

NORTHERN PLAINS EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT
2006

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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 npeasojka@earthlink.net or 605.310.2026.

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Treasurers Report

By Terry Fraker

Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

Income & Expense

January 2006-December 2006

Income

Contributions

Church	\$65,139.96
Individual	\$32,588.32
Speaking Income	\$10,944.30
Operation Laramie	\$16,665.00
Leadership Retreat	\$3,929.80
Miscellaneous Income	\$138.12
Trumpet Club	\$250.00

Spearfish Project

Matt Branum Support	\$25,966.00
Ryan Charest Support	\$10,418.00
Spearfish Salary Support	\$24,122.00

Total Income **\$190,161.50**

Expenses

Payroll Expenses

Salaries	\$70,788.98
Housing	\$47,633.33
Taxes	\$25,428.78

Total Payroll Expenses **\$143,851.09**

Insurance

Car	\$920.80
Health	\$4,847.00
Liability	\$2,673.00
Workers Comp	\$2016.00

Total Insurance **\$10,456.80**

Operation Laramie **\$894.89**

Conventions & Seminar Expenses

Booth Supplies	\$42.04
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Treasurers Report

By Terry Fraker

Registration and Fees	\$1,129.00
Total Convention & Semi. Expenses	\$6,197.25
Administrative Expenses	
Background Checks	\$114.00
Banking	\$194.32
Board Expenses	\$282.06
Computer Equipment	\$368.61
Computer Supplies	\$637.10
Internet	\$746.87
Office Equipment	\$481.59
Office Rent	\$3,900.00
Office Supplies	\$231.91
Paper Products	\$973.11
Postage	\$2,098.54
Printing and Reproduction	\$562.04
Telephones	\$1,664.55
Training Materials	\$3,297.97
Utilities	\$267.10
Total Administrative Expenses	\$15,819.77
Travel Expenses	
Airfare	\$1,347.90
Car Maintenance	\$1,048.62
Car Rental	\$773.32
Gas	\$3,023.33
Food	\$2,307.01
Lodging	\$2,595.68
Shipping	\$242.12
Total Travel Expenses	\$11,337.98
Total Expenses	\$188,557.78
Net Ordinary Income	\$1603.72
Fund Transfer	\$5,000.00
Fund Transfer Laramie	-\$4,500.00
Net Income	\$2103.72

Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

Board Members for 2006

Executive Board Members:

**Larry Berlin: Co-Chairman;
Spearfish 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

Elder: Huron Christian Church Huron, SD
Home Address: 1721 Wisconsin S.W.
Huron, SD 57350
605.352.7952

Mike Dennis: Secretary

Senior Minister: Christian Church of Gillette
Gillette, WY
Home Address: : 84 A S. Sage Hill Rd.
Gillette, WY 82718
307.685.0153

Terry Fraker: Treasurer

Elder: Oakwood Park Christian Church
Sioux Falls, SD
Home Address: 212 S. Needles Brandon,
SD 57005
605.582.6851

Lew Waldron

Elder: North Christian Church
Cheyenne, WY
Home Address: 2360 E. Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82007
307.635.1305

Other Board Members:

Dennis Coull: Spearfish Management Team

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

Craig Fausett: Manager; Prayer Warriors

Elder: Highmore Church of Christ
Highmore, SD
Home Address: Box 83 Highmore, SD 57345
605.852.2500

Andy Gudahl

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

Jason Hanselman

President: Summit Christian College
Home Address: 1621 7th Ave. Scottsbluff, NE 69361
308.632.8599

David Haynes

Senior Minister: Morningside Church of Christ
Home Address: 2616 Willow St. Sioux City, IA 51106
712.274.7068

Layne Saathoff

Member: Preston Christian Church Preston, SD
Home Address: 46044 199th St. Bruce, SD 57220
605.627.6547

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.

Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

Monthly Financial Supporters

Supporting Churches:

Highmore Church of Christ Highmore, SD	Rock Springs Christian Church Rock Springs, WY
Bayard Church of Christ Bayard, NE	Rolling Meadows Christian Church Odessa, MO
Broadwell Christian Church Broadwell, IL	South Lake Church of Christ Watertown, SD
Brookings Christian Church Brookings, SD	Summit Christian Church Akron, OH
Calvary Christian Church Swartz Creek, MI	Tamarack Church of Christ Tamarack, MN
Christian Church Gillette, WY	Two Timbers Church of Christ Oskaloosa, IA
Christian Church of Casper Casper, WY	Manchester Christian Church Akron, OH
Cody Christian Church Cody, WY	Morningside Church of Christ Sioux City, IA
Crookston Church of Christ Crookston, MN	North Christian Church Cheyenne, WY
Fairmont Christian Church Fairmont, MN	North Point Christian Church Spearfish, SD
First Christian Church Beaver, OK	Oakwood Park Christian Church Sioux Falls, SD
First Christian Church Broken Bow, NE	Paradise Valley Christian Church Casper, WY
First Christian Church Newcastle, WY	Platte Valley Men's Fellowship Scottsbluff, NE
First Christian Church Rapid City, SD	Preston Christian Church Bruce, SD
First Christian Church Wheatland, WY	Riverside Church of Christ Torrington, WY

Individual Supporters:

The 111 individuals that support us represent the following states:

Arizona, Colorado
 Florida, Illinois
 Iowa, Indiana
 Kansas, Kentucky
 North Dakota, Minnesota
 Missouri, Nebraska
 New York, Oklahoma
 Ohio, Oregon
 South Dakota, Tennessee
 Texas, Wisconsin
 Wyoming

North Point Christian Church

By Matt Branum

2007 Vision and Goals!

The Vision statement of North Point Christian Church is "Authentic people committed to sharing God's love through Sincere Relationships, Engaging Worship, and Community Involvement." The primary goal of North Point is to **Grow God's Church Larger**, leading the unchurched into a relationship with him, **and Deeper**, developing people into committed followers of Christ.

- Continued Development of Multisensory Worship Celebration
Following the EPIC model (Experiential, Participatory, Image Driven, Connected).
The development of Creative Planning Teams (CPT) to develop EPIC celebration services and build involvement/ownership within Body.
- Further Development of Children's ministry
Acquire and Develop Ministry Team Leader
Develop Preschool Point
Further develop teams for ministry
- Continue to keep an Outward Focus
Implement targeted farming groups
Quarterly outreach events/Servant Evangelism
Continued High Impact Marketing in Northern Hills Region
OUTFLOW Message series focusing on Outreach
- Finance
Fill Treasurer position
Switch Payroll over the North Point via Payroll service
Meet 2007 Budget (25% increase over 06, 50% salary)
- Leadership Development within North Point Body
Continue to identify, build, and pray over future eldership
Add to Management team from within Body
- Spiritual Growth of Body through Discipleship
Preaching series to develop Discipleship
Continue to meet with individuals
Encourage and expand Small Groups
- Growth & Development of Deeper, Authentic Relationships within Body
Encourage small group participation
Hold regular fellowship events (bowling, retreats, parties, dinners)
- Involvement in Future Church Planting Endeavors
Participate in planning of future church plants
Prayer Journey/Walk participation
Continued Support of NPEA with 10% of general offering.

Operation Laramie, WY

By Mike Sojka

I regret that I am the one writing this update versus the lead church planter for Laramie. The reason he is not writing this update is because we have not hired a lead church planter yet for Laramie. We however are in the final stage of the hiring process.

This hiring process with this couple started back on June 26, 2006, when I had my first interview with the potential candidate at the NACC in Louisville, Kentucky. I gave him an application at that time which was sent back to us the latter part of July. On July 28th. I had the opportunity to meet the rest of his family and proceed with a second interview, at which time I was able to interview his wife as well.

We then started to do background and credit checks. We checked numerous references and secondary references. We sent this couple a personality/spiritual gifts analysis in August of 2006. We received that information back at the end of August.

We then proceeded to send this couple a Church Planter Pre– Assessment Survey. This is a very comprehensive survey for both the husband and wife. This survey helps us and them identify whether they are a church planting couple. The results from this instrument begged me to spend a weekend with this couple in their home to further our interview process. I also was able to hear this person speak live during a Sunday morning service.

After this part of the hiring process was complete all systems were “Go.” to have the couple come to Rapid City, South Dakota for our November board meeting.

This couple was interviewed by my board on November 17th. They then traveled to spend the weekend at the mother church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. They met with both the elders there and also the minister. We believe the minister of the mother church and our lead church planter must get along for this to work, so this was a very important meeting. On November 20th this couple spent the day in Laramie and then traveled home the next day.

