

Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative

Helpdesk for the development of new congregations in and out from Greater Boston.
Tabloid for apostolic church planting discourse.

March 12 , 2005 Volume 6 Issue 3 Rev. Ralph A. Kee, Editor and GBCPC Facilitator

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www.egc.org/ministries/church_planting for additional information,
newsletter archives, services, church planting links

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GBCPC GATHERINGS

convening at the Emmanuel Gospel Center,
2 San Juan St. Boston. Directions below. All
GBCPC Gatherings are free. RSVP is helpful.

Saturday, March 19, 9:30 – noon. “What Kind of Churches Are We Planting?” with Aaron Graham

Engel and Dyrness state the most important declaration of all as far as new church planting is concerned: “It is time to come to grips with this essential question: ‘What is the nature of the churches we are planting?’” (James F. Engel & William A. Dyrness, *Changing the Mind of Missions: Where Have We Gone Wrong?* InterVarsity Press 2000, p. 104). Are we planting Kingdom-permeated churches? Are we starting churches that fully incarnate Jesus Christ? **Aaron Graham**, church planter and pastor of the 21-month-old **Quincy Street Missional Church** in Dorchester and founder and director of **Kaleo**, will lead this **critically important discussion**. In the opinion of the GBCPC Facilitator, this is a session not to be missed it is so important to the future of credible and effective church planting in Greater Boston.

Saturday April 9

“Becoming a Parent Church”

offered by Praxis Center for Church Development, in cahoots with GBCPC. **Tom Johnston**, presenter. At Emmanuel Gospel Center. Fee: \$55. See praxiscenter.org.

Saturday, May 21, 9:30 – 12 noon.

“Congrevangelization* in and out from Greater Boston, now and in the future.”

A golden age for church planting in Greater Boston lies just ahead of us. Find out why. Prerequisite for the discussion: peruse and ponder a 100-page essay on the subject at hand, essay based on a Boston-centered ongoing case study, 1970 to the present. **Ralph Kee**, author of the essay, will lead the discussion. Essay available after April 5, \$10 plus postage to cover cost of reproducing each copy of the essay. From April 20 to May 18 Ralph expects to be in the Democratic Republic of Congo, so if you are interested in this Gathering get the paper from Ralph by April 18, before he goes to Africa. Or, after April 18, pick up a copy of the essay at the Emmanuel Gospel Center.

ralphkee@juno.com or 617-262-3363 before April 18; 617-262-4567 April 18 – May 18. Dialogue held at Emmanuel Gospel Center.

* *Congrevangelization: churches starting churches that start churches for the primary purpose of evangelization; i.e., congregation-based intentional sequential church planting for not-yet churched people; i.e., apostolic church planting. Con-gre-van'-gel-i-za-tion.*

PAPERS AVAILABLE

Papers written for Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's EV/WM 665 Church Planting and Growth course conducted by the GBCPC facilitator at Gordon-Conwell Seminary's Boston campus last fall can serve the practical aspects of church

planting as well as to contribute to a *church-based intentional church planting discourse*. Offered here are five of those fine papers, the first three are 12 or so pages in length. Papers are available through GBCPC.

The Urban Church Planting Movement I Envision, by Noah Kim.

The Urban Church I Envision: Indian Church of Boston, by Joseph A. Sapienza.

The Missional Church Movement I Envision by Joe McMannus (a clear-headed view of theological considerations for church planting in a postmodern environment).

Why a Trinitarian theological construct is more likely to lead to a successful church plant in conurban Boston than a Unitarian theological construct by Sarah Kim (this paper is 3 pages in length).

The Superiority of the Trinitarian Theological Construct Over Unitarianism in Church Planting by Joel Jocelyn (6 pages)

Sarah Kim's paper is reproduced here:

TRINITARIAN VS. UNITARIAN CHURCH PLANTING

Why a Trinitarian theological construct is more likely to lead to a successful church plant in Greater Boston than a Unitarian theological construct.

by Sarah Kim

God, in His very nature, is Trinitarian: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Before the creation of the world, He existed ontologically as the Trinity in blessed and deep communion. It logically follows that all of His mighty acts, from creation to redemption, operate under a Trinitarian framework, since this is the essence of His being. Thus, when considering a 'successful' church plant in urban Boston, it is essential to begin such a venture with the understanding that all things are from the Father, in the Son and through the Holy Spirit.

