



OUTREACH

Fall 2022



Churches Planting Churches

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Interim Executive Director

As an ARP church planter in the late 1980's, the Lord used me in planting a daughter church out of the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement (ARP) in Silver Spring, MD. One of the assessors at the Church Planting Assessment Center I attended before being sent to plant the church asked me why I thought the Lord could use me in starting a church. I answered that my gifting was probably not consistent with starting a church from scratch by myself, but that with the support of a healthy mother church, I could plant the particular church I was being called to plant. He agreed.

A regional church planting leader in a sister denomination, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), made this observation about the importance of mother-daughter church planting, "Starting daughter churches is perhaps the most effective way to establish a strong mission work which can reach out with the gospel in a new community." In the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), Perimeter Church in Atlanta has helped greatly in advancing church planting in PCA. Their vision is one of "churches planting churches," resulting in a church planting movement of God's grace.

Churches planting churches. Healthy churches sponsoring new healthy church plants. Outreach North America longs to see more of this in the presbyteries of the ARP.

To help further this desire, we have developed the Church Mobilization Fund. The purpose of this fund is to encourage mother-daughter church planting in our presbyteries through investing strategically in churches that have both the potential and the desire to grow into multiplying churches actively planting new ARP churches. This fund is meant to help strengthen potential mother churches as they get the gospel out to the community. It can be used for such things as adding staff, adding an additional worship service, or expenses related to community outreach.

We see these funds being used in strategic ways to equip healthy ARP churches to plant churches that are Presbyterian in government, Reformed in theology, evangelistically engaged, and committed to making disciples through a passionate and winsome employment of the means of grace.

Contact Outreach North America to learn more about the Church Mobilization Fund. Keep reading in this newsletter to learn more about mother-daughter church planting.

Celebrating Organized Churches



King's Church, Columbia, SC

Rev. Josh Smith

King's Church began as a small group in 2016 and by God's grace was organized by Catawba Presbytery as a congregation on Sunday, August 21, 2022.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Decatur, AL

Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Decatur Alabama was organized by Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery in October.



Christ the King, Savannah, GA

Rev. Soren Kornegay

After working for RUF at the Savannah College of Art and Design for 5 years, Soren was called in 2018 to plant Christ the King. Christ the King was organized by Second Presbytery on Sunday, November 13, 2022.

Plant for the Future



work day at Christ Church

Coddle Creek ARP Church planted two daughter churches while Rev. Jamie Hunt was pastor. The first, Lakeside PC, struggled initially because of lack of planning. With this history, when Coddle Creek embarked on a second church plant, they were more intentional. While celebrating their 250th anniversary, Rev. Hunt encouraged the congregation to "not just think about the past but do something about the future!" Coddle Creek gathered funds for what would become Christ Church ARP in Denver, NC. They brought Rev. Morrie Lawing on as an associate with the intention of him planting a daughter church. Lawing and his family worshiped with Coddle Creek while studying the community and preparing to plant.

Rev. Hunt explains, "Christ Church is only 15 miles away from Coddle Creek so the provisional session could be hands-on. The biblical and theological ethos of our church also spread to the new church."

There are benefits for the mother church in this model. Rev. Hunt says, "the men who served on the provisional session grew much and were better elders and leaders at Coddle Creek afterwards. As the vision was developing for the church plant, it spilled over into vision for growth at Coddle Creek. I learned a lot of things through this process. If you have a vision to plant a church, talk to other churches who have done it successfully to help you prepare. They can share the lessons they learned."

Rev. Hunt also encourages smaller churches, "if you aren't large enough to do it on your own, make a coalition with other churches near you to plant a church."

Spiritual Joy in Kingdom Expansion

First ARP Gastonia is engaging in another mother-daughter church plant. Tell us how the church has developed a church planting culture?

