

Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative

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

October 30, 2004 Volume 5 Issue 13 Rev. Ralph A. Kee, Editor and GBCPC Facilitator

www.egc.org/ministries/church_planting

for additional information, newsletter archives, services, church planting links

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The 12 Second Prayer Warrior

Jerid Krulish suggests that when Christians get together, before they part they have 12 seconds of prayer together, perhaps praying about one specific thing. Jerid has done some experimenting; he found 8 seconds was too short, and over 12 seconds and people think they don't have time. But 12 seconds seems to work; even dropping off your passenger at a red light 12 seconds works okay. So next time you are talking church planting with someone, include 12 seconds of shared prayer. *Thanks, Jerid, for this tip. We have heard of the One Minute Manager. Now we know about the Twelve-Second Prayer Warrior. Jerid is a Gordon-Conwell student helping with the youth program of the still relatively new CityLife Church that meets in the Theatre District, Stephen Um, Pastor.*

What do you think?

"Church planting advocates do well to remember that the identification of church planting as a key component in evangelical strategies for global mission has emerged very recently, and its significance has yet to be evaluated. There is reason to hope that this practice may deeply impact the mentality of many congregations, turning them outward from their own concerns, and may play a crucial role in... world evangelization." *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*, Stuart Murray, Herald Press 2001, pps. 55-56.

Fall neighborhood prayer walks

Who might go?

- * *Those with churches in these neighborhoods,*
- * *Those doing church planting or thinking of church planting in these neighborhoods,*
- * *Those thinking of making their present church a multi-site church by initiating a new congregation in one of these neighborhoods,*
- * *Those interested in praying for Boston.*

East Boston Meet at Maverick subway station at 10 AM on Friday, November 5 for a two-hour prayer walk, followed by Dutch treat lunch in a East Boston eatery.

South End Meet at Emmanuel Gospel Center/South End Neighborhood Church, 2 San Juan St., Boston, at 1 PM on Wed., Nov. 10 for a 90-minute prayer walk.

Uphams Corners and other parts of Dorchester Meet at Ma Siss Place/Quincy Street Missional Church, 266 Quincy St

(just of Columbia Road) Dorchester at 10 AM on Saturday, November 20 for a two-hour prayer walk.

**GBCPC Gathering:
What church planters coming from outside America need to know about the American way of doing things if they are to have a happy time church planting in America.**

Saturday, December 4, 10 – 12 AM at the Emmanuel Gospel Center. Free.

For directions to Emmanuel Gospel Center, 2 San Juan St., Boston, go to our website: www.egc.org and click on "Contact Us" at the bottom of the page.

**Front Lines
Church planting by/with/among/for Liberians; what goes 'round comes 'round.**

Mahn Krua came to faith in Jesus Christ in his native land, Liberia, West Africa, because of the work of American missionaries in that country. Mahn, in turn, played a key role in his son, Torli, coming to faith. Together they both served in pastoral roles in Liberia and started churches there.

Some few years ago Torli came to Boston as an asylum seeker, and then was able to bring his father and mother here, Mrs. Krua being in desperate need of medical help she could not receive in Liberia. Having come here to Boston, Mahn and Torli initiated strategic ministries to and with the Liberian community. And though they live in Boston this father-son team has planted new churches among Liberians in Lynn, in Providence and even in Philadelphia. Furthermore, they are developing mechanisms whereby the churches they have started in America can now start daughter churches back in Liberia. Church planting: Liberia to America to Liberia. That's missions come full circle. That's global missions at its best, with an urban component that is urban missions at its best.

Torli will be hosted by International Community Church on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 6 PM, providing an opportunity for interested parties to learn more about the sequential church planting exemplified by the ministry of the Kruas, and about the significant refugee assistance program Torli has founded and leads called Universal Human Rights International. www.uhrinews.org/ Torli serves with Mission to the Americas. The public is invited to the Nov. 14 gathering at ICC, 30 Gordon St/557 Cambridge St. Allston.

Some things that might surprise you regarding taxes, IRS, 501c3, EIN, incorporation, etc.

A new church does not have to incorporate. It is an "unincorporated association" by virtue of its congregational decision to form a church, and automatically has all the (tax) rights and privileges of a corporation. It must have a simple constitution or statement of purpose, and some elders/deacons (legally, "directors") and a designated person or persons given authority to establish bank accounts and handle the money (a treasurer). It automatically has 501(c)3 status, just because it is a church (federal law, First Amendment Rights). The church may want to incorporate (and perhaps should incorporate) for other reasons, but it is not legally required to do so.

