

Groundbreaking in Santa Maria

Fifty years ago, less than 100 church members congregated within the first official sanctuary of Grace Baptist Church in Santa Maria, California. Today, while embracing an increasing membership and a swelling community, the need to expand its walls as well as its ministries has also grown. And so, on April 13, under overcast skies and with shovels in hand, parishioners slashed through clay and sand to mark the beginning of a long-awaited building dream.

"As we anticipate the building of new facilities and moving to a new location, being willing to take a leap into the future can be...intimidating," said Pastor Duane Johnson on the morning of the groundbreaking ceremonies for a new church. "But we should become a tireless community of servants," he said, urging the church family to look at building a new church as a mission-outreach opportunity within the community—a way to "share a truer vision of God's majesty to the lost." And with those words, he delivered a Sunday message



that stirred dreams and encouraged believers to take part in the vision.

During the groundbreaking service, Numbers 13:30 was read, in which Caleb said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." The service followed with hymn singing, Scripture reading, and small-group prayer in which three or four people formed prayer huddles and spent time praying for continued funding, contractors, safety of the workers, the building process, adjusting to change, and for the people in the surrounding homes.

In addition to its ongoing ministries, some of the programs envisioned for the new church include kids' sports camps, after-school latchkey and tutoring programs, family fun nights, a parish nurse program for seniors, pre-school for the community, and other community events.

The current sanctuary was built in downtown Santa Maria in 1953. The new church building will be 36,500sf and be situated on 6 acres of land near the busy Crossroads Shopping Center on McCoy Road, Santa Maria, surrounded by new homes in a community of 85,000 residents. The building project is expected to be completed by spring 2004.



Even the kids got involved!

BGC ANNUAL MEETING 2004 TO BE HELD IN FRESNO

The Annual meeting of the BGC has just recently concluded in Landover, Maryland, located outside Washington, DC. It was one of the best conferences in recent memory. One of the blessings was being hosted by a black church, currently the largest in the BGC, with about 8,000 attending each Sunday morning. They served the attenders with great joy and big smiles. Plus, we enjoyed some black music and black preaching. It was great.

Now it is our turn in the NCBC. Next year, the BGC annual meeting will be in our district, meeting in Fresno's new downtown convention center, with adjoining housing facilities in hotels nearby. The dates are June 24-27. A full program for families accompanies the conference. This covers nursery through teens with an onsite/offsite variety of activities.

Currently, a work group of Fresno area pastors and their staffs are beginning to lay plans for all the needed areas. Officially, this group is known as the COLA committee. (In your work, you may use COLA as cost of living -- here it has another application). COLA stands for Committee on Local Arrangements. This group will provide for all the needed functions to host an annual meeting.

The expectations are high, having just been graciously hosted by a group of people who expressed great love in serving God by serving others. We appreciate the area churches who will provide servants for this task.

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Reserve the dates now to attend the BGC annual conference. This would be an opportunity for some who have never tasted this celebration of God's work in our fellowship of churches. It is a great time of worship, testimonies, preaching, and faith expressions as we follow God together in our local churches and worldwide ministry.

Please pray for the COLA group, as they have much work ahead of them. We will announce the leadership group in a future issue of the NCBCforum.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 9 Hispanic Fellowship Annual Meeting
- 4-5 NCBC LEAD Coaches' Meeting - Monterey
- 5-6 NCBC Church Planters' Retreat - Monterey

September

- 10 Xtreme Steps leadership team meeting - Tracy office
- 11 NCBC Trustee Board meeting - Tracy office

October - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

- 13-16 Pastoral Couples' Retreat - Hume Lake
- 17-18 Hispanic Couples' Retreat - Grover Beach
- NCBC Missions Committee meeting - Calvary Baptist, Turlock

November

- 13-15 Bethel Youth Pastors' Forum - St. Paul campus

POURED OUT FOR HIM!

That's our theme for Women's Retreat 2004. Our speaker will be Carole Wolaver, the pottery lady! Carole spoke at our 1999 retreat, blessing and challenging us with lessons from the Master Potter as she worked at her potter's wheel. We are very excited about the 2004 theme which will focus also on our response to the Potter, from the perspective of the clay (us). Don't miss Retreat 2004! The dates are January 23-25 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Resort in Monterey. Registration materials will be mailed to your church by August 1.

There will also be a wonderful variety of seminars, 20 of them from which to choose, plus the incredible fellowship that always happens when God brings women together for a weekend of listening to Him through our speaker, seminars, worship, music, drama and friends, old and new. And being in Monterey is always a plus, right? As you talk to God about our retreat, please pray for Carole as she prepares for her three sessions, for each seminar leader, for the worship and drama teams, and for your leadership team as details are finalized. And pray about your own attendance and all the women whom God wants to bring to this retreat. He has a special purpose for each one of us in this opportunity. Don't miss out on what He has for you!



Carole Wolaver

I also want to share a very serious concern for our speaker. Carole's husband, Wayne, has recently been diagnosed with throat cancer which has spread to the lymph glands in his neck. The disease is presently at stage 4 and, along with the treatment, causes him great pain and discomfort. He is having daily radiation and chemotherapy. In talking with Carole, she voiced the reality that sometimes when you are so sick, it is hard to read or even pray or focus on anything but the discomfort. So she asks that we pray specifically that her husband be able to stay encouraged and have hope. And we urge you to pray as well for his healing, for the doctors and medical staff who are treating him, for the family as they minister to husband and dad, and for Carole's strength and faith in the Potter who made Wayne and Who knows him better than anyone. Let's join together at the Throne to intercede for this family. Carole has a real heart's desire to do our Retreat, even in the midst of this situation and is confident that God knew about Wayne's illness before she signed our contract.

