



OUTREACH

Fall 2024

Champions Wanted for the Great Commission

Do you want to help your church engage more enthusiastically in advancing the Great Commission both here at home and around the world? Becoming a Go2 Advocate in your congregation for Outreach North America or for World Witness gives you an opportunity to play a vital role. An Advocate gets to serve as a bridge between his or her local church and what is happening through church planting in our presbyteries and through our missionaries worldwide.

The highlight of the year for our Advocates is the annual fall retreat at Bonclarken. This year, the retreat is October 18-19 (Friday night and Saturday). Advocates get to hear stories from some of our church planters and missionaries, as well as having time to interact with strategic updates from ONA and World Witness staff.

A particular benefit of the retreat that past attendees have appreciated is the avenue it provides for churches to learn from one another. What has one church discovered that can help your church mobilize more members in helping our church planters and missionaries. What are some lessons that can be learned from others about how to increase and better focus prayer for the advancement of the great commission. What are some creative approaches

other churches have used to educate their members in ways they can advance the Great Commission around the world and across the street.

Go2 is a joint initiative of ONA and World Witness. Go2 Advocates are volunteers who champion church planting both here and across the world. They stay informed about church planting activities as a key resource person for their pastor and congregation. ONA and World Witness resource Go2 Advocates through quarterly Zoom meetings, through ongoing communication and providing resources, and through the annual in person retreat.

If you want to be a Go2 Advocate for your church, approach your pastor or session about how you can assist them in helping the church in this way. Contact ONA program coordinator, Jim Klukow, (klukow@arpsynod.org) for more information or to register for the retreat. We encourage churches to reimburse Advocates for attending the retreat because of the service Advocates provide.



Jeff Tell



Rev. Jeff and Aubrey Tell
Lexington Church Plant
Lexington, SC
Catawba Presbytery

Tell us who you are?

I am a Midwesterner who was born in Illinois, but has spent most of my life in California and South Carolina. My first call to pastoral ministry was at a small rural congregation in South Carolina, in a town with

no stoplights. The church was well over two hundred years old, and they welcomed me graciously as a young, inexperienced pastor. Five years later I accepted a call to pastor a ten-year-old church in Burbank, California. As of this summer, Aubrey and I, with our four kids, have relocated to Lexington, South Carolina, with a new call to plant a daughter church out of First Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

Describe your plans? Nearly 4,000 people move to Lexington County every year, and according to recent demographic projections, this trend is expected to continue. There is a tremendous need and opportunity to establish new congregations that embrace the historic reformed faith, preach the gospel boldly and with conviction, and are committed to loving their neighbors and seeing the kingdom of God take root and grow. That is our dream and our goal, to worship, work, and witness here in Lexington. And we are working with the goal to plant a new, local congregation, praying for his will to be done, and his kingdom to come, in Lexington as it is in heaven.

Prayer Requests: First, please pray for our family, as we adjust to a new life here in Lexington. Pray for our kids to make good friends and begin to feel at home here. Second, pray that God would bless our efforts to meet our neighbors and to build relationships, and that he would open doors for productive, gospel conversations. Third, pray for unity of vision and purpose and for an excess of Christ-honoring, grace-exalting, mission-sustaining joy as we are building a core group.

Multi-Ethnic Church Planting

With the rapid increase in the Hispanic population in the U.S., we are featuring articles on our Hispanic church plants. This article features Iglesia en Movimiento in Lake Placid, FL and the ARP Magazine features Iglesia Biblica Latinoamericana in Columbia, SC.

Tell us about your heart for Spanish ministry?

Rev. Tim Sewell: I grew up as a missionary kid in Mexico. Even though I was born an American, I experienced culture shock when I moved back to the U.S. at age 18. With culture shock, it can take 2-3 years to feel comfortable in new country. This gave me a heart for understanding what migrants and immigrants go through. I began to feel called to international ministry and taught Spanish and Bible at a Christian high school while serving as a part time youth director. My wife Barb, a pastor's daughter from Puerto Rico, loved youth ministry, but didn't want to do international missions. We served in youth ministry for 10 years at Lake Placid ARP but felt like God was preparing us for something else. We saw the landscape of Hispanic churches was health, wealth, and prosperity. God began to align both of our hearts for bilingual, multi-ethnic church planting. We have now been planting for 6 years with the supporting mother church, Lake Placid ARP.

What are some unique opportunities you have?



Rev. Tim Sewell: Currently, there are 60 million Hispanics in U.S., and the number is growing. Opportunities are big and the English-speaking Anglo churches are ill prepared.

Language is just one component of many. There are 20 different ethnic groups from Spanish speaking nations with different cultures. Everything we do is in Spanish and English so that the first generation feels comfortable, but if pastor only speaks Spanish, he only reaches first generation. If we do everything in Spanish, we lose the kids and grandkids. We want all ethnic groups and generations to feel included in our church. Spanish speaking churches are often isolated from other American churches. Pray about how you can connect with one in your community.

Praise & Prayer: We just baptized 12 people! We experience a lot of spiritual warfare. We see professions of faith even from people coming from witchcraft backgrounds.



Synod Events

Pre-Synod Conference

Synod week began with ONA's Pre-Synod Conference. The conference addressed the question: "How can we help non-Christian neighbors perceive our church as welcoming?" Hospitality is more than having friends over for dinner. For many struggling churches, a deficit in practicing hospitality is a significant reason for their decline. Hospitality has always been an effective means of faith sharing (evangelism). A key resource to help people meet Jesus in the pages of Scripture is Christianity Explored. As a form of hospitality evangelism, this small group study allows friendships to develop over a simple meal and a study of Mark's Gospel.

After the main session, Dr. Jim Klukow led a panel discussion with Pastor Daniel Nealon from Deer Creek Church, Mrs. Lorianne Merritt from Christianity Explored USA, and Dr. Alan Avera. The panel discussed how to apply hospitality in light of the Great Commission. Panelists offered practical suggestions that have been tested and shown to be helpful. If you missed the conference, recordings are posted at outreachnorthamerica.org/events. Get 50% off Christianity Explored materials at thegoodbook.com with code **CEM-USA**.

Church Planting Breakfast

While there are many ways to plant a church, attendees learned more about three approaches.

- 1. Mother-daughter.** Rev. Mark Forbes, pastor of recently organized Living Hope Church of Belmont, spoke about his experience with mother-daughter church planting. Mark

explained what a blessing the support from First ARP Gastonia was throughout the entire process in the form of administration, a core group, prayer, and financially.



- 2. Bi-vocational.** Rev. Mike Chipman shared his journey in bi-vocational church planting while serving as a schoolteacher. This model of planting relieved the financial burden from the church, but also helped equip the members to be partners in ministry since he had a fulltime job.
- 3. Scratch.** Planting a church from scratch is a tough way to plant a church and relies on the Lord's provision, but it is a way to break into a new area.

Wives Brunch

ARP Women's Ministries hosted a brunch to encourage church planters' wives and missionary wives. It was a time of fellowship, refreshment, prayer and sharing.



Public Launch

Christ Presbyterian Church, Fernandina Beach, FL

Dr. Tom and Ann Hawkes

Christ Pres. launched public worship on Sunday, August 25 beginning a new study through the Gospel of John.



New Location

Redeemer Community Church, Macon, GA

Rev. Josh and Lindsay Garrett



Praise the Lord for providing a new beautiful place to meet together to worship on Sunday mornings at the Chapel at Wesleyan College!



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