

New Days
The Stadia Newsletter



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Stadia: New Church Strategies

Volume III, Issue 1

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SO YOU LAUNCHED YOUR CHURCH... NOW WHAT?

CHURCH PLANTING @ THE NEXT LEVEL

June 2-4, 2008

Community Christian Church
Naperville, Illinois

June 10-12, 2008

William Jessup University
Rocklin, California




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www.stadia.cc/nextlevel

“The state wouldn’t help me, but a Stadia church has really stepped in.”

Journey 2L2 Renovates a Townhome for a Single Father

When Journey 2L2 held its first worship service just over one year ago, Lead Pastor Bob Cushman said, “We want to do more and more for our community. We want to be the kind of people who are constantly thinking of ways to love people, and we want to continue to create avenues for the truths of God.”

Since that day, the members of Journey 2L2 have logged over 2,000 hours of community service, tackling major service projects in the greater Princeton, New Jersey area. Just before Christmas, Denise Gutierrez, Journey 2L2’s director of community outreach, led a team that completely remodeled a townhouse for a local single father.

Years ago, David was a successful small business owner with a wife and two children. But financial difficulties forced him to close his business, and David ultimately found himself a divorced, single father to his two sons. Unable to keep up with his family’s expenses, David hoped to sell his home to avoid foreclosure, but the townhouse was in disrepair and unlikely to attract a buyer.

Journey 2L2 had already remodeled two small homes for single mothers, but Denise Gutierrez knew David’s two-story townhouse would be a much larger – and more expensive – project than the church had tackled before. Still, when she heard David’s story, Denise was moved by his need and by the opportunity to minister practically to a family that needed the love of Christ. Denise said, “When I look at the things that brought me to the point of being saved, I see reminders that God was part of my life even when I was going the other direction. So I said, ‘Let’s go for it!’”



Denise assembled a team of volunteers that worked for six days to remodel the home – painting, redecorating and installing new floors, countertops and cabinets. David was overwhelmed. He told the South Brunswick Post newspaper, “The state wouldn’t help me, but the church has really stepped in.”

When the work was complete, David listed and sold his home within three weeks. For Journey 2L2, that was just part of the battle. Denise said, “We have seen the transformation in the hearts of those within Journey 2L2 who serve others. Projects like this have not only helped those on the receiving end, they have changed people on the giving end. This is community, the way it should be.”

David and his boys undoubtedly agree. He told The Post, “We are going to church from now on.”

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Planting churches. Changing lives.

“We prayed and prayed and God answered.”

Four Hundred Worshippers from Seven States Celebrate Launch in Kansas City

On Sunday, March 2, Restore Community Church launched with 428 in attendance! Stadia, NewThing Network, and Community Christian Church (Naperville, Illinois) provided support to the church, which began as a dream of the North American Christian Convention to impact Kansas City, Missouri beyond the week of the 2007 convention.

Visitors traveled from seven states to celebrate the launch of Kansas City's newest church, and they were greeted that morning with unseasonably warm 70-degree weather. Church Planter Troy McMahon said, “It was an awesome day. God is so good. We prayed and prayed and God answered.”

But more important than the numbers or the weather was the ministry. That first morning, Troy shared, “We had some great stories of people far from God who are taking steps to Jesus. I love watching people get it. We talked about becoming 3C Christ Followers, and 40 people signed up to join a small group. Hundreds took Replenish bags for our food drive.”

In the weeks that followed, Restore Community Church continued to reach out to hundreds with the life-changing message of the gospel. “God



has totally blessed us,” Troy said. “We had 428 people at our launch and we have had over 300 people each of the four weeks following. I absolutely feel like God has given me a front row seat to see Him change lives and eternities. I love watching people fall in love with Jesus...many for the first time. God is obviously at work in Kansas City and I am so grateful that he invited us to play!”

www.restorecc.org | www.troymcmahon.org

Changing Lives in Many Nations: Stadia Assists with Church Planting Overseas

On March 23, church planter Rob Schultz opened Stadia's first international church plant, The River, in Gillingham, England. The River is the first of what Stadia hopes will be many international plants. Stadia's goal is to come alongside indigenous groups in other nations that already are doing great works and help move the Kingdom agenda forward.

Stadia East is currently helping to plant an Arabic Church in the Middle East. (Details are purposely withheld to protect believers in difficult lands.) And later this year, Stadia will team up with several key churches and Central India Christian Mission (CICM) to help plant as many as 35 new churches in India. Dr. Ajai Lall, the founder of CICM, has overseen the launch of more than 600 church plants in India in the past 24 years,

and will provide direction to the church planting teams. (Stadia's Marcus Bigelow recently returned from a tour of India, during which he provided video updates via webcam. View those videos on demand at www.stadia.cc.)

CICM and Stadia are still seeking North American churches that will each agree to partner with five Indian church plants next year. In October, Marcus Bigelow will be leading a group of pastors on a tour of 10 cities in India and Nepal, praying that God will lay a particular city upon the heart of each American pastor.

For information on joining Stadia's church planting efforts in India, e-mail mbigelow@stadia.cc.

“The Angels Rejoice”

Ten Decisions at Genesis Christian Church Launch!

On Sunday, February 24, Genesis Christian Church opened the doors of the facility formerly occupied by Gilbert (Arizona) Christian Church and launched a brand new congregation. Seven people made decisions to follow Christ that morning, and three more rededicated their lives to the Lord.

The day after the launch, Lisa Kelly, wife of Church Planter Tim Kelly, rejoiced over the life-changing impact of the newborn congregation. She said, “Praise be to our Lord for His incredible mercy! Scripture tells us that the angels rejoice when someone repents and turns to God. There may be some high fives going on in Heaven!”



After years of decline, Gilbert Christian Church closed its doors in 2007 and donated its property to Stadia, which committed to use the building for a new church plant. Spring of Life Christian Church, a ten-year-old church plant in the nearby city of Mesa, partnered with Stadia and the Kellys on the launch of Genesis Christian Church. Stadia's sister ministry, Church Development Fund, provided a grant of \$60,000 to support the launch.

Nearly 200 worshippers filled the old Gilbert Christian Church building on launch Sunday. Afterward, Lisa Kelly gave glory to God and sought prayer for the young congregation, saying, “Praise God for His kindness and grace to each of us. Please pray for our follow-up process, that these new folks in the faith will become rooted in Christ.”

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West Region: 916.626.3090
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Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for the following church planting needs:

Upcoming church launches:

Alabaster, AL
Chula Vista, CA
Cleveland, OH
Indianapolis, IN
Los Angeles, CA
New Orleans, LA
Santa Rosa, CA

Church planters needed:

Baltimore, MD
Northern California
Ohio
San Francisco, CA

Church planting networks forming:

Alabama
Arizona
Atlanta, GA
East Bay Area, N. CA
India
Kentucky
Las Vegas, NV (Spanish-language)
North Carolina (2)
Ohio (2)
Sacramento, CA
Southern California (Latino)
West Tennessee