

CHURCH PLANTING among America's urban poor

World Impact plants churches in cities across America. These members, who are empowered to be agents of salt and light, are transforming communities.

San Diego: Harbor Mid-City Church

Harbor Church meets at a high school. Our staff ministers predominantly among the Hispanic poor. They now serve as Sunday-morning greeters and volunteers in the children's ministry; and members of the body-life team and the operations team (setting up and breaking down equipment and supplies).

Fredy was deeply depressed and trying to drink himself to death, when his wife was touched at an evangelistic outreach and began attending church. She asked for prayer for Fredy.



Fredy (left) with his family outside Harbor Mid-City Church

When our missionary, Cuco, prayed and shared with Fredy, he gave his life to the Lord. He began faithfully attending church with his wife and five children. Fredy and his boys are on the operations team, and his family contributes food and beverages for the fellowship hour. Last quarter, Fredy took his first **TUMI (The Urban Ministry Institute)** class, to better understand God and His Word.

Wichita: Lighthouse Community Church

After *Morning Star Ranch* students led a basketball outreach, *Tabor College* students started Bible clubs. Then, our missionaries moved into the neighborhood to plant *Lighthouse Community Church* under Daren Busenitz's leadership.



Anna (left) playing guitar with friends

Anna Classen came to *Morning Star Ranch*, where she and her sister accepted Christ. Anna says, "I had a great desire to be with Christians, to do what was right." Anna has grown in the Lord for ten years. Her sister later married one of our teen guys; they continue to be involved with ministry in the church.

Missionary Audrey Hanneman discipled Anna. They went on teen trips and led camps together. Audrey taught Anna how to play guitar and lead worship. Later, Anna moved in with Audrey for more training.



Anna (with guitar) leading worship at Light House

Anna says, "When Audrey transitioned to another church plant I realized everything she had taught me. I do and say the same things with the teens whom I lead. Audrey helped me learn structure and discipline in my life and ministry. Her example of a godly life as a single woman had a big affect on me."

Anna's mother, Patti, says, "After Anna became a Christian, she relentlessly sought

to involve the family in church. Finally, I visited church. That led to me attending the women's Bible study, where I accepted Christ. Soon, others in the family followed. We went to Anna to find answers from the Bible for problems. If she didn't know, she knew who to have us talk to."

Anna's parents were divorced. But, her father, Bill, came to church if the kids were in musicals or dramas. God worked in his heart. Bill and Patti remarried after 10 years of separation. During marriage counseling, Bill accepted Christ and was baptized. Bill read the entire Bible in one year and joined a discipleship group.

Anna counsels at summer camp, leads middle-school girls' club and teaches a Bible study. She is on the worship team and mentors other girls. Anna says, "I enjoy the relationship with the teens. I am available to others the way Audrey was with me. I would not be who I am if I didn't have a godly woman invest in my life. *Lighthouse* is where my family and my church family can be the same and worship at the same place."



Veronica in her church secretary office at Highland House



Veronica with her son



Missionaries Renee and Andrew baptize Veronica

Chester: Highland House

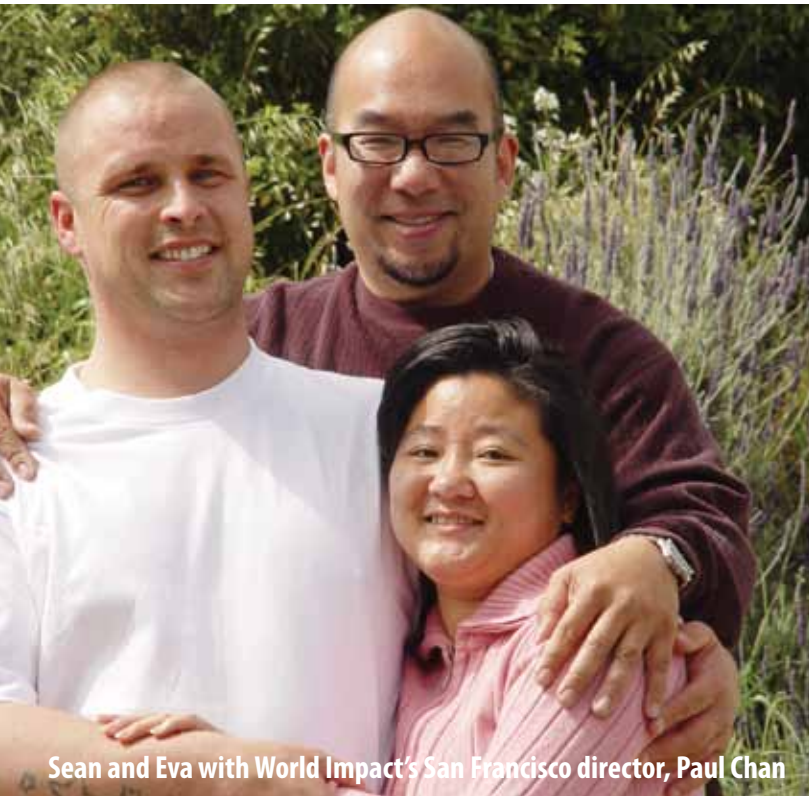
Veronica says, “Growing up was hard. I was beaten, raped, parentless and homeless; I became angry and bitter. I lied and cheated because I thought the world owed me something. God was never on my mind: at that time, He did not exist. I did not care about my soul, nor that God loved me.

“**Highland House** (a World Impact church plant) showed me different. In a place of madness, there was light. When Renee, a missionary, talked to my four-year-old son, he loved her and immediately attached himself to her. He begged me to join them for Bible study. I didn’t want to know about God, but Bible study pulled me in.

