

Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative

Doing what we can to enhance fruitful church planting and the multiplication of churches in and out from Greater Boston.

*March 12, 2004 Volume 5 Issue 2 Rev. Ralph A. Kee, Editor and GBCPC facilitator
www.egc.org/ministries/church_planting/ for additional information, newsletter archives,
services GBCPC offers, and church planting links*

The glory of God to fill the earth, the Reign of God to govern the earth, the Beloved Community to people the earth: that's the mandate. Church planting, after 2000 years of doing it, is still an effective strategy to implement the mandate across the planet.

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Church planting in Greater Boston is often by/with/for immigrant and refugee population. Church planters in Greater Boston tend to be global in their interests and commitments. Thus the following may be of interest:

- **Saturday, April 3** A gospel presentation that those of the Hindu faith might find interesting is slated for Greater Boston. Some 50 Indian youth from Chicago will present this Indian Christian Children of Greater Chicago Passion Play. For information contact Ernest Gulla at emgulla28@msn.com
- **Tuesday, April 13, 12:00 to 1:30.** Iraq Briefing including history and recent events in the Middle East; church participation in short or long term work among Kurds, Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims in Iraq; opportunities for literature and humanitarian projects among Iraqi Muslims. Speaker is an undisclosed leader of Frontiers in the US. Frontiers has planted more than 120 churches comprised of and led by Muslim background believers in about 40 countries. Speaker pioneered work in Northern Iraq in 1991 and was instrumental in mobilizing churches in Texas to lovingly serve Kurdish refugees there. There are now Kurds in Texas and Tennessee who have come to Christ. Hosted by World Ishmaelites Outreach Ministry, International Community Church and Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative. Briefing at International Community Church, 557 Cambridge St/ 30 Gordon St., Allston. Lunch provided from noon – 12:30. Suggested donation is \$10.

GBCPC Gatherings

- **Tuesday noon, April 27** at Emmanuel Gospel Center. Brown bag lunch with Dr. George Patterson discussing the spontaneous multiplication of churches. Some of us in Boston believe that Boston can enjoy this kind of church multiplication, and in fact has seen it to some degree over the last 20 or 30 years. Patterson can help us “keep on keeping on”. Noted missiologist Ralph Winter describes George as “one of the two world experts in the growth of the church” and calls his missionary career “legendary”. Patterson is a missionary with Mission to the Americas, and Adjunct Professor of Intercultural Studies at Western Seminary (Oregon). He worked for 20 years in northern Honduras where he trained church planters. When he left Honduras he left 100 planted churches in

his train, and missionaries all over Latin America and beyond have adopted and used his methods. Patterson compiled his materials in Train and Multiply, and co-authored the Church Multiplication Guide. He has served as a trainer and consultant to workers in over 50 countries.

- **Saturday morning, May 1, 9:30 – 12** at Emmanuel Gospel Center Natural Church Development, Rev. Tom Johnston, presenter. Tom is founder and executive director of the Praxis Center for Church Development, a non-profit organization dedicated to the extension of the Kingdom of God through the health, growth and multiplication of local churches. Tom himself has successfully started successful churches, and has trained and coached church planters and denominational leaders. Learn about Praxis at www.praxiscenter.org Tom leads seminars on Natural Church Growth on a regular basis around the US. Additionally on May 1, twenty minutes will be given over to a discussion of the impact of gentrification on missiology as far as Greater Boston is concerned, that discussion led by Ralph Kee.

These gatherings are free.

Directions to Emmanuel Gospel Center, 2 San Juan St., Boston

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. EGC is the building on that corner. Right onto San Juan to 2 San Juan for the entry to EGC.

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

Car: Mass Ave 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 to San Juan St. EGC is the building on the corner. Turn right to 2 San Juan for entry to EGC. Parking is pretty good for in-town Boston.

An Urban Church Planting class will be offered by CUME, the Center for Urban Ministerial Education, Gordon-Conwell Seminary's Boston campus, on three weekends in the fall (Sept. 10-11, Oct. 8-9 and Nov. 12-13). The class is open to all. You may register through CUME as a special student for three hours of graduate level credit (\$435) or as an audit (\$90). GBCPC Facilitator Rev. Ralph Kee will lead the class and area church planters and others will be presenting. To register visit www.gcts.edu/boston/academics and fill in the Fall 2004 registration form.

Is ministry with/to asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants part of your church planting effort? Should it be?

And you... and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household – Deuteronomy 26:11 The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. – Leviticus 19:33-34 Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt –Exodus 22:21

The alien was to be protected, not because he was a member of one's family, clan, religious community; but because he was a human being. In the alien, therefore, man discovered the idea of humanity. – Hermann Cohen, quoted in Enemy Aliens by David Cole.

