

# Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative

## Newsletter

Doing what we can to enhance fruitful church planting and the multiplication of churches in and out from greater Boston.  
Sept. 15, 2003                      Volume 4 Issue 13                      Rev. Ralph A. Kee, Editor and GBCPC facilitator  
www.egc.org/ministries/church\_planting/ for additional information, services GBCPC offers, and church planting links

### **Church planting prayer walks**

**September prayer walks are being held in neighborhoods where church planting or congregational development seem called for.** There is real opportunity in these neighborhoods for evangelism or even the forming of dynamic new congregations.

• **Sat. September 13 – Chinatown.** GBCPC is told that the residents of Chinatown are largely absent from Boston's Chinese churches. "A church for them would have to meet at 1:00 in the morning", someone has said, because of work schedules in the restaurants, etc. Who will do effective Cantonese language church planting in Chinatown?

• **Sat. morning, September 20 – East Boston.** East Boston (population 38,413, 50% white, 39% Hispanic, 20% poor) continues to change. Though housing is still cheaper than in most parts of Boston, once the waterfront near Sumner St. is redone, with new parks and new housing with views of the Boston skyline, prices will climb. \$145 million is earmarked for new homes that will replace the BHA's Maverick Gardens. And \$62.7 million is designated to modernize the Maverick subway station.

• **2:00 Sat. afternoon, September 20,** site of former Boston State Hospital in **Mattapan.** Proposals for new housing to be constructed offer about 300 new units of housing. The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, two Mattapan churches and one Jamaica Plain church support one of the two proposals, according to the Sept. 8 *Boston Globe*.

**Prayer walkers meet at EGC at 9:45 AM or, by pre-arrangement, at the walk site.** At noon we will have lunch someplace in the neighborhood in which we are walking and praying.

**Prayer walks were held this past July and August in other neighborhoods where church planting may be needed:**

➤ The new **SoWa neighborhood** of the South End. \$1 billion in new construction, much of it for new residences, according to the Nov. '02 *Improper Bostonian*. SoWa was featured this summer on *Chronicle*, the popular public TV program. It's been called "the Little Dig". 1500 new units along Washington St. alone. Additionally, the new *Atelier/505* on Tremont St. near Berkley and Warren will have 103 luxury condos. Across the street the former Area D police station will be turned into residences: one proposal calls for 24 "head-turning" condos. On top of all this is the 1.3 million square foot Columbus Center air rights project expected to be built a few blocks away over the Mass. Turnpike. How many residences will that put on the market? Will the church be found among the high-end condos, art galleries and lofts of SoWa and immediate environs?

### ➤ **Commonwealth Flats/Seaport/ Fort Point**

**Channel** area, where hundreds of **residential** units are expected to be constructed. The *Boston Globe* reported in a front page article on July 15 that the NY firm that owns Rockefeller Center and the Chrysler Building has purchased 44 waterfront buildings, most of Fort Point, for \$500 million. "The deal is one of the city's largest ever", reports the *Globe*. How many residential units will be built in these historic buildings in the months ahead? Channel Center, for instance, is now selling, pre-construction, 44 lofts and 76 condos. At the far end of the district the Court Square Press building is now selling 75 market-rate condos. It is already late to be thinking about how the Church can be brought to this emerging new neighborhood.

➤ **Malden** around the Orange Line subway station, with its growing Asian population, and through the **Edgewood neighborhood.** Two new churches have started, one English, one Vietnamese, but there is opportunity for additional parish style church planting in specific sections of Malden, that focus their ministry on that defined neighborhood. In Edgeworth it is estimated that less than 3% of the population is found in a Christian church on a Sunday.

➤ **Hispanic neighborhoods in South Boston.** People in the know say church planting would be timely among a growing Hispanic population. It seems God is even now raising up workers.

➤ **Charlestown,** surely one of the under church neighborhoods of Boston

➤ **New dormitories** recently built at **Boston University, Northeastern and Wentworth Institute.** New students new to Boston, expanded student populations: one in seven people in Boston is a college or graduate student. 201,000 students attend colleges within 10 miles of Boston according to one study.

