

# NORTHERN PLAINS EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT  
2009

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This is an annual report from NPEA that is sent out to its regular monthly supporters. If you are interested in receiving an annual report please contact us at [msojka@npea.info](mailto:msojka@npea.info) or 605.310.2026.

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# Treasurers Report

## By Don Burton

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### Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

#### Income & Expense

January 2009-December 2009

#### Income

Contributions	
Capital Campaign	\$17,683.36
Church	\$71,284.70
Individual	\$46,926.71
Speaking Income	\$9,231.42
Operation Laramie	\$43,238.52
Leadership Retreat	\$6,128.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$58.62
Laramie Salary Support (Planters Income)	\$69,272.80
 Total Income	 \$263,824.13

#### Expenses

Payroll Expenses	
Salaries	\$94,348.58
Housing	\$92,804.23
Taxes	\$12,252.79
Other	\$956.32

Total Payroll Expenses \$200,361.92

#### Insurance

Car	\$1,153.10
Health	\$10,875.02
Liability	\$352.00
Life Insurance	\$101.50
Workers Comp.	\$646.00

Total Insurance \$13,127.62

#### Conventions & Seminar Expenses

Booth Supplies	\$1,204.79
Leadership Retreat Expenses	\$6,343.11
Registration and Fees	\$1,948.00

Total Convention & Semi. Expenses \$9,495.90

# Treasurers Report

## By Don Burton

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### Administrative Expenses

Background Checks	\$191.95
Banking	\$310.25
Board Expenses	\$442.04
Book Allowance	\$773.78
Bookkeeping	\$99.00
Computer Equipment	\$1,052.13
Computer Supplies	\$325.82
Dues and Subscriptions	\$86.00
Internet	\$2,195.33
Miscellaneous	-\$494.33
Office Equipment	\$186.99
Office Rent	\$4,225.00
Office Supplies	\$169.56
Paper Products	\$37.26
Postage	\$2,463.93
Printing and Reproduction	\$1,621.09
Telephones	\$1,718.82
Training Materials	\$15.76
Utilities	\$304.99

Total Administrative Expenses \$15,725.37

### Travel Expenses

Airfare	\$65.00
Car Maintenance	\$1,791.31
Car Rental	\$344.37
Gas	\$2,762.39
Lodging	\$1,716.40
Meals	\$1,743.40
Miscellaneous	\$105.81
Shipping	\$383.71

Total Travel Expenses \$8,912.39

Operation Laramie	\$14,436.38
Bismarck/Mandan	\$151.04
Canyon Ridge Church	\$2,400.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	\$2,595.03

Total Expenses \$267,205.65

Net Income -\$3,381.52

# Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

## Board Members for 2009

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### Executive Board Members:

Larry Berlin: Co-Chairman; Laramie Management Team  
Senior Minister: Paradise Valley Christian Church Casper, WY  
Home Address: 4323 Trotter Rd  
Casper, WY 82007  
307.265.7428

Marion Cain: Co-Chairman  
Member: Huron Christian Church Huron, SD  
Home Address: 1721 Wisconsin S.W.  
Huron, SD 57350  
605.352.7952

Craig Fausett: Manage; Prayer Warriors; Asst. Webmaster  
Elder: Highmore Church of Christ  
Highmore, SD  
Home Address: Box 83 Highmore, SD 57345  
605.852.2500

Dennis Coull: Secretary  
Elder: First Christian Church Rapid City, SD  
Home Address: 6500 Cottonwood Ct. Black Hawk, SD 57718  
605.787.5321

Larry Andrews: Chairman, Laramie Management Team  
Member: Cody Christian Church Cody, WY  
Home Address: 18 John Wayne Lane  
Powell, WY 82345  
307.272.8880

Don Burton: Treasurer  
Member: Northfield Christian Church  
Ft. Dodge, IA  
Home Address: 1432 South 26th St.  
Ft. Dodge, IA 50501  
515.570.5218

### Other Board Members:

Andy Gudahl  
Senior Minister: First Christian Church  
Wheatland, WY  
Home Address: 303 Bellis Rd.  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
307.322.4784

Dale Kesterson: Asst. Leadership Retreat  
Senior Minister: First Church of Christ  
Atlantic, IA  
Home Address: 1204 Birch St.  
Atlantic, IA 50022  
712.243.6925

Willie Coop  
Senior Minister: WestWay Christian Church  
Scottsbluff, NE  
Home Address: 602 Bluff St.  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
308.635.2653

The executive board members meet quarterly. The whole board meets semi annually. All board meetings take place in Rapid City, SD. We encourage you to attend any meetings, they are always open to the public.

