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CSBC Church Starting

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Church Starting Group, 678 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA 93710, CSBC.COM

ΕΓΩ ΕΦΥΤΕΥΣΑ

By Joe De Leon

“I planted” When Paul said these words, he was expressing the work of a church planter as an interdependent process, a work that depends on the efforts of several people. Paul was not alone when he planted churches. In fact, we see him accompanied by fellow servants such as Timothy, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, Epaphroditus, Tychicus, Uodias, Syntyche, and Clement. He calls them co-workers, true yoke-fellows, fellow soldiers and fellow slaves.

As we read the letters of Paul to the churches, we say that he is a great disciple maker and teacher of the new churches, but we cannot overlook his great evangelist and planter attributes. He is the one that was “provoked” and could not contain himself in the city of Athens, but contended for the faith among the Athenians. He was willing to be a curse from Christ for the sake of his kinsmen according to flesh. As we read these words, we feel his passion for souls.

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A season of transition

By Josh Smith

The Bible clearly says that God has given the church gifts to prepare the people of God, to do the work of God, on behalf of God, for the edifying of the body of Christ, so that we can come together in the unity of faith. It is evident that God has a purpose for our team. Our responsibility is to be thoroughly equipped to fulfill His purpose. God will only use us to the extent of our availability and commitment. As we go forward, I encourage each African-American Church Starting team member and church planting churches to move ahead and become a willing servant so that we can be used by God to reap the harvest among the 33 million lost and unchurched people in our State.

Church planters are only as strong as their church core group. A visionary church starter is one who is willing to transition into various methods of

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“Our responsibility is to be thoroughly equipped to fulfill His purpose.”

Training available for church planters

CSBC Church Starting Group

May 2-3, 9-10	Basic Training 1 - Spanish	Sacramento	Sal Fernandez 916.647.9054 sfernandez@csbc.com
June 13-14, 20-21	Basic Training 1 - English	Sacramento	Howard Burkhart
Spring	Mentor Training - Spanish	TBA	
Summer	Basic Training 1 - English	Hesperia	Rick Curtis 661.273.8917 dom@hdba.net

Basic Training is an 18 hour Church Planting training event. There are 15 units that 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. There are several other topics that are covered. This training is heavy on facilitating individual church planting teamwork time to develop rough drafts of these 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, 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

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“I planted” he said, but was not willing to take the credit for the work done, but was convinced that it was the efforts of many and of course, the grace of God that was giving the increase.

As I look at the church plants in California, I notice that the more people involved in the first years of the plant, the quicker the work grows. When I find minimal participation by other believers, it seems to be a long time in getting started and growing.

My suggestion to all church planters is that you find your Timothy, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, Epaphroditus and Tychicus. Yes, even Uodias and Syntyche for they are true laborers. Any problems arising from the fellow workers are just an opportunity to show the grace of God in problem solving. “For it is God who is giving the increase.” Isaiah 26:3



We are starting churches in California

New congregation in the Bay area

By Josias Robledo

As a CSBC Language Church Starting Strategist, it is my privilege to work with pastors in the Bay Area. I am now working in Daly City with Pastor Hector Henriquez. I was able to present two cases of Bibles from the Carter family.

The Carter family is a retired couple with “a deep longing for our nation to turn to Jesus.” They are helping with that effort by providing Bibles to new congregations.

Please pray for this new work in Daly City.



Daly City Core Group led by Pastor Hector Henriquez

A new Romanian church in Northern California

By Howard Burkhardt

I took Pastor John Bilti, a Romanian pastor from Sacramento, to meet with a potential host church for a new Romanian work in Oroville. A few months ago, John and I met with Lyle Paul, former DOM of Sierra Butte Association, and he recommended the Thermalito Baptist Church in Oroville as a place to house the new Romanian church. The congregation has been meeting in one of the member’s homes and is now ready to move into a church facility.

Previously, John and I met with the pastor of the church in Oroville and he was excited about the possibility of sharing the facility. When we went back to meet a few of the people from the church, we were expecting about ten people and ended up with about 35. It was a most wonderful evening. Pastor Bilti did a great job.

Thermalito Baptist of Oroville is primarily a senior adult church with no children. As we walked into the building, an older lady told us she had already put together 10 crayon packets and had them laid out on the back table and a few of the people had brought toys, all for the Romanian church to use. They had prepared these materials before we had said anything to them about the possibility of sharing their facilities. After John spoke, one of the questions was if his group has children and teenagers. He responded that that is a priority for him and that he had children and teenagers - the older people actually applauded and were ecstatic!

I have known John for a couple of years and he has led his church to grow from 30 to about 150 in attendance in about 3 years. They recently relocated the Sacramento church to First Baptist, Rancho Cordova, because they had outgrown their previous location. Although they do not own the property at Rancho Cordova, they paid more than \$20,000 to remodel the old and previously unused sanctuary.

They are scheduled to have their first service mid-April 2008.

“...the older people actually applauded and were ecstatic!”

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Grand opening of Orangecrest

By Pastor Josh De La Rosa

We had no idea what was going to happen. We were surprised! About 20 minutes before the service - people started showing up. It was clear that we needed to add chairs so we added about 30 more to accommodate everyone.

We had 146 in attendance which was a shock to all of our core team. There were 71 first-time guests, 30 of whom were unchurched. They came as a result of a personal invitation from our core team. Others came as a result of our advertising.

We were grateful for the help we received from two of our sponsor churches, Church in the Valley at Diamond Bar and New Hope Community in El Monte. They helped with KidZone and our after-service activities.

The most exciting part of the day was reading through the Welcome Cards: five guests wanted to learn how to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, five wanted to know how to grow as a Christian and five said they wanted to help with upcoming events and services.

I'm reminded that God has been working out His plan in the lives of people and what a joy it has been to share in His work. I'm grateful for all of you and your partnership in the mission to help all people to know Jesus Christ and made fully devoted followers of Him.

Please keep praying, especially for those guests who were unchurched. Also, if you could ask God to grant me wisdom as we try to involve more people in the ministry and now reorganize to support the growth.

California Southern Baptist Convention

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Grand opening of Orangecrest

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healthy reproducing church starts to accomplish great things for the Lord. There is a need for every member to be consecrated, trained, and enlisted in active service. We are obligated to be the best team members possible by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our relationship with Jesus Christ places upon us an inescapable obligation to make church starting a priority. We have an obligation to use our time and talents for the glory of God and to Support His work with our skills and ability.

It is time to transition. It is my prayer and desire to create an atmosphere of cooperation that is conducive to the Spirit of God moving on the hearts of the people of God. Change can bring new insight, creativity and fresh ideas to church starting ministry. Change can also give church planters an opportunity to utilize their abilities and gifts.

I am also aware that not everyone is excited about change but if there is no change, there is no growth. I believe that God has so much in store for the African-American Church Starting Team and it is up to us to get in position and allow God to make the necessary changes in order for us to accomplish His purpose.

Let us trust God to continue to empower us as we start healthy reproducing churches throughout the State of California.