



Linda Jones

When I was a college student, I switched from college to nursing school. I felt I was “looking for meaning in my life.” I thought

I could find more meaning by becoming a nurse. I had no idea at that time that I was looking for God. However, the Lord gave me a Christian roommate who shared the good news with me, and I made a profession of faith. Similarly, many people are looking for meaning in their lives but will not darken our church doors. We are part of an unchurched culture - they will not just come to our worship services. Where is our passion for those who are needing to hear? We need some new church starts, and they will need to pursue unchurched people in new, missional ways.

“Plant the seeds and start preparing to be part of a new church start. It will bring newness and passion to your church.”

In Raleigh, only 36% of the population attend church. On September 13, nineteen churches from Wake County gathered with CBFNC and Raleigh Bapt. Assoc. staff to consider partnering in a new church start. Two of the churches are interested in an emerging church start. Five of the churches are interested in a new church start in 2009. Several were interested in multi-ethnic church starts. Doesn't God want your church to be involved in church planting in your neck of the woods?

It may seem overwhelming, but in my experience you can prepare for a new church start.

1. First, realize that all the partners bring assets to the new church start. Each brings a unique combination of gifts, skills and understanding of their own culture.

The sponsoring churches bring experience and wisdom to the table. The new church start can help the sponsoring church have passion and enthusiasm for those needing to hear good news!

2. The new church start has a different target audience (which means they will not be attracting your membership!) The new church start could help your church understand a different segment of the population (maybe your children or grandchildren).

3. Fellowship between the churches and possibly the generations (modern and postmoderns as well as ethnic groups, economic groups, and groups not likely to come to the sponsoring church) would be an asset. There could be ministry endeavors that you could do together!

4. Having multiple sponsoring churches lightens the obligations. It is expensive to

plant a new church. We can do it together and share the cost.

So for those of us in the established churches, where do we begin? Start discussing the lost coin, the lost sheep, the lost son. Talk to your finance committee, your deacons, your mission's groups (WMU). Create a concern and passion for the “lost.” Teach and preach missional church principles. Read *Church For The Unchurched* by George Hunter or *The Story We Find Ourselves In* by Brian McLaren. Evaluate your church!

What are our priorities? Is it to take care of ourselves or a concern for those needing to hear good news?

Plant the seeds, and start preparing to be part of a new church start. It will bring newness and passion to your church as well as reach people your church will not reach!
[Together we can make a difference!](#)

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Recipients must show promise of making a significant contribution to church and society. A portion of the awards gives preference to applicants who have demonstrated financial need. Applicants must be residents of North Carolina and members of a Baptist church in North Carolina. The need of every Poteat scholar will be met fully, thanks in part to individuals and organizations like the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and their commitment to preserve Wake Forest's North Carolina Baptist connections.”

*Wade Stokes, Director of Development,
Divinity School*



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“All funds received from CBFNC are used for scholarships for NC Baptist students. We are deeply appreciative for this meaningful financial encouragement

for our students.”

Jerry McGee, President

Historically, one of the key purposes of cooperative giving among Baptists has been to support educational ministries. The Mission Resource Plan offers a twenty-first century approach for supporting Christian higher education that is consistent with cherished Baptist principles. This giving channel respects both congregational autonomy and institutional integrity. It encourages a closer relationship between congregations and ministry partners, including educational institutions. It recognizes that these beloved schools have “grown up” and allows for a more mature way for churches to relate to them, yet honors their Baptist heritage and allows for a continuing connection to that heritage. For more information on how your church can participate in the Mission Resource Plan and support these and other North Carolina Baptist ministries, contact the CBFNC office (888-822-1944 or LHovis@cbfnc.org) or visit our website, www.cbfnc.org.