Once the organizing members have officially voted to "become a church" and designated the financial authority to some member or members, then they can immediately get a Federal EIN number (also called "Tax ID number"), even by phone or online, in fifteen minutes. The church does NOT have to be incorporated to get an EIN number.

When you take in hand to the bank you want to open an account with 1) your "corporate resolution" (the above-mentioned "official minutes of the members' decision to form a church") AND 2) the statement of authority designating

a representative of that church able to open/close bank accounts and manage the money AND 3) the Tax ID #, the bank is authorized to open an account for the church.

Note: Officials you deal with may not understand all this, and you may have to educate them. Thanks to Paul Bothwell for the wording of this information

Contributing to Urban Church Planting Discourse

Hypothesis: The doctrine of the Trinity is critically important for successful urban church planting.

Esau McCaulley, a member of All Saints Episcopal Church, West Newbury, MA, and a Master of Divinity student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, writes in his article "Flesh, Holiness, & Community: The Advantages of a Trinitarian Theology in Urban Church Planting":

"The way a person perceives God determines to a large extent their perception of man. If God or the gods are perceived as immoral and unreliable those who accept this view of God will tend to see their responsibilities and ethical requirements as minimal. Those who view God as Holy and requiring something of them will in general order their lives based upon this assumption. (Romans 1:20-21) These assumptions about God will not only affect the individual, but also the local church and surrounding community. The life of Jesus and the worship of him that followed his resurrection stood in stark contrast to the pagan culture that surrounded them because their core assumptions about the nature of God were different. The same holds true with regards to the inner make-up of God. Those who see God as fundamentally a Trinity will be more successful than those who follow the Unitarian beliefs. This is because at the center of Trinitarian theology are three vital beliefs that effect and invigorate urban churches. The first belief is that God is in his very nature a

being in community. The second is that God has identified himself with us (John 1:14), and the third is that God is Holy. Unitarianism lacks these three core beliefs and is therefore not viable.

"Those who live in the poorer sections of the city feel forgotten and abandoned by society. Their kids have access to the worst schools. Their living conditions are often depressing. The worst of city services such as dumps and chemical plants are often relocated into their communities. Their lives and deaths often occur away from the public eye. The rich and powerful shun them. They can feel helpless and without anyone who understands their situation. John 1:14 says that the Word became flesh. This means that God has identified with mankind. The Trinitarian God is not one who sits up in heaven and leaves his people to struggle in the sin and mire that is life. He is the God who acted. He came down from his position of power to effect man's salvation. Not only this but in his coming he identified himself with those who were poor (Luke 4:16-18). Those who believe that God is not found in Christ believe in a God who has never completely involved himself personally in the lives of his people. Their God sends messengers but does not sully himself in the poverty, the smells, and the reality of urban life (Luke 9:58). When planting a church in the city the message and belief that God understands where you are coming from is vital to a people who feel alienated. He himself has experienced extreme rejection, trials in the flesh, even the murder of close friends (Mark 6:27). The concept of a God who is with them is vital. It also affects the way we minister in the city. In the same way that God ministered by becoming flesh and dwelling with us, the Trinitarian knows that his ministry does not take place away from the people in the comfort of suburban homes. Our ministry is incarnational. We go amongst the people. In as much as we do this we reflect the nature of God.

"The Trinitarian also believes that at the center of God is a community based and maintained by mutual love (2 Cor. 13:14). In the city where families are fragmented and community members isolated understanding the need for community is vital. Since we believe that man is created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27) then man finds his meaning in community. Therefore the Trinitarian will understand that in order to build a successful church mutual love of members of families and communities is central. This message preaches in particular to people who have seen the ravaging affects of communities that have disintegrated. The Trinitarian also sees that there is something in the union of man and women in marriage that reflects this Trinitarian relationship. Therefore he will also work to restore the family. The resurrection of family and community stimulates church growth and survival. It makes that church a relevant voice to the needs of the community and the nature of man. The Unitarian believes that God is fundamentally alone in the universe. His nature is one of the lonely nomad. While he may emphasize family and community there is nothing in the nature of his God that demands it. He cannot see the inseparable union of man and woman as creating one life in its entirety because the mystery of the trinity escapes him. Therefore his theology of marriage as well as community will be stunted and crippled.

