

Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative

Doing what we can to enhance fruitful church planting and the multiplication of churches in and out from greater Boston.

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Rev. Ralph A. Kee, Editor and GBCPC facilitator

www.egc.org/ministries/church_planting/ for additional information, services GBCPC offers, and church planting links

BOOKS FOR THE CHURCH PLANTER

"Bring.....the books" church planter Paul the Apostle asked of Timothy.

Church Planting: Laying Foundations, Stuart Murray, Herald Press 2001 "Church planting advocates do well to remember that the identification of church planting as a key component in evangelical strategies for global mission has emerged very recently, and its significance has yet to be evaluated. There is reason to hope that this practice may deeply impact the mentality of many congregations, turning them outward from their own concerns, and may play a crucial role in... world evangelization" p. 55. *Book highly recommended.*

United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race, Curtiss Paul De Young, Michael O. Emerson, George Yancey, Karen Chai Kim, Oxford Univ. Press 2003. *Contrasts the pluralism of New Testament churches with the homogeneity of so many of today's churches, and argues for a return to the biblical pattern.*

Making Sense of Church: Eavesdropping on Emerging Conversations about God, Community, and Culture, Spencer Burke with Colleen Pepper, Zondervan 2003. *Good stuff about the postmodern, the organic, the new paradigm, the emergent - call it what you will - church. Burke is creator of theooze.com*

The Search to Belong: Rethinking Intimacy, Community and Small Groups, Joseph R. Myers, Zondervan 2003. *Another emergent thinker.*

An Unstoppable Force: daring to become the church GOD had in mind, Erwin Raphael McManus, Group Publishing 2001. *McManus is Lead Pastor of Mosaic in LA.*

Pentecostalism: The World Their Parish, David Martin, Blackwell Publishers, 2002. *Next to Roman Catholicism, Pentecostalism is the largest expression of Christianity in the world. How did they accomplish that, in less than one hundred years?*

Reinventing American Protestantism: Christianity in the New Millennium, Donald E. Miller, Univ. of California Press 1997. *Not much new here for most of us, but a good overview of the beginnings and spread of a certain style of contemporary ecclesiology, based on researching Calvary Chapel, Vineyard Christian Fellowship, and Hope Chapel movements.*

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

♦ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

"Church growth will be less focused on numbers and formulas and, hopefully, will transition to church reproduction/multiplication. This will enable church planting movements to happen on a wide and rapid scale, assuming the new church structures are simple enough to be replicated". This was the answer given in response to this question put to *Voices of the Next Generation*: "For the last decade church growth and leadership have been two hot buttons for the church. Will these have the same priority in the future?" -taken from

tallskinnykiwi.blogspot.com/archives/2002_3_01_tallskinnykiwi_archive.html

♦ **WHAT DO YOU THINK**

You are aiming to have a multi-cultural church? Then my question to you is: what constitutes a multi-cultural church? Curtiss Paul De Young, Michael O. Emerson, George Yancy and Karen Chai Kim, in their book United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race, Oxford University Press 2003, "define a racially mixed congregation as one in which no one racial group is 80% or more of the congregation" (page 2). Does that definition satisfy you? If only one person out of five, or two people out of ten, is of a race different than the race of the other four or other eight persons, can that be legitimately called a multicultural grouping? (The book seems to use the terms *multiracial* and *multicultural* interchangeably.) GBCPC suggests a multi-cultural church is a church that has *no* majority culture, where there is no one dominant cultural group either among the congregants or within the leadership. Is GBCPC holding the standard too high? *Multicultural church* is a much-used phrase, but maybe it needs more definition. What do you think?

♦ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Is church multiplying apostolic energy always present, or striving to be present, in all healthy churches? Roland Allen in The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church observed that the churches in China seemed to flourish whenever the missionaries were forced to leave. He concluded that the church of Jesus Christ has within her the capacity for spontaneous expansion, and that is what happens naturally when the church is healthy and vibrant. Within every local church, an apostolic ethos is waiting to emerge. - An Unstoppable Force, Erwin Raphael McManus, Group Publishing, 2001, p. 20. Do you think every healthy church will be a church multiplying church?

♦ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Your response to these inquiries is invited, and may be published in the next newsletter. As church planters we can learn much for each other. ralphkee@juno.com

EVENTS

• **Thurs, Oct. 23 10 AM Prayer walk** in East Boston. Meet just outside Maverick Square subway. Walk till noon, then lunch in East Boston at your expense.

• **Sat. Oct. 25 9:30 - 12:00 at EGC.**

1) Planting fissiparous* churches: finding the nanog gene and 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.