**Question: what kind of church planting model or evangelistic strategy will likely work best in these neighborhoods? Perhaps the multi-site church model, where a single already-formed church begins a second congregation that regularly meets on one or more of these sites?**

**Fall Gatherings for evangelists and church planters, their coaches, supervisors, those who administer new church or new congregational development** *Saturday mornings, 9:30 – 12 at Emmanuel Gospel Center*

*Gatherings are free; you have enough expenses already. It is helpful if you let the facilitator know you plan to attend. [ralphkee@juno.com](mailto:ralphkee@juno.com) or 617-262-3363. But, if you decide to attend at the last minute, do come, whether you have contacted Ralph or not. Hakuna matata.*

● **Sat. Oct. 4 9:30 – 12:00 New Churches as Peacemakers.** Church planting, yes. But what kinds of churches need we plant? **Rev. Donald Wick**, minister with the Presbyterian Church USA, suggests that in our violence-saturated world churches have a peacemaking responsibility – St. Matthew 5:9. Subject-matter will include: planting peace churches as such; how other churches can include a peacemaking component; peace groups within the congregation; confronting domestic violence; violence in the entertainment media; practicing non-violence in our personal lives.

● **Sat. Oct. 25 9:30 – 12:00**  
**1) Planting fissiparous\* churches; launching church planting movements in and out from greater Boston.** *Fis sip' a rous: reproducing by biological fission; tending to break into parts or break away from a main body.* Fissiparous churches: churches that, as they are started and begin to grow toward maturity, intentionally, enthusiastically, divide and multiply themselves, as in the biological model. This New Testament practice of fissiparous, sequential church planting is the root idea on which GBCPC is based. Denominations don't plant churches; mission societies don't plant churches. Oh, they start churches to be sure: two or three here, two or three there. But it's churches that reproduce churches, just as it's people that reproduce people and sheep that reproduce sheep. It's churches planting churches that plant churches that generates a church planting movement. And it's apostolic church planting movements that the world with its 6.361 billion people needs, and that God is calling forth, in greater Boston and beyond. **Rev. Ralph Kee**, missionary with Mission to the Americas engaged in church planting in Boston since 1971 and facilitator of GBCPC, seminar leader.

*\*Credit for this apt adjective goes to David Martin in Pentecostalism: The World is Their Parish, Blackwell Publ. 2002*

**2) Doing your demographics for your new church plant, Rudy Mitchell**, senior researcher with the Research Dept. of the Emmanuel Gospel Center.

● **Sat. Nov. 22 9:30 – 12:00 Church planting and Empire.** Church planting movements emanating from those benefiting from Empire vs. church planting movements emanating from those oppressed by Empire: there must be major differences. In New Testament days church planting movements emanated from people and churches *oppressed* by Empire (Apostles Peter, Paul, the Jerusalem church etc, persecuted by the Roman Empire). Church planting movements originating in Boston in 2003 are emanating from people and churches *benefiting* from Empire (the American Empire). This has to raise critically important questions for those of us in Boston engaging in sequential church planting that

results in new churches being planted overseas. **Dr. Ruy O. Costa**, born and raised in Brazil and since 1999 Executive Director of the Episcopal City Mission here in Boston, will help us identify and address those important questions. Prior to his present position, Ruy was for ten years associate director for public policy work with the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

As food for thought, in preparation for Nov. 22:

*"I have long argued (and have not changed my mind) that evangelical Protestantism, especially in its Pentecostal version, is the most important popular movement serving (mostly inadvertently) as a vehicle of cultural globalization. It is a movement of astounding scope – in large areas of East and Southeast Asia, in the Pacific islands, in sub-Saharan Africa, and most dramatically in Latin America. The British sociologist David Martin, who has devoted many years to the study of this phenomenon, estimates that it involves at least 250 million people worldwide. And, as Martin has shown, it brings about a dramatic cultural revolution. The Chilean and South African data, for example, show how conversion to this type of religion transforms people's attitudes to family, sexual behavior, child rearing, and, most importantly, to work and general economic attitudes.*

*Not to put too fine a point to it, now as in an earlier period in Britain and North America, this is a religion that promotes what Max Weber called the "Protestant ethic" – a morality singularly appropriate for people seeking to advance in the nascent stage of modern capitalism. While this form of Protestantism is clearly of Anglo-Saxon origin (modern Pentecostalism originated in the United States some one hundred years ago), it has been successfully indigenized everywhere it has penetrated. It does not typically use the English language, and its worship (especially in its music) takes over many indigenous forms. However, the 'spirit' that is expressed here has unmistakably Anglo-Saxon traits, especially in its powerful combination of individualistic self-expression, egalitarianism (especially between men and women), and the capacity for creating voluntary associations. Thus it not only facilitates social mobility in developing market economies (that, of course, was the gist of the Weberian thesis) but also facilitates actual or anticipated participation in the new global economy. To this must be added the fact that among the leaders of this movement there is a consciousness of being part of a global movement, with increasing cross-national contacts between them and with the centers of evangelicalism in the United States.*