A goodly percentage of larger churches in Greater Boston are comprised almost entirely of recent aliens and immigrants. Clearly God blesses this ministry.

Did you know that 1 out of 2 Americans can trace an ancestor's arrival to the US through the Massachusetts Bay? (New England Historic Genealogical Society as reported on International Institute's website) And immigrants continue to come to and through Boston. There are 345,000 foreign-born residents and their families living in MA. The Greater Boston area has the 12th largest concentration of foreign-born residents, and the state of MA has the 7th highest percentage. The 1990 census indicated one out of nine Bostonians was foreign born.

Information from the International Institute website

Definitions:

Asylum seekers and refugees are those who fled their home countries because of a well-founded fear of persecution there. Since FY 1987 refugees have arrived in MA for resettlement in the US at an average rate of 3000 per year

More specifically

- **Asylum seekers or asylees** are those in the US who have applied for protection as refugees and are awaiting the determination of their status. They have asked for protection after having arrived in the US. They will become refugees if the local immigration or refugee authorities deem them fit for such designation as per the international definition of refugee.
- **Refugees** are those who were granted protection before they arrived in the US (UNESCO definitions).
- **Immigration:** the act of entering a country with the intentions of staying there permanently (www.legal-definitions.com)
- **Diaspora peoples, refugees and asylum seekers** differ from immigrants in that often they hope to return to their homelands, or at least keep in close touch with their home country, once they feel it is safe to do so.
- **Aliens** are those in the US from a foreign country who still owe allegiance to that foreign country rather than to the US.
- **Naturalized American citizens** are those from a foreign country who have now become US citizens and have pledged allegiance to the US.

Agencies that will help you

- International Institute – www.iiboston.org. Executive Director Westy Egmont. Helping immigrants in Boston since 1924, fosters the success of immigrants and refugees in the US by providing a range of comprehensive professional and cultural services. Affiliates in Lowell and at 315 Pine St., Manchester NH
- Greater Boston Legal Services – www.gbls.org . Free civil (noncriminal) legal assistance to low-income people in Boston and 31 additional cities and towns. Has a special immigrant unit, which represents people fleeing persecution in their own countries, undocumented battered women and undocumented unaccompanied minors to help them obtain legal status from the INS to defend them in proceedings to remove them from the US, and a wide range of other services, including an Asian Outreach Unit. .
- Catholic Charities – www.ccab.org/immigration_and_refugee.htm 617-451-7979 Immigration services, interpreter services, refugee resettlement and a wide range of help..
- Universal Human Rights International www.uhrinews.org 31 Heath St., Boston 617-839-9084 – Rev. Torli Krua, founder. Torli himself is a refugee (from Liberia), so he knows the experience first hand. Assists refugees of wars to become self-reliant, rebuild their lives and develop capacities to improve their communities. Will also assist in the repatriation and resettlement of refugees who desire to return to their homelands when hostilities cease. 90% of those served are refugees and asylum seekers from Sub-Saharan Africa.

- Refugee Immigration Ministries www.r-i-m.net 26 Washington St., Malden MA 02148 Rimboston@mindspring.com 781-322-1011/781-322-1011 Rev. Ruth Bersin, Director. Serves the needs of asylum seekers and those detained by the INS through special services, spiritual care and advocacy. Develops lay leadership clusters with local houses of worship. Training in self-care and boundaries, separation, anti-racism, prison culture. A multi-cultural, inter-faith team. Trains people to work with immigrants and refugees in prison. Connects individuals with families in their religious community: Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, etc.
- Immigration law www.legal-database.com legal information without the legalese

Some reading on the issue?

- *Enemy Alien: Double Standards and Constitutional Freedoms in the War on Terrorism*, David Cole, New Press 2003. Post-9/11 it is tougher for aliens in the US than it was before 9/11.
- *"The Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide*, Samantha Power, Basic Books 2002. Power, Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights at the Kennedy School, Harvard, addresses the lack of attention genocides-in-the-making have often received from the so-called international community, including the US.
- *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*, James Clifford, Harvard University Press 1997 Studies in diasporas.

Nursing Home Church? Does somebody out there know of anybody who has successfully started a church in a nursing home (the congregation being made up of residents in that nursing home, and maybe (?) even leadership coming from nursing home residents)? Rev. David Searles in East Boston is interested in drawing on whatever experience may be out there. Please pass on your information to David at 617-569-7339 or davidsearles@netzero.net.