It was the conclusion of both the NPEA board and the leadership of North Christian Church to proceed to the final step in our hiring process. On March 23-26 this couple and I will travel to Joplin, MO where they will be professionally assessed.

Most of you at this point are probably wondering why we spend so much time and energy on this process. First of all, keep in mind that “prayer” through this whole process is the foundation in determining if this couple is being called to Laramie, to plant a church. We take our time and are thorough because 86% of all church plants fail or succeed based on the lead planter. Lord willing, we will make a decision on this couple by April 6th, 2007, which will be Good Friday.

At this time we have two very gifted and talented couples that are interested in being core families for this new church. Our goal is to have three to five core families in place. We continue to seek support for this new church. We currently have five church planting proposals out and would like to send out more of these to potential partners.

As a result of not hiring a lead church planter yet and the rest of the staff, along with not securing the total amount of funds for this project, we have heard God speak and have decided to move this project back to 2008. So, Lord willing, in the fall of 2008 a new church will start in Laramie, Wyoming. God has a lot to do between now and then, but we are confident that this church will be planted in His time table, for His honor, glory and praise!

Executive Director's Report

By Mike Sojka

2006 In Review

What a ride this year has been! God looked down and truly blessed us beyond our wildest dreams. I don't know why I should be surprised. "Oh ye of little faith," the Word says. He can do much more than we can ask or imagine. **Well, we keep praying and He keeps answering.**

Speaking of prayer there are now over 500 people praying for this ministry! Let me reflect on the mighty work of our Father as his hand was in everything we accomplished this past year.

New churches become self-supporting, on average, in 3.2 years among Christian Churches. **In September, North Point Christian Church, on its second anniversary, became a self-supporting work.** Between Matt and Ryan's individual financial support and the church's offerings, NPEA no longer has to financially assist with this project.

Eleven people were baptized into Christ this past year at NPCC! In December, North Point Christian Church, on Christmas Eve, had 160 people in attendance. This is the largest attendance they have had since the opening Sunday back in September, 2004. **Their average attendance for the month was 100. This is the highest average that they have ever had in one month.** Their per-capita giving over the last year jumped up to \$18.80 per person. That is awesome. A growing church's per-capita giving is \$22.00 plus per person. They added two men from the congregation to the management team that continues to oversee the work. They moved into a new ministry center that is in a very high visibility location. In fact, if you can find the Dairy Queen in Spearfish you will find their new office space. We pray that this momentum will continue into 2007!

God brought in more income this year than any previous year of this ministry! God generated \$113,000 in our general fund. Keep in mind that our goal is \$144,000 in our general fund each year. This amount would allow us to come very close to fully supporting two church planters' salaries and the rest of NPEA's budget. That means we would only need to generate large sums of money to plant future churches, which means we could probably plant churches more often than once every three years.

God granted me another year of safety as the director of this ministry. I traveled 35,000 miles by car and roughly 20,000 miles by air. I had a full speaking schedule this past year. God continues to open more doors for this ministry in terms of potential partners, both financially and prayer-wise. We had the best North American Christian Convention we have ever had in terms of contacts for the ministry. God granted us to have more input at the NACC as I am on the Continuation Committee for the next three years.

God continues to teach us about church planting strategies as we once again attended the National New Church Conference. God blessed us as I finished up my national certification as a Coach. We are now available and capable of coaching not only church planters but also ministers in churches, to be successful in reaching their full potential for God. God also helped us create a coaching handbook and management team handbook that NPEA will use in the future.

April, 2001 (when I became the director), seems like light-years away. **I never would have thought that in 5 1/2 years God could accomplish so much!** It is truly a privilege to serve His Kingdom through this ministry. I feel very blessed and fortunate that I am not, but I know I AM!

Executive Director's Report

By Mike Sojka

2007 in preview

In February we will sponsor our fourth Leadership Couples Retreat in Rapid City, SD, featuring Victor and Evelyn Knowles from Peace On Earth Ministries (POEM) in Joplin, MO. By all early indications this will be our best attended event yet with around sixty leaders from 4 different states. The theme is "Fly United." We will explore unity in the church, in leadership and in our marriages.

We are in the final hiring phase with a couple for Operation Laramie. We should know by Good Friday (April 6th) whether we will hire this couple or start all over in this process. It has been exciting to watch God walk us through this process. We have also accumulated \$40,000 to help start the church in Laramie. However we do need another \$188,000 for this project to get started. **Because of the lack of finances and staff needed God has wisely told us to delay this project until 2008.** So, Lord willing, the church will start in the fall of 2008 with the staff in place by January of 2008.

