



SeedStories

from the Christian Evangelistic Assn
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Church Planting: Good Soil for Sowing and Growing Spiritual Seeds

In one of his most well-known parables, Jesus said: *“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path...some fell on rocky places...other seed fell among the thorns.... Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred times.”* (Mark 4:2-8 – NIV)

Every church has the privilege of sowing the seeds of God’s truth and praying for a healthy “crop”. Yet church plants – because they are new communities – provide a unique opportunity to sow and grow spiritual seeds.

- ◆ People far from God, who may never visit an established church, will check out a church plant because they know they won’t be *the only new person in the crowd*. As they come, we have the privilege of sowing God’s Word into their lives.
- ◆ Mature believers, who may have settled into a comfortable rhythm of faith, can step into uncharted territory by helping give birth to a new church. They then find themselves investing their passion and prayers and finances in new ways. *And new seed is sown in their lives as they take a holy risk and see God deepen their own experience of faith.*

In this issue of *Seedstories* we’ll share some of the seeds that are being sown, watered and fertilized through two of our newest church-planting projects: **High Plains Christian Church** in Twin Falls, Idaho, and **Makers Church** in Portland, Oregon.

As you read these stories, please join us in thanking God for the faithful seed-sowing of our planters. Know that we are grateful for your partnership in these stories. And on a personal level, we encourage you to ask, *“Lord, how can I play a greater role in sowing Your seeds of truth?”*

Your grateful partner in the Harvest,



Producing Fruit by “Pressing Forward” in Twin Falls



High Plains Christian Church, Twin Falls, Idaho
Erik & Laura Neilson
Launch date: January 2021

Erik and Laura are watching God produce some incredible new fruit among the people that have gathered to form High Plains Christian Church. They're laying the foundation for a healthy, vibrant, multiplying church.

The fruit of taking a holy risk:

A faithful couple took a holy risk to join the Neilson's and be part of what God was preparing to do in Twin Falls. They felt nudged by God to leave their familiar routines and a secure, high-paying job to move to Idaho to help launch a new church. They knew it wouldn't be easy, but despite the difficulties, the couple refused to be deterred from their commitment to help plant the church. *So they pressed forward.* And then - after being in Twin Falls for almost a year - the husband's previous employer offered a new remote position for him at an appropriate level of pay! Another man in the church told him, "You laid down your job for this new ministry...and God gave it back to you."

The fruit of an enduring faith:

Shortly before launch, the core team of High Plains experienced a heart-breaking tragedy. A worship pastor and his wife had moved to Twin Falls to help plant the church. Last fall, though, the husband contracted Covid and the virus took his life. Erik writes, "We all were crushed by the loss and so heartsick for his young widow. But she has been unwavering in her faith and ministry." She didn't move away or back away from her ministry. *Instead, she pressed forward.* She has put down roots in the church and community. As this faithful young widow continues to heal from her devastating loss, she keeps working to help build God's Kingdom in Twin Falls.

Sowing seeds for multiplication:

High Plains is just 4 months old, yet they already are pressing forward toward their goal of becoming a reproducing church! Cody & Katlyn Ballard have joined the Neilson's and their team as church-planting residents. They will serve at HPCC for the next two years, gaining valuable front-line ministry experience. Then they will be sent out to plant another new church in the future.

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**Prayer Request:** As the pandemic eases, and the city of Twin Falls opens up more and more, please pray that the church will extend their reach into the community, be able to sow more seeds, and draw more people to Jesus.



# Planting Seeds by “Serving the Common Good” in Portland



**Makers Church, Portland, Oregon**  
**Josh & Rachel White**  
**Launch Date: September 2021**

Josh writes, “There are two questions our community has been asking ourselves: (1) what is the common ground we stand on, and (2) what is the common good we can do on that common ground?”

In answering those questions, Josh, Rachel and their team realized that Portland is a “cause” oriented community. People rally around different causes in order to serve others and meet needs. So Makers has stepped into this common area of community life to help make a difference and to plant the seeds of God’s truth along the way.



As Josh says, “Before becoming a church that holds services, we wanted to be a people of service”, and – by so doing – to be good citizens and neighbors. An opportunity emerged to partner with PDX Free Fridge; a local organization that builds outdoor pantry stations to help feed the hungry across the city.

So in the spirit of meeting their neighbors on common ground for common good, members of the Makers launch team now oversee two southeast locations for PDX Free Fridge by stocking and cleaning the pantry stations each week. Makers is in the process of building another pantry station on the corner of Burnside and 22nd Street, which is close to where the church will call “home”.



Portland also is an art community. Art is a powerful way to communicate, bring people together and see God’s creativity at work through people. So art is another way that Makers is serving the city, and – as a result of this expression of the church – a young man named Will Dash recently became part of this growing community of faith.

Will writes: *“From the moment I stepped into PDX, I knew this would be home one day. I fell in love with the city, the community, and the culture. There’s a sense of unity within the city that I love so much. There’s two things that strike me the most about Makers: the sense of belonging and creativity. We are all one and created to be one as a community - and we make art that not only is good, but art that DOES good for the city.”*

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Prayer Request: In these and other ways, Makers is sowing seeds as they build toward public launch in September. However, they still need a place to meet. Please pray for God to provide them with a gathering space!





planting churches in the Pacific Northwest

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