

It's the Smile on Her Face Marc Bigelow, President



Recently I attended two of our new churches, thousands of miles apart: one a year old, one just a month old. One common denominator was the smile on the face of the church planter's wife. Both were beaming with an overflowing joy that was not present when I first met them. One came from a very legalistic background that had told her husband he was not a leader. The other came from a very traditional church that didn't want to change. Both had been beaten down by "the ministry."

Such radical changes come about because of the care that our coaches, mentors and planter care teams lavish on all of our planting couples. Both of these women appeared to be working harder than they had in their previous ministries, but they were experiencing the joy and freedom of a new church and the support of people who were investing in them.

Planter care is expensive. It is expensive in units of love. It is expensive in hours of time. It is expensive in dollars. But it is worth it. A few years ago I sat in a seminar on church planting held by a prominent denomination. The speaker said, "We lose two out of three of our church plants." I could hardly believe it. Afterward I cornered the speaker and asked, "Is that really true?" He replied, "It's really closer to losing four out of five, but we can't admit that."

In recent years, Stadia has been blessed with more than a 90% success rate in our churches. Although planter care is expensive, the cost of planter neglect is even more expensive – in terms of men and women lost to ministry, marriages destroyed by long hours, and churches closed. Every minute and every dollar invested in planter care yields eternal dividends.

Our two emphases are planter care and church multiplication. You can't have the second without the first!



Stadia: New Church Strategies

Marcus W. Bigelow

President

Tom Jones

Southeast Regional Director

Mark Leeper

Sierra Pacific Regional Director

Bruce White

Southwest Regional Director



WWW

Online Giving now Available at Stadia.cc

Great news for internet users and friends of church planting: You can now make your gift to Stadia via our website, www.stadia.cc. Our online giving is provided on a secure server by PayPal®, the same company responsible for processing electronic payments on eBay.

Of course you may also continue to mail gifts to our new National Headquarters, where our donations have been received since 2004:

Stadia: New Church Strategies
P.O. Box 19700
Irvine, CA 92623-9700

Se Habla Donations?

To help in the training of Spanish-speaking pastors and church leaders, the Crossmont Institute is in need of video and sound equipment. If your church is interested in donating your used – but still good – technical equipment, please contact Francisco Camarena:

Crossmont Institute
2331 Kellogg Avenue
Corona, CA 92881
(951) 278-8596

Please call first before making a contribution

Our 100th Church Plant!

On Sunday, February 13, we celebrated the launch of our 100th and 101st church plants: Crossbridge Christian Church in Tallahassee, Florida and Adventure Christian Church of Stockton, California.

Crossbridge and Adventure, although separated by thousands of miles, held their Grand Opening services within hours of each other. And by all accounts, both launches were enormous successes. Crossbridge's Lead Pastor Mark Michael couldn't hide his excitement when he shared with Southeast Regional Director Tom Jones the next day: "Crossbridge Christian Church was born yesterday and it was an awesome experience! God continues to show up and provide in unexpected ways."

Ken Hasekamp, Lead Pastor at Adventure, was equally enthusiastic about the launch of his new church in Northern California. On Monday morning following the launch, he wrote these words to Mark Leeper, our Sierra Pacific Regional Director: "God's blessing was all over the Adventure launch – as it has been from the beginning of this wild journey."

It took us 51 years to find, train, deploy and support church planters for those first 100 churches, but we expect to plant our next 100 in less than five years. In fact, we have over 20 new launches scheduled for 2005 alone! We praise God for the leaders He has called to partner with us in this ministry of church planting, and we pray for His continued blessing over our first 100 church plants...and those that are yet to come.

For more information on our first 100 church plants – including detailed, first-hand launch accounts and a roster of our church plants – or to subscribe to Twelve: the Stadia e-newsletter, visit www.stadia.cc.



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Change Service Requested



Ripe Unto Harvest Larry Green, Interim Director of Development



We live in an age when the majority of Americans call themselves Christians, yet church attendance has declined in recent years. That is why Stadia has set a goal of establishing 5,500 new churches by 2025 – not simply to hit some “magical number,” but to establish dynamic churches that will appeal to and reach out to many Americans who have an inkling of Christianity, but who have not accepted Jesus as their Savior.

Truly, the fields are ripe unto harvest – but to reap the harvest will require more than the Stadia staff. It will require thousands of people who accept the challenge to bring Christ to the unchurched.

You can become involved in what could become the greatest evangelistic effort in the history of our nation. Prayer warriors, local community volunteers, church planters, and financial donors are needed to undergird the entire effort.

Not everyone can be a church planter or a local volunteer, but we all can be prayer warriors – and many of us have the means to be financial donors. Yes, each church plant requires a financial investment of thousands of dollars, but the result of planting 5,500 new churches could literally be millions of souls saved. There can be no greater return on your investment! As we join our resources and look to the Lord for leading, great things will be accomplished.

To make a gift to Stadia, please call 1-800-233-3880 or visit www.stadia.cc.

We're Moving!

Effective April 1, 2005, our national headquarters is moving to the Provision Ministry Group office in Irvine, California, alongside our sister ministries Church Development Fund (CDF) and Visioneering Studios.

The expertise of Provision's staff in areas including accounting, personnel and information technology should enhance our ability to find and support church planters, while allowing our staff to focus on doing what they do best: facilitating the ministry development of church planters.

What's more, the new office is a striking facility, designed by the creative minds at Visioneering Studios. We invite you to come see us when you're in Southern California!