Forums

Are you interested in discussing any of the following interests with other people who have the same interest? If you are, let the facilitator know (ralphkee@juno.com), and a venue for discussion will be set up to accommodate participants.

The multi-site model for developing new congregations.

Is the time ripe for the development of multiple site churches in Greater Boston?

High-density new mini-neighborhoods are being built on highly valued land. These new mini-neighborhoods need to be evangelized and congregationalized. Who is going to do it?

Cost of obtaining land and building in Boston is close to prohibitive. An effective missiological strategy must face this hard truth. A multi-site approach may be such a strategic missiology.

Greater Boston is blessed with many seasoned and effective senior pastors, some of whom either started their church some years ago or become senior pastor in the church's early stages, and have grown the church to size and maturity. These pastors have the experience and ability to start new congregations even as they continue to pastor their significant and still growing current congregations.

Multi-site churches are emerging across the US for the very reasons that they might make good sense for Boston, and across America many are experiencing considerable success. Multi-site churches are not necessarily large churches.

- **The multi-voice model for developing new congregations.** Two or more congregations, each congregation worshipping and ministering in a different language, but one church. Each congregation has ownership of the common building.
- ***The Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America***, edited by Darrell L. Guder, Eerdmans, 1998. This volume in Eerdman's Gospel and Culture Series is a significant book, perhaps of real value to those who are thinking through what their new church plant should look like.
- **Stop and Think Shop.** A chance to sit back and think hard about what it is you are doing, in the company of congenial fellow travelers.
- **The ABCs of urban church planting** in one three-hour session.
- **How to build into your new church plant a welcoming environment and an effective ministry with/to homeless people.** Would be led by a staff member of Starlight Homeless Ministries.

Henri and Any Missionary

The Survival of the Bark Canoe, John McPhee, Farrar, Straus and Giroux 1995

My name is Any Missionary. But you can call me Henri. Henri as in Henri Vaillancourt* There are parallels between what I do and what Henri does. Let me explain.

Henri Vaillancourt builds birch bark canoes. Working in his backyard in small town Greenville, New Hampshire, he builds canoes as the Native Americans used to build canoes.

Henri can go into the woods with nothing but his axe and his crooked knife, and he can come out of those woods with a finished birch bark canoe. Most of the time, though, Henri goes into those woods with his axe and crooked knife, and comes out with the raw materials to build a canoe. He then builds the canoe in his backyard and in his shed in Greenville.

Henri has been building canoes for years.

What you will see of Henri's work, however, if you visit Henri in Greenville depends on when you visit.

Sometimes you won't see anything. You won't even see Henri. He will have gone: gone up to the White Mountains or beyond, or gone over into Maine, scouring the forests for the perfect birch tree - the tree with the just-right bark for a birch bark canoe. He will have gone for cedar and for basswood and for pine root, all of which he needs to build his next canoe. He won't come back to Greenville until he has found what he went looking for.

Sometimes when you visit Henri's yard you will find a lumpish roll of birch bark, brown side out, lying in his work area. Perhaps some stakes have been driven into the ground. That's all you will see. Henri is just getting started on his next canoe.

If you go back some days or weeks later you will see Henri sitting in a pile of shavings, crooked knife in hand. Scattered around him are cedar ribs of varying sizes, some roughed out, some appearing more finished.

If you hit it right, you might catch Henri when he is finishing up his canoe. The paddles have been carved and decorated. The canoe has been pitched and proven waterproof. Henri is applying the porcupine quill decoration on the bow of the canoe. It is his final touch.

But seeing that one canoe isn't really seeing Henri's work.

To really see Henri's work you wouldn't even visit Henri at all. You wouldn't even go to New Hampshire.

To really see Henri's work you would go to Idaho to the state university. They have one of his canoes. And you would visit Jean Newton in the Palouse Mountains. She has one of Henri's canoes. You would visit John Farrell in New Jersey, and Warren Soderberg in Dresser, Wisconsin. Warren wanted a birch bark canoe for hunting moose. He's always wanted to shoot a moose with bow and arrow from a birch bark canoe.

A lady wanted a canoe she could lift. So she ordered a bark canoe from Henri. He made it for her: it's a mere nine feet long and weighs only twenty pounds. To see the work of Henri's lifetime you would stop by her house, see her canoe and test it's lightness on your own shoulders.

You can see Henri's work, but not by visiting him in his backyard in Greenville. If you want to see Henri's work you have to see what he has done. And that's spread all over the place.