"Lastly, the Trinitarian believes that God is in himself Holy. The sin that destroys the poor in many cases does more damage than the poverty. (Rom. 6:23) The abuse of women, abandonment of children, theft, vandalism, and murder threaten to snuff out the life of the urban poor at any moment. The Unitarians by nature are non-creedal. They do not have enforced beliefs. Therefore each congregation or pastor can decide the ethics or actions of a church. This spells doom for the urban poor who often create situational ethics that wreak havoc on their lives. The Trinitarian believes that God is fundamentally holy and expects his people

to act in accordance with his requirements. This God does not leave man unarmed to keep his command of holiness. He sends his Spirit (John 14:26) to make man a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17) this allows him to live a life pleasing to God and his neighbor. In the city a Gospel of hope and the power to have a new holy life is central to planting a church. New followers will believe in the ability of man to be transformed. They can look into any hopeless situation and see the potential for holiness. Also the church planter can require the holiness that will allow people to grow in Christ and assume leadership positions vital to the churches survival. They will be able to disciple and create indigenous leadership that will allow the church to grow and reproduce. (Mat. 28:18-20)

"In the end what the Trinitarian believes about God gives him a credible style of ministry (incarnational). The Trinitarian also proclaims the truth about a God who can speak to the longings of the urban poor such a family, community, and dignity."

New Church in Boston?

EGC's 2005 Boston Church Directory

Emmanuel Gospel Center wants to know the name of every church started in Boston and Cambridge since 1999. Your help will be appreciated so that a complete listing of all new churches can be published in the 2005 Edition of the Boston Church Directory. Pass on information about new churches started to researcher **Brian Corcoran** at bcorcoran@egc.org, or call him at 617-262-4567.

Vision building for your church:

www.congregationalresources.org/LearninGPathway/VnCWelcome.asp

An Alban Institute web site. *Thanks to Paul Bothwell for this tip.*

Researching your demographics:

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/bra>
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

www.state.ma.us/cc/
<http://www.umass.edu/miser/>
www.tbf.org/
www.tbf.org/indicators/
www.Link2Lead.com
<http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup>
www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/dp1/2kh25pdf
<http://www1.miser.umass.edu/datacenter/Census2000/census2000ata.hhtm/>

Thanks to **Rudy Mitchell**

Valuable website for church planters:

http://dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Christianity/Missions/Church_Planting/

Thanks to **Steve Daman** for this tip.

Why is Carl pitching a bad game?

With huge apologies, of course, to our Red Sox hero.

Do you, dear church planter, identify with this little parable?

Carl's game wasn't going well. The game was only three innings old and Carl had already given up six hits and two runs, and, concentrate as he might, he couldn't seem to get *in the groove*. Already he was thinking he'd better excuse himself to the umpires and fans, go out to the bull pen, and decide who should start warming up to replace him.

Was he off his game because he hadn't slept well last night?

A number of things were bothering him, and he had many problems he had to solve. For example, attendance at Fenway Park was down, and, although he had tried a number of publicity stunts and had even himself done door-to-door visitation around Boston to invite people to the ballpark, they just were not coming. Maybe if he just kept at it...or changed the time of the games...or, if he made 20,000 telemarketing calls....

Concession sales were down too, of course (hot dogs, beer), and the shareholders were on his case for that. A lot of income

should come from the concessions. Should he engage a different concessionaire, or try to train the present one better?

Then there were all those broken seats in the stands. The Board of Directors was mad at him for not having fixed them by this time. Carl had phoned a firm repeatedly for bids on repairs but they weren't returning his phone calls.

And the restrooms! What a mess! The Globe was sniping at him about that. Between innings he often went up there himself and tidied up a bit, but it was impossible.... His wife offered to help, but she couldn't go into the men's room. He hated to ask his kids....

Carl wondered if he should even start thinking about building a new stadium. Fenway was old – but how would he convince the historians? He could take a course on real estate (he thought at 2:30 AM). If it were a correspondence course he could maintain his studies on road trips. Or maybe he should skip the next trip to the West Coast entirely (he could start training others to pitch for him more often, and bring up some rookies from the minors [but where would he get the money for that, he worried]) and begin *building relationships* at City Hall and the State House instead. At least he should put together a study commission to look into the possibilities, he decided at 3 AM.

He was also losing sleep because of the uncertainties of his salary. It was steadily diminishing. Even though he was still one of the best pitchers in the league, his salary was dropping as his personal supporters got older, retired on fixed incomes and could no longer support him and his family. His wife was sending out lots of thank you notes, and he kept commitment forms in his baseball uniform pocket at all times in case a chance conversation might lead to interest in supporting him, but he knew that what he really had to do was skip next year's American League schedule entirely and go

on deputation full time. He really had to get his support back up.

So he hadn't slept well last night. Was that why his delivery was off today?

