

# NORTHERN PLAINS EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT  
2007

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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 Terry Fraker

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### Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

#### Income & Expense

January 2007-December 2007

#### Income

##### Contributions

Church	\$67,289.82
Individual	\$40,473.85
Speaking Income	\$9,980.49
Operation Laramie	\$23,430.88
Leadership Retreat	\$6,535.20
Miscellaneous Income	\$21.65
Chad Halbach Support	\$15,011.75
Spearfish Salary Support	\$13,000.00

**Total Income** **\$175,743.64**

#### Expenses

##### Payroll Expenses

Salaries	\$46,594.25
Housing	\$18,525.09
Taxes	\$11,080.59

**Total Payroll Expenses** **\$76,199.93**

##### Insurance

Car	\$765.90
Health	\$6,009.90
Liability	\$1,106.00

**Total Insurance** **\$7,881.80**

##### Conventions & Seminar Expenses

Booth Supplies	\$431.87
Leadership Retreat Expenses	\$4,686.14
Presentation Materials	\$863.24
Registration and Fees	\$2,170.86

**Total Convention & Semi. Expenses** **\$8,152.11**

# Treasurers Report

## By Terry Fraker

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### **Administrative Expenses**

Background Checks	\$92.00
Banking	\$271.17
Board Expenses	\$384.07
Computer Equipment	\$697.55
Computer Supplies	\$312.88
Direct Deposit	\$210.94
Dues and Subscriptions	\$90,94
Internet	\$1,231.47
Miscellaneous	\$95.00
Office Equipment	\$73.58
Office Rent	\$3,925.00
Office Supplies	\$486.16
Paper Products	\$1,426.02
Postage	\$2,328.63
Printing and Reproduction	\$1,276.55
Telephones	\$1,981.87
Training Materials	\$554.95
Utilities	\$286.72

**Total Administrative Expenses** \$15,725.51

### **Travel Expenses**

Airfare	\$1,566.04
Car Maintenance	\$2,090.99
Car Rental	\$813.17
Gas	\$3,177.11
Lodging	\$2,044.46
Meals	\$1,689.05
Miscellaneous	\$272.05
Shipping	\$242.12

**Total Travel Expenses** \$11,895.52

**Operation Laramie** \$45,623.23

**Spearfish Expenses** \$8,150.00

**Total Expenses** **\$173,628.10**

**Net Income** **\$ 2,115.54**

# Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

## Board Members for 2007

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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

**Lew Waldron: Member Laramie Management Team**

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

**Craig Fausett: Manage; Email Prayer Warriors & Ambassadors**

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

**Dennis Coull: Secretary**

Deacon: 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

### **Other Board Members:**

**Andy Gudahl**

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

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:

First Christian Church Wheatland, WY	North Christian Church Cheyenne, WY
Bayard Church of Christ Bayard, NE	Franklin Heights Christian Church Vincennes, IN
Broadwell Christian Church Broadwell, IL	Highmore Church of Christ Highmore, SD
Brookings Christian Church Brookings, SD	Huron Christian Church Huron, SD
Calvary Christian Church Swartz Creek, MI	Jackson Church of Christ Montezuma, IA
Gillette Christian Church Gillette, WY	Kingsway Christian Church Yankton, SD
Christian Church of Casper Casper, WY	Lewis Church of Christ Lewis, IA
Cody Christian Church Cody, WY	Liberty Christian Church Brownstown, IL
Concord Church of Christ West Concord, MN	Lillian Church of Christ Broken Bow, NE
Crookston Church of Christ Crookston, MN	Main St. Church of Christ McConnelsville, OH
Fairmont Christian Church Fairmont, MN	Manchester Christian Church Akron, OH
First Christian Church Beaver, OK	McCook Christian Church McCook, NE
First Christian Church Broken Bow, NE	Morningside Church of Christ Sioux City, IA
First Christian Church Newcastle, WY	New Hope Christian Church Lander, WY
First Christian Church Rapid City, SD	New Life Christian Church Centreville, VA
	North Point Christian Church Spearfish, SD
	Oakwood Park Christian Church Sioux Falls, SD
	Paradise Valley Christian Church Casper, WY
	Preston Christian Church Bruce, SD
	Riverside Church of Christ Torrington, WY
	Rolling Meadows Christian Church Odessa, MO
	South Lake Church of Christ Watertown, SD
	Summit Christian Church Akron, OH
	Tamarack Church of Christ Tamarack, MN
	The Bridge Christian Church Dubuque, IA

### Individual Supporters:

The 96 individuals that support us come from all over the United States!

