



WWW.ASSISTCX.ORG

Newsletter

Fall 2017

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING:



Main Street Church launches publicly



Grace Fellowship Church moves out of the house



Three Creeks Church is gaining momentum



The Jensen family arrives in Canada



Renew Mayfield West celebrates year one



GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER

ASSIST UPDATE

Read about the launch of Main Street Church and the exciting developments in our church expansion movement.

by Nathan Bryant
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASSIST CHURCH EXPANSION

First, I want to say congratulations to Josh and Andrea Kuck and the team at Main Street Church for a great start in their public launch! I also want to thank all those churches and individuals who have been supporting that church plant. It couldn't have gotten this far without a team effort.

This is just the beginning, so continue to pray and support them to become a legacy church! We are incredibly excited for Scott and Jennifer Avey, Joel and Morgan Trainer, and Erik and Austen Jensen as they launch new churches in sites during the coming year.

Over the last 3 months since officially launching Assist, I have had the privilege to travel and speak with numerous leaders across the country and the opportunities are many.

I have traveled to Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio and investigated projects and partnerships in California, Indiana, Virginia and numerous other states.

At the same time, we have been working hard on the four key projects that we have underway and I hope you enjoy the reports in this newsletter. God is expanding His Church through our movement.

There are upcoming opportunities for church planting as well as multisiting. As I am traveling and getting a close look at our family, I am discovering many needs and opportunities to help churches that have experienced a long-term downward trend. Some of these churches that were started many years ago need our help to remain viable and effective long-term in their communities. I believe there is hope.

What has become very clear to me is that our movement needs an organization that is solely focused on our expansion and revitalization of existing churches. That is what Assist is all about. As Assist Church Expansion, one of our six big ideas is "Teamwork" – that we are all helping to expand our movement together, in team. To do this work, we need your help ...

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ASSIST NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

Imagine what God could do if every church was actively participating in expanding and revitalizing churches across North America together. I invite you to be on the team and part of expanding Jesus' church through our movement.

Prayerfully consider these ways to help:

1. **Pray** for Assist and the church expansion projects.
2. **Give** to the general operations of Assist. We are working hard to operate lean, but it still costs money to live, travel, communicate and develop expansion projects.
3. **Encourage** other individuals and churches to put Assist on their missions giving.
4. **Inform** us about potential opportunities to expand that you are aware of.
5. **Go** – let us know about potential leaders who would be able to help us expand Jesus' Church.

When people come to know Jesus and new churches and sites are started, or a church is revitalized, you can know that you were a part of making that happen. Your church can celebrate with us as teammates.

HEBREWS 10:24

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.”

Living to assist the expansion of the Church,

Nathan Bryant



by Erik Jensen
CAMPUS PASTOR, RENEW CAMBRIDGE

On Friday, September 15th Austen and I with our three kids (along with Nona and Poppop) piled into a couple of cars and a U-haul moving truck along with everything we owned and set off to join Renew Church in a new season of life. Everything started great, but I remember a remarkable fog in the Akron area that morning ... the fog never really lifted from our journey, figuratively speaking.

The Jensens are officially in Canada, but the move definitely could have gone better!

We were cruising through Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York like a dream, but as we approached a toll booth, a semi-truck decided to merge into the lane that my trailer was in. The truck, thankfully, only damaged the rented U-haul trailer and the car wasn't harmed. But there we were on the side of the road with my three toddlers, my beautiful wife, my mom and dad, and one of New York's finest ... two hour delay.

After that mess was cleared up, we continued to Buffalo and were making good time to the border crossing at the Peace Bridge. Little did we know that our troubles had only just started ...

As we approached the Canadian border all appeared well, our vehicles were together, everyone knew the plan, our documents in order – we were ready to go! The first stop when crossing is to speak with a border guard in a booth. This conversation went beautifully, we told her our plans, she marked her forms and we parked to walk into the immigration

office. Smiling, we told the immigration officer of our plans, presented our paperwork and happily waited for our admission into Canada!