Rev. Matt Kuiken: This can only be attributed to the grace of God. The First Gastonia congregation organized in 1887 and by 1911 was seeking to start a mission work to reach the mill workers settling there. This desire to plant other churches has been around for a long time. I would point to four specific things that helped to develop this culture. The first is a conviction that the local church is at the heart of God's plan for the salvation of the lost. The second is an intentionality that the church should always be walking by faith, and this means taking steps towards kingdom growth that require us to depend on God's power and not our own. The third aspect of developing this culture is encouraging a "teaching culture" where you are welcoming those who are training for gospel ministry, and giving them opportunities for hands-on experience. The last is foreign missions. If you don't have a heart for expanding the church globally, you probably aren't going to have a heart to locally.

What are some challenges?

Rev. Matt Kuiken: I think of the challenges of church planting like a parent who is dropping off their kid at college for the first time. There are physical, financial and emotional challenges, but you know you are doing the right thing by launching them. The most sensitive challenge is probably around the question of "who" goes with the daughter church. It takes a lot of prayer and discipline to stay kingdom minded when you are sending out people you love to start another church. There are definitely moments of doubt. But God provides.

Have you seen spiritual growth?

Rev. Matt Kuiken: There is a real spiritual joy that comes from being on the edge of kingdom expansion. Human wisdom would say that planting a daughter church when our own

congregation is struggling to recover from the pandemic is foolish. But as we prayed through it, we couldn't deny that God was leading us in this direction. Now, watching it unfold, it's one of those "only God" experiences. It has also deepened our prayer life as leaders and as a congregation. In our prayer times, I hear more and more congregants praying for our church plant, and for the lost to come to Christ. I would also add that we have seen numerical growth after we have planted daughter churches. It hasn't always been immediate, but God has been so faithful to bring in new members whenever we have sent others out. As the Church of Jesus Christ, we should be praying for and expecting fruitfulness in our churches. Maybe it's hard to imagine in your church's current situation, but start praying that God would allow you to plant a daughter church, and then see what happens.

What are some of the benefits of having the support of First ARP Gastonia in planting Living Hope?

Rev. Mark Forbes: Having the support of a mother church is an incredible blessing. The prayers, sharing, staff and financial support are so encouraging. There are times we collaborate on certain issues that require wisdom. Several men from First ARP Gastonia are a part of our provisional session. They know the vision we have, and I have an existing relationship with each of them already. The proximity of Belmont to Gastonia adds another advantage. We work together, people visit, and provisional elders visit the church often.

What are prayer requests for Living Hope going forward?

Rev. Mark Forbes: Please continue to pray for people, place, and provision. God has continued to amaze us by answering all three. We desire to see folks cross from darkness to light as He gathers His own!

Cover photo: Living Hope Church commissioned by First ARP Gastonia to plant in Belmont.

Thoughts on Planting Daughter Churches

Dr. Tom Hawkes

Director of Church Planting, Florida Presbytery

Having planted a daughter church that went on to plant many daughter churches, we learned a few lessons over the years, mostly by making mistakes! Here are a few suggestions.

1. Do it! Planting a church is one of the best ways to fulfill the Great Commission. Not only do you reach new people, but it helps the mother church stay healthy and grow.

2. Pick a place. One way to find a location is to look for a cluster of your members who are driving some distance. If that area is also growing, you may have your location. Even three or four families can be a good start.

3. Save some money. While it doesn't take a fortune, since the church planter will raise support too, it is best to have some cash on hand. \$25,000 or \$40,000 for a couple of years would be a great help.

4. Find a good planter. Turn to ONA for help here!

One key we discovered: men that have a great relationship with authority do better, since the mother church will be in a parental role. How can you tell? Ask about his relationship with his parents, especially his dad.

Bathe this all in prayer! Because church planting is close to the heart of God, it will be opposed. Pray for Christ to build His Church and triumph over the gates of Hades.



Dr. Tom Hawkes and his wife Ann are currently planting Christ Presbyterian Church in Fernandina Beach FL.

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