



SEEDLINGS

A Newsletter of the Minnesota Christian Evangelizing Association

Planting and Nurturing Reproducing Churches

The Minnesota Christian Evangelizing Association (MCEA) exists to passionately impact the upper Midwest with the Good News of Jesus Christ by **PLANTING** and **NURTURING** **REPRODUCING** **CHURCHES** that are culturally relevant and great-commission oriented. Our goal is to help people find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

MCEA WELCOMES BOARD MEMBERS AND CHURCH PLANTER...

Kevin White

Kevin is new to our board and is a well known minister here in the state of Minnesota. A graduate of then Minnesota Bible College (now Crossroads College) Kevin has served Christ's Church in White Bear Lake and Coon Rapids as well as serving Crossroads College for many years. Kevin is currently an Adult Ministries minister at Meadow Park Church of Christ in Rochester.

John Taplin

John is another familiar name in our fellowship of churches. He has served on our board for many years and has agreed to serve another three year term. Another graduate of Minnesota Bible College, John currently serves as senior minister of New Life Christian Church in Alexandria, MN. They have just recently began using their new facility. Congratulations!

Matt Reece

Matt is our newest church planter. He is a graduate of Johnson Bible College and has demonstrated a true heart for the lost in his ministries. Matt and his wife, Carrie, have three children and are expecting their fourth child very soon. They have moved to Eagan, MN and are getting active in their community and the planning process of their church plant scheduled for next fall.

We look forward to working with Matt, Kevin and John as we seek to bless our area with many more new church plants. Please join us in praying for the ministry of MCEA and our newest work in the South East Metro area. The rest of our board includes: Claudio Divino, executive director, Ron Hanson, chairman, Marc Grindle, treasurer, Mike Gerhardt, board secretary, Pat Ridpath, director, and Merrill Davis, director.



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News From the Field

Our Newest Church Plant Update

by Matt Reece

One late Friday evening a man and woman left the drive-in theater disgusted by what appeared before their eyes. The local drive-in movie theater changed its feature presentations from family friendly movies to movies that hardly any parent with children would dream of watching together. As they waited for traffic to slow down enough to leave the parking lot, he grabbed his wife's hand and prayed that God would do something worth while with this property. Years later he was amazed at what he saw. When he came back to visit his old stomping grounds he saw a magnificent church building on the property that used to be home to the drive-in movie theater. Isn't God amazing?

The church mentioned above was the church I left prior to partnering with the MCEA and E91 to plant a church in the South Metro. During my two years there over 40 people came to Christ and many other's lives were impacted as well. Some of the

people were recovering alcoholics, child abusers, spousal abusers, couples addicted to pornography, drug users, homosexuals, convicted criminals and abused children. I share this with you because I think it is encouraging when we think about our contribution to the Kingdom. The couple who

stopped to pray that night had no idea what would become of this prayer, but they knew something needed to be done so they did all they could do. They

were not rich people who could purchase the land from the owners; neither were they builders or preachers. They simply did what they could. When I stop and think about what I can contribute to the Kingdom, I often wonder, will it matter? Maybe it will and maybe it won't. I know this though...something needs to be done and I am here to do whatever I can. Church planting is the most effective form of evangelism we have available. That alone is reason enough to pour myself into it. People matter to me. I hope one day I can visit an area where I once lived and see that God did an amazing work with my efforts.

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If you would like to hear more about our journey in life and our efforts to plant a church in the South Metro please contact us. I would love to visit with you and your congregation or missions committee and share with you our intentions. We have many openings from now until Fall 2007 where I could come and share on Sunday morning. Please continue to pray for us and do all that you can do to support the MCEA who supports us. You never know what your efforts will eventually lead to.

Amazed,
Matt Reece

651-405-6797 or matterece@msn.com

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH UPDATE

God continues to change lives through the ministry of Crossroads Christian Church. Your prayers and encouragement are really appreciated as we continue to look for ways to reach lost people in the St. Cloud area!

This fall we have gone to two services on Sunday morning and one on Saturday evening. It has result in higher attendance and a new option to reach additional people for Christ. Five more souls received Christ as their Lord in October!

Life Groups continue to be a vital spiritual ministry and we have added a Sunday evening Conversation helping people to draw close to Christ in a worshipful atmosphere. Please continue to pray that our Lord will use us to glorify himself and extend His Kingdom!