We now have over 500 people praying for this ministry! What a blessing this is and will continue to be. It is because of prayer that we can advance this ministry and follow God's leading and direction in everything we do.

Speaking of prayer, **The Pearl (a church in Denver, CO) will be our first short term mission team to travel to Laramie and get the soil ready for the new church plant with prayer on April 14th.** We want such missions once a month, every month, before the church starts. We still need 15 more teams to come for each of the months that are left up until August of 2008. Maybe your church could consider such an adventure. We would be glad to send you an extensive pre-prayer packet that would promote, explain, and encourage your church to participate such a mission trip.

A web presence? We have been attempting to get this accomplished over the past couple of years, but for whatever reason (my inability to get the job done here) have failed. We now are in the final stages of getting our website up and running at npea.info.

Jessica Murphy has been doing a great job and should be finished in the near future. You can contact her at – modernannouncements.com if you are interested in her services. We will update you with the web address and our new email address when this site is finished.

God has once again blessed me with a very busy speaking schedule in the upcoming year. From western Montana to eastern Ohio, from Joplin, MO to Crookston, MN, visiting both new churches and updating loyal partners as well. In April we will once again be in attendance at the National New Church Conference in Orlando, FL. This has become a premier event for us to keep educated about the latest in church planting methods and also network with colleges and potential church planting candidates.

You won't want to miss the NACC in Kansas City, MO, July 3-6th. Our booth number is 131. Stop by and visit us. The theme this year centers around "Church Planting." Hey!

It will be a privilege to once again assist God in the upcoming year with the most important ministry there is! The mission of the church is to save souls, and more people come to Christ through church planting than any other evangelistic method!

Faith Objectives By the NPEA Board

2006 Faith Objectives in Review

- Have 500 people praying for this ministry. **We currently have 506 praying for this ministry!**
- Acquire an ambassador at each church we visit. **We achieve this goal 50% of the time!**
- Raise our monthly income by \$3650.00. **We raised it by \$1317.00!**
- Personally contact our supporters once a year. **We accomplished this goal!**
- Have 75% of the churches in SD & WY financially supporting this ministry on a monthly basis. **61% of the churches in this region support us.**
- Continue to guide and lead North Point Christian Church (Spearfish, SD) with the management team. **They are a self governing body!**
- Raise 2006 Spearfish salaries. **Spearfish is self-supporting at this time!**
- Expand our internship program. We will hire our first intern this summer. **We did not hire our first intern yet.**
- Speak at 2 Bible Colleges a year. **Spoke at one.**
- Teach an Introduction to Church Planting Class once a year. **Attempted to teach one class.**
- Attain national coaching certification. This will allow us to help the church planter be more successful in planting churches. **This was completed in August!**
- Develop 50 prayer warriors to pray specifically for Operation Laramie. Lord willing this new church will start in the fall of 2007. **We have 35 prayer warriors!**
- Raise \$230,000 to start the church in Laramie, WY. **We have raised \$40,000!**
- Acquire 20 churches for the Antioch Alliance. **We have acquired none at this time.**
- More actively recruit Legacy Leavers. **We did not accomplish this goal.**
- Continue to grow and promote our Leadership Couples Retreat, Feb. 9th-10th, 2007 in Rapid City, SD. Victor and Evelyn Knowles will be our speakers. **We had a record attendance of 58 leaders from 6 different states!**
- Let God be in control of this ministry! **Still a prayer item!**

Faith Objectives By the NPEA Board

2007 Faith Objectives

- Have 600 people praying for this ministry.
- Acquire an ambassador and more prayer warriors at each church we visit.
- Raise our monthly income by \$2,666.00.
- Gain 10 new supporting churches (3 from our region).
- Personally contact our supporters once a year.
- Speak at 2 Bible Colleges a year.
- Teach an Introduction to Church Planting Class once a year.
- Implement our internship program.
- Continue to consult North Point Christian Church in Spearfish, SD.
- Raise up 15 more prayer warriors to pray specifically for Operation Laramie. Lord willing this new church will start in the fall of 2008.
- Secure 15 short term mission teams to pray in Laramie.
- Raise \$188,000 to start the church in Laramie, WY.
- Hire three staff positions for Laramie, WY.
- Acquire 3-5 core families to move to help with the new work in Laramie.
- Establish a management team for Laramie, WY.
- Acquire 20 churches for the Antioch Alliance.
- More actively recruit Legacy Leavers.
- Continue to grow and promote our Leadership Couples Retreat, Feb. 29th-March 1st, 2008 in Rapid City, SD.
- Let God be in control of this ministry!