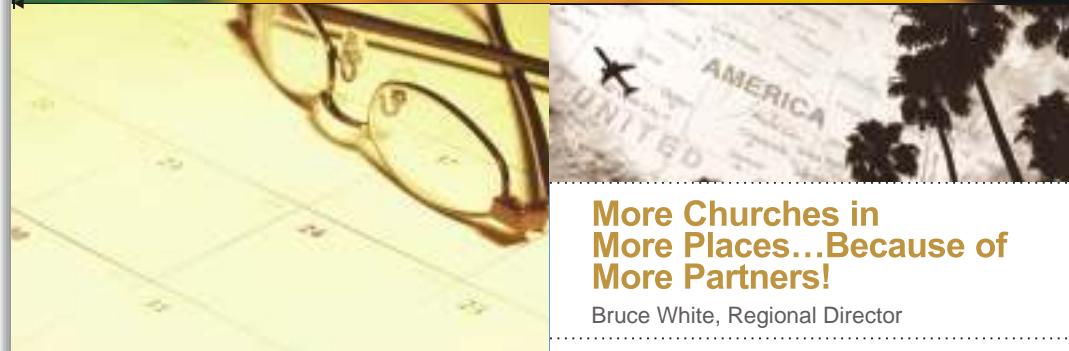
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Irvine, California 92606

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PO Box 19700
Irvine, California 92623-9700

STADIA



More Churches in More Places...Because of More Partners!

Bruce White, Regional Director

Potential Church Plant Locations

Winter/Spring 2005

Anthem, AZ
Queen Creek, AZ
American Canyon, CA
Mountain House, CA
Rancho Cordova, CA
Stockton, CA
Windsor, CA
Tallahassee, FL
Charlotte, NC
Stead, NV
China Spring, TX
Cypress, TX

Fall 2005

Hoover, AL
Beaumont, CA
Chico, CA
Oxnard, CA
Paso Robles, CA
West Roseville, CA
North Sacramento, CA
North San Diego, CA
San Diego, CA
East San Jose, CA
Santa Ana, CA
Destin, FL
Chicago, IL
Henry County, GA
New Orleans, LA
South Baltimore, MD
Asheville, NC
Manhattan, NY
Memphis, TN
Austin, TX
Odessa, TX

At the time of printing, over 10 of these 33 new churches were still in need of funding. Please call 1-800-233-3880 or visit www.stadia.cc to make a financial gift – you can help make 2005 our most prolific church planting year ever!

From the Southwest Region

Every new church we plant is the direct result of a strategic partnership with local churches or other ministries. The key to this ministry is to bring Stadia's knowledge of the church-planting process alongside the vision and resources of local churches. Without our church-planting partners, we simply would not be able to assess, coach, mentor, or support the planters who are on the front-lines in our battle for lost souls.

New churches scheduled to launch in the Southwest this year include: Christ's Church at the Crossroads (Anthem, AZ); EPIC Christian Church (Queen Creek, AZ); Life Spring Christian Church (Beaumont, CA); and Life Point Christian Community (San Diego, CA).

We also are assisting with two other church-planting projects: Breath of Life Christian Church (a Christian Missionary Fellowship Hispanic church plant in Oxnard, CA) and Life Spring Christian Community (a Church of Christ re-plant / re-launch in San Diego, CA). Other projects for English and Spanish-speaking churches are also in process.

We are grateful to the church planters who are stepping out in faith to launch these new ministries, and we are grateful to the established churches that have a vision for extending their reach through the ministry of church multiplication.

The Challenge is Greater than Ever Mark Leeper, Regional Director

From the Sierra Pacific Region

Five new churches are launching in northern California and Nevada in early 2005: Journey Christian Church (Windsor, CA); Adventure Christian Church (north Stockton, CA); Edgewater Christian Church (American Canyon, CA); New Horizons Christian Church (Rancho Cordova, CA); and Summit Christian Church (Stead, NV). Your prayers and support of these church planters and their families are appreciated!

In addition to these launches, we have six more new church planters who are ready to go, pending funding. Potential target communities for these future new churches are all in northern California: Paso Robles, Hanford, Antelope, west Roseville, east San Jose, and Chico.

Two Church Planting Networks (CPNs) are now up and running – one in Marin/Sonoma counties and another in Napa/Solano counties. Both of these smaller, geographical groups of planters and existing church pastors are already moving in partnership with Stadia to plant new churches within their areas. Other CPNs are in various formation stages throughout the region. Our goal is to organize the entire Sierra Pacific region around these CPNs within the next two years, creating a grass roots approach to church multiplication.

Right now the challenge is greater than it has ever been in the Sierra Pacific region. I have more potential planters and more potential sites to plant than I have resources available. Please pray for God's provision as we seek to reach the 17 million lost people living in northern California and Nevada.

Like Starting a Family Tom Jones, Regional Director

From the Southeast Region

Naomi Burke Jones died of cancer on November 11, 2004. She was my mother. “Mum” was a model mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. We loved her dearly. She did not leave much in regard to earthly treasures, but what she left was much more valuable than a few dollars. The legacy she left was her family. Mum gave birth to three children; they in turn gave her nine grandchildren who then gave her four great-grandchildren. Naomi Burke Jones lives, not only because of her faith in Jesus Christ, but also through her family.

Really, Stadia and those who choose to partner with us are a lot like good mothers. We give birth to churches. We love and nurture them, and teach them to become good mothers themselves. Our legacy is not in ourselves; it's in our daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter churches. We are not about starting a church here and there. We are about giving birth to a family of churches – a movement that will change the world.

In the Southeast Region of Stadia, we've started a family. In the past eighteen months or so, we've started ten baby churches that are now a part of the Stadia family. This is only the beginning. We are looking for many more baby churches to be born into the Stadia family, but we need some good moms to help us. Will you or your church consider being a mother of sorts by financially supporting Stadia? Together we can leave a legacy of churches that will change the world.