Unfortunately, for reasons unknown we were not allowed in. In fact, the border guards escorted us vagabonds out of the immigration area and were sent back to Buffalo NY. With no other options, no home to return to, no reasons for our rejection, we got a hotel and decided to try again. I remember running the whole gamut from fear to faith (then back to fear and

doubting). Intellectually, I knew that God's plans and timing are much higher than my own, but when you've taken your family from everything they've ever known, the picture becomes blurry.

Thankfully, I called Nathan Bryant and he, along with Pastor Mitch Van Rassel, decided to assume the roles of knights in shining armor! They graciously drove from Mississauga to meet us in Buffalo and come across. As we waited for them to arrive I laughed and told my wife how wimpy I felt, growing up hearing stories of great missionaries like James Gribble and the hardships endured by those early pioneers. In contrast, a hotel stay and complimentary breakfast didn't seem so bad!

The next day all went well and I'm writing this update from the coolest coffee shop in all of Cambridge (www.cremecafehespeler.com) and meeting with Pastor Armando Padovan, and the trials of last week seem like the distant past. Now, we look to the future!



MAIN STREET CHURCH: A TEAM LAUNCH



The road to launching a new church should not be taken alone, and Josh Kuck certainly heeded this advice in launching Main Street Church in Chelsea, Michigan this September. Josh and Andrea were surrounded by mentors, elders and family that loved and supported them from very the start. "I could stand here and name men like Nick Cleveland from Wooster Grace, Fred Choi and Noel Hiekkinen from Riverview Church, Mark Artrip of Movement Church, Clancy Cruise from Marysville Grace, Nathan Bryant with Renew Church and now leading Assist Church Expansion, and Tom Avey from FGBC ... and still will probably miss others who guided me, encouraged us and prayed for us along the way," said Josh. Since holding their first monthly service in November 2016 to launching public weekly services in September 2017, Josh, Andrea and their core group have received some amazing spiritual and financial support. "I don't know how anyone does this by themselves. We've had tremendous assistance from Riverview Church, Wooster Grace, Marysville Grace, Fremont Grace, Osceola Grace, Assist and GBIF not to mention at least 15 individuals and

families from Ohio, Indiana, Florida and Michigan. Launching Main Street Church was a team effort," declared Josh.

It has been an exciting year for the Main Street Church team, full of encouragement from God and God's people. Other highlights included celebrating six baptisms before the launch date and being recognized as a Grace Brethren Church by the Fellowship in July. "I'm so glad our fellowship is a family of churches and not just a network," continued Josh. "It has been a terrific journey and knowing that family – people, churches and organizations like Assist – have your back makes the adventure that much richer."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAIN STREET CHURCH LAUNCH

- In addition to those the church had already gathered, 11 new families attended and nearly all desired more information and agreed to return
- Half of the families that attended were not currently attending a church or have never consistently attended a church
- Over 34 kids under the age of 12 attended Main Street's children's program
- One person who came for the first time arrived early, and asked to help out because they are excited to be a part of a church that is alive.
- Nearly every individual who considers Main Street their church home served in some capacity to make the day happen
- The Osceola Church team drove up from Florida and cooked for the launch group
- A sister and mom of the original Main Street core – who the team has been praying for two years – came to the service
- Since the launch, four additional families who couldn't make the Sunday launch – who the core team has been praying for – expressed interest in attending. The team continues to pray for these families, one of whom asked that they "not give up on them."



GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH: A CROWDED HOUSE



Grace Fellowship Church in Brunswick MD had its first Sunday gatherings. This pre-launch meeting saw 66 people attend and their numbers have been holding steady. Lead Pastor Scott Avey says, "The house we have been meeting in has become packed. We have around 25-30 kids. Our cup is overflowing and its time to find a bigger cup."

So they will be moving to the local elementary school for their gatherings. This poses some great opportunities to strengthen ties with their target community as well as challenges as their church goes portable. These are all meaningful steps as they prepare for their public launch in January of 2018.

Grace Fellowship exists to connect people with Jesus – his message, his community and his mission. There is a lack of

relevant, gospel-preaching churches in the area and they are finding nearby families eager to join in with a church that has a heart to reach the community. One of the church members said "I've never been so excited to be a part of a church."

