

SeedStories

from the Christian Evangelistic Assn
December 2022

New Church Updates

Kainos Portland, OR

Launched in 2021, Kainos celebrated its first birthday in October with 40+ attending.

It was an exciting day that reflected the vibrant spirit and growing momentum of this young church in northeast Portland.

In support of the *He Gets Us* campaign airing on national TV and in social media, Kainos has connected with a number of Portlanders who have requested spiritual support.

Madison has led several women to connect with the church through this outreach.



Jake & Madison
Nagy

High Plains Twin Falls, ID

Less than 2 years since launching in 2021, High Plains averaged 100+ in worship attendance in October.

They have celebrated 9 baptisms this year to date.

70 adults attend weekly Growth Groups and the church reached self-support status this fall.



Erik & Laura
Neilson

Cody Ballard has completed his first year of residency at High Plains and is preparing to launch a new church in the fall of 2023.

5|42 Kent, WA

In October, Dave Atkin, lead planter, hosted a prayer gathering to pray for the launch of the church at key locations around the community.

The local high school has provided networking connections with staff and students as the Atkin's work to gather a launch team. Brenda's employment on the school staff, Dave's substitute teaching assignments and their sponsorship of a Young Life club at the school have all yielded fruitful contacts.

Dave is also piloting a social media outreach with Cavanaugh Media and Good News Productions using online promotions to connect with seekers.



Dave & Brenda Atkin

Sustaining Momentum



Looking back on 45 years of ministry, I see they fall quite neatly into two equal halves. The first season was spent leading a local church in Snohomish, WA (Central Christian Church) and the second spent leading a network of multiplying churches (CEA).

I now see that God guided me strategically through the first half of my ministry to prepare me well for a second, even more challenging assignment. I didn't fully appreciate it at the time, but in hindsight, I can certainly see His divine guidance and perfect timing. As Romans 8:28 promises, even the discouragements and failures along the way have strengthened my faith and deepened my capacity as a leader.

On further reflection, it's also obvious that I've always had a compelling drive to build and maintain momentum. Status quo has never been an acceptable concession regardless of the attractions it offers. That invariably keeps me leaning forward, preparing for the next step, the next stage or the next season. As Executive Director, I've anticipated that to sustain CEA's momentum, new leadership would be needed. Otherwise, I would find myself looking in the mirror at our biggest limiting factor.

After a lengthy process of working closely with executive transition coach, Dan Scates, we concluded our search for a successor with a call to Toney Salva. In January he will become CEA's Executive Director. At that time I'll step back to a half-time role, helping Toney sustain the momentum CEA has been building.

I'm so thankful for the 40 churches you've helped us start in the last two decades, however, I'm keenly aware that planting the next 40 will take fresh resources, innovation and leadership. While the Gospel remains unchanging, our world is ever-changing. So we have to face the blunt reality that *"if you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less"* — General Eric Shinseki, retired Army Chief of Staff.

To refuse to embrace transition, and the changes it brings, is to sacrifice momentum in the critical mission of reaching those far from God with the Gospel! That's unacceptable for me, for our planters, for our Board of Directors and for you, our supporters and partners. So transition and change we must.

Acknowledging the changes ahead for me and the CEA, some important things will remain the same:

- The Cross of Christ will remain the power and purpose of our work
- The Word of God will remain our authority in the pattern and practice of the churches we plant
- We will develop and deploy workers for the Harvest to lead and multiply new churches
- We will pursue every opportunity to plant all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people in the NW
- We will continue to advance the vision of churches planting churches
- We will continue to work with the conviction that church planting is a spiritual enterprise, directed by God and dependent upon His provision in every aspect

I'm truly excited about the future of the CEA and can't wait to turn the corner into the new year as we continue to partner together to make the name of Jesus known in the region! The need is greater today than it has ever been; the percentage of those far from God has never been greater than it is today.

Keep our planters, our new Executive Director and Dottie & I in your prayers as we set a course for a new season of Harvest in 2023. Together, we're all-in to advance the Gospel and plant new churches here in the PNW!

Semper Fidelis,
George

Toney Salva—New CEA Executive Director

Greetings friends! Stacie and I are looking forward to meeting each of you. In January I begin my new role as Executive Director and I cannot wait! At the time of this writing, boxes are stacking up all around our home. Moving isn't one of our favorite things to do but we have done it a couple times before.

The Salva family has lived in the Northeast corner of the U.S. for the last 24 years — 3 in Massachusetts and 20 in Pennsylvania. That is a lot of memories to pack into boxes. Our daughter Haley is a junior at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO. Our son Tanner and his wife Delaney are church planters in Tokyo, Japan with the Mustard Seed Network. As we pack the photo albums, we have shared both tears and laughter as we reminisce about the past.



During those 24 years we have been serial church planters in this region. We planted with The Orchard Group, in Lowell, MA in the late 90's. We then moved our young family to plant another Orchard Group church in Cranberry Township, PA in the early 2000's. I led that church for 16 years.

During that time, we started two campuses and four daughter churches. Stacie served as their Children & Family Minister for 18 years, meaning she outlasted me by 2 years! As we pack boxes we feel like archaeologists exploring a lost civilization. We've discovered orphaned relics and forgotten memories made with special friends and co-laborers. We will miss them deeply.

Since 2017, I've been the Northeast Regional Director for Stadia. I have learned so much about the changing tides and different models of church planting. More memories and experiences I'm packing and taking along with us as we make the move to the "other corner of the vineyard," as George might say.

I began praying about succeeding George as Executive Director about 10 months ago. I talked with friends and colleagues familiar with the CEA to learn more about the history and standing of the organization. George has led well during his tenure and has a reputation of high integrity. I have long admired his leadership from afar. We have crossed paths at various conferences over the years and my son, Tanner, spent a summer interning with a CEA church a few years ago before he moved to Japan. It is ultimately George's legacy that led me to say yes to moving to the Pacific Northwest. He has served well.

There is a quote that has come to mind as we pack from a book titled *One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey* by Richard Proenneke. In the book, he writes, "There is always a sadness about packing. I guess you wonder if where you're going is as good as where you've been."



I know that I have a lot to learn about the Pacific Northwest but I am confident that God is already at work here — through each of you. The reason we are loading up a moving truck and traveling 2,700 miles to a new home is because we are passionate about two things: (1) sharing the gospel in difficult and unreached environments and (2) the multiplication of Christ's Church. So I guess I don't really have to wonder like Richard Proenneke, because the vision to see 100 new churches in the Pacific Northwest is as good as it gets!

We are so looking forward to unpacking our boxes and creating new eternal memories with all of you in this corner of the vineyard!



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