It was a happy day when Henri received an order for a fur-trade canoe. These were the great canoes used by the voyageurs on the northern fur routes across North America. They were thirty-five feet long and weighed six hundred pounds. They were paddled by six men. Henri had dreamed of fur-canoes, the *canot du nord*, for years. The Environmental Department at the New York State University wanted one. They hired Henri to build it. Building that canoe was for Henri a dream come true.

He finished the canoe one day in early summer. He finished it, say, at ten o'clock in the morning. That same afternoon the truck from the university arrived to pick up the canoe and carry it away from Henri: to carry it to New York.

Henri was disgruntled for the rest of the summer. He hadn't even put his *canot du nord* into the water! He hadn't knelt in it, paddle in hand. He hadn't gotten five friends together and gone for a joy ride. He was irritable for weeks. Somebody else was having all the fun!

Henri builds canoes. Then they become someone else's. Others have the pleasure of cutting a clean line across a perfect lake. Others receive the approving glances of folk at the boat ramp put-in and along the shoreline.

"Nice canoe" they say. "Thank you very much" the new owner smiles, receiving the compliment and feeling very proud.

"Where did you get a birch bark canoe?" someone calls out.

"Some guy in New Hampshire", the paddler replies. "Ballencourt or Valentine, or something like that. I've probably got it written down someplace back home."

Meanwhile Henri Vaillancourt is out in the woods again, gathering together his resources to build another canoe.

Henri builds canoes. Others get to paddle them. Others catch the bass. Others run the white water. After a finished canoe leaves his yard, Henri is cranky. He would have liked to have kept that last one, maybe. At least for a while. Now he has to start all over again, from scratch, and build another one.

Henri's not complaining. He loves to build canoes. It's just that sometimes he wonders if it wouldn't be nice just to enjoy what he has built, and keep it for himself.

But building canoes is Henri's business.

My name is Any Missionary. I'm like Henri. Henri builds canoes; I build new churches. Like Henri I build things that then become someone else's.

Like Henri, if you visit me what you will see depends on when you visit. The missionary's finished work is not in the missionary's backyard. You might see a new start-up project in the missionary's backyard. But that's the max.

The missionary's finished work is spread elsewhere. It's in the hands of others. The missionary is always starting anew. When the missionary's work has developed to the point that there is something to see – to really see: when the missionary's work has developed into something of which one might well be proud, then the missionary's work passes into the hands of others. If he gets glum it's just for a little while.

The missionary starts over again. Often from scratch.

Is entrepreneur the right word for missionary work?

Henri loves to build canoes. And I love to build new churches.

It's fun. I'm Any Missionary. It's my job.

The Survival of the Bark Canoe, John McPhee, Farrar, Straus and Giroux 1995

Space available where a new church could meet

- **In Somerville/Cambridge** Assembly of God Alliance has space for another congregation (not more than 80), but not Portuguese language, as already has that language in building. Call Ps. Carlos Ferreira 617-306-3960.
- **In Dorchester, West Upham Corners**, Ma Siss Place, 266 Quincy St. has space on Sundays. sisplace@aol.com or 617-436-1618.
- **In Allston**, International Community Church, 557 Cambridge St., has space for combatable usage during business hours with a 24/7 office space. postmaster@icc-boston.com or 617-782-8120.
- **In Porter Square, Cambridge**, North Prospect UCC Church has sanctuary (and perhaps other space) available. office@northprospectchurch.org or 781-646-0829
- **In Everett, in Everett Square**, brick bldg currently used as a banquet facility, approx. 7000 sq ft st level, 3000 lower level, kitchen, AC, ample municipal parking next door. \$1.15M. Joseph Sweeney 617-333-0641.
- **In East Boston**, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church has space for another congregation. Contact Rev. Don Nanstad at 617-567-1175.
- **In Cambridge**, St. James' Episcopal Church, 1991 Mass. Ave. just three blocks from Porter Square subway, has space in sanctuary and back office area. Contact junior warden George Van Hazinga or church secretary Judy Beers at 617-547-4070 or stjames@netway.com
- **In West Roxbury**, 5160 Washington St., convenient to Roslindale. St Stephen's Methodist Church has space available on Sundays after 1 PM. 617-327-0446
- **In South Boston**, St. Matthew and the Redeemer Episcopal Church has space for two new churches. 617-512-2894
- **In Worcester**, space at Belmont Street Baptist Church available. Contact Pastor George A. Kohl; at 508-753-0312 or gakbsbc@juno.com

