

# CHURCH PLANTERS NEWSLETTER

## 'Come Together' Seed Money Offering...

### A Partnership in New Ministries

The 'Come Together' Seed Money Offering campaign for Church Planting is well under way but we still need your help! To date, we have \$15,000.00 committed by individuals with at least 48 churches participating in the fundraising effort. By God's grace and for His glory, eight new churches will be planted in 2003.

You can help us by *praying* that the eyes and hearts of those God intends will be opened and thousands will commit their lives to Christ. Pray that the needs of each new church will be met beyond expectation as God has promised.

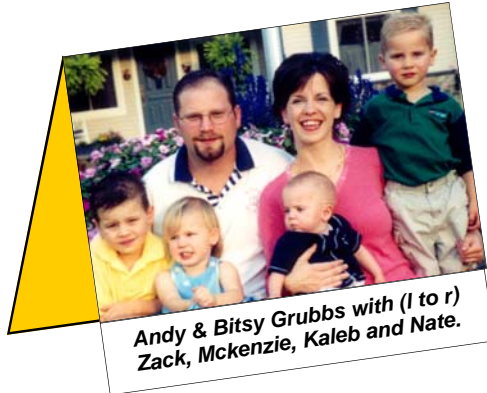
You may also help us by *giving*. You may use the form on the back to make your contribution to the Seed Money Offering.

Thank you for participating with us. Your gifts of prayer and finances are valuable in the expansion of God's kingdom within the Mideast Baptist Conference. Learn what you have helped accomplish. Read on....

*Please pray for these new church planters, that God would meet their every need and beyond.*

- Daron & Kerry Garmon**  
Connection Church
- Shawn & Michelle McBride**  
New Life Community Church
- Billy & Mandy Harmon**  
The Journey
- Ernie & Lea Bartolome**  
Living Spring Community Church
- Rick & Sheila Tawney**  
Polaris Community Church
- Robert & Jayda Jones**  
Calvert County Baptist Church
- Nurney & Kay Mason**  
Millenium Bible Fellowship
- Chris & Micki Marshall**  
Ordinary Community Church
- David & Betty Smith**  
River Oaks Community Church
- Charles & Cheryl Whitaker**  
River of Life Church

## Church Planters Take Many Steps Before Actual "Launch"



Andy & Bitsy Grubbs with (l to r) Zack, Mckenzie, Kaleb and Nate.

What does it take to plant a church? It takes a calling from God and a pastor with a vision for planting a new church. Someone like Andy Grubbs who is experiencing first hand how it's done as he, wife Bitsy, children Zack, Nate, Mackenzie, and Kaleb with their ministry partner, Chuck Morgret, prepare to launch The Rock in Geauga County, Ohio, on Easter Sunday, 2003.

Grubbs didn't just wake up one day and decide to become a church planter. It has been a process of God showing him through other ministries that he was also being called to this awesome task. To

prepare, he and Bitsy completed the application process, attended an Assessment Center, wrote their ministry plan, and will attend Church Planter's Boot Camp in March.

They've also developed prayer partners, a launch team and are working to find a location for services and a church office. They need everything from office equipment and supplies to personal and ministry work funds. They are also seeking workers to help with preview services beginning January 19, 2003.

If you'd like to get more involved with this particular church plant or the Church Planting Ministry in general, contact Andy Grubbs, 440.564.1271.

### Prayer needs:

- + Those hungering for Christ to come to The Rock
- + Personal and work funds for the Grubbs & the Morgrets
- + Meeting and office space
- + Volunteers to help with preview services
- + Continued health for baby Kaleb and their entire family as they prepare for the launch

## Excitement Builds For "Launch Day"

For a church that hasn't even had its birthday yet, Montgomery Missionary Community Church in Silver Springs, MD, has already begun to make an impact on their community. Michael Pauls and wife Nicole are the church planters.

Living near the site of the recent sniper shootings in and around Washington, DC, where Pauls school friend, Conrad Johnson became one of the victims, the church opened a crisis center where law enforcement officers could come 24 hours a day to receive refreshments and care. When the ordeal was over, local police asked the church to hold a community candle light service.

It seems so fitting that everyone was welcomed during these difficult days to this church whose mission statement reads "A multi-cultural ministry where 'the dream' still lives", a reference to the "I Have A Dream" message given over 30 years ago by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The church has chosen a

date close to King's birthday, January 19, 2003, as their launch date.

How is the church progressing?