--Peter Berger, p. 8 in Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World, edited by Peter L. Berger and Samuel P. Huntington, Oxford Univ. Press 2002. *Berger is Univ. Prof. Of Sociology and Theology at Boston University and Director of the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture.*

**Directions to Emmanuel Gospel Center, 2 San Juan St., Boston**

**Subway:** Orange Line to Back Bay. Exit on Dartmouth St, turn left and walk into South End – down Dartmouth crossing Columbus, Warren and Tremont. At Tremont keep going straight ahead onto what becomes W. Dedham. Down W. Dedham one block to Shawmut Ave. Right on Shawmut Ave. one short block to San Juan on

your right. EGC is the building on that corner. Right onto San Juan to 2 San Juan for the entry to EGC.

**Bus:** Silver Line along Washington St. to Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Follow instructions below for car.

**Car:** Mass Ave onto Washington St. go 4/10 mile to third traffic light. The very large Cathedral of the Holy Cross is at that corner. At that traffic light turn left, go one block to stop sign. Turn left onto Shawmut Ave. Go one short block to San Juan St. EGC is the building on the corner. Turn right to 2 San Juan for entry to EGC. Parking is pretty good for in-town Boston.

### **Church planting as done in the real world**

**Jose and Ivelinda Figueroa** are doing church planting as a married couple. They have started *Iglesia De Cristo Misioners, Inc.* GBCPC asked Ivy and Jose about the advantages of church planting done as a couple. This is their response, as reported by Ivy:

"The Lord spoke to us about five years ago through a prophet telling us of the calling that he had for us. So we started praying and decided to go to Bible college for three years. We didn't rush into anything. We prayed and got prepared the best way we could. We accepted the calling in our lives. We lived in Syracuse NY and the Lord spoke to us again and we listened like always. We relocated to Boston; the most important thing for people who are called into ministry is that we should always listen to the Lord when He speaks.

"At the beginning it's easy because you learn as you go. I guess the hardest part was finding a place to worship, but we prayed. Now we are praying for a bigger place due to the fact that the church has grown and we have needs, such as a kitchen and rooms in which to teach the teenagers and children.

"As a couple we work together because we really believe that the calling was for both of us. We have been in ministry for two years and I find that being united in the ministry has helped deal with a lot of issues that people have concerning loyalty and honesty toward each other and toward God. When the congregation sees a pastor and wife working together I believe it helps a lot." *Thanks, Ivy and Jose. (Editor)*

Northeast Church Planters Network get-together in Sturbridge on Sat. Sept. 13. For info go to [www.nechurchplanters.org](http://www.nechurchplanters.org)

**How shall my new church best structure its public worship services?** you may be wondering. Perhaps you will find helpful "Authentic Worship in a Changing World", an interactive seminar led by **Dr. Robert Webber**, at Metropolitan New Life Church in Cambridge Sept. 27, 9 – 3, \$25. Dr. Webber is the Myers Professor of Ministry at Northern Seminary and President of the Institute of Worship Studies and Professor of Theology, Emeritus, at Wheaton College (Illinois). He has edited more than 20 books on worship, including the eight-volume work *The Complete Library of Christian Worship*. To register: [worshipseries@aol.com](mailto:worshipseries@aol.com) or 617-868-3261.

"The City, for God's Sake!" Dr. Roger S. Greenway, Calvin Seminary and Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven CT Senior Mission Scholar in Residence, addresses how churches can reach diverse populations and meet the varied needs of urban ministry worldwide. Cosponsored by Maryknoll Mission Institute. Oct. 20-24. [www.OMSC.org](http://www.OMSC.org)

### **WEB SITES FOR The emergent church**

Soularize-Boston 2003

Oct. 8,9,10 Cost: \$99

[www.theooze.com/soularize/](http://www.theooze.com/soularize/)

Emergent Village [www.emergentvillage.com](http://www.emergentvillage.com)

Soulsurvivor [www.soulsurvivor.com](http://www.soulsurvivor.com)

### **Ask Mr. Blew (the advice column for the sensitive church planter)**

Wendell Whoskneesnock of Winchester writes: *My new church is three years old now, so I am interested in doing the NCD Survey I have heard so much about, but I am not very thick skinned and fear the results of the survey will not make our church look very good.*

Mr. Blew replies: *Buck up, old boy. Remember, in the words of Peter Drucker (and God's words to Moses and Joshua) courage is essential to leadership.*

