

E-VOICE NEWSLETTER



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March 2010

**National Missions
Awareness Month**

March 21

National Missions Sunday

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From the National Missions Director
Stephen Gray

National Missions Heads to Utah

Utah is one of the fastest growing states in the United States. Even during the times of recession, Utah continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Unfortunately, the Church is not keeping up with the growth curve and hasn't for quite some time.

Many communities throughout Utah share one thing in common: They have no Christian church and, consequently, no gospel representation. In fact, most of these cities have never had a church (other than a Mormon ward/church) inside the city limits. I want you to think about that for a moment. In the Midwest, where the bulk of our churches are located, we are used to seeing a church on every corner. However, in Utah there are approximately 22 cities with **ZERO** churches representing the truth of Jesus Christ.

Herriman, Utah, is a great example. Located at the south end of Salt Lake Valley, Herriman is a primary area of growth. According to the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau, Herriman had a population of only 1,500. The city now boasts over 20,000 in population with a projected increase of another 40,000 in the next few years. Yet Herriman is without one single church!

Our church planter for this new project is Charles Hill. Charles received his master's degree in theology at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. He has worked as a police officer in the inner city of Columbus. He has also been a youth pastor and has planted a church in the small town of Loudonville, Ohio, called [New Hope Community Church](#). New Hope exploded to over 1,000 people in a town of 2,000 and grew into three multi-sites, one in Shenzhen, China.

Charles is also the founder of [The Sticks](#). The Sticks is a national gathering for pastors who are leading churches throughout rural America (small and medium-sized towns) and hard-to-reach places. In many ways, Charles will fit into our movement very well. He is in line with our doctrine, and his ideas fit with who we are. I am excited to welcome him aboard.

I am also looking for any church or individual whose heart beats for the lost population of Utah. We need your prayer support and your financial support. Within the next month National Missions will be developing an opportunity for three to four MVD teams to visit the field

developing an opportunity for three to four MVP teams to visit the field in Salt Lake Valley. If you are interested, get your reservation in quickly.

National Missions Welcomes Jeff Roth

Jeff and Alicia Roth join the National Missions team in January 2010. Jeff's primary responsibilities will be to develop a self-sustaining Mission Volunteer Programs (MVP) to help our churches connect with our new church plants. He will also develop an internship program, through Oakland City University for those investigating the possibility of engaging in a church-planting ministry. Our new MVP program will create opportunities for our established churches to be present during a launch-day event, community-wide outreach events, summer camps created by the new churches, as well as many other opportunities.

National Missions Sunday Focus

The 2010 National Missions Awareness Month focus is **The Power of 10 Challenge**. Churches and pastors are asked to recognize Sunday, March 21, as National Missions Sunday, a time to receive a special offering.

Funds from this offering will be used to help finance **The Power of 10** goals and to assist three new churches: Revolution Church with Pastor Kris Freeman, White House and Cross Plains, Tennessee, area; Relevant Church with Pastor Carl Nichols, McDonough, Georgia; and Real Life Church with Pastor Vince Daniel, Flippin, Arkansas.

Informational pieces are being printed and will be mailed soon.

1. Postcard to Pastors
2. Pastor's Packet containing
 - a. Informational letter
 - b. Church planters' testimonials
 - c. Bulk supply of return remittance envelopes
3. *The Voice Newsletter*

We Are Sorry

by Pastor Dennis Minner
The Awakening, New York, NY

Apologizing to the "world"? What an interesting thought. Many people who walk in front of our churches on Sunday are not attending because at some point they have felt pushed away or offended by the Church. So often when we approach the unchurched they seem to think we as Christians have an ulterior motive to speaking with them. They immediately put up their walls of defense, sometimes for good reason; and they swat us away with comments about hypocrisy or something else. But what if we began apologizing for those feelings and begin to lower that wall?

At The Awakening Church, located in East Greenwich Village, we do just that. About once a month 5-10 of our members take signs that simply say "WE ARE SORRY" and stand and wait for New Yorkers to approach us. One of the things decided from the very first time of doing a We Are Sorry event was that we would never walk out to people to give them a card. Our philosophy is that we wait until people walk up to us and take a card. Because of that, the reactions have been amazing. There is something about having someone say he or she is sorry to you, and it takes down the defense mechanism and opens up a world of curiosity. It is always the same question, "Why are you sorry?" Our response is quite simple, "Have you ever felt pushed away or rejected by the Church? As Christians, we are sorry you have felt that. That was people and not Jesus. Jesus attracted people with a message of love, and we believe this is helping spread that message."

New York City is one of the most religiously diverse cities in the world, and at anytime there are multitudes of beliefs all around you. Jews, Buddhists, pagans, atheists, and even other Christians have read our cards; and then with sincere faces looked at us and said, "We forgive you." It is the most incredible feeling to know that the Holy Spirit worked in that instant in that person's heart. Even if that one spot of hardness towards the Church is taken away, it opens them up to understand more about Jesus as they walk away! We have only had two people get hostile with us, and they were "Christians."

2009 Contributions

If you are planning to give a gift to National Missions' church planting in 2009, place it in the mail today. The days remaining in 2009 are counting down. To be receipted for 2009, funds must reach the National Missions office by December 31, 2009.

Web Site Update

National Missions Web site has been updated. We have added a "Share This" and an "RSS Feed" button at the top left corner of our Web site page. When you click on the "Share This" button you can send the Web site address to a friend or place a link to it on your MySpace or Facebook. The RSS button will help you stay up to date on new blogs. Check out this updated site, www.generalbaptistnm.com.