

# Multiply • Spring 2011

**mna**

Mission to North America  
Presbyterian Church in America



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**PLANTING IN PORTLAND OREGON**



**Many Ways to Reach One Goal**



**Lending a Hand to Other Churches**



**A Firm Foundation**



Mission to North America  
Presbyterian Church in America

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## From the Coordinator

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord... it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

*I Corinthians 12:4-6*



DEAR FRIEND,  
Nearly fifteen years ago, Nathan Lewis, pastor of Evergreen Presbyterian in Beaverton OR, found himself preaching what he thought might be his “all-time worst” sermon to the newly established church plant. To make matters worse, the mayor of Beaverton happened to be visiting that Sunday. But when the service ended, Nathan was astonished

to see that the mayor was deeply moved. “I finally understand what the Gospel means—I want to become a Christian,” he said. Says Nathan, “I realized that the Holy Spirit had taken what I thought was a bad sermon and used it to make a change in the mayor’s life.”

When we allow God to use us for His service, the results are often amazing. In this issue of *Multiply*, you’ll read how Evergreen is making an impact for Christ in the Portland-

metro area by planting churches in a variety of ways. Some plants have begun in coffee shops, others through already established churches, but the congregants of Evergreen have joyfully embraced a variety of roles in ministering among their neighbors to grow the Kingdom of God. And many in Portland, like the mayor, are hearing and understanding the Gospel for the first time.

Your contributions to MNA provide services to church planters all across North America. As you read Evergreen’s story, please take time to consider how you can contribute to the work of Christ through MNA. No matter how great or small, your gifts and talents can be used by God in ways you might never imagine.

In His Name,  
Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator



## A Firm Foundation

The churches in Oregon maintain a strong identity and connection with the PCA. “We provide PCA literature for our congregants and talk often and openly about being a connectional and confessional church. In addition, many of our congregants travel and check out other PCA churches while they’re on the road,” says Nathan.

Evergreen also encourages hands-on interaction in building relationships with other PCA works through short term missions, including assisting with a church plant in Guadalajara. “We’ve had Mexican nationals come to Oregon to teach us about the church and its missions and have sent our own members to Guadalajara to help. It’s about learning from one another,” says Nathan.



The pastors of the churches support one another through weekly and monthly meetings and an annual retreat. The men also do mission work together in the Pacific Northwest with David Hopkins, associate pastor of Evergreen, who works with Native American men.

“We’re out here in the hinterlands of the PCA,” says Nathan. “It reminds me of the pioneers who made their way out West in Conestoga wagons by the Oregon Trail. We’re thankful to be supported by the prayers and giving of God’s people.”



*“We’re out here in the hinterlands of the PCA. We’re thankful to be supported by the prayers and giving of God’s people.”*

– Nathan Lewis

## A GROWING PCA PRESENCE

PCA works have served Oregon for over 20 years. Below, a brief chronological history:

- > **1988** Cascade Presbyterian, Eugene, Kyle Parker
- > **1990** Westminster, Vancouver WA, James Bordwine
- > **1993** Evergreen, Beaverton, Nathan Lewis
- > **1997** Crosswinds, Gresham, launched; closed in 2002
- > **1999** Eden Korean, Aloha, Peace Won and Eunchul Kim
- > **2000** Evergreen Salem, Salem, Stephen Lewis
- > **2000** Intown, Portland, Brian Prentiss
- > **2001** Hoodland Chapel, Wemme, Tom Matthews
- > **2006** Chehalem Valley, Newberg, E.C. Bell
- > **2006** Hope, Portland, Pat Roach
- > **2009** Reconciliation, Beaverton, Nathan Lewis
- > **2009** Ascension, Hillsboro, Eric Costa

# Planting in Portland Oregon



Portland OR is a city full of people eager to talk about spirituality. “Many organized non-Christian groups exist, such as Wicca and New Age,” says Nathan Lewis, pastor of Evergreen Presbyterian in Beaverton. “Even some mainstream churches are beginning to practice the New Light Movement, which holds a belief in a cosmic Christ.” But Nathan says PCA churches in Portland want to grow their congregations through sharing the Gospel and seeing their neighbors come to Christ.

It was that call to share the Gospel that first spurred Nathan and his wife Glenda to move to the city. “We had served at New Life in Escondido CA, where the leaders were passionate about church planting,” he explains. “After doing demographic research, Phil Clark (former MNA Coordinator who was at that time leading a special focus on Western church development), decided Beaverton, a city about seven miles west of downtown Portland, would be a solid target for a

PCA work.” The closest PCA churches to the Portland metro were Westminster in Vancouver WA across the Columbia River and Cascade Presbyterian in Eugene, 120 miles south. Nathan and Glenda moved to Beaverton in November 1992 and began a prayer meeting with about eight adults. The following March, Evergreen hosted its first worship service in an elementary school.

## Many Ways to Reach One Goal

At that first service, a plastic sandwich board stood in the lobby, announcing Evergreen’s intent to plant five churches in Oregon. “We had little planned as to what programs our church would offer—instead, we concentrated on how we could best establish as many reformed congregations as possible in the Portland area,” says Nathan. The leaders and laypeople of the church have supported this strategy by welcoming a variety of people groups and worship styles and have been open to joining core groups of plants launched in their neighborhoods.



