

FirstSteps Conference March 3-5, 2005

The next FirstSteps Conference for church planters and their spouses will be held at First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Landover, MD, March 3-5, 2005.

Guest speaker and program originator, Gary Rohrmayer will present "Thirteen Questions to Ponder Before Taking Off On Planting Your Church". Rohrmayer is a church planting specialist, who has been involved in church planting at every level: as an intern, a bivocational pioneer planter, a parent church pastor, a church planting coach and a regional church planting director.

In these various capacities he has been involved in over 40 church plants in the last 15 years. He is currently the Director of Midwest Church Planting and lives in Lindenhurst, IL, with his wife Mary and their three children.

Those attending the conference will receive 12 hours of interactive training answering 13 key questions to growing a healthy church; the "25 Questions" CD with cutting edge materials valued at \$79.99 (for the team leader); 1 - "25 Questions" workbook; and 100 - Spiritual Journey guides (for the team leader).

This conference is also a valuable tool for the established pastor who might be looking to reshape his ministry and lead his church in a fresh, new direction.

Complete information can be found at www.bgcmideast.com. A hotel has been secured (Courtyard by Marriott) and reservations are available at a reduced rate until February 10, 2005.

For further information, contact june@bgcmideast.com or call the MBC office at 330.757.7970.

Walnut Creek Community Church Moves to USA Cinema

Having spent the last four years meeting at Lakeview High School, Cortland, OH, it was a big move for Walnut Creek Church as they took up weekly residence for worship at USA Cinemas in the Great East Plaza in Niles, OH.

Holding worship in theatre style was at first both a challenge and a blessing as the teams learned how to best set up each theatre to accommodate worship and classes and found they would no longer have to haul things in and out

of a trailer hitched to many people's trucks, saving both backs and time!

Kory Tedrick, church planter, says a special mailer will be sent out to 35,000 homes in the second week of January. "It is our hope that our new, central location will encourage many more people to come visit us," Tedrick said. "We're planning services that we hope will meet people where they are. Our goal is to help each one become all God means for them to be through practical messages, multi media, and new music. We want people to meet Jesus when

they walk through our doors!

"We're also working on plans for assimilation and connectedness so once people come, they'll find ways to get plugged in, getting to know one another and making it easier for them to want to stick with us," he continued. "The addition of Brian and Beth Main to our staff in June will mean a lot to all of us."

"We know God is on the move in our area. We can't wait to see what He's going to do with us!" finished Tedrick.

Extreme Makeover For Hill Family!

When Charles Hill, pastor of New Hope Community Church, Loudonville, OH, wife Tiffany and their children left their home for a week-long vacation, they had no idea that the home they'd come back to wouldn't look like what they'd left!

It was a HUGE secret as some of the members of the New Hope congregation put together a plan, working with Charles' mom, to give the Hill house an Extreme Makeover! They were prompted by the impending birth of a third little Hill who needed a place to sleep!

The committee didn't bring the congregation into the plan until the



The kitchen in the Hill home goes from not so pretty to beautiful under the careful workmanship of this skilled young lady.



Sunday morning after the Hill's left town. It was touch and go as they didn't know who might come forward to help them with such an ambitious plan, but in an amazing move of God, people joined in throughout the week to transform the house from old and in need of help to a beautiful place that the family was amazed to come home to! Even the outside



Young Christian has this talented man to thank for the wonderful mural on his walls!



was transformed when one member, a landscape contractor, dug in, literally to remove old plantings and replace them with new ones.

The Hills were very moved and so thrilled with their gift! A look at the before and after shots on this page give an idea of all the hard work that was done!

Congratulations to the Hills and the members of New Hope Community Church for a loving job well done!

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Church Planting

Mideast Baptist Conference



Seed Money Offering Helps Church Planters

"Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: 'He who gathered much did not have too much and he who gathered little did not have too little.'"

These verses from 2 Corinthians give voice to why it is that you participate in the annual Seed Money Offering....so that "He who gathered much did not have too much and he who gathered little did not have too little."

Church planting is a very rewarding experience as couples go to new towns and begin ministries among strangers in order to meet God's call upon their lives for the purpose of expanding His kingdom. But it is also a hard life as they work to gather a launch team; struggle with finances; contact friends, families and other churches to help provide them with all that they

need, not just to get started, but to maintain as they move forward toward launch and then future growth!

New church planters depend on the MBC to help provide for some of those needs.

