

Newsletter

INAUGURAL ISSUE

Summer 2017

Assist Church Expansion exists to catalyze new churches, sites, mergers and adoptions that will expand our movement with Legacy Churches.



ASSIST ARRIVES



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GBCANADA USA RE-BRANDS AS ASSIST AND BROADENS ITS MANDATE TO INCLUDE CHURCH EXPANSION ACROSS THE USA



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NATHAN BRYANT

INSIDE:

Four new church expansion projects

- » Main Street Church
Chelsea, Michigan
- » Grace Fellowship Church
Brunswick, Maryland
- » Three Creeks Church
Gahanna, Ohio
- » Renew Cambridge
Cambridge, Ontario,
Canada

Assist is the new name of **GBCanada USA!** GBCanada USA is the church planting mission agency that has been working in Canada for the last 20 years planting churches for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (FGBC). This change comes about as Go2 Ministries – the FGBC's former national ministry for church planting in the USA – winds down its operations. The leadership of GBCanada feared that the movement might cease to exist in future years if new churches aren't being started. With that motivation, they decided to broaden the mandate of GBCanada to include the USA.

Nathan Bryant, the executive director of GBCanada USA, spent seven months consulting with numerous pastors and leaders across the FGBC to develop a plan for a new organization to plant churches in the USA. In February 2017, the GBCanada USA board approved that proposal and decided to restructure the board, change the name and broaden the mandate. "We believe that churches and leaders expand a movement, not organizations," said Bryant. "Organizations can help, catalyze, support and resource... they can assist. That is why we chose the name Assist"

In March of 2017, a group of FGBC pastors and leaders approved the proposal and direction. By May of 2017, the new board was formed with Dennis Fay, Bartley Sawatsky and Tim Farrant. The Canadian division of the ministry will continue to pursue church expansion in Canada under the name Assist Canada.

In June of 2017, the board approved three new project proposals, helped to secure a leader for a new Canadian project (*see detail inside*) and also added an additional board member, Jeff Gill. Assist launches publicly in the month of July.



CHELSEA, MICHIGAN
LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND
LAUNCHING JANUARY 2018



JOSH & ANDREA KUCK AND FAMILY

KELLY TRUETT, LEADER OF MAIN STREET CHURCH PRAISE TEAM

SCOTT & JENNIFER AVEY AND FAMILY

Josh and Andrea Kuck moved to Holt, Michigan along with their four girls in 2014 to join a one-year church planting residency. This program gave them valuable time and training that has equipped them to become church planters. After surveying communities throughout the state, they discovered two thriving sister communities devoid of a relevant Bible-based and gospel focused church: Chelsea and Dexter. Each time they visited and talked to those who live there, God confirmed to them that He can use their gifts, experiences and passion for the gospel to impact the individuals in these unique communities.

With a core team that now includes 12 families, Main Street Church is already operating a partial schedule of Sunday worship services and small group gatherings that have seen members of the community come to faith and connect with the launch team. The leadership team has formulated ministry and discipleship paths that consist of relevant worship services, "Next Step" groups and community service initiatives. Main Street Church is grateful for the financial partnership of Osceola Grace, Marysville Grace, Wooster Grace, Fremont Grace and Riverview Church in addition to 10 independent families who have provided their support. The leadership expects independence midway through 2019 with 2020 being the first full year of independence.

Scott Avey had been a worship leader for over a decade before God pushed him off the ledge of his own comfort towards becoming a church planter. In January of 2017, Scott and Jennifer Avey were sent along with five other families from Grace Community Church (Frederick, Maryland) to begin a gospel community in Brunswick, Maryland. Their first night of Bible study had a turnout of 40 people!

Brunswick is in the Southern Frederick County Maryland, which is part of the greater Washington DC metroplex. Brunswick's population has grown by over 25% in the last 10 years with over 1,500 homes being built in Brunswick Crossing to accommodate commuters to Washington DC. There is a lack of vibrant Bible-believing churches in the area. As one Brunswick resident puts it, "We need churches here!"

So far, prelaunch social engagements have been successful seeing as many as 70 people participate. In the meantime, the launch team continues to add members as they grow deeper in community and roll out fundraising initiatives. Grace Fellowship Church is seeking additional families to join the launch as well as key team members in the areas of worship and small group facilitators. The long-term goal is to plant another church in northern Frederick County within 5 years. Pray with us that the Lord will bring the leaders necessary to make this successful.