Above: Multnomah Falls

In 2001, Evergreen seized another opportunity to grow God’s Kingdom. Evergreen had been providing pulpit supply for Hoodland Chapel, a small congregation in Wemme, a town about an hour east of Beaverton near Mt. Hood. When the pastor retired, he asked his congregants to deed their chapel property to Evergreen. “When Hoodland Chapel first came under our oversight, there were about six members,” remembers Nathan. “Now, Tom Matthews is serving nearly 30 congregants—he’s been working diligently within the small, rural community to build relationships.”

Three Evergreen families who had moved to Newberg, 20 miles southwest of Beaverton, approached the Evergreen elders in 2006 to begin a mission work there. Evergreen sent five families and

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— Nathan Lewis





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Above: Chehalem Valley Presbyterian

“Denise used her excellent people skills to gather about fifteen adults from different walks of life,” says Nathan.



Above: Tom Mathews (right) with ....

two single adults to Newberg to launch Chehalem Valley Presbyterian. Nathan became a “circuit-riding pastor,” preaching at Chehalem’s early service in the building of a Seventh Day Adventist church, then arriving back at Evergreen during the hymn sung just before his sermon. Four years later, Evergreen’s session called E.C. Bell, who was living in Longmont CO, to be the Evangelist to organize Chehalem. In June 2010, Chehalem was organized as a particular church with about 125 attendees.

“Evergreen has drawn people from our surrounding neighborhoods and from some distances away,” says Nathan. “We’ve worked hard to articulate to our members that we could simply add more worship services, but that wouldn’t be true to our vision—instead, we’ll plant a new church.” Recently, Evergreen has found that using

the cluster method—launching new plants at their Beaverton location rather than at a separate site—provides a more efficient way of serving different people groups. As the churches become self-sufficient, they will relocate to their target communities.

“A couple of families approached me and said they thought Evergreen was more connected with southwest Beaverton, which is middle to upper class,” remembers Nathan. “They felt we needed to begin ministering among the poorer neighborhoods to our northeast.” Reconciliation, launched in 2009, now meets at the Beaverton location on Saturday nights. The service is composed of people who are mentally challenged or are otherwise historically marginalized in the church. Denise O’Patrny, a mentally challenged member of Evergreen, has been instrumental in launching Reconciliation.

Evergreen launched a second cluster church, Ascension, in 2009. Eric Costa, who had served at nearby Intown Presbyterian, was seeking a new call due to staffing transitions. “Our session proposed he join Evergreen as Assistant Pastor with the goal of planting a new congregation in Hillsboro, a town about six miles west of us,” says Nathan. Home to seven Intel plants, Hillsboro is home to young engineers, including a growing number of East Indians. Now meeting at 9:00am at Evergreen with about 80 worshippers, Ascension plans to relocate to Hillsboro within the next five years.

Below: Ascension, now meeting at Evergreen, plans to serve Hillsboro in the future.





Above: Evergreen Presbyterian

Below: Edén Presbyterian, Left to Right, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Nathan Lewis.



## Lending a Hand to Other Churches

As Evergreen was in the midst of launching its first two works, Ted Shin, a minister in the Korean language Presbytery, approached the session, proposing they share their worship space with a Korean congregation and view that work as a church plant. “We saw it as a great opportunity to minister among the 25,000 Koreans in our community,” says Nathan. A few cultural differences existed. Korean churches cook a meal each Sunday, and the smell of Kimchi, a traditional Korean dish made of fermented cabbage, pervaded the building. But Evergreen approached the changes with a spirit of sharing. “I told our congregation that every time we smelled Kimchi, we’d know we were building a church,” laughs Nathan. Edén Presbyterian, now led by Peace Won, has grown rapidly and was able to purchase a worship space in Aloha four years ago.

Evergreen has also lent support to two other PCA start-ups—Intown, launched by Charles Garland and now led by Brian Prentiss in downtown Portland in 2002; and Hope, launched by Pat Roach in Portland’s east side in 2006. Families from Crosswinds were able to help form the core group of Intown. Evergreen also encouraged families who live near both churches to attend them.

Key themes God has used to grow His Church in Portland will bring new outreach anywhere: love your neighbors with the purpose of sharing Christ, make church planting a core commitment, act on the unique opportunities God brings -- and celebrate whenever you see God at work.



Above: Historic The Old Church building provides a meeting place for Intown Presbyterian in Portland.

Below: Left to right, Hope Presbyterian Church Planter Pat Roach, with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



MNA serves PCA churches and presbyteries as they advance God’s Kingdom in North America by planting, growing, and multiplying biblically healthy churches through the development of intentional evangelism and outreach ministries. For a list of MNA staff, visit our website at [www.pca-mna.org](http://www.pca-mna.org). Material in *Multiply* may be reproduced with permission. Address comments to: Fred Marsh, Managing Editor/Photographer. Writing and design provided by Big Bridge, Asheville, NC ([thebigbridge.com](http://thebigbridge.com)). *Multiply* is published by MNA.