--Rae Reed, NCBC Team Advisor

SEED MONEY GRAPHIC

Xtreme Steps

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the local church in their ministry opportunities, and at the same time, give opportunity for God to provide new funding for missionaries and churches.

The heart of the program is to offer to churches the opportunity to have a capital fund campaign, free of charge, to further their ministry. The BGC has contracted with RSI, a professional fund-raising ministry, to assist the church in developing and executing a first rate campaign -- at no cost to the church. This would allow a local church to challenge its people to give funds for new facilities, land, debt retirement, staff addition, or other ministry opportunity chosen by the church. In exchange for this no-fee service, the church would voluntarily designate a portion of their funds to help in the missionary staffing increase and church planting in our district.

Other ways to participate, for churches whose timing does not indicate the need for more funds through capital funding, would be stewardship development helps for annual budgeting, line item designation for *Xtreme Steps* goals, and special projects for church planting and missionary expansion. Interested individuals may also designate gifts for these goals. These gifts may also be combined to assist your local church in special projects.

Each church has received and will be receiving mailings and brochures explaining this unprecedented opportunity. Please contact our office for further information or a personal visit to discuss how your church can participate. You are invited to take *Xtreme Steps* in this unique time of opportunity to have *Xtraordinary Impact for the Kingdom*.

--Don Reed, NCBC Executive Minister

Project runs from
September 2003 - March 2004

Did You Know . . .

. . . that the NCBC office expansion project is completed and occupied? We praise God for this center for our ministries. We also praise God for Floyd Zielke and his tireless efforts in seeing the project through to the end.

. . . that two houses are spoken for in the Children's Village in Rio de Janeiro? God used NCBC churches to successfully complete and fund an addition to Boa Vista Day Care Center last fall. This was a pilot project preceding the Children's Village project, which will consist of 30-50 homes to house 10 street and slum children each, plus their house parents. Want more information about how your church can be involved in reaching out to the needy children of Rio? Call the NCBC office (209.830.6222).

. . . that the NCBC Senior Adult Retreat 2003 was held May 19-21 at Mt. Hermon? Around 100 seniors gathered for fun, fellowship, relaxation, and teaching from the Word by Dr. Tom Carter, pastor of First Baptist in Dinuba. If you did not attend, you missed a great time! Next year's dates are May 17-19. Put it on your calendar now and plan to join the group next year.

. . . that Pastor Jim Achilles (Grace, Hollister) played the leading role in "Fiddler on the Roof" this summer? The production was presented by the San Benito Stage Company of Hollister. Great job, Jim!

. . . that NCBC sponsors a retreat for church planter couples in Monterey in August? Pray for our "Multiplication" Team (planters and district leaders) that this will be a time of encouragement and refreshing fellowship.

. . . that Pastor Mike Garman was involved in a mission trip to the Philippines this summer to minister to and train pastors?

. . . that our Golden Hills student ministry hosted a trip this summer to Rio to be involved in a short-term mission with *Reëncontro* and the *1x1 Rio* outreach to street and slum children?

. . . that Pastor Wade and Kristie Robinson (Eastside, Clovis) are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Ethan Noland? Ethan was born July 4 and weighed in at 5 pounds, 11 ounces. He was welcomed by his older siblings--Luke, Faith, Seth and Sara. Our congratulations!

. . . that we have had several pastoral changes recently? Pastor Thomas Sorrentino is the new pastor at Maranatha in San Jose; Alex Garcia began at Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza in Woodland in July; Tim Miller is the Central Community Pastor at Golden Hills in Brentwood; and Pastor Dan Owens has resigned as Senior Pastor of Fair Oaks, Concord.

What's Happening in Your Church?

Summer is a time for great creativity in ministry. We would like to feature some of the special things our churches have done this summer. Maybe you've had a special community outreach, a unique program for children, youth or adults, a short-term mission trip, a dramatic presentation, a helping ministry for a family in need, a ministry to a missionary family, a church block party, a booth at a festival. The list goes on and on, and we'd like to hear about your events.

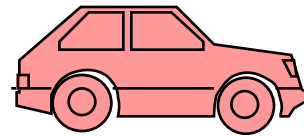
Articles do not need to be limited to summer ministries. We thought you might want to share some of your creative ideas with your sister churches in the district.

Please send us a write-up and some pictures that we might be able to use in a future issue of the *NCBCForum*. We request that you also give us editing privileges. It is very helpful to have pictures sent by email as .jpg or .eps files and articles as MicroSoft Word attachments. Send your ideas to <RaeReed@ncbcweb.org> or mail them to:

NCBCForum
23950 S. Chrisman Rd.
Tracy CA 95304.

Check out our website: www.ncbcweb.org

Have a car to donate?



Consider giving it to NCBC to help with our church planting efforts. You will be given a tax-deductible receipt for the value of the car. Give our office a call (209.830.6222) to help a church planter through your directed generosity.

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