MISSION PROJECTS



GAHANNA, OHIO
LAUNCHING FEBRUARY 2018

CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO, CANADA
LAUNCHING FALL 2018



There appears to be a great need for a life-giving church in Gahanna, Ohio especially one that will appeal to young families. There are some older, more established churches in the city that appeal to an older demographic, but there are 120,000 people within 5 miles of downtown that don't have a church home. Movement Church (Hilliard, OH) and Encounter Church (Dublin, OH) have partnered to send Joel, Morgan and Three Creeks Church to Gahanna.

Joel is currently two-thirds of the way through a Residency with Movement Church and Encounter Church. God recently provided a home in Gahanna for the Trainers in December 2016. There were 12 offers on this home on the FIRST DAY it was listed, and there was one offer for \$10,000 MORE than the Trainers' offer. When the family heard a church planting couple was interested in buying the home, they chose the Trainers as the buyers.

Movement Church and Encounter Church have defined "multiplication" as their goal and because of this, church planting is already knit into the fabric of Three Creeks Church. All three churches have already begun collaborating and praying about the next church plant. As of May 2017, the Three Creeks launch team has grown to 65 people. There is an incredible momentum behind this church plant, supported by leaders, prayer warriors and kingdom-minded people.

For quite some time Renew Church has been considering the growing community of Cambridge, Ontario as the location for a potential fourth campus joining Meadowdale, Milton and Mayfield West in their multisite structure. Eight adults from the existing Meadowdale and Milton campuses have made the move to Cambridge and began forming a core team to explore the possibilities in the area. Among those who have relocated are Armando and Odila Padovan who agreed to serve as "Cambridge Catalysts".

Cambridge is a short drive from Toronto, located along the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway (Highway 401), North America's busiest highway. The city has experienced rapid growth in recent years and projects a population increase of 50,000 people by 2031.

While the core team has been meeting together, making connections in the community and honing in on the location for the new campus, Renew Church's leadership has been working with Assist to find a suitable Campus Pastor. We are excited to announce that Erik and Austen Jensen have accepted the position and will be moving from Ohio to Cambridge in August/September 2017. Erik is currently enrolled at Grace College and is the Director of Family Ministry at Rittman GBC. Upon their arrival in Cambridge, they will begin working towards a fall 2018 launch date.



KICKSTART THE EXPANSION

Assist requires an additional \$100,000 of annual funding as we expand the reach of our efforts to assist churches and leaders across the USA and Canada. The generous support of our financial partners enables Assist to catalyze, coach, resource and realize church plants, multisites and adoptions for making disciples and expanding the movement.

Immediate one-time gifts are a tremendous help to offset expenses for 2017, and can propel our existing projects forward. Assist is also seeking long-term partnerships with churches and individuals who would like to support and participate in expansion projects across the USA and Canada on an ongoing basis. Please prayerfully consider giving individually and encouraging your church to support Assist.



WWW.ASSISTCX.ORG

**GIFTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT ASSISTCX.ORG
OR BY CHECK PAYABLE TO ASSIST:**

In the USA
P.O. Box 3216
Monument CO
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In Canada:
6535 Millcreek Drive, Unit 31
Mississauga ON
L5N 2M2

PROJECT NEEDS

Here are our current projects seeking assistance. Please prayerfully consider what you and your church can do to help it be effective:



Launching September 2017

Launch fund

(for trailer, sound equipment, children's ministry equipment, marketing, signage)

\$20,000

Support

2017: **\$20,000**

2018: **\$20,000**



Launching January 2018

Launch fund

(for trailer, sound equipment, children's ministry equipment, marketing, signage)

\$20,000

Support

2017: **\$20,000**

2018: **\$15,000**

2019: **\$10,000**



Launching February 2018

Launch fund

(for trailer, sound equipment, children's ministry equipment, marketing, signage)

\$20,000

Support

2017: **\$20,000**

2018: **\$15,000**

2019: **\$10,000**



Launching Fall 2018

Moving Expenses

for the Jensens' move to Cambridge
\$3,000

Launch fund

(for trailer, sound equipment, children's ministry equipment, marketing, signage)

\$20,000

Support

2017: **\$10,000**

2018: **\$20,000**

2019: **\$15,000**