



# SeedStories

from the Christian Evangelistic Assn  
September 2017

## Church Planting Residency Launches!

This fall marks the beginning of the CEA's church planting residency program. This first cohort of leaders are preparing to launch new projects in the greater Portland, OR/Vancouver, WA area within the next two years. So, as you look at the pictures below, you're looking at the future of church planting here in the Northwest!

As Planters-in-Residence (PiR's), these couples have completed a formal assessment, raised personal support and moved to the area. Through the coming year they'll serve on the staff of one of our new plants while holding part-time employment to supplement their support.

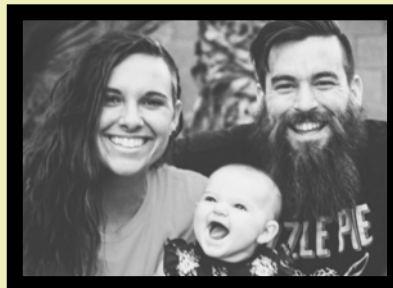
Russell Clum (Lead Planter of *Church of the City*, Portland, OR) leads the local cohort. Every Wednesday the PiR's meet online, along with several others from across the country, for training provided by *Passion for Planting*. Dave Vigna (Lead Planter of *The Branch*, Vancouver, WA), George Johnson and other experienced planting leaders will share in the training as well. In addition to the online training, coaching and mentoring each PiR will be engaged daily in practical, hands-on experiences as they learn the nuts and bolts of launching and leading a new church.

We believe this is a significant move "upstream" in the development of effective planting leaders that will substantially increase the health and growth of the churches we start. Each of these gifted young couples are an answer to our prayers for *workers for the Harvest*. Please pray for them as they pursue their call.

If you're interested in more information about supporting emerging planting leaders through CEA's Church Planting Residency program please contact George Johnson ([george@theCEA.org](mailto:george@theCEA.org)) for more information.



Quentin & Renee Bemis  
Church of the City  
Portland, Oregon



Sam & Kelsey Wake  
Church of the City  
Portland, Oregon



Kyle & Ruth Davies  
The Branch  
Vancouver, Washington

# Indian Creek Christian, Nampa, ID

I was raised in a small Nebraska town where everybody knew everybody—and their business! Nevertheless, I believe in the power of relationships and affirm that, *“It takes a village to raise a child.”*

I also believe it *“takes a village”* to plant successful new churches. The Lord brought together an amazing “village” to plant a new congregation in Nampa, ID including:

- Canyon Springs CC (Mike Whitford, Sr. Pastor)
- The Orchard CC (Ben McClary, Lead Planter)
- Lifespring CC (Tim Nay, Lead Planter)
- Passion for Planting (Patrick Bradley, Project Manager)
- New Church Development (Jim Dougans, Demographer)
- People Raising (Merik Fell, Fundraising Coach)
- Intermountain Church Planting Assn (Steve Edwards, Executive Director)
- Christian Evangelistic Assn (Tony Nelson, Nampa Project Supervisor & George Johnson, Executive Director)



Mickey & Julie Strong

The Nampa Project Partnership invited Mickey and Julie Strong to launch and lead the new church. Preview services are planned to begin in December, January and February. Weekly worship services will coincide with the grand opening of *Indian Creek Christian Church* in March.

Mickey explains the mission of ICCA as *“simple—helping people who are far from God experience His grace”*.

Please join us in praying like crazy, telling others about the project and sending a gift to help the CEA support this project. If we do these things then, together, Christ’s village will expand as Indian Creek grows!

*Dr. Tony Nelson  
CEA Regional Director*

## **Leadership Conference with Bob Russell March 3, 2018**



At just 22 years of age Bob Russell became the pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY. That small congregation of 120 grew to become one of the largest churches in America with a weekend attendance of 18,000 when Bob retired in 2006.

Pastors, ministry staff, elders & leaders are invited to this one-day conference as Bob shares secrets of leading a dynamic, growing church while maintaining harmony and unity.

Bob will be joined by Jason Epperson, who will share his experience and insights for reaching the millennial generation. Jason is an outstanding communicator who recently left the staff of Southeast to plant a new church in Champaign, IL.



## By George . . .



Partnerships are a key part of the CEA's work. We invest time and effort to help individuals, churches and organizations engage in advancing God's Kingdom here in the Northwest through church planting. Not surprisingly, partnerships are at the core of every project we undertake and every initiative we pursue.

