

Church Planting: Reproducing Churches and Disciples for God's Glory

For 2,000 years Christians ambitiously have planted seeds from which congregations of believers grow, worship, serve—and plant more seeds themselves.

In the earliest decades of the 19th century, Baptist pioneers responded faithfully to the Great Commission, preaching and planting churches as they ministered to westward-moving settlers. So we American Baptists have understood church planting as a vital mission since our earliest days, trusting that God will nurture and strengthen what we begin under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Now, after two Christian millennia—and in the midst of an age of unprecedented secularism—the challenge for starting new congregations and supporting their growth has never been greater. “New churches reach more new people than existing churches,” says the Rev. Tom Johnson, National Ministries’ New Church Planting coordinator. “Our hope and prayer is for churches and disciples to focus on reproducing churches and disciples for the glory of God.”



Building upon a vision and planning—along with staff and resource support—provided by National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA at the end of the last decade affirmed NEW LIFE 2010, a bold faith venture that prioritizes evangelism, congregational vitalization and church planting.

To that end, through December 2006, 365 new American Baptist congregations had been started. And that growing family of faith includes a dynamic multicultural mix, including Hispanic, African American, Euro American, Asian, Portuguese, Haitian and Native American churches.

“In the end,” Tom Johnson says, “it is not an issue of numbers or market share or bragging rights. It is about doing what Jesus has commanded us to do—make disciples of every nation.”

For additional information about National Ministries’ church planting initiative, contact Rev. Tom Johnson at 800.ABC.3USA, ext. 2036, or Tom.Johnson@abc-usa.org.

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AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

National Ministries



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Transforming Lives!

“For the love of Christ
urges us on...”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15



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