Pauls says this: "I feel like Abram. I am on a journey of faith with God. I don't know exactly where I'm going or how I'm going to get there, but I'm walking with God and He is showing me the way."

Pauls is thankful that God has already given them a church home in a building shared with an older, smaller congregation as well as a launch team of 25 and an attendance of 53 on 'Friends and Family Preview Sunday.' God is also at work within their group where there are marriages that were struggling. God led these couples to the church where they are being counseled and encouraged to hold on and to seek God's face.

We give thanks for the Pauls and their ministry at Montgomery Missionary Community Church.



Michael & Nicole Pauls with M.J. (Mike Jr.), Mikayla and Malachi.

### PRAYER NEEDS:

- That many will come to Christ through the planting of this church
- A ministry partner to join the Pauls
- A worship leader who is also a musician that can develop a worship team
- That financial needs will be met

# 3-2-1 Launch!

After much prayer and preparation, New Hope Community Church, Loudonville, Ohio, was launched in September, 2002, with Charles and Tiffany Hill, church planters. Their mission statement is "To reach and teach

our community and beyond to become committed followers of Christ!" Hill adds, "We seek to be a pioneering church that has a radical commitment to reach and teach people to follow Christ everyday in every way."

God has already taken them beyond their greatest hopes, providing a first building that has been filled for two services each week with over 150 in each and at least 73 people receiving Christ as Savior. To accommodate the growth of their congregation, they just now were able to purchase a steel building for half the retail cost. God also provided a benefactor who donated money toward the purchase of land.

## Prayer needs:

- Grounded Christians who are able to disciple those recently receiving the Lord
- That God will protect this work from the evil one
- The meeting of financial needs
- The Hills praise God for His abundant provision thus far

## New Hope was just that for Young Woman

A young woman in her 20's, now attending New Hope Community Church, shared her story with Pastor Charles Hill. He relates: "The young woman had been very depressed and even suicidal. On this day, she called her mom to tell her "goodbye". She had started taking pills and was going to take her life.

"That same day her mail brought the postcard that we sent, inviting folks to change their lives with God. In brief it said: 'Could you use some new hope in your life right now?' As she read on, the card asked, 'Have you ever wanted a clean slate, a fresh start, or just a little hope to get you going again?'

"She continued to read, and as she did, she was convinced not to take her life. Instead, she called her mom, crying hysterically, telling her that she (the mom) needed to go with her the next week to this new church that was opening up in Loudonville.

"God is so awesome," said Hill. "While I was fretting over moving our

launch date back three weeks and annoyed with the post office for delivering the post card a day early, God had a plan and a reason."

"This young lady might not be here today had God not used our "advertisement" to transform a hurting woman and given her the hope she needed to get through one more day," he finished.

This is just one of many stories that is being told across the MBC, of how God is meeting the needs of the people who seek Him.

From all those involved in the ministry at New Hope Church, thank you for your support!



Tiffany & Charles Hill with children Christian & Grace.

## Rigorous Training Necessary for Church Planting

### Assessment Center....

Planting a church is hard and sometimes very taxing work. TeAmerica assessment centers are four-day, intense sessions where pastors and wives are evaluated psychologically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually to determine their ability to adapt and cope in just about every situation that might arise in the new church plant. It's here that they learn about their strengths and how to build on them.

Eleven couples attended the recent Assessment Center held at First Baptist Church of Glenarden the week of November 19, 2002. Couples who successfully completed the Assessment Center will be invited to "Boot Camp."

### Bootcamp? I didn't know we were in the Army!

Church planters are in God's army and just like the U.S. Army, they must be fully trained to meet every circumstance that arises. The next boot camp for church planters will be held in March, 2003.

Couples will study under the tutelage of Gary Rohmayer of TeAmerica who promises a rigorous time of training for all that will help further equip these special people for meeting others God's way. Once boot camp is completed, couples will be commissioned to new church plants throughout the MBC as they become available.

For more information about church planting, call the MBC office, 330.757.7970.

## COME TOGETHER! JOIN IN THE SEED MONEY OFFERING

Please use this form to make your gift. Checks may be made payable to MBC Seed Money Offering and mailed to: **Mideast Baptist Conference Seed Money Offering, 20 East McKinley Way, Poland, OH 44514.**

- YES! We/I want to help "Come Together" with the 2003 Seed Money Offering.
- I/We will support the offering with a one-time gift of: \_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- We will support the Seed Money Offering with our monthly gift of: \_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25  
Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_