But the truth is that real partnership is more *caught* than *taught*. Great partners, and the CEA is blessed to have many, are distinguished by their faithful commitments and persistent presence through victories and failures alike.

Batesville Christian Church has supported our project in Fairbanks, AK since early in its beginning. Steve Yeaton, Sr. Minister, in a recent note to their congregation, shared these inspiring thoughts about the power of their partnership with Journey and the CEA:

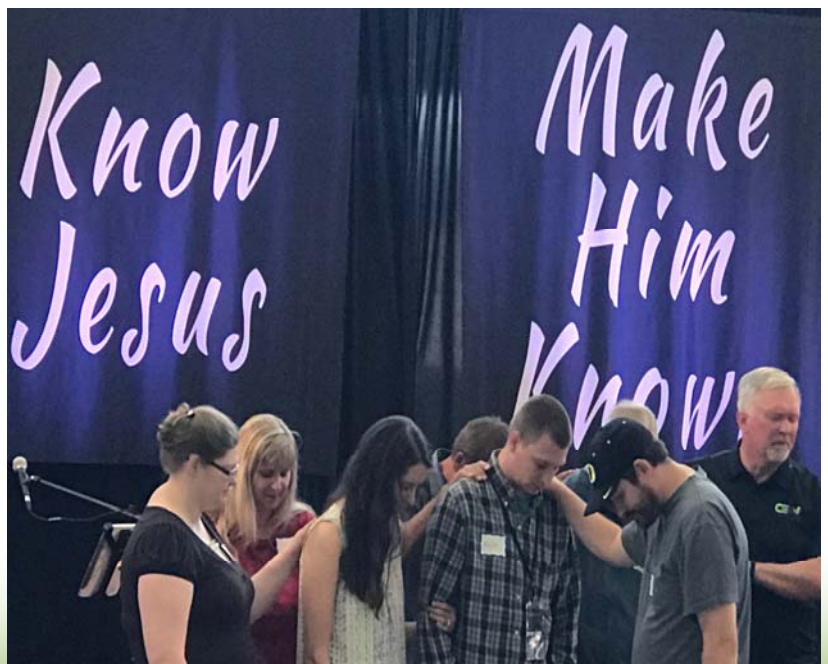
*In 2006, BCC began sending \$200/mo to help start the church. and we continued for the next 9 years. Now 12 years old with attendance of nearly 300 each Sunday, Journey celebrated the grand opening of their new building. Over the years we've heard the stories of people whose lives were changed through the ministry of Journey. But their influence reaches far beyond Fairbanks – to other cities like Corvallis, OR, Seattle, WA, and Meridian, ID. Journey itself has given \$160,000 to “parent” other churches in the Northwest in partnership with the CEA. **Think about it - because of the generosity of people in a small church in Batesville, IN, people in Alaska, Oregon, Washington and Idaho are coming to know Christ and their lives are being changed.** Giving to one church has resulted in the births of several others and the story continues as Journey prepares to plant a daughter-church in Anchorage, AK.*

Clearly, Steve Yeaton and the BCC congregation have *caught* the dynamic power of partnership for the sake of the Kingdom! We are grateful for our faithful brothers and sisters at BCC. Their vision and spirit are making a difference here in the Northwest—one soul at a time!

### **Preparing to Plant a 5th Generation Church**

Common Ground (Maple Valley, WA -2004) sent Ben and Jackie Bauman to plant in Dallas, OR in 2007. In 2011, the Dallas Church sent Mike and Heather Miller to plant in Corvallis, OR. In 2015, Dave and Lori Vigna were commissioned by the Corvallis Church to plant in Vancouver, WA.

Kyle and Ruth Davies moved to Vancouver this summer to join The Branch staff. They are preparing to launch a great-great granddaughter church in 2020!





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**Mail:** Send checks payable to **CEA** in the envelope provided . Designate gifts for specific projects/planters on the memo line of your check (*mail to PO Box 92, Edmonds WA 98020*).

**Online:** Go to [www.theCEA.org](http://www.theCEA.org)—and click the “Give” link. Make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift.

**Legacy Gifts:** Consider making a gift in memory of a deceased loved one or friend you’d like to honor. Your grateful gift could mean eternity for the life of someone far from God.

**Shop Amazon Smiles:** Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), sign into your Amazon account and select the Christian Evangelistic Association / Edmonds, WA. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to CEA.

*The CEA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

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