

Update

Summer 2022



When the Lord Builds the House (in Jamaica)



A dozen or so believers sit in a circle inside the cafe. Someone shares a prayer, a song in worship, a lesson from scripture, a testimony of faith

& God's provision. Hands are lifted up in praise, and faces radiate care and love to the group they assemble with. For years, this small group of believers has gathered in the E3 cafe in Kingston, Jamaica to study the word together and grow in their knowledge of God. And in that time, God has blessed them, adding new believers and urging others to come and learn and spend time with him. It has been a sweet time of fellowship and collective growth, yet God had been pricking their hearts for something more: to grow from a Bible study to a New Testament church body.

New Testament teachings and early house church gatherings are a great model to learn from as we see how those first believers navigated the question of how - and why - to assemble together. Paul writes to the Hebrews to hold fast to their profession of faith and not forsake the assembling of themselves together, but rather to support and encourage each other (*Hebrews 10:23-25*). To the Corinthians he spoke of the value of being a body together, and how God gives different gifts to each member; yet when we are able to share and use our gifts, we are all strengthened (*1 Cor 12*). In some of his last writings, Paul writes to Timothy urging him to study and preach the word, being instant in season and

out of season, reproving, rebuking, and exhorting (*2 Tim 2:15, 2 Tim 4:2*). Across these scriptures and others, we see the church existing to provide for many of our needs: worship, praise, prayer, thanksgiving, fellowship, instruction, and even protection of believers. Sound teaching and true community are more critical than ever in our world today.

continued on back ►



▲ Blake and Carlyle teaching an object lesson together

What does E3 mean?

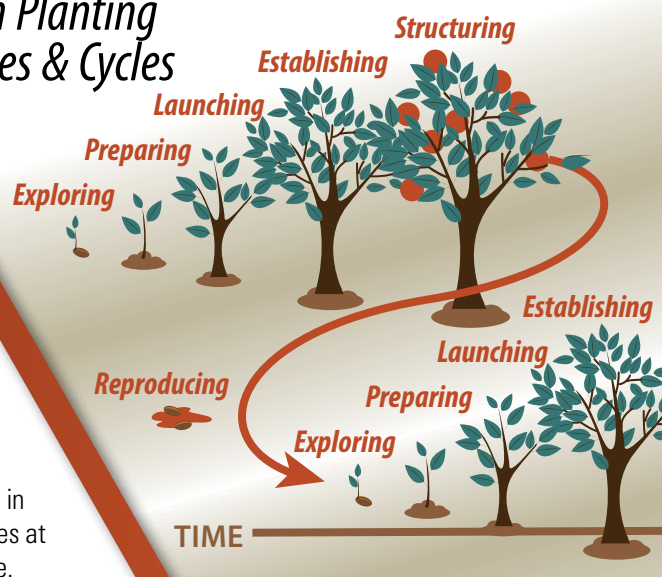
E3 is the name of the cafe in which the church currently meets. For the cafe, E3 means Engage, Equip, Empower. While those words have meaning to Deaf Can! Coffee and to the community, for now, it was simply the easiest name for the church since it is the meeting place. A different name may be selected later.

How does this new church fit into our brotherhood?

The Elder body has authorized this church plant and Bro. Blake Widmer was ordained to shepherd this church. This Jamaican church will be part of our broader Apostolic Christian church family but not in the same way as a typical American congregation. While they will align with our doctrine, the practices will vary due to this being a Sign Language-centric body. Also, to avoid Jamaican cultural associations with the term "apostolic" it will not carry that name.



Church Planting Phases & Cycles



Commissioned to “Go & Teach”

...AND PLANT CHURCHES

Today, many of us are passionately engaged in sharing the gospel with our co-workers, neighbors and friends. As we continue to spread the good news within our communities and these new believers are discipled, a natural progression with God blessing the work is that churches will be planted. And, the exciting news is that we are seeing several examples of church planting within our denomination today both nationally and internationally.

The cover story in this newsletter talks about the church plant in Jamaica at E3 and the recent appoint of Bro. Blake (Sis. Tashi) Widmer to a leadership role. And there are small churches in Mexico, Canada and throughout the U.S. that are in various phases of growth.

Intercultural Church Planting Resources

To assist in planting churches, the Church Establishment Committee (CEC) has developed some intercultural church planting resources. Included is a draft framework to help guide the church planting work, a collection of best practices from previous planting efforts and a discernment process that can be utilized by those who feel called to go. We'll concentrate on the framework in this article along with sharing some examples of progress with church planting in some of our churches today.

Planting Churches

Ultimately, the work of building a church is Christ's and can only be done through the power of the Holy Spirit. The framework was developed to provide some structure to the church planting process while at the same time, avoiding being prescriptive and encouraging trust in the Holy Spirit as doors are opened. Much prayer is required to start the process along with direction from church leadership. The framework can be used as a guide to work through a progression of six overlapping phases. The series of phases overlap (see illustration above) which allows for some aspects of a current phase to “remain fuzzy” as the next phase is explored before it clarifies! The framework was purposely designed not to be a linear process or a step-by-step approach. Some aspects of an upcoming phase may also fall into place before other areas of

the current phase are sorted out. Basically, a church can be in multiple phases at any given time.

