



Outreach Newsletter

A Publication of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
Board of Outreach North America

Summer 2009

HIGH M-PACT Revitalization Training

A Comprehensive Church Revitalization Training Event



*Dr. Ken Priddy
Director of Church Renewal*

The HIGH M-PACT Church Revitalization Two-Day Training Intensive covers the A-Z of church revitalization. Pastors and leaders are encouraged to attend to harness a process that combines Spiritual Renewal with Strategic Initiative. The concepts, principles and tools of HIGH M-PACT Revitalization position your church for increased ministry effectiveness that leads to health, growth and the multiplication of disciples and churches.

HIGH M-PACT Revitalization is organized around five distinct phases that emphasize alignment and that build upon one another.

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Quotes from people who attended Ken's HIGH M-PACT training in Atlanta in May:

"I spent all morning Wednesday (the morning after the training) reading and praying over the five vision passages Ken gave."

"Everybody that went from our group was impressed."

"After the training, our session voted to form a vision team to start implementing what we learned."



From the Director

Alan J. Avera, D.Min.

"The bulk of Home Mission work has been done by two or three churches sponsoring together a new work in their bounds."

I read these words the other day in a booklet published in 1955 by the ARP Board of Home Missions ("Ye Shall Be Witnesses": A Study in Home Missions in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, page 89).

Well, we are now moving back to the future. A group of people from ARP churches in Rock Hill, SC, has been meeting together to form a Parenting Church Community where they will work together to plant new churches in the Rock Hill area. A similar group has been meeting in First Presbytery with a view toward working together to plant a new church in Fayetteville, NC.

New churches need tangible support. Not just money, but prayer, workers, and encouragement. Several churches working together can provide the kind of tangible support a new church needs. Is your church able to join with other churches to help a new church get started?

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*Communion
Presbyterian
Irvine, California
Guns of love
program*



Serving at Adams Farm



*Rev. John Kimmons
Director of Evangelism
and Care*

We are blessed to be part of a new beginning at Adams Farm Community Church in Jamestown, NC. God brought us back together through a strange series of circumstances. I helped start the church 17 years ago and now I am serving in their pulpit again.

My wife Carol and I had been helping support the City Church mission congregation in Greensboro, NC. Charlie Jones is now helping at City Church, so I am not needed as much as in the past. God has blessed Jim White and Charlie Jones as a good team for City Church, where they have a great worship service, fantastic music, and a wonderful family atmosphere.

As elder Doug Farmer talked to me about coming to Adams Farm, he related the need for consistency in the

pulpit, clear direction, leadership, and shepherding. The elders, Carol, and I prayed for thirty days and decided that we could help there while I continue working for ONA.

Adams Farm has given me a chance to review what new members need in an Inquirers Class, see how a church might practice evangelism, and learn how to pray effectively for nonbelievers. Our elders are leading and we are committed to becoming servant elders and disciples. Calling on the hospital, caring for the sick, sharing our faith, and teaching our children is a church effort. The body cares for each other and is learning to get over old hurts and to forgive in order to become more effective in ministering to new people.

Adams Farm is challenging me to be more purposeful with the liturgy, more meaningful with the administration of the Lord's Supper, and more prayerful. We are learning to use music to teach us to praise God more ful-

ly. Sunday morning worship is a time set aside for God to speak, teach, encourage, and guide us through His Word. Personal challenges for our people include developing meaningful private worship, family devotions, gift-based ministry, and listening to God moment by moment.

God has been blessing our efforts. Ten people attended the Inquirers Class with two decisions for Jesus Christ; 15 Scouts went to camp; one of the college students went on a mission trip to Sweden; and two adults accompanied eight youth between the ages of 10 and 13 on a work trip. We also celebrated the tenth anniversary of our building. Kathy Szitas, a lady in our church, had a tea for 22 middle school girls and their mothers. We have celebrated Baptism in various ways with three sprinklings, two immersions, and one effusion. Adults and youth alike modeled what was being taught about this sacrament.

We pray that we will continue growing in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Testimony from Hope Chapel

Tamara writes:

When I moved to Greensboro six years ago, I started visiting churches in hope of finding fellowship with people I could relate to and opportunities to serve in the community. After countless visits to different denominations, I was exhausted and overwhelmed, faced with judgmental comments that led me to stop going to church altogether. A few years and many Sundays later, in November 2008, my roommate convinced me to go with her to visit Hope Chapel.

As I entered the building, I was welcomed by all the joyous people, and I felt an instant peaceful acceptance like I had found a home. The people of Hope Chapel are incredibly nurturing and transparent. All pretenses are abandoned during the

worship time, where we confess our sins together and receive God's continual forgiveness and grace.

Each sermon I've heard has provided new revelations, even from familiar passages. One such example was the sermon about the Good Samaritan. I had the mind set that it would be the same old story - how we recognize ourselves in one of the three men who pass by the victim. Instead, the message was to identify with the man who is beaten and robbed and left helpless for dead, and how Christ is the Samaritan who rescues us out

of his abounding love. Therefore, we should open up our lives to serving others in the same outpouring of this love, which crosses all social and racial boundaries. Other wonderful ideas include certain weeks with a question and answer session after the sermon, and community groups that are not divided by age, gender, or marital status. In short, I am thankful to join in such an intellectually stimulating and emotionally connective congregation that so consistently reaches out to welcome anyone into this family of believers.