YOU are the MBC!

It is you to whom they turn with hope, seeking provision for meeting their needs. Because of your gifts to the Seed Money Offering, new church planters are awarded Seed Money Grants that help them with start up needs. Grants range in size from \$5,000 to \$15,000 depending on the need.

Please be generous in your giving this year as we are hoping to raise \$100,000 to maintain the ministries of 10 planters already in the field as well as begin up to eight new ministries this year in these areas: Columbus, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Buffalo, NY; at least three new projects in the Metro DC area; and possibly one in NE Ohio.

Send contributions to the Mideast Baptist Conference, 20 E. McKinley Way, #5, Poland, OH 44514. Please be sure to note "Seed Money Offering" on the memo line of the check.

Thank You!

New Church Planters Take the Field in 2004

Nathan & Rina Lozada

August 1, 2004 saw the official inception of a new ministry to Filipinos in the triangle region of North Carolina (Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill), as Nathan and Rina Lozada were called, and began their ministry, as church planters in the Mideast Baptist Conference.

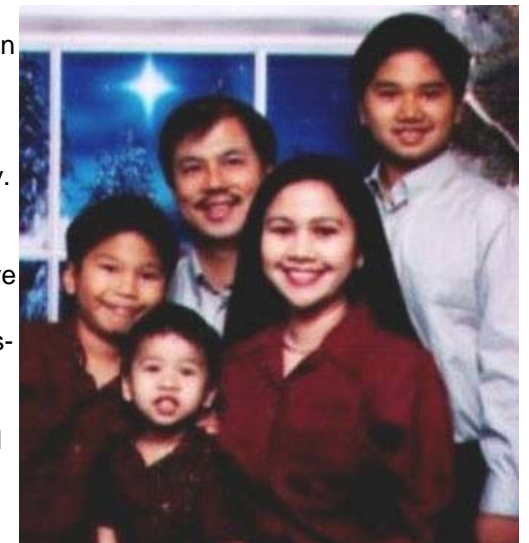
The new church, Glory of God Christian Fellowship, is intended to reach out to the nearly 5,000 Filipinos living in that area. The church, even before the Lozadas were officially called, had 35 adults and 20 kids and youth attending launch team meetings!

Both Nathan and Rina attended the University of the Philippines, graduating with a B.A. in Economics and Philosophy respectively.

Nathan also holds an M.A. in Business Management and expects to receive his M.Div. in December, 2004, while Rina will receive a certificate in Women's Ministries from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2005. The Lozadas have

three children, Mathew, Vincent and Lance.

New Planters cont'd on page 2



New Church Planters ... cont'd from page 1

Adam & Rachel Eshbaugh

Adam and Rachel Eshbaugh were called as church planters to the Philadelphia area beginning July 1, 2004, following Adam's graduation with an M.A. in Church History from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Chicago, IL.



The Eshbaughs are returning to home grounds and family with son Jackson, having grown up in the Philadelphia area. They felt called back to Philadelphia to plant a church that will try to meet the needs of members of the postmodern world with the holistic, life changing story of Jesus Christ. While they will be living in King of Prussia, they see their ministry reaching far across the Philadelphia community at large, not only with their initial church plant, but through the daughtering of many new churches over the course of time.

Jim and Natalie Eaton

Jim Eaton, church planter of Mosaic Church in Frederick, MD gave us this report:



The Eatons, l to r, Kelsey, Natalie, Jim, Brynne and Seth.

"We're continuing to dialogue with a couple who are interested in moving here to partner with us in planting the new church. Pray for God's will in this process....Natalie and I will hold open houses with small groups of adults after which we will extend invitations to the attendees to come to a seeker Bible study....Recently I met with Linda, a leader of a charitable foundation in the area. At one point in our discussion, she said, "You really believe God is going to build this church through your prayers? You really believe that God is there, that He will hear your prayers?" "Yes!" I said. "God is working right now as we speak. His presence is in this room." "Wow," she said, "we need to continue this discussion."

"We hope to begin official launch team meetings in early 2005. Please continue to pray for our ministry and feel free to share your prayer requests with us--we love to hear from you!"

Tesfaye & Yeshi Haile

"My involvement with the MBC in starting the Ethiopian Covenant Gospel Church is both a great privilege and an incredible opportunity. The training program and the spiritual and financial support we have received is of great value to me. I am very much indebted for a number of things I have received through the MBC. If it was not for each MBC church and individual's help, the level of achievement we have now gained in this short period could never have materialized.