Both a Unitarian as well as Trinitarian theological construct would assert that all things are from the Father, and the planning and existence of a church is for the praise of

His purpose and Kingdom vision. The foundational differences between the Trinitarian and Unitarian theological construct, is in the understanding of the two others persons of the Trinity: the Son and the Spirit.

Our relationship with the Son, that we are in union with Christ, is foundational to a church's identity and function (John 15:5: I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remain in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing, expresses the necessary union the Church must have with Christ). In a Unitarian theological construct, there is no mediator, whereas the very foundation, identity and function of the Church is in Christ – our communion with the Father, our adoption into His Sonship, our royal priesthood, our baptism, our enablement to live in the Spirit. Everything that is Jesus' is ours because of our union with Him; the very life and breath of the Church is the living union of each of us, the living stones, participating in this holy communion.

In Christ, we also find the headship of the Church, His body. He is prophet, priest and king. As the prophet, he is the mystery of the Gospel unveiled; He is the glory of God revealed (2Cor. 4:8). Therefore, as the Church, His body, we preach and teach of Christ crucified along (1Cor. 2:2). Jesus' priesthood leads us into worship. As our representative to the Father, and His representative to us, He not only enables us to worship, He leads us, His body, into worship. As our king, we believe in His present as well as everlasting reign. Thus, the Church grasps its authority and position from Christ's headship at His heavenly dominion.

The mission of the Church: to make disciples of all nations, and the enablement of the Christian to obey God is made possible only through the Third Person of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit. The matter of worship, obedience, and God's mission in a Unitarian theological construct is centered upon the worshipper. What we bring to God, what we do for God, whereas in the Trinitarian theological construct, we find that even in the matters of worship, whether formal

Sunday worship, or habitual, daily obedience, our accomplishing His mission, is initiated, enabled and accomplished through the work of the Spirit. (Phil. 2:13 - our obedience only through God's enablement; Acts 1:4 - necessity for the Spirit to accomplish His mission in the world). Whereas the Unitarian view puts the onus on the believer to accomplish God's work, the Trinitarian view makes it clear that it is only through the Spirit of God that His work can be accomplished in and through the Church.

Church planting must be founded on a Trinitarian rather than a Unitarian theological construct. The danger of the Unitarian view is that it discounts the Church's identity and union with Christ as well as the enabling power of the Spirit, making the action of the worshipper the center rather than the God of revelation. The beauty and necessity of the Trinitarian view is that it makes the Triune Godhead the founder, the center and the empowering force of church planting.

IN MEMORIAM

Carleta Smith passed away on January 23, 2005, in Kennebunk Maine. Before she got sick and for years largely incapacitated, she was a missionary in South and Central America and Puerto Rico. Nonetheless, in the recent years of her incapacitation she has gotten up every day and, as she put it, "gone to work." Her work has been prayer, and she was one of six or seven people who have interceded daily for a long time now for the Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative. "Thank you so much, Carleta. Whatever of value GBCPC may have contributed to the church planting enterprise is, to a great extent, a result of your remarkable prayer life."

ASK MR. BLEW

The advice column for the shy church planter.

Q – Mr. Blew, I have trouble remembering the names of visitors who attend my new church. How can I remember their names, so the next time they come I can greet them by name?

A – Don't make the mistake I made. Be careful when you use that old gimmick of identifying people by noting physical characteristics. Once a lady visited and I thought to myself "I will have no problem remembering *her* name." The next time she came I said, "Nice to have you back again, Mrs. Tubbs." But her name was Mrs. Bowles.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY START-UPS for new congregational plants

As you read, say a 12-second prayer for each. Remember Jerid Krulish's suggestion a couple of newsletters ago to practice 12-second prayers?

In January, **Portuguese Baptist Church**, 114 Inman Street in Inman Square, Cambridge, a Portuguese-language church where **Luiz Sayao** is senior pastor, began offering a regular weekly English-language worship service, in addition to continuing, of course, its Portuguese-language services. **David Staples** is leading this new English ministry.

One Voice, a church being planted in Lynn, **John Runyon**, chief planter, started weekly worship services at 140 Union St. on Sunday, Jan. 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Newly emerging **Mercy Chapel** began its Sunday worship services on Jan. 2 at 73 Draper St. in Dorchester, near Ronan Park. Contact church planting pastor **Dan Hogan** at 617-265-8428 or MercyChapel@aol.com for more details.