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# Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

## Monthly Financial Supporters

### Supporting Churches:

Bayard Church of Christ Bayard, NE	Highmore Church of Christ Highmore, SD	Oakwood Park Christian Church Sioux Falls, SD
Broadwell Christian Church Broadwell, IL	Ignite Manteno, IL	Paradise Valley Christian Church Casper, WY
Brookings Christian Church Brookings, SD	Jackson Church of Christ Montezuma, IA	Preston Christian Church Bruce, SD
Calvary Christian Church Swartz Creek, MI	Kingsway Christian Church Yankton, SD	Riverside Church of Christ Torrington, WY
Christian Church of Gillette Gillette, WY	Kingsway Christian Church Avon, IN	South Lake Church of Christ Watertown, SD
Christian Church of Casper Casper, WY	Lewis Church of Christ Lewis, IA	Stadia New Church Strategies Rocklin, CA
Church Planters of the Rockies Highlands Ranch, CO	Liberty Christian Church Brownstown, IL	Summit Christian Church Akron, OH
Cody Christian Church Cody, WY	Lillian Church of Christ Broken Bow, NE	Tamarack Church of Christ Tamarack, MN
Concord Church of Christ West Concord, MN	Main St. Church of Christ McConnelsville, OH	Tomoka Christian Church Ormond Beach, FL
Crookston Church of Christ Crookston, MN	Manchester Christian Church Akron, OH	The Bridge Christian Church Dubuque, IA
Fairmont Christian Church Fairmont, MN	McCook Christian Church McCook, NE	Two Timbers Church of Christ Oskaloosa, IA
First Christian Church Beaver, OK	Meadowview Church of Christ Frazeyburg, OH	WestWay Christian Church Scottsbluff, NE
First Christian Church Broken Bow, NE	Milford Church of Christ Centerburg, OH	White Water Christian Church Richmond, IN
First Christian Church Newcastle, WY	Morningside Church of Christ Sioux City, IA	White Water Christian Church Laramie, WY
First Christian Church Rapid City, SD	New Hope Christian Church Lander, WY	Valley Christian Church North Platte, NE
First Christian Church Wheatland, WY	New Life Christian Church Centreville, VA	
Franklin Heights Christian Church Vincennes, IN	North Christian Church Cheyenne, WY	
	North Point Christian Church Spearfish, SD	

### Individual Supporters:

The 130 individuals that support us come from all over the United States!

# North Point Christian Church

## By Matt Branum

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### 2009 Review & 2010 Preview

2009 proved to be a year of great blessing at North Point. If there was one word that could describe our year it would be GROWTH. First, Growth in people (2009 average attendance surpassed 2008 by 20%). Second, Growth in Finances ('09 total giving grew by 17% over '08).

We give thanks and all glory to God for the growth we have been blessed with as we firmly believe what God's Word teaches. "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who gives the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:7 ESV). This passage does not exclude the planting or watering, it simply reiterates who is truly responsible for "every good gift." Thus we have continued the work God has given us, busily watering, planting, and praying for growth.

This past year, we began a new class at North Point for those seeking Christ and Community. The class is called "Discover North Point." It walks through the story of God (Creation, Sin, and Salvation), then it addresses Basic Christianity, the North Point Difference, and Joining the Fellowship of the Heart. This class has been very well received. We have had many of our members attend as well as many repeat attenders and guests. The class has helped connect people and continues to be offered monthly.

In 2009, we had sustained growth throughout the year and record attendance at several key events. Our Easter and Christmas Eve Services continued to grow with record numbers, as did our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service in September. Only in January and October did we see numbers drop below the High 90's (with most months averaged over 100)! Our small groups continued to grow and multiply, our kids point program has grown, as has our student ministry. We have seen several decisions being made for Christ, many reestablishing a right relationship with our Lord, and multiple baptisms in Spearfish Creek (even with snow on the ground)! In short, we saw growth in every area of ministry this year!

Financially, our regular offerings broke into six figures, with total giving exceeding the previous year by 17%. While we fell short of reaching our budgeted goal, we were able to avoid a serious deficit by making mid year cuts and freezing spending where possible. Our 2010 budget sustained these cuts and came in at a lean \$115,000 (which is in line with our '09 giving and anticipating the continued growth we saw in '09). This does mean that we still require a minimal amount of outside support to maintain salaries (approx. 14% of salaries).

