

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 13, 2014

INFORMATION:

1. Committee Roster

The MNA committee is looking for both TEs and REs to fill out its committee roster.

2. SWFL church planting projects (see reports below)

3. SWFL potential church planting projects

Westtown PCA has issued a call to Justin Woodall as an Assistant Pastor for Evangelism with plans to plant a church in downtown St. Petersburg.

4. Presbytery multiplication- discussion

The Suncoast Presbytery has approached the MNA committee about the possibility of some of the churches in our southern counties – from Manatee County south (along the coast) – merging with their presbytery. In order to facilitate discussion about this issue, the MNA committee will be holding two town hall meetings in Sarasota. The first will be at Covenant Life Sarasota on **Tuesday, May 27 at 7pm**. The second will be at Cornerstone Lakewood Ranch on **Monday, June 2 at 7pm**. We would encourage representatives from all of the churches potentially impacted by this to attend one or the other of these two meetings.

REPORTS FROM CHURCH PLANTERS:

Steve Light (Sojourner- Tampa)

Starting in June, Sojourner is leasing two storefronts at 10933 N. 56th St. These two storefronts previously housed another church plant. With 2,400 sq ft, we will have room for worship, classrooms, nursery, and even two small offices. This is really a remarkable provision in view of how challenging it is in this part of the city for a church to acquire space, and we give praise to God!

We have set a launch date for public worship for October 5. Would you continue to pray for God to supply all that is needed for this important step, including volunteers for nursery, music, setup, rides, and any other needs that will surely be present in the body? God has been so kind to slowly develop this fledgling church, and we trust him through your prayer to *supply all our needs, according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus*.

I also am looking forward to having a college student coming on as an intern this summer. Daniel Casselli, a religion major at Grove City College, will be spending his summer helping me with outreach to students and teens, Vacation Bible School, and a number of other responsibilities. There is much to be done, and I am glad for the help! Please pray for him.

Prayer requests:

- Continue to pray that God might **convert** the lost and build up the saints through the power of the gospel.
- Summer VBS in the park - August 11-14. Pray the Lord uses this to minister to families and bring in the lost.

Ben Turner (Strong Tower- Lakeland)

No report

Geoff Henderson (Harbor-West Bradenton)

We have completed our preview worship services. We began with our core group in the backyard of a member, branched off to worshipping at several parks and have finally made our to the YMCA. Our first official worship service took place at the Bradenton Branch YMCA at 10 am on Easter Sunday. We had a good turnout as we were praying for a 100 but ended up not too far short of that. Of course we did experience, as most churches did, the post-Easter hangover. Still, we had new faces show, and a few couples return from the previous service. The gym is turning out to be a great worship space for us.

We've split into two fairly large community groups, with the hopes of multiplying them before too long. In addition to building relationships and looking into God's Word, we spend time praying by name for our friends and contacts who don't know Christ or who aren't connected to His church. Both of our groups are going through the Gospel Centered Life study.

There are a number of YMCA workers who seem amenable to us having a church there, yet don't know Christ or have no connection with any church. Since there are now 3 of us from Harbor who are part of the advisory board at the branch, I'm hoping to reach a number of those employees, as well as members who frequent the YMCA.

Prayer Requests:

- **Music Leader:** Pray the Lord would send us a music leader within our congregation. We've been having different people fill in, but I would love to see a guitarist of our own skilled enough to lead. Or that I would have wisdom in hiring one who would desire to be part of our church.
- **Multiplying:** So far people are really enjoying our community groups. But they know our vision is to multiply. Pray that the Lord would allow us to multiply these groups before too long. We're only a few people east of us away from starting a new group in Palmetto.
- **Mass:** Our people have been incredibly encouraged and excited about the church. They are loving each other as well as reaching out. But we do need to grow to reach a more sustainable mass, particularly as summer approaches and the vacations hit. Obviously we desire to see conversions comprise this critical mass. That's who we are trying to reach. Pray we see fruit from our prayers, invitations, and parties of people who will one day believe.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry A. "Drew" Bennett, Chairman