



Church Planting

By Pastor Zach Washburn

Calvin is a part of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest - a group of thirty nine like-minded congregations ranging from Redding in the south to Boise in the east to Fairbanks in the north.

Our presbytery is newly formed this year, following the division of a larger presbytery which included all of California, and met for the first time in January - a gathering of pastors and elders who came together to worship, pray, install new leaders, and seek God's will.

Our presbytery has established a crucial goal: to plant new Jesus-honoring churches in places of need.

In the Pacific Northwest, only a small fraction of people follow Jesus. In order to be a part of God's kingdom coming in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and Northern California as in heaven, we must do what the New Testament church did: send out prayers, people, and funds for the planting of new churches.

Missionary Support Group

Missionary Support Group is a group of people who long to share Jesus with their neighbors, but struggle to do so. We gather to encourage and pray for one another. Going forward, we will meet after the worship service on the second Sunday of each month (spring dates: 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10). Please join, and feel free to bring a lunch.

One of the great strengths of our Presbyterian system is that we won't be doing this on our own. It would be difficult for Calvin to put together the dozen or so people and tens of thousands of dollars required for a church plant. But we are certainly able to contribute some funds, some people, and many, many prayers to a joint effort to see God's kingdom grow.

Many of you were here at Calvin several years ago when the church transitioned into the EPC, a new denomination for us. It was a long, at times painful, but ultimately God-honoring process, which you endured for the sake of opportunities like this: partnering with other Jesus-loving, Jesus-proclaiming churches in work that is too big for any one of us, but not too big for God.

To that end, we (the elders of Calvin) have established a designated fund, into which anyone can give for the sake of church planting. We have also agreed that we will regularly devote time during Sunday worship to praying for church plants. These are but the

initial steps, and we are eager to see where God leads us from here.

We ask you to join us in praying throughout the week for this important work. We ask you to consider whether, when the time comes, God wants to send you as part of a church planting team. And, as we discern the best way to contribute financially as a church, we ask you also to consider contributing.

Some of you know that Calvin itself was a church plant in the late 1950s - just as every church was, at one time, planted. We have only to look back at our history to see the importance of this work. As you pray, I encourage you to look forward as well: forward to the day when we are all gathered around the throne of Jesus. On that day, do we not long to be standing next to brothers and sisters from places like Newport, Salem, Spokane, and Anchorage; brothers and sisters who came to faith in Jesus through churches we gave of ourselves to help plant? What a joy that will be!

Pray for Andrew Brunson

Andrew Brunson, an EPC pastor who was previously serving a church in Smyrna, was arrested sixteen months ago and has been in prison since. He has been falsely accused of treasonous activities by the Turkish government, but has yet to be formally charged or indicted. Appeals to have him released have been rebuffed.

As we continue to pray for Pastor Andrew, I would encourage you to

use Psalm 5 as a resource. It begins with trust in God, then prays against evil. Please pray against President Erdogan's unjust and deceitful regime using verses 9 and 10. It then intercedes for those in need: "But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy and spread your protection over them."

Increasingly, Pastor Andrew has no recourse but to take refuge in God. Let us be faithful in praying for him.

Calvin's Week at Men's Shelter

By Dick Carozza

Overflowing thanks to all the Calvin people who volunteered in so many ways to help out the guys at the Corvallis Cold Weather Men's Shelter, January 21-28. You bought groceries, served breakfast and dinner, checked-in guests and inspected bags; but you also listened to and prayed with the guys. During the week, I saw several impromptu "prayer meetings" break out — often led by the guests! Every night, the guys thanked God for your help.

The main purpose of the shelter is simple: to get the guys off the streets in the coldest months so they don't get sick or worse. But, for us, the greater purpose is Matthew 25: "For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a

stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me. I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"

Thanks to these Calvin people (please forgive me if I neglected to include your name): Sue Carozza, Tim Eby, Mark Edwards, Rob Gardner, Judy Kraft, Craig Kulonis, Byron Marshall, Mel McCracken, Steve and Debbie Miller, Aaron and Callie Newton, Dave Otis, Daniel Park, Hyunju Park, Marilyn Platt, Skip and Laura Rung, Bob Shreeve, Dennis Schultz, Ben Slothower, Bill Stickle, Tom Taylor, Andy and Lauren Van Arsdel, Zach Washburn and Debbie Zuidema.

Nigeria Ministry Report

By Marc Andresen



Once again I have been given the grace-gift of spending a week with

amazing and devoted followers of Jesus; this time in Nigeria. The quality of the lives of the people I met is stellar, and every trip to Africa builds my faith. I am also humbled by their walk with Christ. I may offer them book-learning, but they teach me what it means to be faithful to God in difficult circumstances.

I was working with a ministry called E Team Global, teaching pastors and evangelists. We studied Nehemiah, as a case-study in the character of a leader, and tried to develop theological understanding of what it means to be "lost" and "found," spending 3 days in Luke 15 and the parable of the lost sheep, coin, and son. A burning question for me surfaces after we ask why do people get lost. It is "why do people not come home?"

One student, Mohammed (don't share

his name publicly) is a Muslim convert to Christ. He is from one of the most militant Muslim tribes in Nigeria and feels called to preach the Gospel to his tribe. Please pray for him - this is a very risky proposition.

During the week Nigerian nationals visited 9 villages preaching the Gospel. Perhaps the most stunning news was the conversion to Christ of a Muslim village chief. He asked to have a church started in his village, so on February 11 the first Christian worship service in history was offered in that little village. It is the book of Acts come to life!

A few other numbers:

-152 adults in the villages responded to the invitation to come to Christ.

-At the nightly 6-day crusade about 8,000 attended and 571 adults said yes to Jesus.

-152 kids responded positively during those meetings.

-the medical team treated 2684 people.

The passion and "fire in the belly" of the Nigerians is exemplary and inspires me to be more bold in sharing my faith in Corvallis.

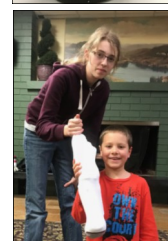
Calvin's Week of Prayer & Fasting

Following Biblical instruction and church tradition, we fasted and prayed during the opening days of Lent. People fasted in a variety of ways, from turning off the television to refraining from eating. We met daily for prayer. Multiple people spoke up throughout the four days, commenting on the presence and joy of the Holy Spirit in our midst. It was good to be reminded that, while many things seem urgent on our lives, there is One who is Necessary.

Elders' Retreat

On March 9-10, the elders (Dick Carozza, Tim Eby, Ken Roth, Janet Magedanz, Mel McCracken, and Dennis Schultz), Pastor Zach, and Andy will be gathering at Janet's home to pray together and seek God's will for Calvin. Conversation topics will include an open ended, 'state of the congregation' discussion, upcoming preaching schedules, and how we are to respond to this time of abundance (our offerings, attendance, and leadership pool have all been steadily increasing these last three years). Please pray for us as we meet, and, if you believe God has shown you some part of where he is leading Calvin, let us know beforehand. We are all brothers and sisters in this together.

Socks of Love



Thanks to your generous donations, Calvin Kingdom Club filled 30 socks with supplies to share with the homeless in Corvallis.