They've seen around 3 additional families land at Grace Fellowship in the last two months and have kicked off two women's bible studies and a Men's group. While attendance is of some worth, engagement in these discipleship environments has been the most encouraging. Scott Avey and family have relocated to the target area and are excited to engage with their neighbors and community to forge relationships and share the gospel.

Please pray for Grace Fellowship as they prepare for the public launch. Pray for the Avey's as they engage with a new community. Pray for leadership development in critical areas for the public launch. Pray for their fundraising as they are still short of their fundraising goal for the year, but are trusting in God to provide.



WWW.GRACEFELLOWSHIPCHURCH

GRACE FELLOWSHIP LAUNCH PLAN

OCTOBER 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

Meeting as a Bible study and development of launch team

JANUARY 7 AND 14, 2018

Public launch setup rehearsals and dry runs

JANUARY 21, 2018

Launch public services

FINANCIAL NEEDS

Launch fund (for trailer, sound equipment, children's ministry equipment, marketing, signage): \$20,000

Ongoing support:

2017: \$20,000

2018: \$15,000

2019: \$10,000

RENEW MAYFIELD WEST CELEBRATES YEAR ONE



Renew Mayfield West has been holding services for one year! On September 24th, 2017, this third Renew campus celebrated its first birthday.

by Wade Rininger
CAMPUS PASTOR, RENEW MAYFIELD WEST

It has been a crazy, wonderful, hard, and beautiful year! We have seen God work in great ways and more people know Jesus because of it. We can't thank everyone enough for supporting us through prayer and resources. Please know that you are very much a part of what God is doing in the Greater Toronto Area.

One of the highlights of our celebration service was witnessing our worship team serve the Lord. We have seen a good number of people get connected to the church through serving in a ministry on Sunday mornings, and when you see the worship team up on stage, you can really see how far we've come. We had eight people on stage that represented a number of different ethnic backgrounds. I can't think of a better way to celebrate than to worship and represent the unity that we have in Christ!

During the message, we spoke about how our church can follow the example of when the blind beggar reached out to Jesus in Mark 10. We looked at how he seized the opportunity in front of him, and then exercised his faith as he followed Jesus. We gave some depth to our purpose statement, and we encouraged everyone to join a Renew Group.

As we look to our Fall season we have a ton of great community events and outreaches planned. We are holding a 5km and 10km race called Renew Rush in October, a Trunk or Treat event for Halloween, and have asked all of our Renew Groups to be planning their own missional endeavor.

As our young church plant starts to move into its second year, we still have a ton of work to do. We have a lot of people that need direction in discipleship, leaders that need to be given opportunities to grow, and unbelievers that need to hear about and experience Jesus. We are entering into a critical season where the moves that we make over the next year will determine the outcome for many years to come. Obviously we are totally dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit, but we also know that we are called to do our best with tasks placed before us.

Please keep us in your prayers. We would also ask that you prayerfully consider supporting us financially as we move into this critical season. We have a number of events and some key pieces of equipment where your support could really help.

Thanks again. Oh, and go have some cake, it's our birthday!

THE ASSIST TEAM



Nathan Bryant
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ted & Elise
Adomanis
ADMINISTRATION
AND FINANCE



Mark Artrip
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
PLANTING & RECRUITMENT



Philip Bryant
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



THREE CREEKS CHURCH: MOMENTUM IS BUILDING



THREE
CREEKS
CHURCH

by Joel Trainer,
LEAD PASTOR, THREE CREEKS CHURCH

After two launch team meetings and one community service event, the momentum only continues to build! Over 70 people have come to both launch team meetings, where the team has spent time worshipping God, experiencing community, and diving into Colossians together. That book is all about Jesus, and so is Three Creeks Church! Looking ahead into the fall, Three Creeks will be having more launch team meetings, visiting other churches, and serving their city as we work towards our launch in February, 2018. Please pray that Gahanna would SEE and HEAR the Gospel through the words and actions of our church.



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.

**GIFTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
AT ASSISTCX.ORG OR BY
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