

2020 • • • • • VISION

There have been a lot of church planting developments within our fellowship over the last couple of years. I trust this article will encourage, challenge and inspire you to consider how the Lord would have you become involved in God's church planting initiatives.

PRESENT STATUS OF CHURCH PLANTING IN ACOP

Today ACOP is connected with 12 church plants. Some churches are receiving funding from the Daniel & Helen Breen Memorial Endowment Fund, while others are not. To date nine churches have benefited from the Breen Fund. Church plants that we are not supporting out of this fund are as important to ACOP as those that are and are recognized by us as much as a plant that is receiving something from the fund. We want to encourage church planters and their fledgling churches as much as possible. The Breen Fund has also paid for a number of people to take church planter assessments.

There are two potential church plants that we are aware of starting in 2012. I know that there will be others come forward before the year is out. These are exciting days with a growing interest in advancing the kingdom of God through church planting.

Recently I was at Eston College and I was thrilled to see the interest in church planting amongst the students. There is a genuine desire to see the Kingdom of God come on earth as it is in heaven amongst the young adults. I know that there may be several new models and things might look very different to the traditional style of church we have now, but I am confident that no matter what model is used, the next generation will build strong reproducing churches that are determined to see their communities, nation and world transformed.

CURRENT CHURCH PLANTING PROJECTS

Rock Church – Chilliwack, BC

Phil St. Jean is the church planter; the church is 3 years old.

Grace Harbour – Kelowna, BC

Under the leadership of Brad Gamble, this church is two years old and is targeting the biker and disenfranchised community. Grace Harbour is planted out of the House of the Risen Son in Winnipeg.

Airdrie, AB

Ben Kostamo is planting this church; it's just a few months old and is working with a house church model.

Living Springs Church – Calgary, AB

Danny Delong and Lindsay Hodges are giving leadership to this work. While this is not a church plant in the strict definition, Danny and Lindsay have taken a church that was in the process of deciding their future, and have offered their leadership in re-defining their vision. They have about 40 people and are endeavouring to build a missions/missional emphasis into the DNA.

Wheatland Community Church – Weyburn, SK

Pastor Ed Fisher is a church planter at heart and is giving leadership to this work. The church was planted in September this year with the start of public Sunday meetings. Wheatland is planted under the leadership of the Regina Apostolic Church and the South Saskatchewan District.

Valley Well Church – Brandon, MB

Sean and Laurie Jennings are working hard to get this church established. It is a recent plant, starting in May 2011. They are targeting the biker community and disenfranchised but are also endeavouring to keep the net big enough to include a greater cross section of the community. Valley Well was planted out of the House of the Risen Son in Winnipeg.

El Shaddai Ministries – Winnipeg, Man

Pastor Roberto Sanchez is overseeing the planting of several churches in Western Canada that are reaching the Hispanic communities. The services are in Spanish, and at this time they are planting one English speaking church. They have planted churches in Edmonton, AB, Red Deer, AB, Brandon, MB, Winkler, MB, and Thompson, MB. They are using both the traditional church model as well as a house church model, depending on the situation they are in.

Living Hope Fellowship – Angus, ON.

Marius Goguen planted this church 2 years ago in Southern Ontario. They are growing and in the process of purchasing a building. The Southern Ontario District is giving leadership to this plant.

Quebec

Bruce and Lauren Lungren have moved to Quebec with the intentions of planting a church. They have projected a fall 2012 start date. At the moment, Bruce and Lauren are sent out under the Missions Committee, however they are also in relationship with the CP Committee because of their intent to plant a church.

Edmunston, NB

This church was planted this year under the leadership of Robert Lapointe. The church and Robert are relating to the Quebec district as Robert is originally from that district and French is the preferred language for him and the church.

Emmaus Church – Seattle, Washington, USA

Gary and Molly Chupik are the lead planters in this work. It has been going for 3 years now and they are gathering over 70 people. This church is working with the Seattle Church Planting Network and ACOP is partnering with them. Gary is ordained with ACOP.

THE BREEN FUND

We are so grateful for the amazing generosity and commitment of so many churches, business people and individuals that made the Daniel & Helen Breen Memorial Endowment Fund a reality. To date, we have over two million dollars invested and working for us. We have made a commitment that we would not use the principal amount and will only draw on the interest. After 3 years of investment interest payout, we have been able to establish that an average of \$100,000 per year is available to us for church planting. Another commitment regarding this fund is that we would only finance Canadian church planting and would not use any of the money for out of country church planting projects.

As we consider the number of church planting opportunities that are available to us, we have come to realize that as helpful as the Breen Fund is in accomplishing our objectives, it is not going to be enough. Already we have to pare back the amount that we can give to various works. At this time we are totally maxed out and have no funds available for new projects in 2012.

The reality of this has actually created an objective for me. It is my desire to see a partnership system established within ACOP that will link up potential church planters, church planting churches, districts, business people and others that have a kingdom perspective and want to see church planting increase in our network.

A CHURCH MULTIPLICATION NETWORK

A year ago, the church planting committee wrestled with the overall vision and direction for church planting in ACOP. After a lot of research, discussion and prayer, we

concluded that we should endeavour to establish a church planting network within ACOP.

We feel we will have better success in capturing the imagination of the next generation as well as aid us in the recruitment of new church planters if we are inviting people to be part of planting churches within a network with its own branding, values, goals and objectives.

As a result, we are introducing “20:20 Church Multiplication Network” to you. 20:20 will have its own brand, values, goals and objectives and still function under the banner and leadership of ACOP. Much like AYMI, 20:20 will endeavour to develop its own unique identity, esprit des corps and momentum, while at the same time remaining accountable to ACOP leadership.

PRAYER POINTS

I know that the work ahead of us is great! There are many challenges to planting churches and the risks are high for ministry, for money and other resources. At the same time the dividends are huge. I also know that we are going to need the power of God coupled with His favour and direction. Please pray with me concerning the things noted here. Don't let this be the complete list, but let it be a start.

Pray for:

- The church planters named in this article
 - For their families, their finances, their spiritual lives
- The churches being planted
 - That they would grow, have direction, be encouraged, have faith, work in unity and have vision to transform their communities
- Church planting to be on the radar and part of the vision of every local church
- Many new churches to be planted in 2012
- Those that are considering planting a church right now
 - That they would have the direction of God, have faith, see the opportunities, have a burden to reach their villages, towns, cities for God
- Kenn Parker, the National Director of 20:20 Church Multiplication Network
 - Direction, health and strength, also for continued passion for the harvest and planting churches

I trust this article helps to generate optimism and vision for all who read it. It is my desire and objective to put church planting back on the radar of our local churches and to help stimulate vision and motivation for us all to become involved in advancing the kingdom

of God through the NT model of planting churches that plant churches that plant churches. Jesus, help us to enter this arena by faith and with great vision!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenn Parker', with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Kenn Parker
Director of Church Planting