New churches that need a place to meet

- Rev. John Ezedi needs a place in Roxbury/Dorchester/Jamaica Plain where he can expand the new church that now meets in his living room. onye@comcast.net or 781-767- 6263
- In Cambridge/Allston/Brighton want to purchase a place for 500 people. Pastor Marguilien Saintus at 617-232-4249 (home) or 617-784-2924 (cell)
- In Dorchester, Mercy and Grace Ministries is looking for a building to accommodate their congregation of 200 -300. Contact Evangelist Johnnie Milligan, pastor at 617-436-0352 or MercyandGraceMin@aol.com
- In Dorchester/Roxbury/Boston, Central Family of Worship, Pastor Angel Rives. 75 in this new church. 617-501-4317.
- In Brockton, Southern Baptists are looking for a place where a new Haitian church can be started. Contact Keith Lawrence at mklawrence@earthlink.net
- Iglesia De Cristo Misioners, Inc. has outgrown their space so need larger quarters in Boston. Contact Ivelinda Figueroa Ivelinda.Figueroa.ci.boston.ma.us or 6635-4920 x 2112.
- Need space to rent on Friday evenings from 6 – 8 PM and Saturdays from 8:30 AM to 1:00 pm. Not a main sanctuary but auxiliary space for 40 adults and children of the Church of God and Saints in Christ congregation. Contact Gilbert White gilwhite@yahoo.com 857-205-3966 or Keree Simmons at 617-504-3704 if you can help.
- Pastor Paula Alfred seeks a place for her church to meet on Sunday mornings. 978-733-1530.
- Eglise Baptiste Elim wants to purchase in Cambridge/ Allston/Brighton place to accommodate 500 people. Contact Pastor Margulien Saintus at 617-784-2924 (cell), 617-232-4249 (home)
- New Jerusalem Evangelical Baptist Church seeks 1.5 acres or a building that can accommodate 500 – 600 people, perhaps 15 – 20 thousand square feet with a basement, at an affordable price. Prefer a location near Quincy/Dorchester line, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Milton or Randolph or anywhere near the Expressway. Please contact Pastor Tony Kebreau at 617-265-5527 (office).
- In Back Bay or South End, space for a small emerging church, preferably Sunday morning, consider later in day on Sunday. Worship in English and Nigerian languages. Rev. Benny Osajie christchosenchurch@usa.com or 617-669-4242.
- In Dorchester/Milton/Quincy, space for a church plant. Contact Devis Jean-Jacques at 617-590-4321 (cell)
- 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

Church Planters’ Street Fair

- Church of the Advent in Medfield has an Allen electronic organ free for the taking. New in 1959, 8 – 10 stops, beautiful cherry or mahogany console, connected by umbilical cord so the two speakers can each be located separately. Been faithfully maintained by factory service man. Can shake the pews and stir the congregation to sing loud and clear. Free, but recipient must be able to take it when it has to be moved. That time will be within the next two months. Contact Lawrie Rhoads at elawrene@aol.com or 508-359-2077 or Peter O’Neil at janpeteoneil@att.net
- Quincy Street Missional Church seeking, gratis, 50 hymn books and/or chorus books. ralphkee@juno.com
- Church planters’ People Bank
- People looking for organizations; organizations looking for people.
- Community Church of Edgeworth, Malden, Matt Kruse, church planter and pastor, is looking for both short and long term help leading public worship with worship team with this new church plant. mkruse@edgeworthchurch.com or 781-420-9291. Check out the church at www.edgeworthchurch.com

- Available for interim pastorate, preaching, evangelism, training and equipping seminars, while he prepares for a new ministry in Boston. Basil Yarde basleyarde@hotmail.com
- Mercy and Grace Ministries, Inc., Pastor Johnnie Milligan, seeks the services of a Christian attorney. 617-436-0352 MercyandGraceMin@aol.com
- Church in southern NH looking for a Kenyan to start a Kenyan congregation. Contact ralphkee@juno.com

Services GBCPC offers:

- Church planting consulting – GBCPC facilitator has over 30 years experience in church, and is happy to offer whatever help and encouragement he can to church planters.
- Help in understanding cultural difference – individuals trained in anthropology are willing to offer a few hours of consultation to help you or your group better understand another culture with which you are trying to relate.
- Architectural help – advice from an architect might be something you are looking for.
- Providing a forum for an idea relative to church planting you would like to be discussed or examined with other people.
- Help in getting your new church organized.
- Gum shoes – at your invitation, the Facilitator will attend your new church and then report to you what he sees as he looks through the eyes of a visitor.

GBCPC's services are free

Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative is a ministry of the Emmanuel Gospel Center and Mission to the Americas, Rev. Ralph Kee, Facilitator. ralphkee@juno.com 617-262-3363 (home office) 617-262-4567 (Emmanuel Gospel Center)