin inserts provided to celebrate this emphasis.

To order quantities of posters, inserts and clipart for your Associational Emphasis event, please call NAMB toll-free at 866-407-6262; or browse (www.namb.net/aew) to download materials. If your congregation is planning a celebration at another time, it is advisable to order materials now.

Here are some ways churches, pastors and individuals could show appreciation to the association and/or Director of Missions:

- Call and pray with the director of missions;
- Send a handwritten note of appreciation to the DOM;
- Send a letter, on behalf of the congregation, in appreciation for the association and the DOM;
- Take your DOM and his staff to lunch;
- Play a round of golf with the DOM or treat him and/or his family to a favorite activity;
- Lead your congregation to pray for your association and the DOM.

*"...lives will be touched
and our world will be
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This also would be an excellent time to acknowledge and pray for the 31 CSBC associations (<http://www.csbc.com/associationdirectory>) across our state and the directors of missions (<http://www.csbc.com/domdirectory>).

Remember to celebrate the association!

Church of Open Doors

by Ivan Mileyev

There was a joyous celebration Saturday, April 19, at the opening of the new Slavic Baptist Church of Open Doors in Fresno as they begin their ministry at a new location, Sierra Heights Baptist Church. The first church service was held September 16, 2007, in the California Baptist Foundation offices. The congregation outgrew the space available and Sierra Heights graciously offered their facilities and partnership to the new Slavic congregation. Among the speakers at this opening celebration were Rick Johnstone (Director of Missions of Mid-Valley Southern Baptist Association), Anthony Ahaev (specialist for language church planting of California Southern Baptist Convention), Pastor Michael Tynikov, and Nikolay Bugriyev (president of Slavic Pacific Evangelical Baptist Association) and Boris Malanchuk (missions' director for PCSEBA).

Church of Open Doors was started with the joint efforts of California Southern Baptist Convention and Pacific Slavic Baptist Association. Currently, the pastor is Ivan Mileyev (language church-planting strategist in California). The church is strategically located in north Fresno where there was previously no Slavic congregation.

At the first service in their new facility, Nikolay Bugriyev in his opening word, read Isaiah 54:1-4. He mentioned that William Carey, upon his return from India, influenced hundreds of young people when he told them of the need for missionaries to go and start new churches and for the gospel to be preached. Bugriyev explained Christ's command in Matthew 28:19 in which He calls people to go and preach the gospel.

Brother Bugriyev cited a recent statistic noting that the rate of churches closing in America is three times faster than the rate at which they are being started. He talked about the importance of starting new churches, and that the Lord will provide opportunities to do so. His wish for the Church of Open Doors is for them to grow and be bold in preaching the gospel. He also wishes that prayer, love and faith will abide in the church and for the Light to spread throughout the whole world as a result of their ministry.

A second speaker, Anthony Ahaev, read from Matthew 16:18: "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." We are commanded to go and teach the nations. Christ said He would build the church. The church is not the nation of Israel, Russia, Ukraine, America or Mexico, but the bride of Christ. Christ as the bridegroom is preparing a place for His bride. He is preparing that place and then He will come to bring the church to Himself. But before that occurs, the church has a commission: they should not expect people to come to church, but should invite them. To go and teach what He has taught -- this is the church of Christ.

After the service, Pastor Ivan Mileyev and his wife, Yelena, invited everyone to share a meal.



From left to right: Nikolay Bugriyev, Michael Tynikov, Anthony Ahaev, Boris Malanchuk, and Ivan Mileyev

"The congregation outgrew the space available and Sierra Heights graciously offered their facilities."



From right to left: Yelena Mileyev, Michael Tynikov, Victoria Ahaev, Anthony Ahaev, Nickolay Bugriev, Galina Bugriev, Vera Tkachenko, Konstantin Tkachenko, and Ivan Mileyev

Training available for church planters

CSBC Church Starting Group

June 13-14, 20-21	Basic Training 1 - English	El Camino Baptist 2805 El Camino Sacramento	Howard Burkhart
Summer	Basic Training 1 - English	Hesperia	Rick Curtis 661.273.8917 dom@hdba.net

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 teamwork 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



Pray for the new work in Watsonville

Josias Robledo (at right in the top photo) CSBC Language Church Starting Strategist, is working with a new work in Watsonville, Iglesia del Rey. Robledo gave Bibles from the Carter Family, a retired couple with "a deep longing for our nation to turn to Jesus" who are helping with that effort by providing Bibles to new congregations.

Pastor Felipe Piña and his family ask that you pray for them as they reach many unbelievers for Christ. During the first quarter of 2008 they have baptized four new believers and started a weekly bread distribution ministry thanks to the generosity of Watsonville's Safeway.

Through this ministry they have seen people make professions of faith in Christ and begin to attend church.

California Southern Baptist Convention

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