

# **GO2 Church Planting Report to FGBC Fellowship Council January 28, 2010**

In April Of 2008 the GO2 Board of Directors asked its Executive Director Tim Boal to review the vision and strategy of the organization and develop a sustainable church planting program. Thus, beginning at that time a more than 15-month process of evaluation and prayer commenced. As might be expected, when an organization is transitioning from one vision and strategy to another some stress was produced both upon the organization and its employees. Thankfully, the re-visioning process is now complete and at its September 2009 meetings the Board approved a new strategy that launched on January 1, 2010.

Our new vision is titled “Springboard Initiative: A Decade of Multiplication.” It is built around three primary components that were developed to correspond to the Charis document and our commitment to common mission. Explained below are the three main components of our strategy and how each relates to the Commitment to Common Mission (in parentheses).

1. **Springboard Partners (Church Planting)**

Many years ago FGBC National Director of Church Planting, Kurt Miller, developed a plan to target “key” churches within a region and to formulate an entire network of systems to support a church planting movement emanating from those key churches. GO2 has tested this idea in several churches and found it to be a fruitful and significant way to move church planting from a basis of addition to that of multiplication. Subsequently, GO2 is looking to partner with these types of local congregations (what we refer to as Springboard Churches) as a key to seeing a decade-long multiplication movement of church planting and multiplication. Our focus is not on what model(s) of church planting these Springboard Churches might choose to employ, but rather on helping these churches reproduce multiple times in their region. In so doing we are hoping to serve the Judea-Samaria mandate of the Great Commission.

2. **Circles of Grace (Leadership Development)**

The primary need of all Christian Mission is not money but workers for the harvest. Thus, Christ tells us to pray for harvest workers because the harvest is plentiful. As our way of addressing the present lack of church planters in the FGBC, we are targeting 1,765 regional areas we are calling “Circles of Grace.” Our desire is to target one or more Springboard Churches in these Circles and have them participate with us in a church planting network, which has as one of its goals the assessment, identification, and training of new church planters. We have identified five types of Circles in which we are seeking partners. These include:

- A. Urban
- B. Suburban
- C. Micropolitan
- D. Rural
- E. Tribal

Our hope is that some of the church planters who are relationally connected to us via our partnerships, and trained with us, will see the value of the FGBC, its doctrine, family, and mission. It is true that we will not

find all of our Springboard Partners to be Grace Brethren, but we have good early evidence that these kinds of partnerships will lead us to new Grace Brethren Church Planters. An illustration of several partnerships illustrates this point:

### **New York City Partnerships**

Our partner in Circle of Grace #1 (New York City) is Redeemer City to City, the church planting arm of Redeemer Presbyterian Church. This is a unique city-centered church that, while being very committed to its own denomination (PCA), also has a larger vision of the church and has contributed many funds to non-PCA church planters. Our own Steve Galegor, Jr. has received money and training from Redeemer as he plants Albanian congregations in New York. In addition, Redeemer and the Church Multiplication Alliance have a desire to see 50 new church plants each year for the next decade. Our relationship with one of Redeemer's Church Planter trainees, Michael Faulkner, has led him to host an internship for a potential GBIM couple seeking to learn more about cities and saw him come to our Equip conference in 2009. In the near future he will make an application to bring his church plant - New Horizons Community - into the FGBC.

### **Minneapolis Partnerships**

Many of you have read about the new work in Minneapolis under the leadership of George Stagg. George and Anna became affiliated with GO2's Tim Boal and Steve Galegor, Jr. through their relationship to the BILD Network. This network runs the Antioch School of Church Planting, and is developing relationships with CE National, Grace Schools and a number of FGBC churches. These are not accidental happenings but a strategic outreach to Christian workers of like-minded faith who, when rubbing shoulders with our staff and FGBC pastors and leaders, become intrigued with who we are and often desire a closer relationship with us. GO2 believes this is just the first fruits of what we hope will be at least 500 of these relational commitments in the next decade.

### **3. Act1v8 Social Network for the United States (Integrated Ministries)**

Act1v8.us and Act1v8.me allows GO2 to connect its Springboard Partners and their people to works of service in their targeted "Circle of Grace." The idea is similar to what our Moderator Tom Hocking is exhorting us towards with Springs of Life - Christians within a local area forming connections with the needy and lost to meet needs and bless communities and individuals with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that this tool provides help to the missional church and the individual in identifying community needs and providing local servant evangelism opportunities. One of the benefits of the network is its ability to identify potential opportunities for church planters to integrate into the community faster, seeing greater and longer-lasting impact.

**Our goals for this vision using this model over the next decade are to see:**

**5,000 new churches started  
500,000 new believers saved  
50 million Americans served**

This is an impossible vision to meet if we continue to think in terms of our past models. But if we can think in a new way, we might be able to at least imagine the increased fruit new methodologies can bring.

As you probably know from your own experience the economy has been unkind to many mission organizations and 501(c)3 groups. Our offerings for 2009 were down by 11% from the previous year. We are asking our staff to raise their own support which helps alleviate budget concerns for the organization.

However, in this economy many of our staff are seeing reduced giving and are unable to meet their goals. Banks have been unwilling to create operating capital for us and for most non-profits since the banking crisis of last year, thus making it impossible to float our employees with pay until support is raised. We have adjusted our staffing downward and reduced administrative overhead to ten percent of our annual budget. Yet, if we do not have more help in the near future financially, the goals of the Springboard Initiative will be unattainable for lack of adequate staffing. Please pray with us, especially now as funds are being diverted away from generalized support to relief donations, that God will sustain so that we might pursue what He has called us to do.

Presently the GO2 staff consists of:

Tim Boal – Executive Director  
Jim Snavely – Assessments  
Kevin Marsico – Training and Networking  
Mike Silliman – Coaching  
Michelle Kane – Administration  
Randy Disert – Finance  
Arnold Betoney – Tribal America  
Steve Galegor, Jr. – New York Circle/Albanian/Urban America

Presently the GO2 Board consists of:

Bob Fetterhoff – Chair  
Mark Curtis, esq.  
Mike Lee  
Mike Ozburn  
Bartley Sawatsky  
Kent Semple, CPA

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Boal  
Executive Director