Director's Report



By Claudio Divino, Executive Director

Last night I went to bed and could not go to sleep immediately. At 11:00 PM, when I was scanning through the channels on my TV I saw one program that caught my attention. It was a 16 years old girl talking about her family. There were several people involved in that family, her parents, and four women and four men. It was so weird that I moved on. The next channel presented the story of a 56 year old man who was cross dressing. His wife told the audience that she never knew which one was going to come out of the bathroom—the man or the woman. It was too much for me. I turned my TV set off and went to sleep.

This morning those programs came back to haunt me. This is the way of the world. A world to which God has called us, the Church, to proclaim the Good News. That is why we at the MCEA plant churches. We want to see lives transformed by the power of God. I believe that the church will not be able to rid all the sin in people's lives. But we must not stop preaching the Truth of Jesus Christ and redouble our efforts to announce the good news that Christ wants to change lives through His Grace offered to all of us in Calvary.



During this year, so far, I have been continuing to work for the MCEA. I have been making contacts with people and churches that are interested in the cause of church planting. I can say that I have been very well received by the churches of Minnesota. I also have been doing receipt letters, participating in meetings with MCEA officers and local church officers, and visiting and speaking in Christian Churches. I have visited

and preached in 26 churches so far this year (out of 27 yearly expected), and I will continue to do so until the end of the year.

I believe that God has given Americans a passion for planting new churches. The movement is among the most active and passionate in American Christianity and includes a variety of denominations and faith traditions. The push promises to shape not just religious life, but society as a whole, as new congregations work to influence and assist the communities around them.

The MCEA is among the many organizations that God has called to this exciting ministry. Our God is a God of many promises that enrich us daily and make our lives exciting! We have been called to actively participate in God's kingdom in order to bring blessing to all people and nations. Specifically the MCEA has been given the opportunity of planting and nurturing reproducing churches that are culturally relevant and great-commission oriented. We want to bring all honor and glory to God by helping people find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our latest plant, Crossroads Christian Church, is a great example of our commitment to this mission and vision. God has certainly poured out a great blessing in response to

these efforts.

Our next church plant is scheduled for the fall of 2007. The church planter, Matt Reece, and his wife Carrie, are already in place. Matt moved all the way from Indiana and is already living in the selected area, Southeast of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Matt Reece has the personality and character of a church planter. He is full of passion for the lost and has felt God's calling for evangelism and outreach burning inside of his heart. We believe that Matt will thrive in the church plant environment. Matt is confident in our Lord and His plan to do something of great significance in his life. He and his family love the Lord with all their heart. Matt is driven to see success for the Kingdom.

We pray and hope that all Minnesota churches will consider ways to partner with us in this exciting new project for the glory of God. It is always important to remember that the reason we plant churches is to see God's hand at work bringing new people to Him. That is what we at the MCEA are about. Please, continue to pray that this new church plant will be successful and we ask that you consider ways in which you can partner with this project.

It's great to have you as our partner. We appreciate your prayers and financial support. Church Planting is a God's movement for this hour. Continue to pray for us.

\$ Financial Report \$

Beginning Balance 1/1/06	962.88
<u>Income</u>	
Churches	26,154.87
Designated	1,248.55
Individuals	1,755.00
Other (MCC for luncheon)	<u>11,617.42</u>
Total Income	40,775.84
<u>Expenses</u>	
Executive Director	10,000.00
Loan repayment	12,500.00
Office Expense	2,056.47
Crossroads Church	1,070.94
New Church Plant	4,500.00
Church Health	683.88
Mileage and misc.	<u>1,638.33</u>
Total Expense	32,449.62
Ending Balance 9/30/06	9,289.10

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MCEA DAY AT CROSSROADS COLLEGE
NOVEMBER 30TH WE WILL BE PRESENTING
THE MINISTRY OF MCEA TO THE STUDENTS
& FACULTY OF CROSSROADS. JOIN US IN
PRAYER AS WE SEEK TO CHALLENGE
OTHERS TO JOIN US IN THE IMPORTANT
MINISTRY OF PLANTING NEW CHURCHES!

www.mnchristian.org

We are in the process of
creating a Website!

Visit often as we add new info.