Or was it because he was late getting to the ballpark and hadn't had time to properly warm up. As so often happened, the people he regularly picked up in his van to take to Fenway with him hadn't been ready when he swung by for them, and he had to wait twenty minutes for them to finish getting dressed. It was a troubled family, and Carl hoped that an interest in baseball by the teenagers might help keep them off the streets and off drugs. The delay as he waited for them to dress, however, made him anxious and fretful; he arrived late at Fenway and wasn't able to get in enough warm-up pitches before the game started.

Then, to top it all off, just as he was leaving the bench for the mound to pitch the first inning, he was buttonholed by a call to his cell phone from the Yankees' front office, complaining about the schedule and insisting he make some changes in it immediately.

Why are the fans beginning to boo? Why isn't Carl pitching a better ball game?

Awakenings: Being Church in the Northeast.

www.awakeningsnortheast.com

Nov. 8-9. Pre-Conference Option Nov. 7-8. Fairfield, CT

Small Groups That Work: a simple and effective small group system for your church. Nov. 20, 9 – 3, Praxis Center for Church Development, Manchester NH. \$55 per person, \$70 per couple. jmccay@praxiscenter.org or 603-321-6556. www.praxiscenter.org

Open Air Campaigners helps new churches evangelize their neighborhoods. Check their website at

www.oacboston.org. E-mail oacboston@juno.com or phone 617-265-8145

Space available where a new church could meet

- In **Hyde Park, Rev. David Ciens'** facility has space available. 617-840-9452 (church), 781-396-6009.
- 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 available to be used by another church. 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

Newly emerging churches that need a place to meet

- The congregation **Paul Daniel** pastors needs a place in **Everett** where they can meet. revpaul101@hotmail.com
- Because the building in **Dorchester** where their small congregation has been meeting has been sold, **Maria M. Oquendo-Morales** is in need of a new place to meet, three days a week. Contact her at 617-201-8058 or PO Box 255611, Dorchester MA 02125.
- **Minister Coralotta Bates** is looking for a space to meet for a new ministry, including an addiction ministry, in **Brockton**. Contact her at cworship@comcast.net
- **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. jezedi@holyspiritdel.org or 781-767- 6263. Would rent or purchase.
- **Missionary Association of Haitian Christians Inc.**, now meeting in **Rev. Raphael Germain's** home, seeking a place in **Hyde Park/Dorchester/Mattapan**. Mrgermain03@yahoo.com or 617-361-3364.
- **Pastor Guillermo Cisterna** seeks place for his church to meet for services Sunday morning, afternoon or evening, plus one weekday evening at 7 PM, to start in May. gmglovalministry@hotmail.com
- **Project Reach**, a new non—profit providing a variety of services (HIV and AIDS prevention, counseling on domestic violence, health and nutritional services, gang peace, drug prevention, JOBS, etc) seeks a home base from which they can minister. Contact **Jose Ortiz**, co-founder, at Loiza88@aol.com
- 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.
- 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 6:30 – 8:30 PM and Saturdays from 8:30 AM to 2:00 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

Church Planter's Street Fair

- Movie projector available for free, offered by **Estacio Portela** at prestacioportela@hotmail.com
- **Living Fields Covenant Fellowship**, a new church being planted in Lynn for English speaking Cambodians, seeks 30 – 50 chairs. Contact **PoSan Ung** at Posanung@aol.com
- A new church being started in Lynn seeks used musical instruments. Contact **Chima Umejiaku** at ChimaUmejiaku@msn.com or 781-581-6342.

Church planters' People Bank

People looking for organizations; organizations looking for people.

- **Matt Kruse**, founder and pastor of Community Church of Edgeworth in **Malden**, would welcome seminary students to consider taking an internship with his three-year-old church. mkruse@edgeworthchurch.com or 781-420-9291. Check out the church at www.edgeworthchurch.com
- Seeking pianist/organist for Sunday worship, and perhaps other times, in Dorchester. Terms negotiable. Contact **Pastor George Brocke** at 617-320-2104 or brockejr@aol.com
- Available to offer pastoral leadership to a house church or a cluster of house churches. **Sosigenes Araujo** at sosigenesa@yahoo.com

- **Dan Hogan** is in the prayer stage of planting a multicultural church in **Field Corners, Dorchester**. If you are interested in praying with him and a few others, or interested in helping in other ways, contact Dan at dhogan@CANNONDESIGN.COM

Services GBCPC offers:

Church planting consulting – GBCPC facilitator has over 30 years experience in church planting, 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.

GBCPCs 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)