

(continued from page 3)  
 wife, Donna, is active in the woman's fellowship group, teaches an adult

**PRAYER REQUEST: THAT ALL CONTINUES TO GO WELL AS THEY FURTHER THEIR STUDY WITH THE EC CHURCH.** —SCOTT SHAY

Sunday school class and assists with church dinners, music and Vacation Bible school. In their 34th year of marriage, the couple has a married daughter, Rebecca, who lives in Connecticut; and a son, Scott, who is on active duty with the Marine

Corps Reserves and attends college.

Other E.C. Church Planters are **REV. JAIME R. BONNELLY**, who leads a congregation in Miami, Fla.; and **REV. ANGEL ROSADO**, pastor of Fountain of Life in Bethlehem.

**“The Church must overcome its desire to ‘huddle and cuddle’ and step out in faith into a dangerous journey, shake off its collective securities, and jump into action.”**

—**BILL RUPP** Tapestry Church leader and National New Church Conference attendee

Front row: Salvador Cardoso, Ramon Mendez, Nathan Fry  
 Back row: Edwin Mieses, Bud Daneker, Bruce Wagner, Carlos Kelly  
 Missing from photo: Fred Moury



THANK YOU to the many faithful supporters of EC church planting. Your gifts made it possible for our planters to attend the National New Church Conference.

P.S. For information on the 2008 Conference, go to [www.exponentialconference.org](http://www.exponentialconference.org).

A church planting workshop for EC leaders committed to multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches.

**Church Planting WORKSHOP**

# multiply.

Saturday, November 3rd; 9AM-3PM

Saturday, NOV 3, 9AM-3PM  
 Featuring Church Resource Ministries' **PHIL ALESSI**  
 More details this summer!

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**REV. NATHAN FRY**

**2 Meet the Pastors**  
 Glimpses into the lives of EC Church Planters

**4 Greetings from Orlando** and the National New Church Conference

Saturday, November 3rd  
 9AM-3PM

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Church Planting WORKSHOP More details to come!

The **PURPOSE** of the Church Planting Commission of the Evangelical Congregational Church is to know Christ and make Him known.

The **MISSION** of the Church Planting Commission of the Evangelical Congregational Church is to help churches plant healthy churches that proclaim Christ to a hurting world.

The **VISION** of the Church Planting Commission is that the Evangelical Congregational Church becomes a Church Multiplication movement, realized when churches plant healthy churches that plant healthy churches.

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The Church Planting Newsletter of the E.C. Church

**A.D. 7 or 2007, God Is At Work in the Local Church** — by Kolleen Long

I CAN'T REMEMBER A TIME when I wasn't involved in church. I grew up in a ministry family; I attended Christian schools and college; and I've worked for several evangelical organizations. I even married a pastor! I truly love serving the Lord, but the downside to so much exposure is, frankly, a feeling of overexposure. As I began interviewing the pastors who lead our EC church plants, however, I've caught a refreshing glimpse of God's work among his people.

It's not surprising that, like most pastors, church planters are busy--very busy. Some are bivocational, with the added demands of a secular job. Most have families with young children at home. Add these responsibilities to the mix of church services, committee meetings, visits and administration, and their time is at a premium.

But these men convey satisfaction with how they spend their days, since it allows God to work through them, their congregations and their families.

Church planting has definite appeal. These young congregations are doing real ministry, tangibly reaching out to those who don't know Christ! And what pastor is not drawn to the idea of starting fresh, with no preconceived ideas to sort out? Of course, church planting has its problems, too. Some difficulties--such as shortage of funds or spreading leadership too thin--are found in established

churches as well. Others are unique, including a lack of dedicated facilities or a large proportion of inexperienced lay workers.

But through the ups and downs, it seems to me that our church plants are led by men of vision. They see what their community needs and find ways to meet those needs, both individually and by equipping their congregations. As I talked to each pastor in recent weeks, I was reminded of the original churches of the New Testament. When Paul wrote to the first century saints in Ephesus, he reminded

them that each Christian is gifted in order to "prepare God's people for works of service..."

“Each Christian is gifted in order to prepare God's people for works of service...”  
 —Ephesians 4: 12

whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:12, 13). The end result, Paul concluded, was a unified and productive body of Christ" where each one does his or her part.

Inside this *partners*, you will catch a glimpse of the eleven men who pastor our EC church plants and restarts. I encourage you to turn the page and get to know them and their families. As you read, find a pastor who is close to you geographically, or whose life in some way mirrors your own, and commit to pray for him. Like all of those involved in the front lines of ministry, they covet your prayers.



# MEET the PASTORS



## A Glimpse into the Lives of EC Church Planters



**REV. ROBERT "BUD" DANEKER, JR.**, moved from traditional pastoral ministry to Horizon, a church plant in the Lehigh Valley, two and a half years ago. He appreciates the chance to build a congregation from the ground up. "It probably depends on the specific church, but for me it's a whole lot easier," he says. "You have a whole lot less to untangle." He asks for prayer as his leaders develop a more structured ministry.

Donna, his wife, leads Bible study and helps to plan Sunday services. The couple—who will celebrate their 25th anniversary this June—has three children. Scott, a high school freshman, works with the technical team during Sunday worship. Twins Robert and Erin, now in college, play keyboard and work with the youth group, respectively, when at home.

**PRAYER REQUEST: FOR CHURCH LEADERS AS THEY DEVELOP A MORE STRUCTURED MINISTRY.**

—BUD DANEKER, JR.