Boston Bangla Church (BBC). **Paul Biswas**, church planter, has begun services at Cambridgeport Baptist Church, 459 Putnam Ave., Cambridge. Days and times of services are changeable so check before attending. gospelbangladesh@hotmail.com
Our mission: to plant self-sustaining and reproducing churches among Bengalis by making disciples and sending them out to minister the Gospel to other Bengalis. Our vision: to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ among all the Bengali people in America. Bengalis represent one of America's largest unreached people groups.

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 included 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 617-262-4567 x217.

Vision building for your church

www.congregationalresources.org/LearningPathway/VnCWelcome.asp An Alban Institute web site.

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://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>
<http://factfinder.census.gov>
http://dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Christianity/Missions/Church_Planting/

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

Hyde Park, Rev. David Ciens' facility has space available. 617-840-9452 (church), 781-396-6009.

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.

Dorchester, West Upham Corners, Ma Siss Place, 266 Quincy St. has space on Sundays. sisplace@aol.com or 617-436-1618.

Allston, International Community Church, 557 Cambridge St., has space for compatible usage during business hours with a 24/7 office space. postmaster@icc-boston.com or 617-782-8120.

Porter Square, Cambridge, North Prospect UCC Church has sanctuary available to be used by another church. office@northprospectchurch.org or 781-646-0829.

Everett, in **Everett Square**, brick bldg. currently used as a banquet facility, approx. 7000 sq ft street level, 3000 lower level, kitchen, AC, ample municipal parking next door. \$1.15M. **Joseph Sweeney** 617-333-0641.

East Boston, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church has space for another congregation. Contact **Rev. Don Nanstad** at 617-567-1175.

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

West Roxbury, 5160 Washington St., convenient to **Roslindale**. St Stephen's Methodist Church has space available on Sundays after 1 PM. 617-327-0446

South Boston, St. Matthew and the Redeemer Episcopal Church has space for two new churches. 617-512-2894

NEWLY EMERGING CHURCHES THAT NEED A PLACE TO MEET

Iglesia Cristiana Hispana seeks a place to meet in **Everett** or **Somerville**. Contact **Numen Larreynaga** at nllarreynaga or 781-485-4652.

Bengali language church plant is looking for space in Central or Harvard Square, Cambridge, preferably free space, for use on Saturdays or one evening during the week. Contact **Rev Paul Biswas** at 781-899-0779 or gospelbangladesh@hotmail.com.

Iglesias el Mesias, Carlos Diaz, pastor, seeks space for one night a week and a Sunday service. Best area would be **Dorchester/Roxbury**, but another place near public transportation might work. Phone Pr. Diaz at 617-825-6553 or 617-406-8598.

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.

Pastor Guillermo Cisterna seeks place for his church to meet for services Sunday morning, afternoon or evening, plus one weekday evening at 7 p.m., 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, 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 617-635-4920 x2112.

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.

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

The Cambridge and Somerville program for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Rehabilitation needs **silverware, twin sheets, pillowcases, towels and blankets**. Call or e-mail Yvonne Shear ysea@casparinc.org or 617-628-3850.

Available for free: **2 older pianos**, one in better condition than the other; 4 matching **tables** with attached chairs such as you find in McDonalds – good for church kitchens or camp; 30 metal folding **chairs** in good condition with exception of paint. Contact **Estacio Portela** at elportela@verizon.net

A new church being started in Lynn seeks used musical instruments. Contact **Chima Umejiaku** at ChimaUmejiaku@msn.com or 781-842-0198.

CHURCH PLANTERS' PEOPLE BANK

*People looking for organizations;
organizations looking for people.*

Portuguese Baptist Church in Inman Square, Cambridge, is looking for a musician to help with newly starting English-language services. For more information or to apply contact **Ps. Luiz Sayao** at 617-259-5346 or luizsayao@vidanova.com.br.

Jua Robinson, graduating this spring from Liberty Theological Seminary in Virginia, plans to church plant in Greater Boston and is seeking contacts. juabgsu@hotmail.com 434-907-1881.

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 planting a multicultural church in **Field Corners, Dorchester**. If you are interested in helping, contact Dan at MercyChapel@aol.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 differences** – 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 wants to be a "camel's hump of sustenance" (Cullen Murphy's phrase) **for the church planting enterprise. All GBCPC's services are free** (though the 100-page essay and case study "Congrevangelization" is \$10 plus postage. Call or email for more info).

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) 617-262-4567 (Emmanuel Gospel Center)

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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.