

From the Front Lines: Two Methods of Funding

MOTHERING

Anthony Scoma (M.Div. 2002)—Anthony led a team of five AGTS alumni and students to plant a church in Austin, Texas. As the discipleship pastor at James River Assembly of God, Springfield, Mo., for four years, Anthony had spoken with Pastor John Lindell about the possibility of planting a church on many occasions. In that time, James River had planted two other churches. This past February, during their missions convention, the pastor gave Anthony a seven-minute window during each morning service to share his vision with the church. The pastor then made an appeal for people to go with them. Thirteen families committed to make the move.

“James River is being very generous,” said Anthony. “The money they provide will cover my salary for a year, start up costs and a nest egg towards eventual land purchase. The North Texas district and Austin section are also supporting us with monthly funds.” The other team members will either raise their own support and/or get second jobs until the church can pay them.

TENT-MAKING

Mickey Best (M.Div. 1993)—Mickey planted a seeker-targeted church in Madison, Wis., in 1998. He works full-time in computer support to provide for his family while pastoring. “Having to work full-time and pastor isn’t the end of the world,” said Mickey. “God has given us strength, provided people to help with the church, taught some valuable corporate lessons, given opportunities to share Christ, and given us tremendous joy. I know doing ‘double duty’ seemed like the beginning of the end to me at one time. I’ve heard other church planters get discouraged at the thought. That hasn’t been the case for us. We’ve put a lot of thought in how to balance family and work and more work, and it’s worked out well.”

Below—Anthony’s Team (left to right): Scott Evans (M.A.C.M. 2003), Peter Landers (M.A.T.S. 2002), Anthony Scoma (M.Div. 2002), Chris McCool (student), Ruben Ruiz (student), Stacy Teel (M.A.I.M. 2002, not pictured).



Church Planting Resources

www.ParentOrPartner.ag.org

www.ChurchSmart.com

Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal by Aubrey Malphurs and Joe Aldrich.

Starting a New Church by Ralph Moore

Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting by David W. Shenk and Ervin R. Stutzman

Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America edited by Darrell L. Guder

Church Planting: The Next Generation by Kevin Mannoia

Building a Contagious Church by Mark Mittelberg and Bill Hybels (Contributor)

Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches by Christian A. Schwarz

Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News by Rick Richardson

Doing Church as a Team by Wayne Cordeiro

The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West...Again by George G. Hunter III