*“Be ‘mean’ about the mission... DO NOT give up on the mission God has given you!”*

—BUD DANEKER, JR. National New Church Conference, Orlando

**REV. ROLANDO I. DIAZ**, pastor of Comunidad Biblica Cristiana, Philadelphia, prioritizes his role as spiritual leader to wife, Doris; son, Rolando Diaz Jr. (15); and daughter, Doris Abigail (7). "I am the pastor of my family," he says, "which is different and special." The entire family is active in the church, with Doris training the women and the children taking part in youth activities.

Diaz, who has been at the church a year, is meditating daily on Habakkuk 3:17-19 because "planting the church in Philadelphia means to be in a new place, where much social, economical, academics it is not at hand. I am learning to wait for in silence in my Lord." The pastor requests prayer for spiritual and economic growth in his congregation, as well as wisdom in finding a part-time job.

**PRAYER REQUEST: FOR SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN HIS CONGREGATION; FOR WISDOM IN FINDING A PART-TIME JOB.**

—ROLANDO DIAZ



**REV. NATHAN FRY** came to lead Living Hope Lighthouse, a restart congregation in Palmerton, five years ago. This is his first church-planting assignment, although

he served as an associate pastor for three years, and he has enjoyed the experience. "You're not bound by traditions," he explains. "You can try new things without people saying, 'We've never done it that way before.'"

Fry, who is single, has traveled to all seven continents and plays raquetball, chess and golf. "I love people," the pastor adds, "and I'm passionate about intentional discipleship." He also plays the guitar and enjoys playing "Exalt the Lord" and other praise songs during personal worship to help focus on the Lord. He asks for prayer to "be a man of integrity, a man who is known for his love for God and others."

**PRAYER REQUEST: TO BE A MAN OF INTEGRITY, A MAN WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS LOVE FOR GOD AND OTHERS.**

—NATHAN FRY



**REV. EDWIN E. MIESES**, pastor of Buenas Nuevas, West Hazleton, notes his wife Marisel's contribution to his ministry. "She does everything," he says.

"She's a big part of the church. We work together as a team." The couple has



As his relationship with Christ matured, explains **REV. CARLOS A. KELLY** of Iglesia Cristiana, York, "I have understood there is no other reason on earth to have a church than to preach the gospel." The pastor, who worked previously in the Dominican Republic, says a church plant allows him not only to preach the gospel but also to disciple those reached for Christ. His church is currently building a core group of leaders.

His wife, Yanira, helps him to counsel as well as organize the church. Married for 18 years, the couple has three daughters—Mery Anne (14), Pamela (12), and Carla (7)—who are also active in the church. Kelly asks for prayer as "one of the things that the devil tries to tackle you by is your family. We are good at this point, but it's really challenging. I need prayer for the wisdom and the ability to bend for my children."

**PRAYER REQUEST: FOR WISDOM AND THE ABILITY TO BEND FOR MY CHILDREN.**

—CARLOS KELLY

two grandchildren as well as four boys still at home: Lucas (11), Caleb (9), Josiah (5), and Ezekiel (2). Marisel homeschools and also works in real estate and at a Christian school.

This is the first church planting experience and pastoral job for Mieses, who arrived at Buenas Nuevas in 1998. "God called me," he explains. "Our goal was to plant it and leave, but we're still there. God hasn't given the green light [to move on] yet." He asks for prayer as his congregation moves to the next level of ministry.

"We just want to grow and mature more as a church, [not so that we will be bigger, but] so we can do more."

**PRAYER REQUEST: FOR HIS CONGREGATION, AS THEY MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL IN MINISTRY.**

—EDWIN MIESES

**KENNY MOORE** is wrapping up his first year at Trinity in Slatington. Although he and wife Kelly attended Bible college, he planned to work a secular job and volunteer at church on the side. Now, he explains, "I'm really starting to see that my whole life has prepared me for ministry. I would like to see the church filled with the lost, the people who need it. That's really my heart desire, a church full of people hungry for Jesus."

The Moores have a busy household, including Zion (15); Rachael (12); Israel Rose (8); Liberty Grace (5); and Kenneth E. Moore V (2). Zion and Rachael have started a Sunday School for the 25-30 little ones who attend Trinity services, Moore notes, and "My wife does the ladies' Bible study midweek."

**REV. EDWARD R. RUNKLE** has been at Tapestry, a Lancaster church start, since its inception three years ago. Although he worked as a pastor previously, this is his first experience in a church plant. His wife, Bridget, balances her teaching career with her involvement with educational ministry at the church, and the couple's daughter, Julia (8), "faithfully attends" services.

A favorite praise song for Runkle is, "How Great is our God" because, he says, "one of our congregation's most significant ministries is a recovery ministry. In and through this ministry, we have witnessed how great is our God's power to save, heal, restore and transform lives." Runkle asks for prayer as Tapestry seeks to fill leadership roles, especially in children's ministry.

Jacob's Church in New Tripoli is not the typical church plant, notes **REV. SCOTT L. SHAY**. He has been pastor of the church, which dates back to 1761 and has over 500 members, for 19 years. "Two years ago in October, we left the (UCC) denomination and became independent," Shay explains. "Right now, we're half-way through the two year study with the EC church. My request is that that goes well."

Ordained for 30 years, Shay served three years as a Navy chaplain. His

(continued on page 4)