Each of the six phases within the framework starts with a clearly defined overview, objectives, and a focus on prayer/fasting. Within each phase, there are six topics that cycle through with increasing clarity. At the end, deliverables are outlined for each phase. Below are more details on each of the phases.

Using your Gifts and Talents for Church Planting

As discussed, these various phases are overlapping and help provide a framework for church establishment rooted in evangelism and

discipleship. Do you have gifting and talents that can help any of the congregations currently involved in church planting? Would you consider praying about getting involved? Now think of your local church. At what phase is your congregation? How can you engage to continue the efforts to spread the gospel in your

Six Phases of Church Planting

Exploring – Discerning and Planning: *This phase involves choosing a focused people group (ex., homeless in the community) and/or location for church planting. This is done through prayerful consideration, developing a vision, forming the church planting team and organizing outside support.*

Preparing – Understanding and Strategizing: *Involves learning about the focus people and their culture, praying, and developing love for them while strategizing how to engage them with the gospel.*

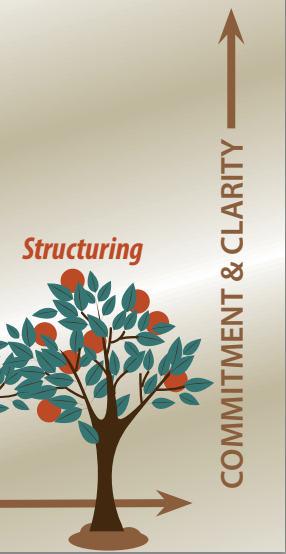
Launching – Evangelizing and Making of Disciples: *This phase builds on the lessons learned during the Preparation phase and the relationships formed so the team can start sharing the gospel and nurturing new believers through teaching obedience to Christ, ministering to others and baptism.*

Establishing – Congregating and Maturing: *This phase involves coming together as believers and starting to function as a “Body” by taking increased responsibility for ministry as local leadership begins to emerge. The group of Deaf Believers that meet at E3 Café are in this Establishing phase due to the recent appointment of local leadership, the emphasis on core teachings around baptism and communion, and working through practical/legal/tax decisions that come with the formation of a church.*

Structuring – Expanding and Growing: *Growing and organizing the church through local believers taking primary responsibility for leadership and new ministries as outside assistance is reduced. In some ways, the church in Ixtlán, Mexico is in the early part of the Structuring phase as additional efforts to strengthen local ministry are ongoing.*

Reproducing – Strengthening and Sending: *Evaluating the church itself to ensure it is 1) still faithful to its calling, 2) starting to plant other churches locally, and 3) becoming a missionary-sending church, which then leads into repeating Phase 1 under the direction of this new church.*

AND THE LORD MAKE YOU TO INCREASE AND ABOUND IN LOVE ONE TOWARD ANOTHER,
AND TOWARD ALL MEN, EVEN AS WE DO TOWARD YOU: ▲ 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12



Changing the Community

HAITI DAIRY IS HAVING AN IMPACT

It will soon be three years since the milking center opened for Haitian cows and began processing fresh milk for consumption. It has been over a year since American cattle were flown in an airplane and arrived at Good Vision Farm. Currently, five Haitian farmers own an American-born milking dairy cow. These events have touched a good number of Haitian farmers and brought a consistent income stream to them. These farmers have learned a lot about improving their operations and living out biblical principles. But how has this farm impacted the broader community surrounding it?

Recently, the Haiti Dairy board of directors was present in Haiti at Good Vision Farm. One goal of this time together was to reach out to several groups of people within the community and listen to them and share with them about our desire to exhibit Christ-centered living in everyday ways, and also to listen to the Haitian community and hear their concerns. Meetings were held with farmers, youth stakeholders, and community leaders.



During the farmer meeting, animal care topics were covered like feeding, genetics and general animal husbandry. Then, visits were made to many of the individual farms where more observations and topics could be covered, specific to that farmer. The Haitian farmers have experienced a lot of connection to Good Vision Farm. It is wonderful to observe the camaraderie in the milking center during milking times. In addition to milking, it is a time of social connection for these Haitians, and the relationships and knowledge they are gaining is exhibited by their increased confidence. All must point to the glory of God, and we believe this is happening in simple and powerful ways.

The youth meeting has been very interesting. This began with a conversation between a board member and Maxi, the farm's Haitian manager, who is very important to this ministry. Maxi has urged the board not to forget Haiti's youth, as they are the future of Haiti.

community and nurture the believers right where you are? If you would like more information about church planting and other resources, contact CEC@harvestcall.org.

**By The Church
Establishment
Committee**





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◀ *Community interaction has significantly increased because people stop by the farm to purchase milk and ice cream*

▼ *Community Meeting was committed to the Lord in prayer*

when the well was drilled at a time of tremendous drought back in 2014, and also the support that was felt during Hurricane Matthew in 2016 (before the first farm building was even constructed) and the earthquake this past August. After listening to nearly everyone express themselves, we praised the Lord when

the Haitians sang "How Great Thou Art" and joined with us in prayer. In spite of the inadequacies of man, the Lord can add the increase. We are so thankful for the way the Haitian community seems connected to Good Vision Farm, and we ask your continued prayers for this ministry that God's name be always glorified.

