



**Chicago
District
Evangelistic
Association**

"Committed to the Harvest"

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Chicago District Evangelistic Association Executive Director's Newsletter March 2008

Changing Lives Through Church Planting

She sat across the desk from

me. She called the day before insisting that we meet. Not missing a Sunday since our Grand Opening, she and her husband were having a mutual spiritual crisis. They had considered looking for a church when one of our direct-mail invitations landed in their mailbox. They decided that a brand new church would be a great place to start, but they agreed that it would only be a Sunday thing, and a private thing at that. They promised one another that they would not let the whole Faith scene filter into other parts of their life such as their work and their friendships. They wanted to *add* Jesus to their lives but they did not want Jesus to *change* their lives. As she sat across my desk, with tears in her eyes, she said, "We now realize that

we cannot separate our new-found faith from the rest of our lives—we recognize that it has to be an all or nothing commitment."

I'd like to tell you that she and her husband have since made a personal commitment to Christ and have been baptized. They haven't. But they continue to come each Sunday. They are heavily involved in our Children's Ministry. They are still weighing the *all or nothing* commitment that must be made. But each Sunday they are drawing ever-closer. Each Sunday the fire of faith burns a little bit brighter in their eyes. And each Sunday I am reminded of the reason God has called me to plant a new church: **He called me to plant a new church because church-planting is still the most effective way to connect unsaved people to the Savior.** JOLIET, IL



Suncrest-East is gathering a launch team from Suncrest that is already at 119!

That is such a huge success for us. 119 people are saying "yes" to joining the mission of launching a new campus in a new area. Another huge God thing for us is that we have already hired our Worship Arts Director, Kevin Richardson AND Children's Director, Julie Coons. With those two positions locked in, we are poised for success. The challenge ahead is to really reach out to the Merrillville/Hobart area so by launch day we can start strong.

HOBART, IN



The Chicago District Evangelistic Association is a single purpose ministry. Christians can be involved in many good works, but none as basic as evangelism--the preaching and teaching of the message and life of Jesus for the purpose of bringing people to a personal and eternal relationship with God. All other ministries either lead to or rest upon this foundational work .

CDEA's Partnerships Mean More New Churches

They Just Move the Chairs
Worship at Impact Christian Church is different.

Sometimes being different means being flexible.

For example, now that Impact has endured its first winter in the warehouse, there are some things that have become almost 'second nature' to the weekly worship. Inside the warehouse (with its 25 feet high concrete walls), sometimes it's like sitting in the middle of a refrigerator.

Being flexible means wearing scarves and mittens. Or, if it has been raining (or the accumulation of snow on the roof is melting) then it is time to put buckets throughout the warehouse. With buckets in place, being flexible means moving chairs around. And, one more item of flexibility is the parking. Core group members place a sign in the back window of their cars saying, "Park me in" as a way of making more spaces for late comers.

*With the cold, the rain and even parking issues, Impact Christian Church continues to grow, seeing a steady stream of visitors. While there might be the tendency to complain about how cold the building is, water dripping or not being able to get a good parking spot, none of these things have kept people from making Impact Christian Church their home. Impact Christian Church is a church where it's more about God and people than it is the facility! **MERRILLVILLE, IN***



New churches are for kids too!

It has been an incredible first month so far at our Plainfield Campus. It is so exciting to see all of the families that are moving closer to finding their way back to God. On our second weekend I was talking to a family that said they had not originally

Partnership with Naperville Community Christian launches new Campus in Plainfield, IL

planned on coming back for our second week, but their kids got out of bed on Sunday morning assuming that they were coming back to church. When their parents told them that they weren't going they begged them to go back to church... and so they did!! And then just this past week one of our kids came out of kids' city after church and said, "I love this church." It is so much fun to see the impact that our kids' city is having on both kids and families.

Partnership with Parkview Christian Church of Orland Park, IL to launch a new campus church in Lockport, IL this Fall.

Brian Hunt will be campus pastor.

While all the details are not yet worked out, this new partnership with CDEA is just one more of the many partnerships being forged to reach more and more people for Christ through new church evangelism. Parkview (formerly known as the Tinley Park Church of Christ started by the CDEA in 1951), is an example of a CDEA's Epi-Center Church Planting model. The Epi-Center Church Planting model is one of the ways the CDEA's vision of 100 more churches for Chicagoland will be fulfilled by 2025. To view some of the excitement at Parkview Christian Church, visit www.parkviewchurch.com.

Partnership with North Point Community Christian Church in Winthrop Harbor, IL. To launch late Fall 08.

North Point Christian Church is another Epi-Center church. They plan on launching another site in Lake County, IL in the fall of 2008. North Point practices "externally focused" ministry and this strategy will be used to make an impact into different areas of northern Lake County leading up to the start of the new work. To catch the excitement of North Point's ministry, visit: www.northpointchurch.org.

Partnerships

Partnering to Change Lives through Church Planting.

As the CDEA plan for church planting unfolds for 2008, already the harvest of souls is being brought in. Lives are being changed. A mom going through a divorce doesn't feel quite so alone anymore. A young man has recognized his need to remove alcohol from his life so he can be a dad to his teenage son. People who felt abandoned and without any credible spiritual guidance are now finding a



place to grow and experience God's love.

All this because of new churches. You are part of what God is doing through new church evangelism through your prayers and financial support. Your **PARTNERSHIP** in the Gospel is important to not only the CDEA, but literally to the millions of unchurched yet across Chicagoland.

Please consider how important your partnership is to the ongoing work of reaching Chicagoland for Christ through new church evangelism. Please use the enclosed offering for your next gift.