NEWSLINK

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Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the United States and Canada

Mailing addresses: Box 1393, Monterey Park, CA. 91754, USA. 10 Waterbridge Lane, Markham, Ontario L3R 8W9, CANADA

"FROM NOTHING TO SOMETHING"

The title summarizes the efforts of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship in the arduous ministry of planting churches the last 8 years. In 2010, we set for ourselves a goal of planting 600 new churches in North America. Since then, we have seen the birth of more than 70 new churches and mission points all over the continent. Even though we are way off from our target, we are encouraged by the fact that had we not been engaged in this ministry, those who were reached for the Lord in those places would not be there in the first place. Therefore, we must continue to work harder and smarter in helping churches to become healthy so that they can reproduce themselves naturally. Read on, to discover issues, insights and inspiration in this task for the Kingdom.

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THE CHURCH PLANTING PIPELINE:
RAISING UP GOD'S WORKERS IN YOUR CHURCH

Rev. Jeremy Sin

Imagine your church sending out ministers, missionaries and church planters across North America and to the ends of the earth. What a joy that would be!

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Chinese population in the U. S. grew from 3.3 million in 2010 to over 5 million in 2016. (https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF) While we all agree that we need more new churches started, the big challenge is, where can we find the right church planters? We pray that the "Church Planting Pipeline" introduced by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will be used by God to raise up a new army of ministers, church planters, and missionaries.

The Church Planting Pipeline is a resource to help the local church discover and develop church planting teams. This curriculum helps your congregation to prepare teams of missionaries within the body of your church.

The Pipeline is organized with three levels of training:

Level 1 – develops individuals in their spiritual formation, biblical knowledge and missional living to become a stronger disciple.

Level 2- advances a disciple into missional leadership and disciple making while exploring a call to church planting as a planter or team member

Level 3- helps potential planters prepare for assessment and explore methods and models of church planting.

Participants will progress through these levels guided by coaches. At each level, 10 competencies of a disciple and missionary skills will be covered through 37 weeks. Examples of these units are: Spiritual Formation Introduction and Being Formed, Discerning God's Call, Evangelism and Presenting the Gospel, Gifts/Passions Finding Your Place, Leadership Disciplines, Bible Fluency, Communicating the Bible, Understanding Church, and The Multiplication of Biblical Community.

At each unit there will be memory verses, reading assignments, and coaching time. The goal of the time together is not just passing on information. The goal is to shape participants with a missional understanding informed by personal experience, that they will demonstrate proof that they get it.

For more information, please go to https://www.namb.net/pipeline , where you can download the user guide, training sample.

To get started, your church needs to assign a Pipeline facilitator to register at https://www.namb.net/pipeline . The North American Mission Board will send the facilitator the login information to explore the Pipeline training. The facilitator then will invite participants to the training through the Send Portal. Each participant will complete a pre-assessment (a fee of $32 per participant) and submit it to NAMB. After receiving the score and working with NAMB, the facilitator will establish the appropriate level of training for the participant. Access to the appropriate level of Pipeline training is given to the coach and each participant. Training begins!

Rev. Jeremy Sin is Church Planting Catalyst of NAMB. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact him at jsin@namb.net or 678-234-9020.

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CHURCH PLANTING: A CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

Rev. Tai Ping Li

Due to the liberal immigration policy of the Canadian government since the sixties, the Chinese population has now grown to 1.7 million. The earliest immigrants were from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Southeast Asia. In the nineties, large numbers have come from mainland China. Most Chinese churches in the sixties were started by Christian immigrants. In the seventies, new churches began to be planted. As a result, Chinese churches in Canada today number 400 of which 50 to 60 are Baptist churches. Among these, not a few are the result of churches planting churches.

As for involvement in church planting, churches are engaged in two ways: Indirect Participation and Direct participation. In the former, churches give financially to fund church planting initiatives of the various Regional Baptist Conventions or prompted by church members. In the latter, churches start mission points which later became viable churches. Six such churches were started this way. The process involved is: Vision Sharing with members of the church and affirming that the church planting effort is God-led; Information Gathering whereby demographic data is gathered and studied; Establishing a Core Group to mutually encourage one another and implement plans through praying together, visiting the area and starting Bible Study groups; Finding a suitable minister to lead, plan and implement the ministry of the Church Planting Core Group; and, Commissioning those who are willing to be a part of the new church plant.

