



# SeedStories

from the Christian Evangelistic Assn  
April 2015

## Happy Birthday Orchard Christian Church!

*The Orchard* launched in Emmett, ID last spring and continues to post an impressive list of “firsts” over the past year. Breaking attendance marks nearly every month, they welcomed 175 people for Easter!

We’re proud of the hard work being done by Ben & Telah McClary, Lead Planters, and Tollie & Vivian Rogers, Associate Planters, to keep up with this young church’s growth. Their faithful work is making a difference in the beautiful Gem Valley—one soul at a time.

This list of first-year milestones explains why we often describe church planting as both exhilarating and exhausting!

July 12, 2013: McClary family arrives in Emmett

Sep. 8, 2013: First Sunday launch team gathering @ Carberry Elementary

Nov. 11, 2013: First 4 Life Groups begin meeting in homes

Nov. 16, 2013: First community service project

Mar. 9, 2014: First Sunday “Preview” Service @ Carberry Elementary

**Apr. 6, 2014: First weekly public services begin for *The Orchard*!**

Apr. 20, 2014: First Easter Celebration!

June 18, 2014: First Orchard Student Ministry meeting

Oct. 7, 2014: The Orchard Ministry Center opens in their first office space

Oct. 26, 2014: First 101 Membership Class meets

Oct. 26: 2014: First baptism at The Orchard!

Jan. 31, 2015: First meeting of The Orchard Men’s Ministry

Feb. 6, 2015: First event of The Orchard Women’s Ministry

**March 29, 2015: First Birthday Celebration for *The Orchard*!**



# Northern Exposure . . .

In many ways, starting new churches is like Forest Gump's "box of chocolates" - *you never know what you're going to get.*

When Derek and Dellie Dickinson moved their family of 6 from the Bible Belt of Indiana to the bitter edge of the Arctic in Fairbanks, Alaska, 10 years ago to plant a church, neither they, nor we (the CEA), knew what we were going to get....except cold!

Only the call of God can account for the Dickinson's return to Dellie's home state to start a new church that would reach people not just far from the rest of the country but far from God as well! As several reality TV series confirm, *it's tougher in Alaska*. Where the temperature can drop 60 degrees below zero and some winter days have less than 4 hours of daylight, even the small challenges loom large. But even as God pointed the way north to Alaska for the Dickinson's, He went ahead of them, providing generous support through individuals and churches in Indiana and here in the Northwest through the CEA.



Now, a decade later, Journey Christian Church is a flourishing church that has baptized over 100 people into faith and reached nearly 300 in worship attendance. But that's only part of this young church's unfolding story because they have given nearly \$150K to start daughter-churches in Meridian, ID, Corvallis, OR and Seattle, WA. And there's more to tell as Journey prepares to daughter another Alaskan plant in Anchorage in 2016 (*see below*).

Journey is nearing another significant milestone as they prepare to erect their first building. In successive capital campaigns the church has raised more than 1.1 million dollars to purchase land, pour a foundation and order pre-fabricated concrete panels for assembly of a 23,000 sq ft building that will seat 400 in its first phase.

Only God Himself could clearly see the bright light of hope Journey would cast; but seeing the story unfold over the past 10 years, we couldn't be more grateful for this dynamic church and the ministry of Derek & Dellie Dickinson. It truly is tougher in Alaska, but despite the daunting sacrifices required, they have established a multiplying church whose light burns so brightly the "Northern Lights" pale in comparison!

## Skilled Volunteers Wanted

Skilled volunteers are needed this summer in Fairbanks to help Journey Church erect and finish their building.

The church is seeking a volunteer Construction Manager(s) for part or all of the summer. Also, skilled help is needed for framing (June), truss work, windows and roofing (July), plumbing, electrical and heating (August).

If you are interested in joining a work team please contact Dave Goff, Project Coordinator, through the church office (907-455-4433) or the website @ [www.JourneyAlaska.org](http://www.JourneyAlaska.org)

## Anchorage, Alaska—2016

We're excited about plans for launching a new church in Anchorage in 2016!

