

CELLAN UPDATE

APRIL 2008

ABRAHAM AND SARAH...THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

Dear Friends,

As you may know, we have been on an "Abraham and Sarah adventure" this past year. God confirmed on Nov. 2, 2007, that our next ministry assignment is to plant an EFCA church in Eau Claire, WI.

Since then, we have traveled to Eau Claire regularly to begin this ministry. But, on Feb. 20, we took a 3,700 mile "detour" through ten states to share with friends and family about the new church plant, and ask for prayer and financial support. During our travels, we heard the following FAQ's:

What exactly IS a church plant? A church plant is about starting a new church and helping it grow. Our church plant is called a "pioneer church plant". This means the church planter gathers a Launch

Team, raises all of the financial and prayer support, and establishes the entire ministry from the ground up. It's like a tree planted from a seed, which grows into a fully-mature tree, with time, proper care and the blessing of God. A church plant starts with a small group of believers on mission to reach their community for Jesus.

Why are you planting a church in Eau Claire? Although there are many good churches in Eau Claire, about 70% of Eau Claire is functionally unchurched. It's the largest city in western Wisconsin, with about 118,000 in the metro area, and there is no EFCA church.

Do you already have a congregation? We started at ground zero and have recruited about a dozen adults called the "Launch Team". Currently, we are meeting twice a month for prayer, instruction and encouragement. We will soon be training the Launch Team to become a church. The launch date is Nov. 2, 2008.

What is a "launch date"?

Our launch date is the day we plan to hold the first public service and invite the Eau Claire community to join us.



Water St...favorite UW-EC student hangout

Do you have a church building?

No. We will rent space later in the year when the team is too large to meet in homes.

How is the church plant funded?

The Forest Lakes District has committed 13% of the 2008 church budget. We are responsible to raise the remaining 87%. We are supported monthly by individuals and gifts from three churches. Right now, we have commitments for 46% of the 2008 church budget. We are praying for more

people and churches to join the financial team and commit to support for three years. After that, we are trusting God for this new church to be self-supporting.

Jerry, why do you think God picked you to be a church planter? Good question! I believe God wants to use my love for Jesus' church, my desire to teach people the Bible, and my passion to see lost people find Jesus. I trust that God will also use some of the wisdom and patience I have gained from the experiences of long-term ministry to help this new church flourish for His glory.

The Cellans

Matching Fund Offer

A Christian businessman has offered up to \$3,000 in matching funds for another \$3,000 matching commitment given in 2008 to the Eau Claire Church Plant.

PLEASE PRAY!

- For the sale of our house.
- For God's direction on house hunting in Eau Claire.
- For continued growth of Financial Support and Prayer Team.
- For steady growth of the Launch Team with people of all ages.

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Call to learn how you can be part of the Eau Claire Church Plant Support Team.

VISION

Our vision is to establish a strong, growing and vitally healthy, multi-generational church in Eau Claire that will spearhead a church planting movement in western Wisconsin. We dream of 1,000 people of all ages coming to faith in Jesus Christ during the next 10 years. We envision lives radically impacted for Christ and entire families changed forever. We see God using this new church to plant four other churches in the next 10 years.

To receive future Cellan newsletters by email, contact Deb at oakchaser@aol.com.