HIGH M-PACT ...

Continued from page 1

Phase 1: Aligning Perception: The process begins with assessment that enables church leaders to align their perception of the church with reality. Phase 1 puts reality in view, identifying where the church is on the church life cycle and why it is where it is.

Phase 2: Aligning Vision: The vision of church leaders for their churches must be in alignment with God's

vision for the church. Phase 2 provides guiding questions, concepts and tools to bring about this alignment.

Phase 3: Aligning Strategy: Strategy provides the "how" of revitalization as in "How will this vision be accomplished?" As such, strategies must be in alignment with vision for vision to be fulfilled. All actions that are taken strategically must flow out of the vision with no wasted effort or resources being given to actions that are not in alignment with vision.

Phase 4: Aligning Structure: Structure concerns the supporting mechanisms of a church. These

mechanisms must be in alignment with vision and strategy, providing support for vision and strategy and ensuring that decision-making and resource allocation are targeted on the strategies that have been developed to fulfill the vision.

Phase 5: Aligning People: Without a vision the people will perish. The reverse is also true; without the people a vision will perish. Phase 5 aligns people with the vision, strategy and structure, people inside the church and newcomers that will come to the church as the fruit of the revitalized vision.

Opened Doors in Indian Land



By Rev. Gary Stiltner
Indian Land Presbyterian Church

"You don't look 55 years old, so I know you don't live here!" And with a suspicious eye and an outstretched finger she showed me the exit sign. This brick wall signaled the end of my wisdom and ability for building relationships at Sun City Carolina Lakes.

Sun City is a gated retirement community in Indian Land, SC with several thousand inhabitants and it is a key target group for our mission work. "You just can't get in there; we've tried unsuccessfully for months!" said a pastor at a local church. I began scratching my head too, very concerned about how I was supposed to reach the lost people there with the Gospel.

I prayed that God would lead me to a "man of peace" (Luke 10:6) in the community who could help me. Within two weeks our amazing Lord provided the best possible contact in Sun City!

After speaking at the 2nd Mile Club of Ebenezer ARP in Rock Hill, I was given the name of Bernie May, a man who lives in Indian Land. I did not know if Bernie was a believer, but called him and he graciously agreed to meet me for coffee. I was excited

about the prospect of making any contact in Sun City. I prayed and did my best to prepare my heart and mind for sharing the Gospel with Bernie May.

Over coffee at the Sun City Lake House, as I was trying to segue into my Gospel presentation, Bernie told me, "I am working with a group called the Seed Company. It's something I started when I retired from being the president of Wycliffe Bible Translators International." I was trying to witness to a man who had spent years working with and flying missionaries in and out of jungles all over the world!

The Lord had led Bernie to begin

a Bible Club in Sun City, which has grown to over 250 members including small groups and a prayer ministry. As a result of meeting Bernie, I was invited to participate and lead weekly men's groups in Sun City. I have

made many great connections there, and continue to do so every week.

Only God's wisdom and strength can do things like that!

God has been leading the work in our neighborhood small group too. It has been amazing to see how God has given us favor with our neighbors. We have had neighbors pay for our car repairs out of the blue, others coming to us for prayer, and still others coming to hear the Gospel! Yet all of these things would go unnoticed if God had not given us eyes to see them.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they that labor do so in vain."

Alan Avera helped welcome three new Korean congregations in the New York City area into Northeast Presbytery on July 5, 2009. About one third of the ARP Churches in Northeast Presbytery are now Korean.



Organizing new churches: Trinity ARP and Covenant of Grace

Trinity ARP Church in Chatham, Ontario, was organized into a particular congregation on April 23, 2009. Henry Bartsch was installed as the pastor. The service was a real blessing, with many in the community attending and rejoicing with us. We pray that, through our church, Christ may increasingly be the light and life of men.

Covenant of Grace in Winsten Salem, NC, was organized into a particular congregation on May 3, 2009. Roger Wiles was installed as the pastor. The mission was established two years ago and we rejoice in the good work that has taken place there. The church is laying plans for the establishment of a daughter congregation in Davidson County.



News and Notes from the Field

Tapestry ARP Church in Charlotte, NC has been approved as a mission of the ARP Church. Jarvis Ross is the Mission Developer.



Hope Tampa, a former mission congregation, held its first worship service in its new building June 21. The building was dedicated on July 19.

Gaston Community Church built a prayer team of over 325 people for the mission by email and Facebook. Email marktankersley200@yahoo.com to join or email ttaylor@arpsynod.org if you would like to pray for a mission church near you.

HIGH M-PACT Revitalization Training with Ken Priddy September 14-15 at Huntersville ARP Church. To register visit the ONA website or call the ONA office.

ONA Board Meeting is scheduled for November 16-17 at Bonclarken.

Outreach Newsletter Online is now available. Contact the ONA office to be added to our email list.

Charlie Jones, intern at City Church, produced a play at a local Greensboro theater July 23- August 2.

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