# North Point Christian Church

## By Matt Branum

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### 2007 Review & 2008 Review!

The Vision statement of North Point Christian Church is "Authentic people committed to sharing God's love through Sincere Relationships, Inspiring Worship, and Community Outreach." 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.

We have set some lofty goals for North Point for 2008. But as we have learned from experience "**Big goals bring big results!**" As the management team has studied Christian Schwarz' "Natural Church Development", we have identified several areas of strength and success, and a few areas where growth is needed if we are going to achieve all that God has in store for us.

- ✘ This past year, North Point has transitioned to local leadership with our management team being made up entirely of North Point members. We are committed to empowering Christians for ministry, that needs would be met and the word of God proclaimed, in word and deed.
- ✘ When it comes to Inspiring Worship Services, North Point shines bright! We have developed a great praise band, solid biblical teaching, amazing testimony, and we have a lot of fun doing it too!
- ✘ From the very beginning North Point's mantra has been "**relationship not religion**". We firmly believe that what God desires is to be in relationship with each of us, not heartless ritual (Hosea 6:6; Matthew 9:13). And he desires us to be in relationship with one another (1 John 3; Acts 2:42ff). Relationships flourish at North Point!
- ✘ While North Point has several great groups going, only 30% of our body is involved in one. So, we have made it our goal in 2008 to see more care groups started and more people connected to a group, 80% to be specific! After all, if "Iron is going to sharpen iron" than there needs to be contact.
- ✘ Another area that North Point is working on is getting "**the Right Part in the Right Place.**" Scripture teaches us that everyone is unique, we all have a unique SHAPE, and a distinct role that only we can fill (1 Cor. 12). We are making it our goal to help people identify there unique SHAPE, equip and empower them to serve that function, and get them into the place of ministry that only they can fill.
- ✘ We continue to commit ourselves to discipleship and fanning into flame lives filled with God's Spirit and devotion to the faith. As we live with Joy and Enthusiasm, our prayer is that the spark within would spread and we would see growth come as others seek the Lord, Our God.

It has been said that the church is the only organization that exists for the purpose of those who are not yet a part of it. **At North Point, our motto is "LOOK OUT-ward!!!"** We are striving to improve our serve and have every member looking out for needs (physical, emotional, spiritual), share the need, and meet the need. From giving away groceries to helping with home repairs, meeting financial needs to lending a listening ear, from sharing God's love with a friend to assist a church plant in Laramie, Wyoming.

God has great things in store for those who love him. We look forward to 2008 and the plans our Lord has for His Church!

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# Operation Laramie

## By Chad Halbach

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### 2007 Review & 2008 Preview!

Every morning just before leaving the house I stop for a moment and examine myself in the mirror. Reflecting back at me is an accurate image of what I look like and this ritual helps me make adjustments so I can be sure to present myself in the best possible light.

Morning is not the only time I examine myself though. In fact, each year as December offers up its last couple of short, cold days I quietly withdraw and reflect on what has happened in the previous 12 months. For me, 2007 was a wonderful year filled with colorful milestones and newfound friends.

**In the early part of April (on Good Friday), I officially accepted the position of lead church planter for Operation Laramie.** Within a couple of weeks of making this decision I was able to attend the National New Church Conference in Orlando Florida with Mike Sojka. During this conference I got to know Mike on a personal level, I meet several other people who were planting churches and I was encouraged by national leaders to deepen my relationship with Jesus Christ. This was a profound time of me as it awakened in me the national scope of the church planting movement.

Later in the year, my family went on a fourteen day, six state tour of the central part of the country. During this trip I had the privilege of speaking at several churches, one of them being my home church (Northfield Church of Christ). After the faith-building fellowship in Iowa we made our way out to Laramie where we spent a week hanging out with some locals and getting a feel for the community.

