

March 2010

Multiplying Churches*

*Compiled from the 9 March 2010 letter sent to all CRCA churches by the Church Planting Taskforce

Reaching Australians

We are encouraged by Synod's endorsement of the work of the Church Planting Taskforce (CPT), and the growing interest in church planting across our churches. Quite a number of our churches, across every State, have specific plans to reach Australians for Christ, by establishing new churches. In January 2010 three churches in Southern Tasmania became organised: the Bay (Brian Vaatstra, pastor) Summerleas (David Lynch, pastor), and One Way Christian Community in Margate (Graham Sayer, pastor). These were all church plants and/or restarts by the Christian Reformed Church of Kingston. Just recently this same congregation planted a new church in Huonville, Tasmania, and in the first three months this new gospel community has, by



One Way Christian Community in Margate, Tasmania, became organised in January. This growing community is led by Graham Sayer.

God's grace, already doubled in number. There are opportunities all around us because most Australians know nothing of the love of God in Christ, and are in need of the salvation He offers.

The CPT is committed to encourage the work of outreach through church planting by coaching church planters, growing a healthy church planting ethos, funding church planting work, providing training, and establishing churches among South African migrants.

Coaching Church Planters

We will seek to encourage the coaching of church planters through the work of Jack De Vries, our denominational Ministry Training Coordinator. The Reformed Theological College(RTC) will play an increasing role in raising up and coaching church planters through their partnership with churches on the Task3 training program. This program of church based theological education had its first training week at RTC with a second week planned for June 2010. The coaching of the church planter will also be required of all churches receiving funding of church planting work. The CPT plans to partner with The Geneva Push to ensure that



Huonville, a growing town nestled in the picturesque Huon Valley, is where you will find the latest church plant funded by the CRCA.

proper recruitment, assessment, and coaching is provided for all our church planters (check out: <http://www.thegenevapush.com>).

Growing a Healthy Church Planting Ethos in the CRCA

We live in a pagan country in which less than 5% of people participate in Christian community. There is a desperate need for us to respond to the mission Christ gave us so that we will be able to reach more people. Church planting is an effective way of doing this. We see an urgency for this growing in our churches and want to encourage this, by: (1) telling the stories of multiplying churches via the Ministry Formation Workgroup (MFW) website (www.ministryformation.com.au) and E-newsletter, the *Trowel and Sword* and other communications; (2) encouraging our folk to attend The Geneva Push conferences, and (3) conducting another national survey before next meeting of Synod (2012).

Funding of Church Planting

We are keen to fund church planting work. Each church plant will engage in appropriate accountability as per the criteria set by the CPT. Currently we are funding three church planting endeavours: the Wheatbelt Fellowship (Perth, WA); Mansfield (Brisbane, QLD), and Redeemer Christian Church, Huonville (Kingston, TAS). The CPT is currently



Geoff and Florence Van Schie moved to Wongan Hills, a country town in the heart of the outreach of the Wheatbelt Fellowship.

standardising the regular reports from each church plant and their sponsoring churches.

Training

We are committed to seeing people trained for church planting, as well as training our ministers to support, and where appropriate, coach church planters. We recommend that our people attend The Geneva Push Conferences. We will let churches know of conferences as they come up through the MFW website and E-newsletter.

Establishing Churches for South Africans Migrants

As directed by Synod 2009 we have appointed two new members to the CPT, Joe Vermeulen and La-Mont Ferreira, both recent SA migrants. We have asked them to help us come up with strategies to plant churches of migrants who come from South Africa. Currently we are putting together some additional material to help ministers integrate migrants (from various cultures) into existing congregations. We are also exploring planting a church in the Mackay area where there are estimates of over 8,000 South African migrants.



Other Church Planting Opportunities

When we become aware of a need or opportunity for a Reformed witness in a specific community we will do some exploratory work. One such area at present is Darwin, in the NT. We will build on the initial contacts we have made in this capital city. It is our prayer that the task of multiplying churches will increase across our denomination and our great southland, our country: Australia. To God be all the glory!