

# New Churches Report to the Canadian National Baptist Convention • July 2014

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*By Daniel J. Morgan, Team Leader*

Update on activities of the New Churches Team in the last four months

## **NEW CHURCHES**

We ended the year of 2013 with 33 new churches registered. This means that they have an acknowledged leader, have been meeting for at least six weeks, and have recorded at least one salvation decision.

Our church planting goal this year is 40 new churches registered. To date, we have recorded nine new churches. This is a typical pace, with many of the church starts not registering until later in the year as they see the fruit of evangelistic outreach over the summer. For example, we have four new plants in Alberta that will register before fall.

## **PLANTING SYSTEMS**

We are continuing to make progress in two vital areas: church planting systems and hub churches.

### **1. Church planting systems.**

- a. **Recruit and develop.** The system we ultimately want to have in place includes a “farm system” of calling out young adults through short-term mission experiences. This “farm system” also uses internships, and apprenticeships to prepare maturing leaders for planting a healthy new church using a team to assist them.
- b. **Assess.** The church planting system also includes rigorous assessment, specific training for church planting, and ongoing coaching as the church is planted and develops. Currently the assessment system is fully in place and runs online through NAMB.
- c. **Train.**
  - i. Specific training may include a variety of elements, but our basic approach is to use Church Planting Essentials (CPE), a course developed by Dynamic Church Planting International (DCPI). Based in San Diego, they train world-wide with a goal of training 5,000,000 church planters. Their material is principle-based and easy to adapt to different models of planting. We also use two other courses from them: Churches Planting Churches (CPC), and Becoming a Mentor (BAM). All the courses are built on twelve biblical principles of church planting and nineteen landmines that can harm a church plant

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- ii. In addition to the basics, we use e-quip.net and equip university for specific classes to help with church growth and member development

## d. **Coach and Encourage.**

- i. **Coach.** Our goal is that every church planter will have a coach. Toward that end, NAMB hired Dino Senesi to organize a coaching system and train our catalysts to use it. Currently, it is fully implemented in BC and we are working on it in the other provinces.
  - e. **Network.** Each of our catalysts conducts “multiply network” meetings in their area to encourage and do ongoing training with our church planters AND the established churches who want to foster church planting in their area.
  - f. **Hold Accountable.** Each funded church plant is held accountable for their development of the new church. They submit a monthly report that measures four indicators of health and communicate with the catalyst prayer needs. They are encouraged to keep in close contact with their partner churches, especially those who are geographically distant. They are also help accountable to contribute 6% of their general receipts to the CP and/or GMO.
2. **Hub churches.** The second critical component for reaching 1000 churches by 2020 is the development of churches who are committed to training and deploying new church planters. We began this process two years ago and we now have about eight churches that have the basics of training a cohort of planters set. Examples include the Korean network led by Peter Yoon in Vancouver and Initiative22 church led by Dwight Bernier. Our strongest hub churches are in Vancouver and Montreal, but we have churches committed and developing their systems in each of the provinces.

## **ADDITIONAL STAFF**

During the past year, we added one full-time catalytic missionary in Toronto, Rob Hayes, and a contract catalyst in Winnipeg, Rod Geisbrecht. We will be losing Roger Ferrell as the full time catalyst for Alberta, but bringing in an experienced missionary, Stan Felder, to replace him. NAMB continues to look favorably at adding catalytic missionaries when they are proven to produce new churches and networks. It is a tough job. Currently, I could use an additional four catalysts to work with critical opportunities in Canada. Please pray that the Lord of the Harvest will raise up extraordinary leaders who can catalyze enough churches for a movement to take off.

## **ETHNIC CHURCHES**

One of the great growth areas in the last year has been ethnic church plants. For whatever reason, God has given us favor with church planting leaders from different

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ethnicities. In Alberta we have catalyzed two Ethiopian churches in the last four months. We have new Vietnamese, Burmese, Chinese, Korean, and Filipino churches as well. This is true across Canada.