

Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative

Encouraging and assisting the church planting enterprise, including sequential church planting, in Greater Boston and beyond.

Website: <http://www.egc.org> Click "Ministries and Staff" then click "Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative". Click "Urban Ministry Resources" for a wealth of information and links for urban ministry, in Boston and elsewhere.

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Ralph A. Kee, Editor and GBCPC Facilitator

Front lines

Seeking Grace, Students Flock to New Church

Two years ago, **Russell Schlecht** felt a sudden urge to move to Boston and start a church. 'One day I was in one of my buddy's offices, talking about Boston. I had never been past Texas', Russ says. 'I just felt it in my heart: I'm supposed to go to Boston.' The result is GraceStreet, next door to The Inn at Harvard, which every Sunday evening at 7:15 is bursting with...worship music and students raising their arms in praise of God.....Services are crowded, most of them Harvard students. A service at GraceStreet consists of songs, a ten minute break to socialize, communion, and a sermon by Schlecht – sermons which get rave reviews.....About once a month GraceStreet has a 'compassion service', when congregants make gifts for the local homeless and elderly, in place of the regular sermon....The compassion service is part of the church's larger goal of encouraging its congregants to minister and not just worship. 'We encourage them to think beyond themselves' said Terry Richards, one of the founding members of the church'. The focus on service is appreciated by its Harvard congregants. 'Truth is important but it doesn't matter unless you live it out', said Benjamin T. Littauer '03. Excerpted from The Harvard Crimson Online, **Andrew Campbell**, staff writer. (GraceStreet is a Foursquare Gospel church plant)

Church planter's ponderables

• "In considering the primacy of the church factor, it is worth remembering that the first effect of Christian expansion is not the production of saved or enlightened individuals, but of congregations. Unless it be the Ethiopian eunuch (and even he must have had some institutional form of worship of the God of Israel back home, or what motivated his journey?), it is doubtful whether the New Testament provides a single example of an individual convert, a 'saved individual', left to plough his lonely furrow without family or congregation. The influence of Jesus not only produces group response; it works by means of groups, and is expressed in groups. The influence of Jesus, that is, operates in terms of social relations". The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History, Andrew F. Walls, Orbis 2002 pgs. 10-11.

• James F. Engel and William A. Dyrness speak of "the revolutionary truth that Christian missions is the announcement, embodiment and extension of Christ's reign in the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of the Father". Changing the Mind of Missions: Where Have We Gone Wrong? Engle and Dyrness, InterVarsity Press 2000, pgs. 26-27. GBCPC promotes the planting of churches that *do indeed* announce, embody and extend Christ's reign. The world doesn't need more baneful churches.

▷ **Gathering for prayer** Saturday, March 8, 9:30 – 11:30, entirely devoted to intercession for Boston area church planting. Come for all or part of the morning. If you cannot come, please do e-mail your praises and prayer requests to ralphkee@iuno.com so we can pray for you and rejoice with you!

▷ **Urban Church Planting 101** No academic credit, no registration fee or tuition, no whimps. Just a course of study on urban church planting taught by the GBCPC Facilitator. Syllabus at www.egc.org click on Ministries and Staff, on GBCPC, on Urban Church Planting 101. Sessions Fridays, 1 – 3 PM: March 14, 28, April 11, 25, May 9.

▷ **Salons** Self-mentoring interactive sessions providing a setting for participants to further clarify their own thinking about their church planting or other ministry. Next Salon is Friday, March 7, 1 –3 PM.

Urban Church Planting 101, Salons and Gatherings held at Emmanuel Gospel Center, 2 San Juan St., Boston.

Directions to Emmanuel Gospel Center

Subway: Orange Line to Back Bay. Exit on Dartmouth St, turn left and walk into South End – down Dartmouth crossing Columbus, Warren and Tremont. At Tremont keep going straight ahead onto what becomes W. Dedham. Down W. Dedham one block to Shawmut Ave. Right on Shawmut Ave. one short block to San Juan on your right. Right onto San Juan to 2 San Juan (EGC).

Bus: Silver Line along Washington St. to Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Follow instructions below for car.

Car: I 93 (Southeast Expressway) Exit 18, follow signs to Mass Ave/Roxbury. Turn right onto Mass Ave., go under Boston Medical Center, which spans Mass Ave, cross Harrison Ave, and then turn right onto Washington St. Go 4/10 mile to third traffic light. The very large Cathedral of the Holy Cross is at that corner. At that traffic light turn left, go one block to stop sign. Turn left onto Shawmut Ave. Go one short block and turn right onto San Juan St. 2 San Juan is EGC. Parking is pretty good for in-town Boston.