Encouraging Words By Our Supporters

- ◆ "Thank you for your sermon and may God continue to bless you and NPEA." **Joe Powers, Black Hawk, SD**
- ◆ "Great job and a worthwhile mission." **Harlan Lieber, Sioux City, IA**
- ◆ "Praying for the NPEA work, Psalm 32:8." **Ula Hoffer, Bemidji, MN**
- ◆ "Brother Mike, be encouraged my friend for God has used you over the years in the Dakota's in a positive and wonderful way." **Dale Bartscher, Rapid City, SD**
- ◆ "We pray daily for NPEA, the work at Spearfish and Laramie." **Leland & Marilyn Tippett, Wright, MN**
- ◆ "Thanks for stepping in at the NSCC this year. I pray that you are well and God is blessing your ministry. I'm writing you to encourage you in your ministry and life. It is easy for people in our posts to face the enemy so long we forget what our family and Lord looks like." **Tim Defor, Norfolk, NE**
- ◆ "Thanks for all you do to further the Lord's Kingdom!" **Mike, Sue & Ben Jensen, Sioux Falls, SD**
- ◆ "It was good to meet you and have a face to go with the name that we lift up in our prayers. Your presentation was excellent and was well received. Thank you, again, for enlightening our congregation about NPEA and your efforts in the mission field in the USA." **Connie Schmidt, Cody, WY**
- ◆ "I wanted to let you know just how much we are blessed by being a part of your ministry. Thank you for the newsletters and the updates. All of us at Rolling Meadows Christian Church, Odessa, MO appreciate your ministry of planting new churches." **David Finch, Odessa, MO**
- ◆ "Great news every month, God is blessing all of you!" **Don & Shirley Fiene, Sargent, NE**

Leadership Couples Retreat Update

By Larry Berlin

The fourth annual Leadership Couples Retreat was held in Rapid City, South Dakota on February 9th and 10th. **There were fifty eight people from six different states in attendance, which is our biggest attendance so far!** Those present were greatly encouraged by the teaching of Russ McCracken, founding minister of Southeast Christian Church in Parker, Colorado, a church which grew from a core of five families to an attendance of 3,800 today. Once again the comments about our weekend were very insightful:

"Russ was great. I think it was a God thing that he was able to be with us."

"Very encouraging! It was just what I needed to hear."

"Tremendous! I was personally touched by the circle of prayer concerning personal needs during one of our break out sessions."

"Very thought provoking and a great time to recharge our Spiritual batteries"

Russ presented three workshops which were all very relevant to the needs of Christian leaders. **The first session entitled "What Leaders Must Do"** discussed the importance of showing respect for everyone including those that we disagree with (I Peter 2:17). We were reminded that rudeness is on the rise in our country today. We see it all around us on the road, in the congress, in the work place and sadly even in the church. What you give away is what you receive. Those leaders in attendance were challenged to give people respect in order to become more respected themselves. **The second session given on Saturday morning was entitled "Go and Dream."** The key to success which was emphasized was even more interesting because of its simplicity. You see Jesus was pleasant to be around, sinners, intellectuals and doubters alike found Him likable. This is not always the case in the church; Christians are not always pleasant to be around. Remember, people don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care. **The final session, "Keep on – Don't Give Up" was also extremely relevant to those who attended this retreat.** The five phases of faith were explored: 1) God gives the dream. 2) A decision must be made to act on it or not. 3) Delay often occurs during which time trust must prevail. 4) Difficulties arise; Noah, Abraham, Moses experienced this and so will you. 5) Deliverance - God does it in His timing. To learn to wait on God is difficult but that is a large element in a faithful ministry.

Plans for next year's retreat are already being made for Feb. 29th-March 1st, 2008. **Could you please write down those dates (right now) with the goal of attending next years retreat.** For those of you who attended this year we thank you and want to challenge you to bring someone with you next year. Our prayer is that next year the retreat will bring even more encouragement to the Christian leaders in our region. Thank you for your support.
