

As 2017 comes to an end, I look back on a very different year for us at NPEA. One that at times seemed frustrating and other times that God blessed us beyond our wildest dreams. Our year started with a realization that God continues to strengthen relationships with area churches and fellow church planting organizations. God brought 93 church leaders to one of our best ever Leadership Couples Conferences in Spearfish, SD Ken Idleman did a wonderful job of guiding us through Disciples making Disciples. Still no planter has been found to lead the work in Aberdeen, SD.

Although our income has been down the last half of the year, God opened a door to help fund CEM of Iowa in a new church plant in Sioux City, IA that is scheduled to launch in September of 2018. This will be an answer to prayer to put a church back in Sioux City. As we were remembering the many things we are thankful for this past month, God brought forth a couple with a desire to plant a church in Hastings, NE; a community that has been on our radar as well as NE 1:8's, a church planting group in eastern Nebraska. Together NPEA and NE 1:8, with Nexus (another church planting organization) and a few partnering churches, plans are moving forward to establish a church in Hastings for the first time in 15 plus years. God does work in amazing ways!!

During the year NPEA shared alongside other organizations at the NACC and ICOM conventions, spreading the message of church planting to many, and spoke at several churches and events throughout the region. NPEA looks forward to sharing with more churches in the coming year.

Even though our support is down considerably from last year, NPEA will end 2017 completing our 3 year commitment to Real Life Christian Church in Sheridan, WY, funding a future church plant for Aberdeen, SD, and setting the ground work for new churches in Nebraska and Iowa. All while we know that God has great plans for the future of churches across the Northern Plains.

One project we are very thankful for is our new "Planter Care Program" established to support the leaders of the churches we have planted and others in the region. This program is there to walk alongside these planters to let them know they are not out there alone. Prayers are needed to cover this effort in God's love.

Our 15th Annual Leadership Couples Conference will be held in Spearfish, SD at North Point Christian Church on March 2nd and 3rd. This year Phil Claycomb will lead us in "Taking the NEXT STEPS -from vision to victory". Information has been posted on our website at www.npea7.com and will be mailed out to regional churches soon. Please plan to join us this year.

So, as I close, I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and may God's blessings guide you through this next year!

Craig Fausett

NPEA Board Member/Coordinator

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES, CHURCHES, & PLANTERS

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