Church planter, have you considered engaging a coach?

Praxis Center for Church Development www.praxiscenter.org CoachNet www.CoachNet.org
Church Planters Paradise www.church-planting.org Church Multiplication and Training Center
www.cmtcmultiply.org Church Planting Ministries www.plantingministries.org Dynamic Church
Planting International www.DCPL.org New Church Specialties www.newchurchspecialties.org

Urbacad Saturday, April 12, 9 – 12 AM at Cambridgeport Baptist Church, 459 Putnam Ave., Cambridge. Urbacad, the shorten name for Urban Academy coined by **Lowell Bowler** of Dorchester Baptist Church, is the 23 year old leadership development program used by Conservative Baptists and other denominations in several language in greater Boston. Urbacad students and graduates have been instrumental in helping to start a number of new churches, in greater Boston and beyond. **Paul Bothwell**, long time director of Urbacad, will show and teach you how you can profitably use Urbacad in your leadership development ministry. Please RSVP so there is adequate handout materials available. Co-sponsored by Mission to the Americas and GBCPC.

SPACE ISSUES

Space needed

- In **Waltham, The Clinic**, directed by **Perry Polnaszek**, needs a place on Sat., April 12, 10 – 2, to hold their Clinic. touchedtwice@msn.com
- In **Chelsea**, People's AME Church, a congregation that is being rebuilt by **Rev. Viola P. Morris-Buchanan**, needs space, as their present rental space will no longer be available.
- In **South End** (2nd choice, **Cambridge**) Eritrea Orthodox Church, **Neghisti Medhanie**, pastor, needs space for 100 people, willing to share space. 617-5436-0396, 617-703-7788 negisti1@yahoo.com
- In **Providence** space for a new Cambodian church. Contact **Chen Nhar** at 401-223-5453.
- In **Dorchester**, God's House of Restoration needs larger quarters. Contact **Rev. George Brocke, Jr.** at 617-320-2104 or 617-445-1389 or BrockeJr@aol.com
- In **Dorchester/Milton/Quincy**, space for a church plant. Contact **Devis Jean-Jacques** at 617-265-5534.
- In **Dorchester/Mattapan** New Fellowship Christian Ministries needs space for 500 people. Contact **Diane Banton** at 617-282-2638.
- **Dorchester**, Victory Fellowship needs larger space. Contact **Pastor Ramatu Kallon** at 617-288-4766 or VictoryFellowshi@aol.com

Space available

- In **Needham** area: excellent space connected to Whittimore's Christian Bookstore, just off Route 128. Large room to accommodate 150 people, smaller rooms, office space, dedicated entrance, good parking on Sundays. Contact Whittimore's at 781-449-1500.
- In **Somerville, Broadway Winter Hill Baptist Church** is **FOR SALE**. Make firm and convincing offer by April. **Pastor Russell Kent** RhkertiusKent@natscape.net or 617-308-5884 or 617-623-3442.
- In **South Boston**, Saint Matthew and the Redeemer Episcopal Church has space for two new churches. Phone 617-512-2894, leave a message, and **Judith Sandonato** or the church secretary will get back to you.
- In **Hyde Park**. Contact **Rev. David Cius** at P.O. Box 255532, Dorchester 02125 for details.
- In **Dorchester**, possibility of a Spanish language church plant in facility of **Rev. Dennis Duncan**. 617-740-0911.
- In **Brighton**. Contact **Rev. Frimo Cupidon** at efcc4749@hotmail.com or 617-513-3254 (cell).

***Ask Mr. Blew** – the advice column for the sensitive church planter.*

Mr. M. I. Sensible from Saugus writes: I am 78 years old. Am I too old to plant a new church?

Mr. Blew replies: Judy Collins says, "Age adds dimension".

