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E-VOICE NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of General Baptist National Missions

December 2008

Planting Churches – Sharing Christ

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Calendar of Events

January 11, 2009–LAUNCH
Life Quest Church, Land O' Lakes,
Florida. Dr. Neal Brent, lead pastor.

January 25, 2009–LAUNCH
Genesis Church, West Plains,
Missouri. Rev. Jeff Smith, pastor.

February 2-5, 2009
ASSESSMENT CENTER
Clearwater, Florida

March 2009–NATIONAL MISSIONS
AWARENESS MONTH PROJECT
National Missions Sunday Offering,
March 29.

Needs

As many of you plan your 2009 church budgets, please consider assisting National Missions as it continues to plant fast-growing churches that impact people for Christ.

Contact Us

From the National Missions Director



Dr. Stephen Gray

Welcome Crosspointe Baptist Church

November 13 National Missions welcomed another new church to the General Baptist family. Crosspointe, an independent Baptist church in Clearwater, Florida, recently desired to become connected to a larger body. Rev. Everett Farris and his son John are leading Crosspointe. Rev. Farris has pastored this mid-sized congregation for more than 35 years. We are excited about Crosspointe and welcome it to the Florida Association. You can visit Crosspointe's Web

site: www.crosspointefl.com.

Rev. Farris says, "We here at Crosspointe are looking forward to being a part of the General Association of General Baptists. I have watched for some time now the work of the association in helping our son Christian Farris with Next Level General Baptist Church the new church plant in Palm Harbor, FL. I have been amazed and blessed by the passion of General Baptists for reaching the lost. I was not looking for a group to join, but after watching the leadership and spending time with Dr. Stephen Gray, I realized that we really could do more together than we can separately. I have come to believe that if evangelical believers don't pull together now for the cause of reaching our nation we are lost. I know the association brings a lot of things to the table that will bless Crosspointe, but I also pray that we can bring things to the table that will strengthen the association. We are excited about the future and teaming together with you."

Life Quest – Growing



"These are exciting days at Life Quest Church (LQ) as we continue to prepare for preview services," shares Pastor Brent Neal. "With each preview, we have begun to add additional elements to our service. This past service marked the beginning of our high-energy children's program. The only problem was that some of the kids did not want to go home!"

Rev. Jeff Roth has joined Pastor Brent in the work at LQ Church in Land O' Lakes, Florida, as its campus pastor. December 4 Jeff and his wife, Alicia, celebrated the birth of their first child, Adaliah.

"I am ecstatic to be a part of LQ Church," states Jeff. "I firmly believe that God

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General Association
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has big plans for the church in this community, because I believe that God has big plans for the community. I believe we can never experience our true potential until we embrace our Creator and truly seek out what we were created to be. That's what life at the LQ is all about, developing a real relationship with God, and taking one more step with Him each day." Life Quest is set to launch Jan. 11, 2009. Contact Jeff at jeff@lqfamily.com.

All About Changed Lives

"Words can't explain the incredible time that we had at our first annual food drive," shares Pastor Christian Farris. "Next Level Church (Tarpon Springs, Florida) was responsible for feeding 22 orphan families this Thanksgiving. It was amazing to see the people of NLC get involved in being a part of something greater than themselves. God has blessed this church with an incredible group of people who, regardless of these tough economic times, have a heart to reach down deep and give back to the community in a big way. I can't help but believe that God is going to bless that richly."

Check out testimonies from people that highlight what God is doing in their lives through Next Level's ministry: <http://www.livenextlevel.com>.



Coach's Corner



Terrell Somerville
Church Planting
Coach

Genesis General Baptist Church, pastored by Jeff Smith, is preparing to launch with a Grand Opening Jan. 25, 2009, in the Opera House in West Plains, Missouri. One of the great features of the Opera House is that it has six to eight rooms for youth ministries. The main auditorium seats 300-350 adults. Best of all a church has never launched from it. There is a great opportunity to present this new church and have a great positive image to begin the work.

A Christmas pre-launch service is scheduled for December 21. Those starting Genesis will participate in the Christmas parade in West Plains. This is a huge event attended by thousands of people. They will give out flyers, hot chocolate, and T-shirts. They will do something else I have never seen in a church-planting outreach. An airplane will fly over the parade for one hour displaying a banner that says "Genesis Church, Opera House, 12-21-08 Christmas Service."

Jeff's second preview service is January 11 in preparation for the January 25 Grand Opening.

