

A PUBLICATION OF EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH MID AMERICA

TAKING THE LAND

2010 was a tough year for Friends Community Church in Angleton, TX. Attendance was down, giving was down and the needs around us have never been greater! But we believe that God will do His work through us even when we feel down. We are committed to radical obedience although we disobey and repent often.

I believe that the Lord led me to what our focus as a church for 2011 should be: "Taking the Land". We took it as a challenge from the Lord to move boldly ahead in advancing the Kingdom of God. Shortly after that revelation, two amazing things happened.



First, the Lord raised up a group of people from our church who have a vision to reach a small town called Oyster Creek (pop. 1,300). This is a rough town with only two little churches, neither well attended. We began prayer walks, looking for a place to open a ministry. Nothing was available. We kept praying. An abandoned Laundromat came up for sale, and we negotiated a price. Now we now have a property in Oyster Creek. We are remodeling the building and should have it operational this spring. We are claiming this city for the Kingdom of God.

Second, our building committee has been working on expanding our church building, but nothing seemed to be coming together right. One of the committee members mentioned our expansion plans to a local land developer. The developer mentioned that instead of expanding we probably needed to move to a better location. He approached his group and mentioned our situation. The group decided to donate 6.4 acres of prime land (the kind that sells by the square foot!) to our church. We now have a prime location, just a half mile from the new Angleton High School campus.

Okay, Lord, you have given us "land", now please give us the faith, obedience and strength to "take it"! This means that we will have to recapture the focus of the early Friends, who are described as a "movement" and not particularly a "church." A movement moves...

Albert and Metali Adhikari, our EFM missionaries from Bangladesh were with us in January. One of Albert's closing statements was that he loved the Friends Church because Friends are a "movement" more than a church. *God, make us brave, make us bold, make us obedient.*



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LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Church Leadership Institute for Ministry began a new interactive audio/video experience with eight participating sites in February. Jim Towne (Associate Pastor from Friendswood Friends) will continue teaching the course, "Worship Leadership," for our next two sessions: March 7 and April 4. The live video session will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m. A time of fellowship and refreshments at the sites will begin at 6:30. Contact Dave Kingrey dkingrey@efcmaym.org 316-461-4616 with any questions.

JR. HIGH BIBLE QUIZ

The second tournament of the Jr. High Bible Quiz season was February 12th in Hutchinson, KS where 14 teams from eight churches competed. Crossroads Friends outscored Argonia Blue in the final round to win first place. Haviland Blue beat Haviland Red for 3rd place. The next quiz will be held March 5th at Derby Friends Church.

SALTSHAKER 2011

Saltshaker 2011 will be going to the EFM mission in Sinaloa, Mexico, June 22-July 7. Saltshaker is an advanced missions trip experience for High School and College students. A required orientation for all participants is June 7-10 at Camp Quaker Haven. Applications and \$150 deposit is due March 1. See friendseyouth.com for more information.

NINE MYTHS ABOUT CHURCH PLANTING

#4 MYTH: Planting usually fails. FACTS:

- The Bad News: Some estimates say that 4 out of 5 new churches will fail and only 1 in 10 sustain at larger than 100 people in worship.
- The Good News: The success rates increase dramatically when the new church takes advantage of training and coaching from experienced church planters.
- Mid America Friends propagates "well-conceived projects" in church planting, which includes assessing church planter pastors, providing training to planting pastor and team, utilizing a qualified coach, and starting with appropriate parent church partnerships for support in early years.
- The success rate of planting well-conceived projects in the Evangelical Covenant Church after 4 years is 86%.

Our Home Missions Board will print one myth at a time in the Insights over nine editions. To see all nine myths go to efcmaym.org. Remember that churches successfully plant churches (rather than yearly meetings planting churches)! This is adapted from an article recently published by the Evangelical Covenant Church of America.

If you are interested in Church Planting or know someone who you think might make a good planter, contact the Ministry Center.

COMING UP IN EFC-MAYM

Jr. High Bible Quiz: March 5, Derby Friends Church

Jr. High Bible Quiz: April 2, Friendswood Friends Church

Jr. High Bible Quiz: April 30, Finals at Northridge Friends Church

Men and Boys Retreat: April 29-May 1 at Camp Quaker Haven

Pastor's Sabbath Retreat: May 9-12 at Allenspark, CO (reg. due March 7)

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