“Renee became my gateway to God. The more time I spent with her, the more God became real to me. She taught me every week; every time she left, I wanted to know more about this wonderful God. I had never felt His power, wisdom and love before. A flicker of light grew inside me and I returned to my Father. In May 2006, I was baptized.

“**Highland House** is my rock, giving me the tools to grow as a Christian. God taught me love and patience, to obey Him and have faith in Him. God was with me every step of the way. Without my **Highland House** family, I may never have known the love and power of God. During rough times, **Highland House** was there.

“I used to be afraid to sing; now, I lead worship. I used to feel useless; now, I help others in church. I use my creative gifts as church secretary. As MY CHURCH has grown, so have I. Without my **Highland House** family, I would be lost.”



Sean and Eva with World Impact's San Francisco director, Paul Chan

San Francisco: Impact Church

Sean had a troubled childhood in an unstable home. He was in and out of Juvenile Hall for much of his teenage life. Sean was imprisoned for identity theft, fraud, theft and parole violation. After his release, he sought God for help. San Francisco Director, Paul Chan, mentored Sean while he worked through a Christian sobriety program. Sean began coming to our church two years ago, where he learns about and applies God's Word to his life.

Sean is full of energy, serious about staying sober and working hard to put his life back together. He has a full-time job, has been reunited with his family (who had disowned him) and is preparing to marry Eva. Sean and Eva fellowship with friends and fellow-sobriety-program graduates at **Impact Church**.



Ray with Danny

Fresno: House Church

Ray, a graduate of Fresno's **Urban Ministry Institute**, pastors a church in his home. He, and his wife Tanya, invited Danny, Kim and their family to our Family Vacation Camp at **THE OAKS**. Danny and his family face challenges that would lead many to give up. Camp provided an escape from the city, where the family relaxed and enjoyed the time of their lives.

Following camp, Danny's family attended Ray's home fellowship for five months. Then, Ray and Danny became church-planting partners; Danny started a second house church at his duplex. Now, almost everyone in the duplex attends the fellowship.



Juana and Erron (right) praying with teens in Youth on Fire Church

Los Angeles: Youth on Fire

Erron and Juana were members of **Kaleo**, our youth ministry, and attended the Budlong Church that missionary Bryan Cullison facilitated. After a few months, they launched a new church, **Youth On Fire**, which is a natural transition for our **Kaleo** youth to attend Sunday worship.



Chad (black shirt) preaching in the park



Fabiola (center) visits with neighbors in the park



Children's Bible club in the park

Los Angeles: Fuente para las Naciones

Chad and Fabiola Wolyn and their team are planting a church, ***Fountain for the Nations***, in South Park, a neighborhood infested with drug and alcohol abuse and rival gangs; it is 80% Hispanic and 20% African American. Sunday services welcome the homeless and day laborers; they have a Bible Club for kids and families. During their Easter service, a man overdosed on heroin and died in the public bathroom.

✳ One day, Fabiola watched from their family-room window as a sobbing woman sat in the park across the street, holding her baby. Fabiola crossed the street to comfort her, when the boyfriend drove up. The couple yelled and argued openly. Instead of driving off again angry, Fabiola invited Jose and Esther to her house to work through some problems. They confessed their sins and accepted Jesus. But, they still had to return home to deal with their issues of drugs, alcohol and domestic abuse.

For eight months, Chad and Fabiola have met with Jose and Esther a couple times a week and watched God transform them. They invited their family to a Bible study in their house. Now, two sisters and Jose's mother are memorizing scripture, reading the Bible and growing in their faith. They serve in the church. Jose reflects, "When I return to my land, people aren't going to recognize me. They'll see a better person and something different."

✳ Chad met Juan in the park and invited him to hear the gospel and eat a meal. Juan, who was depressed, immediately accepted Chad's invitation. Juan shared that he had been robbed and, in his frustration, had gotten

drunk. That week, Chad visited Juan's small rented room for a powerful time of Bible study and prayer. In response to Juan's interest, Chad and Fabiola started a Bible study for other neighborhood families.

✳ Chad and Fabiola met Roberto and Sylvia as they took their daughter to school. They struck up a friendship and came to Bible study. They loved it! Now, when Roberto comes home from work, Sylvia and the kids are ready to come to the study. They love to learn and serve—both are future leaders in the church.

Dear Christian Friend,

The Church in the city is an exciting and powerful movement by God.

- * The weak become strong
- * The hurting are comforted
- * The captives are freed
- * The lowly are empowered.

Terry Hwang started a Bible study for men and women in a rehabilitation center, which will become a church. Of the 180 clients who live in the facility, half “found Jesus” while in prison. None have a regular place of worship. They need spiritual guidance.



The Bible-study men consistently stay clean and sober and desire to grow in Christ. Charles has been in rehab for six months and is looking for work. He needs to put God first, and stay in Christian community, while re-entering the working world, where temptations and distractions abound.

Our church-planting missionaries reside on the cutting edge of the gospel—planting churches in housing projects, apartments, car ports, rehabilitation centers and prisons. They are worthy of your prayers and financial support. It costs \$1250 to fund a single missionary for one month; a couple needs \$2115. \$310 keeps one of God’s anointed in the community for a week; \$45 funds a day.

Now, more than ever, we need your financial support to help keep our staff planting churches in our inner cities. Please give generously as you partner with us in this vital endeavor.

May God bless you richly,

DR. KEITH PHILLIPS
President

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