Jeff wants us to keep praying for him and his wife, Kim, to keep their sanity through the process until launch. Stay in touch with the Smiths: <http://www.genesiswired.org>.

Sheffield Association News

by Bruce Conran, CPC

The 2008 presbytery held its November meeting in the Iglesia Ministerios de Dios Latinoamericanos in San Rafael, California. Twenty new members were welcomed into the presbytery, along with two new churches.



Pastor Miguel Alejandro (Alex) Morales, Iglesia Taller del Maestro, Long Beach, California, joined the association in April 2008. Pastor Alex and his wife, Patty, have a very good, well-organized church staffed with trained teachers and workers. They are responsible for bringing in one of the newly welcomed mission churches: Iglesia Taller del Maestro, Battle Mountain, Nevada, led by Pastor Antonio Delgado. We expect much to happen in Long Beach where Alex and his church work closely with two other churches, one led by Pastor Juan Mendoza and one by

Pastora Clementina Arevalo.

Reaching the Community

The Bridge KC in Independence, Missouri, participated in a number of events over the holiday season in an effort to reach people with a witness for the Lord in its community.

- Truman High School, The Bridge KC meeting site, asks the church to donate 25 turkeys for needy families' Thanksgiving baskets—44 were donated.

Handed out free hot chocolate to Black Friday shoppers Thanksgiving night.

Collecting non-perishable foods for local food pantry. Goal: to fill three barrels.

Gathering new and used coats for local shelters and the homeless.

Giving old comforters/blankets to Wayside Waifs animal shelter.

One-hour prayer vigils at different venues in Independence each Friday night in December.

Pray for this ministry as its support from National Missions ends Dec. 31, 2008.

Special Gratitude



(Backl.to r.) Leland
Duncan, Glen
Spence, Gene Koker,
(front) Roy and
Mildred Ridenour

Mildred Ridenour passed away Nov. 30, 2008. Mildred was the wife of the late Rev. Roy Ridenour. In the summer of 1964, General Baptist Home Missions hired Roy and Mildred as its first field secretary, a position these pioneers held for seven years. During these years the Ridenours traveled extensively averaging 60,000 miles a year assisting church projects. Their first job was starting a church in Springfield, Illinois. Later they assisted churches in Tennessee, Colorado, California, Oklahoma, Florida, and in many states in between. He did the building, but she drew the plans. In 1999, the Ridenours celebrated 50 years in service for their Lord!

Mrs. Kerby Parish, the Ridenours' daughter, has requested that in lieu of flowers people may make gifts to General Baptist National Missions designated for its church-planting ministries. A number of gifts have already been received. These gifts, says Director Stephen Gray, will help in the transformation of many more lives.

Large Christmas Gift



(L to R) Ron Black, Lisa Dilday,
Stephen Gray, Kurt
Hetherington, and
Gwyn Jowers

National Missions was blessed December 11 with the reception of a large check from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance through James Greene & Associates. Brotherhood Mutual, a Christian insurance organization, is helping General Baptist churches obtain affordable property and liability insurance. One of the great aspects of working with Brotherhood Mutual is its commitment to the Great Commission. Every year this company gives back 7 to 10 percent of the total premiums to a national mission organization. Those General Baptist churches that have signed up with

Brotherhood Mutual have been encouraged to designate that premium percentage to National Missions. This year Brotherhood Mutual gave National Missions \$24,573. We are grateful to our General Baptist churches for designating National Missions as the recipient, and we are also grateful to Brotherhood Mutual for its vision and commitment to God's kingdom work.

Any church that signs up with Brotherhood Mutual is able to designate National Missions as the recipient of its program. If you would like more information on how your church can be involved in this program, call the National Missions office; and we will help you connect with the right people.

Web Site Update

National Missions Web site has been updated. We have added a "Share This" and a "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 any new blogs. Stop by and see the updated site: <http://generalbaptistnm.com>.

Investment Opportunities

Please consider supporting one of these new churches

- Genesis General Baptist Church, West Plains, Missouri

You can support these new works in one of these ways

- Next Level General Baptist Church, Tarpon Springs, Florida
 - Life Quest General Baptist Church, Land O' Lakes, Florida
 - The Bridge KC, Independence, Missouri
 - One-time, end-of-year gift
 - Monthly commitment for a year (any amount)
 - Placing one of these churches in your 2009 church's budget
-

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