

Voices from the Field:
“ . . . And Beyond!” -- A Church-Planting Plan
by Eric Johnson

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The article “Should Small Churches Plant Churches?” in the Feb. 13th issue of *Mission Moments* (available in the resource section of our website) prompted a response from a reader, Eric Johnson, whose email indicates he is pastor of “Word of Grace Lutheran Mission, Rohnert Park, CA and beyond!” With his permission, we share his experience and the plans of his people as they are guided by the Holy Spirit.

“Word of Grace started public worship 9 months ago. We are now in the planning process of starting another church to be launched in conjunction with our Easter outreach.

“We worship on Sunday evenings at a rented Methodist church. Beginning with 5 people on July 1, 2002, we have grown to average 40 in worship and 35 in three cell groups. Through our Easter Celebration outreach, we will launch a Sunday morning service. We are treating this as the launch of a new church. We will share resources, i.e. a missionary pastor, worship band, budget, etc. But we recognize this as a new church launch.

“Our ultimate goal is to raise up leaders who will become pastors and church planters. We plan to build a base in Rohnert Park, which will act for us much like Antioch did for Paul and Barnabas. We will continue to send missionary church planters into our local community and the local communities of other peoples and nations. As we raise up leadership, we have a goal of planting churches in other local areas around us, beginning in our Jerusalem then to the utter most parts of the earth. We will do this, on the cheap, by starting in an area with cells. As cells grow and leadership grows, we will gather cells together as cluster congregations for worship. We believe we can plant churches more efficiently and effectively through this model.

“While this model for us is unproved, it seems the Bible offers plenty of examples where this works. We hope to prove this method workable in our current time and culture.”

Your Servant In Christ's Mission,
Missionary Pastor Eric Johnson
Word of Grace Lutheran Mission, Rohnert Park, CA. and beyond!