Deryl Titus, minister of the Christian Church of Anchorage, hosted a meeting of Alaskan church leaders in 2014. Several of these leaders have indicated their intention to partner together to launch and support the new work.

In addition to these Alaskan partners, the CEA is appealing to sister-churches in the lower 48 to join them. We're currently working to recruit a Lead Planter for this project.

# By George . . .



The Pacific Northwest is a place of stunning beauty. Snow-capped mountains rise from lush, fertile valleys, canyons and gorges. Rain forests and sun soaked deserts share the region. Pristine alpine lakes feed raging white-water rivers to join the mighty Columbia and surge on to the sea. While every Northwesterner enjoys the beauty of this region, few give God credit for its creation.

Known as *the None Zone*, this region has the largest percentage of population who claim no religious affiliation. Here most “spiritual” paths lead to outdoor recreation, coffee houses and micro-breweries—not the cross of Christ. No one attends church here unless they really, earnestly want to. Consequently, the vast majority of people have no affiliation with any church of any kind—*none, nada, zip, zero, zilch!*

In their recent book, *Churchless*, George Barna and David Kinnaman describe the average, unchurched American as predominantly white, unmarried, 25-35 year-old males living on the West Coast. Here in the Northwest, that profile accurately reflects an unchurched population of more than 10 million people. The challenge for the Church in the *None Zone* is connecting with a culture that is indifferent and even antagonistic.

Consider these facts:

- *In Washington State only 10-12% attend a church regularly. In urban Seattle, less than 4% do.*
- *Oregon, Alaska & Washington are all among the 10 least religious states in the U. S.*
- *A higher percentage of Mormons live in Boise, ID than Salt Lake City, UT.*
- *Seattle has more dogs than Christians (150K vs 136K)*
- *Seattle has 250 times the national average of people co-habiting*
- *The Northwest has a lower percentage of believers than Communist China*

The silver lining in this reality is that with such a weak spiritual presence, there is little pressure from religious tradition. This leaves lots of room for innovation as the Gospel is freed to be shared with fresh relevant style.

The need for new churches to reach new people in new places here in *the None Zone* is great and growing. Please join us in praying for more workers for the Harvest and consider partnering with us as a financial supporter.

## Ways to be a Part:

**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 .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.*



PO Box 92  
Edmonds, WA  
98020-0092

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 2400

## Fellowship Christian Church A Legacy Church

The Kingdom of God is full of paradoxes. Jesus' teaching about the "least" in the Kingdom becoming the "greatest" is one. Another is when we give to God's work and it increases, rather than decreases, our available resources. The Resurrection of Christ is the ultimate paradox!

Reflecting the paradox, Fellowship Christian Church (Tacoma, WA) held their final public service on the day of ultimate victory—Easter. Though some might have anticipated this occasion to be a ceremony of surrender by a defeated church—it was anything but! The full auditorium resounded with singing and praise and even applause as 6 new believers were immersed into Christ.

It was evident that morning that the last day of this great church would mark the beginning of a greater story yet to unfold in the Kingdom. By gifting their assets to plant churches through the CEA and train ministry leaders through Boise Bible College, FCC has sown the seeds for a spiritual harvest to come.

We celebrate the legacy of this remarkable fellowship! We commend them, their Elders and Staff for their selfless example and investment in the future of the Kingdom here in the Northwest!

*I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

John 12:24 NIV

### Office:

28225  
51st Pl South  
Auburn  
Washington  
98001

253.854.8200  
[www.theCEA.org](http://www.theCEA.org)

### Staff:

Dr. George Johnson  
Executive Director  
[george@theCEA.org](mailto:george@theCEA.org)

Jim & Leslie Penhollow  
Planter Care Directors  
[jim@theCEA.org](mailto:jim@theCEA.org)  
[leslie@theCEA.org](mailto:leslie@theCEA.org)

Dottie Johnson  
Executive Assistant  
[dottie@theCEA.org](mailto:dottie@theCEA.org)