Relationship between a "Mother Church" and the Church Plant: The growth of a Church Plant is not easy. The working relationship between the minister, leaders and congregation in the new church plant is often-times tested in many ways. Therefore, the role of the "Mother Church" is an important one. In the first place, the role of the "Mother Church" is a facilitator, not the final arbiter. In the second place, it is an ever-present help in trouble. Finally, it is an encourager.

Rev. Tai Ping Li was one of the founders of the CBF and currently the President of CBF Canada. He had served in the pastorate for more than 40 years before retiring and had vast experience in planting churches in Canada.

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THE STORY OF A CHURCH PLANTER

Tom Tang

I grew up in Xinjiang in northwest China. When I was pursuing my Ph.D. studies at Tsinghua University, I had no idea what my goal in life was. By God's providence, I came to know a group of missionaries whose lives were so different and I was deeply attracted to them. I wanted to be like them: a person with faith, hope, love, and inner strength. I came to faith in Christ and I was born again.

When I graduated in 2000, my desire then was to serve God as a missionary, but I asked Him to allow me ten years to explore the world and to gain different experiences in life. God gave me a job in Germany. Two years later I was sent back to China to develop the Chinese market and I was very successful. Several years later, I married Jessie and we served the Lord together in the church in Beijing.

But when my company considered promoting me as their Sales Director, I was not excited about it because I just felt that it was not for me. I suddenly remembered my agreement with God made exactly 10 years ago. My pastor advised me to go to the seminary, but I struggled about letting go of my job for nearly a year. One morning, I was awakened by the words of Luke 9:62: "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." I was so ashamed of myself and I quickly surrendered my heart to God. After I shared this with my wife, she strongly supported me and I resigned from the job that many people envied. We enrolled at Western Theological Seminary in Portland, Oregon in the fall of 2011.

When I first came to Portland, the incessant rain challenged my faith in God and His calling. One day as I climbed up a hill overlooking the city of Portland in the rain, Deuteronomy 11:11-12 came to mind: "But the land that you are going over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water by the rain from heaven, a land that the Lord your God cares for. The eyes of the Lord your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year." It seemed like Portland was the land that God cared for, and I quickly settled down to study.

Upon graduation, we were eager to return home. But we were approached by NAMB (North American Mission Board) to ask us if we would consider serving as church planters. In the process of seeking God's guidance, He reminded me of Deuteronomy 11:11-12 again.

We got our R-1 visa in a month and we moved to our target area - Beaverton. The Lord provided a classroom in an Anglo church and we began our gathering there. We named our team, the Portland New Creation Fellowship.

In the first year, the work was slow taking off. It seemed that no matter how I tried, there was no breakthrough. But a Spring picnic attracted more than 30 young people, and half of them came to our Bible study. Five people were baptized a few months later and in two years, nine more people were baptized. God was really at work.

We faced many challenges in our ministry which left us feeling lonely, bitter, and frustrated. But God constantly encourages us through some pastors, conferences, and people who cared about us. My wife and I gradually understood that building a church was not a project that can be completed in a matter of 3 to 5 years. Many of the preset church planting strategies and methods did not work for us. We discovered that it is changed lives living together in Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that builds the church.

As I reflected on our ministry the last few years, there was just the two of us in Portland in the beginning. Now we have become a family of four. When we started planting a church, it was only a group of five to six people. Now there are fifty or sixty people worshipping on the Lord's day. God has never stopped working. All glory to God!

You may join God in the ministry of the first Mandarin Baptist Church in Oregon through your prayers, short term mission trips, offering, or even personal participation. Contact information: Tom Tang, 5755 SW Erickson Avenue, Beaverton, OR, 97005; PH: 503-395-0088.

This is an abridged version of Tom's testimony. For the unabridged version and Reports of the Ministry of Church Planting, you may read them at www.cbfusacanada.org

美加簡訊 NEWSLINK

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“從無到有”

這總結了美加華人浸信會聯會在過去八年中在栽植教會事工方面艱辛的努力。在我們 2010 年為自己設定了在北美栽植 600 座新教堂的目標。從那時起，我們已經看到遍布整個北美洲的 70 多個新教會和宣教點的誕生。儘管我們離目標還遠，但我們若沒有投身於這個事工，在那些地方信主的人就不會有機會得救，爲此我們感到欣慰。因此，我們必須繼續更加努力，更有智慧地幫助教會變得更健康，使他們能夠自然而然地複制自己。請繼續閱讀，在這國度的事工上找出問題，取得見解和亮光。

