

...More people are saved

The last line of our slogan - and the purpose of what we do - is "so that more people are saved!" Stories like the two below remind us all of the power that church planting has on individual lives. Praise God!



"I'm ready." Those were the only words Lisa Wynton said as she approached me at the end of one of our Sunday morning worship services. She had been attending Discovery Christian Church with her husband John and their two sons for six months, and now she was ready - as were her two boys - to give her life to Jesus Christ. At Discovery, our mission is to see lives changed by connecting people with Jesus Christ. We dream that in the coming years we will help thousands of people discover God's love, because at Discovery we love to hear the words, "I'm ready."

Aaron Brockett, Pastor, Discovery Christian Church (Davis, CA)



Darrin would be classified as a "hold-out." His wife and daughter have been Christians for many years, but he never felt led to make any kind of commitment. Darrin and his family were a part of our new fellowship early on, but he still "held-out" from making any kind of decision. His son, Sean, decided to get baptized, and finally the thousands of prayers, the upcoming baptism of his son, and the incredible enthusiasm of our new church moved Darrin to action. The same day as his son, the "hold-out" got "held-under" at a church picnic at "The Baths," a place up in the hills where Los Banos got its name.

Doug Marshall, Pastor, Connections Christian Church (Los Banos, CA)

Stadia: New Church Strategies

Marcus W. Bigelow
President

Greg Marksberry
Southeast Regional Director

Mac McElroy
Southwest Regional Director

Dan Scates
Northern California Regional Director

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Join Stadia Forums

If you haven't experienced Stadia Forums yet, visit www.Stadia.cc and join today! The Stadia Forum is an online community where church planters and church planting partners - including veteran ministers and Stadia staff members - share resources, insight, and support twenty-four hours a day. Find answers to your questions, provide answers to someone else's questions, or just participate in our online polls. No matter where you live, you can always be connected with Stadia Forums. Best of all, membership is free!

Churches Opening This Season

Our goal for 2003 is to assist in the starting of 13 new churches. Here is a short list of cities where new churches will be opening their doors in the next few months! Please remember to pray for these new works and for the people involved with them.

- ▶ Buckhead, Georgia
- ▶ Spring Hill, Tennessee
- ▶ Burleson, Texas
- ▶ Murrieta, California
- ▶ Tucson, Arizona
- ▶ Santa Ana, California
- ▶ Spokane Valley, Washington
- ▶ Nipomo, California
- ▶ Santa Rosa, California
- ▶ Reno, Nevada
- ▶ North Natomas, California
- ▶ Bakersfield, California

What is the LAB?



In order to avoid confusion and to maintain goodwill with other groups who have coined the terms, we recently changed the name of our Assessment Center and church planter's Boot Camp to the Assessment LAB and the Church Planting LAB. We believe that the introduction of this new nomenclature is an important step in the creation of a seamless planter care system.

The LAB name is an acronym - it stands for "Learn, Assess, Build." Our stated mission at Stadia is to find, train, deploy and support church multiplication leaders. The process of selecting and training church planters and their families is absolutely critical in fulfilling that mission.

The LAB system is inclusive of all existing "Assessment Center" and "Boot Camp" programming, and is being expanded to include training for coaches and mentors as well as worship leaders and church planting directors. The Assessment LAB and the Church Planting LAB are the core of the LAB system, and are the first two steps for any couple who feel God may be calling them to plant a church.

The Assessment LAB remains unchanged in its purpose to help identify planters who are best suited for starting a church that will flourish. It begins with the application process and culminates in a three-day event that includes eight to ten trained interviewers, psychologists,

current planters and their wives. The purpose of this LAB is to help couples or single planters ascertain the will of God; it is a discovery process that is highly effective in helping couples focus their ministry skills.

The Church Planting LAB is a training event for church planter couples who have been accepted to plant a church. Each planter finishes this LAB with a ministry plan that is tailored to their specific church plant. In addition to providing the ministry plan - which covers topics ranging from vision and values to outreach, facilities, fund raising, marketing, and infrastructure development - the Church Planting LAB also helps each planter develop a network of relationships with other planters for future support and encouragement.

For more information on the Assessment LAB please contact:
Roger Gibson
Director of Recruitment and Assessment:
(707) 446-6232
e-mail rgibson@stadia.cc

For more information on the Church Planting LAB please contact:
Phil Claycomb
Director of Planter Care
(707) 446-6232
e-mail pclaycomb@stadia.cc

Stadia Means...

MORE churches often in places with planter support so that people are saved!

Our new slogan (above) contains some of the values that drive our mission. From the bottom up:

- ▶ **More People Are Saved!** – Church planting is about bringing people to Jesus. It has been said over and over again, but it's still true: Church planting is the most effective evangelistic strategy under heaven. People matter to God, and they matter to us as well. Every other mission of the church pales in comparison to bringing people to Jesus.
- ▶ **More Planter Support** – A key value of Stadia is that we don't plant churches - we find, train, deploy and support church multiplication leaders who will plant church-planting churches! This is not just playing with words. We believe that taking care of church planters is the most important thing we do.
- ▶ **In More Places** – A few places in our continent may have enough churches, but most of North America does not. According to the Journal of Church Growth, "...between 3,500 to 4,000 churches close their doors each year for the last time; while 1,100 to 1,500 churches are started each year." In the past five months alone, Stadia has been invited to assist with church plants in eleven states.
- ▶ **More Often** – This year at least thirteen churches will hold grand openings and several more are scheduled for early 2004. It is our prayer that each year the number of churches planted will increase until we are planting hundreds of new Christian Churches every year across the country. We don't think that Stadia will plant all of these – we are committed to partnering as much as possible.
- ▶ **More Churches** – The vision of Stadia is to see enough churches planted to positively impact the lives of 1% of the US by 2025 and even more shortly after that. It is our prayer to see more than 5000 new churches planted by 2025 and to have a direct part in helping many of those starts.