**Here is the NCD survey Rev. Whoskneesnock is referring to:** Praxis Center for Church Development, based in Manchester NH, is able to offer us a number of **Natural Church Development Surveys** at the significantly discounted price of \$100, for the survey and the processing. The NCD Survey has been used around the world in churches with a wide variety of backgrounds as a tool to evaluate church health, and as a starting point for developing a growing fruitful ministry. Through the NCD Survey you will receive an analysis of your church's health in eight key areas: *Empowering Leadership; Passionate Spirituality, Need-based Evangelism; Holistic Small Groups, Gift-Oriented Ministry, Loving Relationships, Inspiring Worship Celebration and Functional Structures.* Along with your survey results you will receive a number of key tools for implementing the NCD process in your church. (Offer limited to 200 churches) To order your survey, contact the Praxis Center, PO Box 4878 Manchester NH 03108 or [johnston@praxiscenter.org](mailto:johnston@praxiscenter.org)

### **Are you including ministry to/with/by the homeless as part of your new church plant?**

*Comprehensive conference on homelessness, sponsored by Starlight Ministries, Sept. 23. Contact Rachel Parker at [rparker@egc.org](mailto:rparker@egc.org) or 617-262-4567 or go to web site for details and registration: [www.egc.org/ministries/starlight](http://www.egc.org/ministries/starlight)*

GBCPC invited **Rev. Bob Christensen**, Director of the Northeast Church Planters Network, to write an article for the GBCPC newsletter describing the state of church planting in the Northeast in 2003 as he sees it. To get your copy, e-mail the Facilitator, and he will e-mail the article to you

Want to learn more about Boston? Try Boston Indicators at [www.bostonindicators.org](http://www.bostonindicators.org)

**COACHING CHURCH PLANTERS:** "The multiplication of coaches is an essential component of a multiplying church planting system" – Tom Johnston, Executive Director, Praxis Center for Church Development.

Here are some websites for starters:

**Church planting coaching/boot camps**  
Praxis Center for Church Development

[www.praxiscenter.org](http://www.praxiscenter.org)

Coach Net [www.CoachNet.org](http://www.CoachNet.org)

Church Planters Paradise [www.church-planting.org](http://www.church-planting.org)

Church Multiplication and Training Center

[www.cmtcmultiply.org](http://www.cmtcmultiply.org)

Church Planting Ministries

[www.plantingministries.org](http://www.plantingministries.org)

Acts 29 [www.A29.org](http://www.A29.org)

**MENTORING CHURCH PLANTERS:** Are you a member of the Silent generation (born between 1930 and 1945), with a lifetime of Christian experience behind you? Maybe you are called to be a coach, or a mentor, to a young church planter. Gail Sheehy, in *New Passages* (Random House 1995, p.

32, 33) says this of Silents: "Silents excel at... reaching out to people of all cultures, races, ages and handicaps. They have a tremendous capacity for asking and listening.....(Why?) For the most part this generation did not come of age angry. Instead, its members developed a highly sensitive social conscience. The Silents, who as a generation have always had a tender social conscience, may become a 'mentor generation' as they move into their sixties."

Though younger than the Silents, Wolfgang Simson his chapter "Fathering the Next Generation", in his book Houses That Change the World (OM Publishing 1998 pp. 258, 265) says "I am toying with the idea of retiring at 50, and I dream of using all the energy that God may leave me to invest in the up-and-coming generation, and be available to as many as I can as one of their spiritual fathers.....I would like to call us all to a prophetic, concerted and systematic effort to encourage the remaining and emerging fathers among us to start this process, and give their hearts to the sons."

**"Give me a place to stand, and I will move the world" -- Archimedes, 220 BC-- Can you provide one of these new churches that place to stand?**