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在你的教會中興起上帝的工人：植堂輸送管道

冼志儉牧師

如果你的教會能為北美以至全世界送出牧師， 傳教士和植堂人，這會是多麼令人高興的事情？

根據美國人口普查局的估計，在美國的華人人口在 2016 年，從 2010 年的 330 萬增長到 500 多萬（https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF ）我們都會同意我們需要開設更多的新教會，但我們所面對的最大的挑戰是，我們在哪裡可以找到合適的植堂人？ 我們的祈禱是神能夠使用由南美浸信會聯會北美使命宣教部所推出的“植堂輸送管道”來培育一支新的傳道人， 植堂人和宣教士隊伍。

植堂輸送管道是幫助地方教會去發掘和培育植堂隊伍的資源。

植堂輸送管道是幫助地方教會去發掘和培育植堂隊伍的資源。這個課程可以幫助你的教會在你的會眾中栽培宣教團隊。

輸送管道是由三個程度的培訓所組成的:

第 1 級 - 培育參與者的靈命塑造， 聖經知識和宣教生活，來使他們成為更堅固的門徒。

第 2 級 - 栽培門徒， 在探討作為植堂人或團隊成員的的呼召中，幫助他們成為宣教領袖和栽培門徒的人。

第 3 級 - 幫助有可能成為植堂人的參與著為評估作準備，並探討栽植教會的方法和模式。

參與者將在教練的指導下在這些級別中的成長。 在每一個級別中的 37 週內，會涵蓋門徒和宣教技巧的 10 項能力。 這些單元的例子有：靈命塑造導論和成長， 明白上帝的呼召，傳福音並如何講述福音，在恩賜/熱忱中找到你的位置，領導操練，熟悉聖經並如何講講解聖經，認識教會，以及聖經群體的倍增等。

目標 … 是通過個人的經歷讓參與著認識宣教。

每個單元都會有背誦經文，閱讀作業和輔導時間。在一起的時間的目標不僅是傳遞資訊，而是通過個人的經歷讓參與著認識宣教，以至他們能夠證明掌握了對宣教的了解。欲得到更多信息，請到訪 https://www.namb.net/pipeline ，在那裡您可以下載使用指南，和培訓樣本。

如要開始，您的教會需要指派一名管道協調員在 https://www.namb.net/pipeline 上註冊。 北美宣教部會將向該協調員發送登錄信息，來認識輸送管道培訓。然後，協調員將邀請參與者透過門戶網站參與培訓。 每位參與者將完成預評估（費用為每位參加者 32 美元）並提交給 NAMB。在取得分數並與 NAMB 一起研究後， 教練將決定參與者的培訓程度。 教練和每位參與者都可以進入適當程度的管道訓練內容。 培訓開始！

如果您有任何問題，請隨時電郵 jsin@namb.net 或打電話 678-234-9020 與我聯繫。

冼志儉牧師是美南浸信會聯會北美傳道部植堂宣教士。

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加拿大植堂之分享

李帝平牧師

上世紀六十年代至今，加拿大政府開放移民政策，今年統計華裔有一百七十萬，初華人來自香港、台灣及東南亞地區，自九十年代來自中國移民大幅增長，教會初期大致是移民基督徒建立，七十年代教會教會植堂，至今加拿大華人教會已達四百間。浸會也有五、六十間，其中植堂也佔了相當的數目。

予植堂的工作，有間接的是支持聯會或友會的要求，在經濟的支援。直接是指服事的教會建立之福音基址，有六間。在植堂的過程其中包括五大點：

一. 異象之傳遞：與會眾分享植堂之異象，植堂是基於神之帶領，在本市及隣近地區建立福音基址。

二. 蒐集資料：華人的數目，分佈及類型。

三. 成立核心小組：推動及鼓勵成立植堂的參予者。

1. 禱告網。
2. 探訪該地區之華人。
3. 查經小組。

四.尋找傳道同工，帶領核心小組一起策劃發展福音事工。

五.教會差派願意往基址會友成為新基址之成員。

母會與基址之關係：基址之成長是艱辛的，彼此傳道人、領袖及會眾融合是不容易的，在經驗中常因此產生難題。因此母會的角式是很重要。也要註意三重點:

1. 它不是最高的仲裁者，乃是協調者。
2. 它是隨時之支援者。
3. 它是鼓勵者.。

李帝平牧師是美加華人浸信會聯會加拿大主席，也是美加其中一位創會牧師，在加拿大多倫多牧會四十多年，亦富有植堂經驗。

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俄勒岡州植堂人的見證

Rev. Tom Tang

我生長於中國大西北的新疆。在清華讀博士的時候，不知道下一個目標是什麼，但在神恩典的安排我接觸到一群的宣教士，他們的生命深深的吸引住我。很快我就覺的我的人生要像他們一樣成為有信、望、愛和內在堅韌力量的人，我因此信靠基督，獲得新生。