"We are in the process of forming a core group who can become a launch team...most attendees are committed to our church planting effort...and have even asked to be allowed to start gathering tithes and offerings!

"Once a week we have a prayer and fasting program as well as a weekly prayer night in the chapel. We also hold a weekly Bible study at my apartment. We are looking forward to launching the church officially in the fall of 2005. We need your prayer support for this grand task."



Tesfaye holding Elienai while Haniel is with mom Yeshi

Vietnamese Church Shows Growth, Commitment



Pastor Trung Nguyen, second from right, stands with members of his congregation and Dan & Sandi Peterson, far left.

The congregation of the Vietnamese Baptist Conference Church is growing and doing well. Pastor Trung Nguyen, church planter since 2000, is working with the group to develop fully committed Christians.

He tells us that his members are wonderful in caring for one another and helping to meet the needs of each other whether physical or emotional. They are reaching out to others within their community, trying to share Christ's love with them and make a difference in lives for the Kingdom.

A difference is being made in marital relationships as well as for parents and children. Nguyen looks forward to continued service to the Lord and growth in both numbers and relationships.

Living Spring Community Church Plant Launched

In 2004, Living Spring Community Church (LSCC), Silver Spring, MD, under the leadership of Pastor Ernie Bartolome, launched as the newest community church in Montgomery County, MD, marking the birth of another Filipino-American and multi-cultural church in the greater Washington, D.C. area for the MBC.

Rev. Noel Pantoja, Senior Pastor of Hope To You Community Church, Bowie, MD (LSCC's mother church) and Rev. Michael Pauls of Montgomery Missionary Community Church in Silver Spring, MD, a fellow BGC/MBC pastor, supported the two-hour celebration. Rev. Ella Redfield, New Creation Baptist Church, in whose

building LSCC meets weekly, and Deaconess Puckett also attended the festivities along with church leaders and elders from many area churches across MD.

A combination of Filipino and Western style worship was experienced with Pastor Ernie delivering a rousing message entitled "An Invitation from the Master's Chef" to the 70 people who had gathered for the celebration.



In traditional Baptist form, a bountiful meal, offering a wide array of Filipino and other international dishes, completed the celebration.

Following the launch the church stepped into "The Purpose Driven Life", the series of thoughtful Bible studies written by Rick Warren that is being used by many churches across the MBC. Their goal is to use the study both to grow internally as well as to attract disengaged church members as well as un-churched people.

They continue to grow and will soon need to find a new home for worship!

Pantoja, Tedrick Named to Church Planting Coordinator Positions

Through the affirmation of both the Church Planting Ministry Team and the MBC Board of Overseers, Noel Pantoja and Kory Tedrick have been called to the positions of Cultural Ministries Church Planting Coordinator and NE Ohio/ NY Church Planting Coordinator respectively. Both men will be part-time practitioners while maintaining their primary ministries at their home churches.



Noel Pantoja

Tedrick and Pantoja each have strong backgrounds as church planters themselves as well as through coaching other church planters and participation as assessors for assess

ment centers. Noel has been working in a leadership capacity with the BGC for Cultural Ministries.

The new positions are an effort to more effectively work with church planters across the MBC from their date of call through their church launch and recognition into the MBC. The men will meet regularly with the church planters within their regions for the purpose of mentoring, offering practical help, answering questions, and providing accountability in their ministries.

With the growth of church planting in the MBC, the hiring of these positions



Kory Tedrick

will provide more quality assurance in meeting the goals and objectives set before church planters. It will also provide much needed assistance to Executive Minister Dan Peterson, to whom the two men will report. With a burgeoning responsibility for every facet of the MBC, Peterson will be able to concentrate efforts in other areas as needed.

It is anticipated that in the near future, coordinators will also be hired for the DC/Maryland and the Virginia/ North Carolina areas as well.

The MBC welcomes both Pantoja and Tedrick to this part of the ministry!

Church Planting Assessment Center Dates for 2005

- ✓ February 2-5 ~ Manila, Philippines
- ✓ March 7-10 ~ Green Lake, WI
- ✓ April 18-21 ~ Green Lake, WI
- ✓ June 13-16 ~ Green Lake, WI
- ✓ August 15-18 ~ Green Lake, WI
- ✓ November 8-11 ~ Washington, D.C.