Our commitment to church planting continued. Matt continued on the Management team for White Water in Laramie, and the church continued with its commitment as a living link church. We continue to pray over future plants (and our role) in Bismarck, ND, and Lord willing, Sheridan, WY. We enter 2010 with joy and enthusiasm knowing that God has great things in store for his church as we continue to Share Christ and Build Believers.

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# White Water Christian Church

## By Chad Halbach

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### 2009 Review & 2010 Preview!

I am a hopeful person, every time I see a glass of water it is at least ½ full. When I answered the call to plant a church in Laramie I figured that it would be a season filled with obstacles and fraught with enormous challenges. The last two years have been everything I thought it would be and more. My optimism has been tempered with realism over the last year.

- ◆ I let go of my first staff member (Campus Minister Sam Draper).
- ◆ I watched our numbers bounce between 70 and 130 in attendance.
- ◆ Our offerings were sometimes under \$200 in a given week (current budget is \$1,500).
- ◆ My personal financial support for salary will end in one year.
- ◆ The church is only able to cover 5% of staff salaries.
- ◆ We have only reached 1/3 of our original goal (our goal was to reach 1% of the Laramie population by the time we were 3 years old)

In the midst of all this realism I have seen God move and I am aware of His involvement like never before in my life. The words of Paul are my words in this moment.

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you” (2 Corinthians 4:7-12)

As I look around at the people who are in Laramie with me laboring to establish this fledging body of believers I can say that most of us feel the pain and hurt in Paul's words but the optimism of what God has done and is about to do fills our hearts!

Everyone that is a significant part of White Water is moving closer to God:

- People are leading small groups for the first time!
- People on the fringe are being drawn 2 steps closer to God!
- Future leaders for the Kingdom are being developed!

Laramie is being served through the people of White Water:

- In partnership with Community Holidays we served 843 households during Christmas and Thanksgiving (food, gifts, necessities)!
- In 2009 we gave \$2,954.33 to local missions right here in Laramie
- 17 people have been baptized into Christ!

In 2010 will you please pray for White Water in the following ways?

- ◆ We would build friendships with unchurched people!
  - ◆ We would make the Gospel visible through our actions!
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# Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

By Mike Sojka

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## 2009 Review & 2010 Preview

As my wife and I headed out to go to the gym, this morning, it was rough going. We were under our second blizzard warning of the year. It didn't surprise us when we got to the gym that there was only one other person working out. Oh, did I mention we were also under a no travel advisory? I know, we're crazy, but, at heart, I am an athletic coach, and you know what coaches stress. . . .

Discipline and dedication are huge in God being able to do great things through us. The people that surround NPEA's ministry – our board, our secretary, our bookkeeper, our webmaster, our editor, the staffs of the churches we have assisted in planting and the churches and people who support this ministry, all have these two traits in common – discipline and dedication. They (You) are the most dedicated, disciplined people I know, and we thank God for each one of them (you)! There would be no annual report to write if it were not for your disciplined, dedicated contributions towards expanding God's Kingdom!

During the past 14 months, 48 people have been baptized into Christ by the three churches we assist and helped plant. Over 750 pivotal prayer partners helped that happen. Souls saved summarizes what God did in 2009. This is the reason we plant churches. God has really blessed!

We have instituted a new donor initiative for 2010. We call it the 10/10 Challenge. We are asking individuals to give \$10.00 a month for 10 months, with a money-back guarantee. Needless to say, God has already blessed this idea. We had 21 people sign up for our 10/10 Challenge when we visited our first church of the year in Hugoton, KS. Our goal is to have 369 people become 10/10 partners, this year. This would meet another goal, this year – a general budget of \$160,000! We only need 348 more 10/10 Challenge takers. Interested? It's easy and "painless."

By January, 2011, we need to hire a planter, hire associate planters, have 3 to 5 launch team families in place, raise another \$30,000 for start up funds (\$100,000 total), generate another 5¾ Living Links (12 Living Links total), and most importantly – have 17 more short term mission teams come to pray over the harvest field from April of this year through Sept. of 2011. Lord willing we will finally put the first Restoration Christian Church in Bismarck/Mandan, in the only state that doesn't have one: North Dakota. We all know this won't be easy. In fact, it will be a war.

Paul Borden, in his book, *Assaulting The Gates: Aiming All God's People At The Mission Field*, makes the following statement: "When it comes to the battle for souls, the Church is losing by a landslide. It requires a spiritual battle to change this phenomenon. And those who take on this assault must be prepared."

Prepared we will be. As I mentioned in my January newsletter: "We are sent to war. We are not sent to minister to a congregation and be content if we keep things going. We are sent to make war . . . . And to stop short of nothing but the subjugation of the world to the sway of the Lord Jesus. We must bear that in mind in all our plans . . . our aim is to put down the kingdom of the devil." Our Aim, Our Goal, in 2010, is to put down the kingdom of the devil by increasing the expanse of God's kingdom!