We then turned our van north toward Spearfish, South Dakota for a quick visit with Matt and Becky Branum. Their hospitality warmed our hearts and the conversation nourished my soul. We spent hours discussing our families and the adventure of planting a new church. For me this visit was the highlight of the trip. I left their home knowing that God had connected us and that this was the start of a powerful friendship.

Many other great things happened in 2007, thousands of \$ were pledged in support of the project and toward my salary. Many people have started to specifically pray for the new church plant in Laramie. God also connected me with many other people who are helping to establish the church in Laramie. Larry and Connie Andrews committed to be a launch team family and I was able to spend a week of intense training with Larry at a Boot Camp experience in Nashville, TN. **Looking back it has truly been an amazing year.**

But in this moment, my thirst is to peer ahead at what will be in 2008. Soon my family will be making a move to Laramie, Lord willing by February 22nd. We will travel 1000 miles...36 hours...6 kids...17 bathroom stops ... Laramie bound... By May, we will hire 3 staff people to minister in Laramie, by August we will establish a launch team of 65 people and **on September 14th (Lord willing) we will have our first official service.** In the midst of all of this activity, I know that God will shape and mold me into a man more mature in my faith. A good friend of mine often says "God loves us too much to leave us where we are at" and I can hardly wait to see where God will take us in 2008.

# Northern Plains Evangelistic Association

By Mike Sojka

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## 2007 Review & 2008 Preview

**This year - 2007 - was a break out year for this ministry.** God went above and beyond our prayer requests. He did much more than we could ask or imagine (as usual; see Ephesians 3:20).

Six years ago, when God granted me this position, I didn't dream we would be so blessed in such a short time. Oh ye of little faith. The doors He has opened for this ministry in the past year are so encouraging. Here are just a few of His accomplishments.

In 2006, our general budget brought in \$112,906. In 2007, God provided \$117,844, the largest sum yet. (Our first tier goal is still \$144,000 annually.) It was a small increase, but significant because most parachurch ministries and churches are losing money.

To date we have 7 1/2 full time Living Link Partners who will help us in Laramie.

- Stadia New Church Strategies, \$15,000 toward startup and \$19,000 in goods and services.
- Tomoka Christian Church, Ormond Beach, FL, \$15,000 for Laramie (and another \$15,000 for ND).
- North Point Christian Church, Spearfish, SD, \$7,500
- Liberty Christian Church, Brownstown, IL, \$7,500.
- Main St. Church of Christ, McConnelsville, OH, \$7,500.
- Church Planters of The Rockies, Highlands Ranch, CO, \$15,000.
- New Life Christian Church, Centreville, VA, \$15,000.
- Paradise Valley Christian Church, Casper, WY, \$15,000.

And the Christian Church of Casper, Casper, WY, \$15,000. We are still hopeful and praying that God will provide another 3 1/2 Links.

Our planter selection process and care has improved 100%. Our lead planter went through Assessment and Boot Camp for the first time. Chad will be coached and Marsha will receive a mentor. Chad will also be on the Converge interactive internet Coaching tool and receive a part time staff person from Passion For Planting. This is part of Stadia's gift and services to us. God has also secured two launch team families. We are still asking God for 1-3 more launch team families.

We had the opportunity to give a workshop at Cincinnati Christian Seminary on Church Planting. We gave three workshops at the NE Christian Convention on Church Planting.

We will attempt to unveil an online newsletter by March 1st of 2008. Our current website is up-to-date and we continue to tweak it. We have our first (actually two people) online donors giving on a regular basis to Chad through our site.

Our 2007 Leadership Retreat finally grew a bit to 60 participants. Victor and Evelyn Knowles will be with us in 2008, with David and Candy Faust (President of Cincinnati Christian University) already scheduled for 2009. God has supplied at least two new sponsors to help us cover the costs of the leadership retreat: Group Imaging, and Summit Christian College.