**New churches that need a place to meet**

- In **Brockton**, Southern Baptists are looking for a place where a new Haitian church can be started. Contact **Keith Lawrence** at [mklawrence@earthlink.net](mailto:mklawrence@earthlink.net)
- In **Dorchester** Mercy and Grace Ministries is looking for a building to accommodate their congregation of 200 -300. Contact **Evangelist Johnnie Milligan**, pastor at 617-436-0352 or [MercyandGraceMin@aol.com](mailto:MercyandGraceMin@aol.com)
- Iglesia De Cristo Misioners, Inc. has outgrown their space so need larger quarters in **Boston**. Contact **Ivelinda Figueroa** [Ivelinda.Figueroa.ci.boston.ma.us](mailto:Ivelinda.Figueroa.ci.boston.ma.us) or 6635-4920 x 2112.
- Need space to rent on Friday evenings from 6 – 8 PM and Saturdays from 8:30 AM to 1:00 pm. Not a main sanctuary but auxiliary space for 40 adults and children of the Church of God and Saints in Christ congregation. Contact **Gilbert White** [gilwhite@yahoo.com](mailto:gilwhite@yahoo.com) 857-205-3966 or **Keree Simmons** at 617-504-3704 if you can help.
- New Jerusalem Evangelical Baptist Church seeks 1.5 acres or a building that can accommodate 500 – 600 people, perhaps 15 – 20 thousand square feet with a basement, at an affordable price. Prefer a location near **Quincy/Dorchester line, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Milton or Randolph** or anywhere near the Expressway. Please contact **Pastor Tony Kebreau** at 617-265-5527 (office).
- In **Back Bay** or **South End**, space for a small emerging church, preferably Sunday morning, consider later in day on Sunday. Worship in English and Nigerian languages. **Rev. Benny Osajie** [christchosenchurch@usa.com](mailto:christchosenchurch@usa.com) or 617-669-4242.
- Looking for small office space for City on a Hill. **Rev. Rick Bennett** [cityonahillMA@aol.com](mailto:cityonahillMA@aol.com) 617-542-5820.

- In **Dorchester/Milton/Quincy**, space for a church plant. Contact **Devis Jean-Jacques** at 617-590-4321 (cell)
- In **Dorchester**, God's House of Restoration needs larger quarters. Contact **Rev. George Brocke, Jr.** at 617-320-2104 or 617-445-1389 or [BrockeJr@aol.com](mailto:BrockeJr@aol.com)
- In **Dorchester/Mattapan** New Fellowship Christian Ministries needs for 500 people. Contact **Diane Banton** at 617-282-2638.
- In **Chelsea**, People's African Methodist Episcopal Church, **Rev. Viola P. Morris-Buchanan**, needs a place to meet after Sept. 1. [vpmorris@juno.com](mailto:vpmorris@juno.com) 617-471-2702.

**Space available where a new church could meet**

- In **East Boston**, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church has space for another congregation. Contact **Rev. Don Nanstad** at 617-567-1175.
- In **Cambridge**, St. James' Episcopal Church, 1991 Mass. Ave. just three blocks from Porter Square subway, has space in sanctuary and back office area. Contact junior warden **George Van Hazinga** or church secretary **Judy Beers** at 617-547-4070 or [stjames@netway.com](mailto:stjames@netway.com)
- In **West Roxbury**, 5160 Washington St., convenient to **Roslindale**. St Stephen's Methodist Church has space available on Sundays after 1 PM. 617-327-0446
- In **South Boston**, St. Matthew and the Redeemer Episcopal Church has space for two new churches. 617-512-2894
- **Church building for sale in Roslindale**. Great for a small but growing congregation. Present owners want building to continue to be used as a church. Seats 100 with possible additional 35 in a side room. Basement parish hall and office. Handicap accessible. Contact **Merry Foxworth** at Open Door Realty, Boston MA 02131. 617-469-4888. <http://www.opendoorrlty.com/>

**Church planters' People Bank**

- **Uche Ikpa** is available for Christian ministry and is looking for opportunities. From Nigeria, fluent in Ibo, English. Education: Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Multnomah School, Prairie Bible Institute. Licensed minister, author Poems of Hope for our Turbulent Time, (2003) and The Nanny Crisis in America, (2001) both Amarachi Film and Publishing, available from author. Vita available from GBCPC. [Uche\\_ikpa@hotmail.com](mailto:Uche_ikpa@hotmail.com)
- Mercy and Grace Ministries, Inc., **Pastor Johnnie Milligan**, seeks the services of a Christian attorney. 617-436-0352 [MercyandGraceMin@aol.com](mailto:MercyandGraceMin@aol.com)

**Church planter's street fair:**

- Looking for 200 to 400 padded stackable chairs for church sanctuary. **Teresa Mills** [ntcf@earthlink.net](mailto:ntcf@earthlink.net)

**Good article on Starting Church-starting Churches** by Carol Davis.

[www.churchoutreach.com/archive/as-StartingChurches-Davis.shtml](http://www.churchoutreach.com/archive/as-StartingChurches-Davis.shtml)

Thanks to **Dale Manfood**, who is planting CalvaryProvince church in Providence RI, for this.

**Those ministering with/to immigrants:** Ethnic America Network [www.ethnic-america.net](http://www.ethnic-america.net)

**The Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative** is a joint ministry of the Emmanuel Gospel Center and Mission to the Americas. Contact Ralph Kee at [ralphkee@juno.com](mailto:ralphkee@juno.com) at 617-262-3363, at EGC at 617-262-4567 x 153 or at EGC, PO Box 180245, Boston MA 02118.