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# Faith Objectives By the NPEA Board

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## 2009 Faith Objectives in Review

- Have 800 people praying for this ministry. We have 750!
- Raise our monthly income by \$2,023.00, that would give us \$160,000 annually. We need to raised it by approximately \$3,083.00 a month?
- Gain 10 new supporting churches. We gained 7!
- Gain 20 new individual donors. We gained 1?
- Personally contact our supporters once a year. We accomplished this!
- Speak at 2 Bible Colleges a year. Spoke at 1.
- Teach an Introduction to Church Planting Class once a year. Still only teaching every other year.
- Secure 18 short term mission teams to pray in Bismarck/Mandan,ND (Capital Campaign) starting in April 2009, once a month until the church starts. We have secured 1?
- Raise \$50,000 for start up for Capital Campaign by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. We raised \$25,000!
- Acquire 10 more Living Links for the Capital Campaign. Need a \$150,000 more for \$180,000 a year (12 Links to cover salaries of church planters) for three years by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. We acquired 4 1/4.
- Hire three staff positions for the Capital Campaign. Lead Planter, Creative Arts Minister, Children's Minister, by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. We have hired none yet.
- Acquire 3 Launch Team families to move to help with the new work in Bismarck/Mandan. We have acquired none yet.
- Establish a management team for Capital Campaign. We have two people committed to this.
- Continue to support and oversee White Water Christian Church, Laramie, WY. They are doing great!
- Continue to grow and promote our Leadership Couples Retreat, March 5-6th, 2010. We pray this will continue to happen!
- Recruit 4 more board members. One from NE, one from IA, one from MT, one from WY. We recruited one board member and need 3 more.
- Move Npea's office to Fargo, ND. We didn't get this done.
- Let God be in control of this ministry! Always a work in progress!

# Faith Objectives By the NPEA Board

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## 2010 Faith Objectives

- Have 800 people praying for this ministry.
- Raise our monthly income by \$3,083.00, that would give us \$160,000 annually.
- Gain 10 new supporting churches.
- Gain 369 new individual donors, on the 10/10 plan.
- Personally contact our supporters once a year.
- Secure 17 short term mission teams to pray in Bismarck/Mandan,ND (Capital Campaign) starting in April 2010, once a month until the church starts.
- Raise \$30,000 for start up for Capital Campaign by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.
- Acquire 5 3/4 more Living Links for the Capital Campaign. We need \$93,750 more of the \$180,000 (12 Links to cover salaries of church planters) by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.
- Hire three staff positions for the Capital Campaign. Lead Planter, Creative Arts Minister, and Children's Minister, by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.
- Acquire 3 Launch Team families to move to help with the new work in Bismarck/Mandan.
- Establish a management team for the Capital Campaign.
- Continue to support and oversee White Water Christian Church, Laramie, WY.
- Continue to grow and promote our Leadership Couples Retreat, March 4-5th, 2011.
- Recruit 3 more board members. One from NE, one from MN, and one from MT.
- Decide where to plant our next church, Lord willing in the fall of 2012, by taking three prayer journeys at three possible sites.
- Start to develop a new church planting network for the 2012 plant.
- Move Npea's office to Fargo, ND.
- Let God be in control of this ministry!

# Encouraging Words By Our Supporters

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- ◆ "Greetings from the Southern Plains! Your interesting newsletter spurs us to more prayers."  
Garland & Dorothy Bare, Joplin, MO.
- ◆ "My husband and I were privileged to visit Whitewater. Your team that has been planted there are doing a wonderful job! The church there have servants hearts and truly reach out to others."  
John & Doris Craner, Elkhart, IL
- ◆ "News of the new additions to the Lord's kingdom at Whitewater is exciting. And it's hard to believe that the two young leaders at Spearfish each have a child starting school already! Its been fun to be a part of the growth of NPEA from the beginning. We've all matured in that time." Don & Shirley Fiene, Sargent, NE
- ◆ "May God continue to bless the ministry of NPEA!" Dennis & Shirley Coull, Rapid City, SD
- ◆ "I pray for your work daily as I feel it is so important in today's world. The only hope for our nation and the world is for Christians to stand up for what is right and more & more churches can help that effort. Keep up the good work! The mission team at McCook Christian Church meets monthly to pray for your work and that of our other missionaries. May God continue to bless your work." Dorothy Hauxwell, McCook, NE