**2008's biggest news will be the starting of a new church (Lord willing) on Sept. 14th, in Laramie, WY! I can't wait!!!**

# Faith Objectives

## By the NPEA Board

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### 2007 Faith Objectives in Review

- Have 600 people praying for this ministry. **We currently have 563 praying for this ministry!**
- Acquire an ambassador at each church we visit. **We did not acquire any new ambassadors!**
- Raise our monthly income by \$2666.00. **We raised it by \$487.00!**
- Gain 10 new supporting churches (3 from our region). **We gained 9 supporting churches and 2 were from our region.**
- Personally contact our supporters once a year. **We accomplished this goal!**
- Speak at 2 Bible Colleges a year. **Spoke at one.**
- Teach an Introduction to Church Planting Class once a year. **This will happen once every other year at Nebraska Christian College, still trying to secure another College.**
- Implement our internship program. **This will happen, Lord willing.**
- Continue to consult North Point Christian Church (Spearfish, SD). **This is happening!**
- Raise up 15 more prayer warriors to pray specifically for Laramie. **We accomplished this!**
- Secure 15 short term mission teams to pray in Laramie. **We need to secure 6 more!**
- Raise \$188,000 to start a church in Laramie, WY. **We still need to raise \$67,510.00!**
- Hire three staff positions for Laramie. **We still need to do this!**
- Acquire 3-5 launch team families to help with the new work in Laramie. **We have acquired 2 families!**
- Establish a management team for Laramie. **We need to secure 1 more member for this!**
- More actively recruit Legacy Leavers. **We did not accomplish this goal.**
- Continue to grow and promote our Leadership Couples Retreat, March 7-8th, 2008 in Spearfish, SD. Victor Knowles will be our speaker. **This is happening!**
- Let God be in control of this ministry! **Still a prayer item!**

# Faith Objectives

## By the NPEA Board

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### **2008 Faith Objectives**

- Have 600 people praying for this ministry.
- Raise our monthly income by \$2,179.00.
- Gain 10 new supporting churches.
- Personally contact our supporters once a year.
- Speak at 2 Bible Colleges a year.
- Teach an Introduction to Church Planting Class once a year.
- Hire an intern and continue this program.
- Secure 6 more short term mission teams to pray in Laramie.
- Raise \$59,000 for Operation Laramie.
- Acquire 3 ½ more Living Link Partners for Laramie.
- Hire three staff positions for Laramie, WY.
- Acquire 1-3 Launch Team families to move to help with the new work in Laramie.
- Establish a management team for Laramie, WY.
- Start new church in Laramie, WY, Lord willing Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- Decide where to plant our next church by July of 2008, Lord willing to start in the fall of 2010.
- Continue to grow and promote our Leadership Couples Retreat, March 6-7th, 2009.
- Recruit 5 more board members.
- 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 Tamarack Church of Christ and may God bless NPEA's efforts to share the Good News." **Leland & Marilyn Tippett, Wright, MN**
- ◆ "We are grateful for people who are so committed to the Lord and His work that they follow Him wherever He leads. May the Lord bless this work in ways that I can't even imagine." **Marcia Hopper, Odessa, MO**
- ◆ "We praise God for the progress being made in your effort to bring N.T. Christianity to the great plains. Thank you for your faithfulness to the task and we're glad we can be "co-laborers" with you!" **Tom & Phyllis Hendrickson, Danville, IL**
- ◆ "I want to thank you for spending the time with us at Milford this morning. I especially thoroughly enjoyed your ideas and thoughts this evening with our leadership team. For me, your ideas of how to take pew sitting Christians and turn them into disciples is my passion!" **Larry Brown, Medford, OH**
- ◆ "Thank you for all you do. Our prayers are constantly with you." **Sue Jensen, Sioux Falls, SD**
- ◆ "It was great to see you Mike and meet Chad and Marsha in K.C. Great choice for Laramie, WY!" **Don & Shirley Fiene, Sargent, NE**
- ◆ "We are happy to be able to help in your work and always glad to see Mike." **Bob & Joanne White, Malta, OH**
- ◆ " Greetings & good wishes, I pray that many good things are happening with NPEA, as God continues to bless the work in many ways, Col. 3:12." **Ula Hoffer, Bemidji, MN**
- ◆ "I am pleased to hear about how our Lord is working in starting (His) church in Laramie, WY." **Bruce Pedersen, Casper, WY**
- ◆ " I want to say you challenged us here at Morningside Church of Christ yesterday. Planting seeds must start in our homes and neighborhoods first. Thanks for pointing that out. You encouraged each one of us to break out of our comfort zone and nourish relationships with the lost." **Jerri Anderson, Sioux City, IA**