Services GBCPC offers

- **Church planting consulting** – the Facilitator has over 30 years experience in church planting in greater Boston, and is happy to offer whatever help and encouragement he can for the church planting endeavor.
- **Gum Shoes** – Dressed in raincoat, wearing gum shoes and slouch hat, hiding behind dark glasses, the sneaky Facilitator is willing to visit your new church on a Sunday, incognito, as a casual visitor, and notify you a day or so later as to his experience. Were your people friendly or hostile? Was the church easy or impossible to find? Could he find the men's room? Was the church bulletin legible? Did he have to stand up for 45 minutes singing choruses from transparencies he couldn't read? Did the pastor (you) mumble? You get the idea. This not a service for the faint hearted church planter. But if you want to know what a causal drop-in visitor might observe in attending your service, for good or for ill, this is for you. If we don't know what's broken, we can't fix it, now, can we? Contact the Facilitator surreptitiously if he is your Man. (Shades of the Phantom Gourmet!) And be reassured, GBCPC safety nets ever in place, if you have trouble processing Gum Shoes' report, you can always write to *Mr. Blew*.
- **People Band:**
 - Looking for an interim pastorate while preparing for long-term mission work in Europe – **Wayne Earl**, 508-533-6499 www.christianassociates.org GCTS graduate, CCCC credentials, 43, family.

→ New to Boston, **Rev. Uche Ikpa** seeks affiliation for ministry. Fluent in English and Ibo. Seminary graduate. Resume available from her at uche_ikpa@hotmail.com, 617-436-4691 or from GBCPC.

• **Help in getting organized.** Sometimes its nice to have a little help in incorporating the new church with the State of Massachusetts, writing up the Articles of Organization, writing the church constitution and by-laws, etc. GBCPC stands ready to help.

A new resource for us: The Praxis Center for Church Development, **Rev. Tom Johnston**, Executive Director, in Manchester NH. This new ministry will become an invaluable resource for church planting in Greater Boston. www.praxiscenter.org
Boston Foundation's Boston Indicators Report: www.bostonindicators.org A wealth of information about Boston.

Books about Boston

Mapping Boston, edited by Alex Krieger and David Cobb with Amy Turner. A Norman B Leventhal Book. MIT Press 1999.

Bibles, Brahmins and Bosses: A Short History of Boston Thomas H. O'Connor, Boston Public Library Press 1976.

Boston, A Topographical History Walter Muir Whitehill, Belknap Press of Harvard Univ. Press 1959.

Boston: A Geographical Portrait Michael P. Conzen and George K. Lewis, Ballinger Publishing, 1976

Boston's Immigrants: 1840 – 1925, Michael Price and Anthony Mitchell Sammarco, Images of America series, Arcadia 2000.

Cityscapes of Boston: An American City Through Time, Robert Campbell and Peter Vanderwarker, Houghton Mifflin 1992.

The Proper Bostonians: The Witty and Final Word on Boston and Its Institutions Cleveland Amory, E.P.Dutton and Co. 1947.

Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families J. Anthony Lukas, Alfred Knopp 1985.

Liberty's Chosen Home: The Politics of Violence in Boston Alan Lupo, Little, Brown and Co. 1977.

All Souls: A Family Story from Southie Michael Patrick MacDonald, Ballantine Books 1999.

Black Mass: The Irish Mob, the FBI, and a Devil's Deal Dick Lehr and Gerard O'Neill, BBS Publications 2000.

Built in Boston: City and Suburb, 1800 – 2000 Douglass Shand-Tucci, Univ. of Mass. Press 1999.

The Hub: Boston Past and Present Thomas O'Connor, Northeastern Univ. Press 2001

The First Suburbs: Residential Communities on the Boston Periphery: 1815-1860 Henry Binford, Univ. of Chicago Press 1985.

The Other Bostonians: Poverty and Progress in the American Metropolis 1880-1970 Stephen Thernstrom, Harvard Univ. Press 1973

Streetcar Suburbs: The Process of Growth in Boston 1870-1900 Sam Warner Jr., Harvard Univ. Press 1978.

The Way We Really Live: Social Change in Metropolitan Boston Since 1920 Sam Warner Jr., Boston Public Library Press 1977.

A Light to the City: 150 Years of the City Missionary Society of Boston Beacon Press 1966.

The Last Hurrah Edwin O'Connor, Little, Brown and Co. 1956.

<p>The Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative is a joint ministry of the Emmanuel Gospel Center and Mission to the Americas. GBCPC was founded and is facilitated by Rev. Ralph Kee, a salaried missionary with Mission to the Americas. Contact Ralph Kee at ralphkee@juno.com at 617-262-3363, at EGC at 617-262-4567 x 153 or at EGC, Box 180245, Boston MA 02118.</p>