Thank you Church Development Fund

This year Church Development Fund will provide over \$700,000 to church planting across the nation. That funding is born of a deep-seated commitment from the Board and leadership of CDF to see people come to know Christ and to help keep Christian Churches growing and healthy in order to honor God.

CDF's church-planting funds come through two sources. First, the Board of Directors of CDF has established a board-directed fund that makes grants to new churches established by Stadia. This coming year those grants will total approximately \$400,000 - enough to assist nine new churches.

Secondly, the board has committed funds to help pay for many of Stadia's national costs. In addition to those funds, CDF is providing back-office support in accounting, marketing, information technology, and human resources. Their support allows church planters – and Stadia staff – to spend more time bringing people to Jesus and less time doing administrative work.

We are grateful to CDF for their forward-looking commitment to plant churches for the next generation. Please remember the staff and leadership of CDF in your prayers for Stadia!

STADIA

EVENTS CALENDAR

The Assessment LAB (LAB 1)

- ▶ July 22-24 – Vacaville, CA
- ▶ August 19-21 – Atlanta, GA
- ▶ September 9-11 – Vacaville, CA
- ▶ November 18-20 – Vacaville, CA

The Church Planting LAB (LAB 2)

- ▶ August 12-15 – Vacaville, CA
- ▶ December 2-5 – Corona, CA

Other Events

- ▶ August 11-15
Coaches and Mentors Training
- ▶ August 11-15
Church Planting Directors Training
- ▶ September 15-18 - National Church Planting Executives Conference
Estes Park, CO
- ▶ October 17 – Worship Leaders LAB
Vacaville, CA
- ▶ October 18 – Worship Team LAB
Vacaville, CA
- ▶ December 1-5
Coaches and Mentors Training
Vacaville, CA
- ▶ December 11 – Dr. Eddie Gibbs
Church Planting Seminar
Vacaville, CA

From the Southeast Region

Things are looking bright for church planting in the Sunbelt! The Stadia Southeast team is beaming with anticipation as we watch God bring about the dawn of a new day for church planting in our region.

On the horizon we have two new churches set to begin in 2003 and we envision as many as eight in 2004. From Baton Rouge and Bossier City, Louisiana to Cobb and Cherokee Counties in Georgia...from Nashville, Tennessee to Raleigh, North Carolina...all the way to Birmingham, Alabama the future is bright to reach more people for Christ through more new churches!

We are thrilled to announce that Buckhead Christian Church (Atlanta, Georgia) and WellSpring Christian Church (Spring Hill, Tennessee) will both launch on October 5 of this year under the capable leadership of Dan Garrett and Andy Hudelson, respectively. Tim Stephens (our Director of Recruitment/Assessment) and I feel greatly honored to work with such gifted servants of God as Dan and Andy.

We are grateful for the tremendous support these projects have received from existing local churches. WellSpring, for example, is the result of a partnership between Stadia and Franklin (Tennessee) Christian Church. The leadership teams for these churches are already planning to partner with Stadia to plant another church in the greater Nashville area in 2004. With such synergy and vision at work it is easy to see why the future of church planting is beaming so brightly in the Sunbelt!

Greg Marksberry
Southeast Regional Director

From the Northern California Region

We are very pleased to announce that Dan Scates has accepted the position of Northern California Regional Director, effective June 1, 2003. Dan comes to us after a nine year ministry with LifeBridge Christian Church in Longmont, Colorado. He is no stranger to Northern California, having served as chairman of the NCEA and as a church planter and pastor in Northern California before relocating to Colorado. We are blessed to have him join us!

During the first four months of 2003, four churches in the Northern California region held their grand openings. Valley Christian Church, Pathway Christian Church, and LifePointe Christian Church all opened in February. Connections Christian Church opened April 13.

Valley Christian is a rural plant in Lake Berryessa with a bi-vocational planting couple, Randall and Carroll Roach, proving that not every plant has to be in a major population area. Pathway, led by Dan and Debra Wisniewski, began in south Reno, Nevada – a four-year-old planned community of 10,000 homes. LifePointe's grand opening in Laguna West drew over 460 people – the largest grand opening ever for a Stadia church – and they have continued to draw more than 250 each week. Connections Church, the youngest of all, is already impacting lives in Los Banos (see the article on the next page).

Before the end of 2003, five additional churches are scheduled to open through the leadership of the NorCal region; we are also partnering with churches and associations to help plant in Spokane Valley, Washington, and Burleson, Texas.

Dan Scates, Northern California Director

From the Southwest Region

The Southwest United States is home to some of the fastest-growing counties in the nation. We have a number of strong, growing churches here, but those churches can't reach the entire existing population, let alone the emerging population. We need to build bridges to reach new communities and generations - how do we do that? Right now our LAB assessment and training programs are busy developing church planters for the Southwest region, but bridge building requires more than church planters.

In South Orange County (California) we are planting two new churches in 2004 with the help of a trust fund established to help plant churches there. As a result, my wife and I have decided to include Stadia in our living trust and we are encouraging our friends to be bridge builders in this way as well.

Eastside Christian Church (Fullerton, California) is partnering with us to plant a church in Murrieta, California; Valley Christian Church (Chino, California) and Pantano Christian Church (Tucson, Arizona) have also joined us as bridge building partners by committing to help plant churches as often as once a year.

There are many churches to be planted, many bridges to be built. You, your family and your church can help us reach more people for our Lord than any of us could do alone. Let's build bridges together.

Mac McElroy, Southwest Regional Director