我的人生要像他們一樣成為有信、望、愛和內在堅韌力量的人。

2000 年畢業之際，我許願要像宣教士那樣事奉神，卻請求神給我十年時間，讓我在世界上闖蕩一番，多些人生的經歷。神給了我一份在德國的工作，兩年後被派回國開拓中國市場；一路高奏凱歌，業績驕人。幾年後跟 Jessie 結為夫妻，在北京的教會裡同心服事。

但當公司考慮提拔我為銷售總監的時候，我不知為何高興不起來，總覺得這不適合我。我突然想起跟神所許的願，正好十年了！牧師建議我上神學院，但我捨不得放下工作，覺得自己可以事業事奉兩不誤。這樣糾結了近一年，直到某天夜裡驚醒，彷彿聽到一段經文，這是我從未有過的經驗。趕忙查考聖經，找到的是路加福音 9:62 ：耶穌說，手扶著犁向後看的，不配進神的國。心中慚愧，唯有向神投降。告訴妻子後，她大力支持，於是辭去令人羨慕的工作，於 2011 年秋來到波特蘭西方神學院就讀。

耶穌說，手扶著犁向後看的，不配進神的國 。
路加福音 9:62

初來波特蘭，綿綿陰雨勾起我患得患失的愁煩。某天雨中登山遠眺山谷中的波特蘭市區，不知怎麼想起了申命記 11:11-12，“你們要過去得為業的那地，乃是有山、有谷、雨水滋潤之地；是耶和華你神所眷顧的，從歲首到年終，耶和華你神的眼目時常看顧那地。”彷彿覺得波特蘭 就是那片神所眷顧的土地，我便安下心來學習。神學院畢業之際，本來急於回國的我們得到 NAMB（北美宣教部）的邀請，希望我們成為植堂人。耐心求證的過程中，神又讓我想起申命記 11:11-12 節的經文。

我們面對很多的挑戰，令到我們覺得孤單、苦累、沮喪 … 加上居留身份不確定，教養孩子的壓力 …

我們出人意外地在一個月左右就得到 R-1 簽證，於是搬到了目標區域 - 比弗頓。我們幸運地找到一間白人教會的教室開始聚會。我們為小組起名為「波特蘭新造的人團契」。

聚會第一年，我想像的廣傳福音、快速發展沒有發生，好像我使盡渾身解數，也難以突破。然而在我對自己失望的時候，神卻開始動工讓我見識他的大能。一次春遊吸引了三十多位年輕人參加，一半來了查經班，5 個人在幾個月後感動受浸，令我震驚之餘，大受鼓勵。接下來兩年裡 9 個人受浸，都不是我意料中的，神的作為太奇妙，神自己在作工。

我和太太漸漸明白：建教會不是三五年就能完成的一個項目，必須是生命改變的人一起活...

我們面對很多在事奉上及個人的挑戰，令到我們覺得孤單、苦累、沮喪，加上居留身份不確定，教養孩子的壓力增大，開始變得憂慮重重，常常軟弱。神不斷的藉著一些牧者、營會、和關心我們的人鼓勵我們，顯出他不離不棄的愛和恩典；也給我們綠卡申請先被拒後反轉獲批的經歷，堅定我們留下來長期服事的心。

我和太太漸漸明白：建教會不是三五年就能完成的一個項目，必須是生命改變的人一起活在基督裡；而生命的改變和成長不是快得了的事，很多預設的植堂策略和方法都不甚奏效。重要的是我們自己在基督里活出新造的人的美好生命，順著聖靈栽培主耶穌的門徒，在神的話語里扎紮實實建造門徒，漸漸在愛里彼此連接成為教會。

我回顧幾年前，我們夫妻當初只有兩人來到波特蘭，現在成了四口之家；剛開始植堂，只有五六人的小組，現在有了五六十人的主日敬拜，神從未停止作工，更不吝嗇恩典。他是使無變有，起死回生的神！建立他自己的教會！榮耀歸於神。

我要與神同行，他還有更多奇妙的帶領和祝福要賜給我們呢！你願意加入嗎？你可以通過禱告、 短宣、資助甚至委身來加入神在俄勒岡建立第一間國語浸信會的事工！聯繫方式:

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