● **Friday, Oct. 31, 1 – 3 PM at EGC.** It's Halloween, an adult play day. Hence Play 101 for church planters. The bookends supporting *work – good hard, honest work* - are play and rest. Play 101 plays around with one of those two bookends, the concept of play. We'll start with play's theological construct and we'll amble on from there. Church planting *is* hard work and not everybody can successfully do it: a study done by one psychologist, based on personality type profiles, concludes that only 2% of people in the pastorate actually have the ability to successfully start a new church from scratch. After a few months of trying to start that new church the church planter may collapse, exhausted, if she/he doesn't take play, uh.....*seriously*. Led by that apostle of play, **Ralph Kee**

● **Sat. Nov. 22 9:30 – 12:00 at EGC. Church planting and Empire.** Would you suspect that the character of churches and church planting movements emanating from populations *oppressed* by Empire would be different from the character of churches and church planting movements emanating from populations *benefiting* from Empire? 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, some with a global reach, are to some degree emanating from people and churches *benefiting* from Empire (the American Empire). Does this raise a host of questions in your mind? **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.

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*

GBCPC events are free; you have enough expenses already. It is helpful if you let the facilitator know you plan to attend. 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

**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.*

● **Oct. 20-24 "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. Co-sponsored by Maryknoll Mission Institute. Oct. 20-24. www.OMSC.org

New churches that need a place to meet

- In **Boston, Aboma Dirbaba** seeks a place, initially gratis, where an Ethiopian languages church might get a start. adirbaba@gcts.edu
- In **Cambridge/Allston/Brighton** want to purchase a place for 500 people. **Pastor Marguilien Saintus at 617-232-4249 (home) or 617-784-2924 (cell)**
- 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
- In **Dorchester/Roxbury/Boston** Central Family of Worship, **Pastor Angel Rives**. 75 in this new church. 617-501-4317.
- In **Brockton**, Southern Baptists are looking for a place where a new Haitian church can be started. Contact **Keith Lawrence** at mklawrence@earthlink.net
- Iglesia De Cristo Misioners, Inc. has outgrown their space so need larger quarters in **Boston**. Contact **Ivelinda Figueroa** 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 857-205-3966 or **Keree Simmons** at 617-504-3704 if you can help.
- **Pastor Paula Alfred** seeks a place for her church to meet on Sunday mornings. 978-733-1530.
- Eglise Baptiste Elim wants to purchase in **Cambridge/Allston/Brighton** place to accommodate 500 people. Contact **Pastor Marguilien Saintus** at 617-784-2924 (cell), 617-232-4249 (home)
- 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 or 617-669-4242.
- Looking for small office space for City on a Hill. **Rev. Rick Bennett** 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
- In **Dorchester/Mattapan** New Fellowship Christian Ministries needs for 500 people. Contact **Diane Banton** at 617-282-2638.
- In **Randolph**, Eglise Baptiste Beroca, Pastor Gary Depestre.
- In **Mattapan, Pastor Nicolas Homicil** needs a place for Tabernacle La Voix De LeVangile. 617-698-7840 or 617-257-0143 (cell).

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
- 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

- Grace Chapel, an interdenominational church in Lexington, is seeking candidates for the immediate position of Church Launch Pastor, to launch a new church in the Andover area. Job description available. Contact **Richard Rhodes**, Pastor of Outreach, Grace Chapel, 3 Militia Drive, Lexington MA 02421. 718-862-8351 x 124 Richard@grace.org
- **Jose L Flores**, ordained minister, seeking part or full time position as an associate pastor of interim pastor in a Hispanic congregation. 617-569-4543 (home) Flores422x@yahoo.com. References, resume, statement of faith available upon request.
- Available for interim pastorate, preaching, evangelism, training and equipping seminars, while he prepares for a new ministry in Boston. **Basil Yarde** basleyarde@hotmail.com
- **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
- Mercy and Grace Ministries, Inc., **Pastor Johnnie Milligan**, seeks the services of a Christian attorney. 617-436-0352 MercyandGraceMin@aol.com
- **Aboma Dirbaba**, who plans to plant an Ethiopian church, will need temporary housing after he graduates from Gordon-Conwell Seminary in December. adirbaba@gcts.edu

Church Planter's Street Fair:

- QuincyStreet, a new missional church indigenously emerging in Dorchester's Quincy/Geneva neighborhood, is seeking, free of charge, 50 hymn books and/or chorus books. Contact **Aaron Graham** at aarongraham@yahoo.com
- Looking for 200 to 400 padded stackable chairs for church sanctuary. **Teresa Mills** ntcf@earthlink.net

The Greater Boston Church Planting Collaborative is a joint ministry of the Emmanuel Gospel and Mission to the Americas. Contact Ralph Kee at ralphkee@juno.com, 617-262-3363, EGC at 617-262-4567 x 153, or EGC, PO Box 180245, Boston MA 02118-0994.