Please consider attending the Haiti Dairy Good Vision Farm benefit dinner, which will be held on Saturday, June 18, at

◀ *Milking time at Good Vision Farm*

Brachiaria Grass provides fresh-cut forage

▲ *Many children stop by the farm daily to purchase a small cup of delicious homemade ice cream*

Alex Neuenschwander's dairy farm in Bluffton. Registration is required, and more details are available at

<https://www.harvestcall.org/awareness-events>.

By LuAnn Troxel

◀ *Children like Edson benefit from the nutrition in Good Vision Farm milk*



Supplying the Seed

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION MAKES GOD'S WORD AVAILABLE

Springtime is just around the corner and soon gardeners and farmers will be planting their seeds and watching their crops begin to grow. This is a reminder of the role that Bible Distribution plays as part of HarvestCall. This role is supporting planting the seed "I [Paul] have planted" (1 Corinthians 3:6) and we recognize that it takes time before it bears fruit, as stated in James 5:7 "behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until

he receive the early and the latter rain". We persistently plant the seed knowing that harvest will come and yield "some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred" (Mark 4:1). However, a farmer often faces a narrow window of time in which the conditions are right to plant. Similarly, we never know in advance when we will encounter a situation when the soil

of a person's heart
is ready to receive
God's word.

INVENTORY AND DISPLAY AT GOODFIELD DISTRIBUTION CENTER



A pre-requisite to planting the seed is that the seed must be available. Farmers purchase seed well in advance of spring and store it in their sheds to be ready when the conditions are right. The HarvestCall Bible Distribution committee is thankful for the support and generosity of our brotherhood, which has resulted in a fully stocked warehouse in Goodfield, that is ready to pack and ship bibles and other materials to local congregations. English language options include KJV, ESV, and NIV. Bibles are also available in other languages. Additionally, the committee has supported missions in Haiti by procuring and shipping Creole audio bibles and have supported the brethren in Arizona reaching out to some Navajo tribes.

Our desire is to have everyone actively working to spread the seed of God's word by distributing bibles. The Bible Distribution committee is praying that each church and each congregant has a ready supply of God's word to hand to someone in need. Several of our congregations are stocking an inventory of bibles. Some brethren stock personal inventories at home or in their vehicle. These efforts ensure a supply of seed is always available. Recently, a brother shared his testimony of losing a child to suicide, using it as an encouragement for everyone to have the word available for that moment when the soil is ready and we or someone we know needs it.

◀ Bible Display
and inventory
at a local
congregations ▼

If you have any questions or special requests, please engage your local Bible Distribution representative or the Bible Distribution Center at bibledistribution@harvestcall.org. Anyone can order bibles by calling 309-965-2141, e-mailing the distribution center, or online at <https://www.harvestcall.org/distribute-bibles> and clicking 'ORDER BIBLES'.

We invite you to join us in distributing God's word, confident in our knowledge that it ultimately "shall not return unto me void" (Isaiah 55:11). Let us distribute Bibles and seize every opportunity to get a seed into good soil!

By Brett Hodel



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Jamaica E3 Church

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

With a shared desire to live out this vision of a church, this group of Kingston believers, including missionaries Bro. Blake & Sis. Tashi Widmer and Bro. Seth & Sis. Andreen Kaeb began prayerfully pursuing God's direction. After many months of counsel, study, and prayer both as a Deaf-led local body and with the Elder Body, God paved the way for his house to be built. At the end of February 2022, in the same little cafe in Kingston, a slightly larger group of chairs was set up for a



special step forward in faith. Relying on God and trusting that "except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it", this group of believers unanimously supported the ordination of Bro. Blake and Sis. Tashi Widmer to a position of spiritual leadership. The new church body has been and will continue to be Deaf-led, with Bro. Harvey Kaeb, Sis. Judy Kaeb, and Bro. Nick Gutwein as the only non-local attendees for that ceremony. The next day, on Sunday, the newly formed "E3 Ekklesia" or "E3 Church" welcomed over 100 members of the Deaf community to join them in celebration of God's work and to worship him together.

Many of you have played a part in God's work in the Deaf community - perhaps as a



◀ **Signing praises to God**
Believers from other Deaf fellowships gathered to support the formation of this new church. ▼



prayer warrior, a fellow believer willing to learn & engage on a LiFE team to Jamaica, a committed sponsor of students at CCCD, or even a friend or support to missionaries as they serve. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the work God has done and ask for your continued love and prayers.

By Jenna Hartter

6th Annual Haiti Dairy Benefit Dinner

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

DATE: JUNE 18, 2022

TIME: REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 11 AM EASTERN, 12 NOON MEAL

PROGRAM AND FARM TOUR

LOCATION: ALEX NEUENSCHWANDER'S NEU-HOPE DAIRY, 0673 S 500 E BLUFFTON, IN 46714

There is no charge for this event but a free will offering will be requested.

Registration required: www.HarvestCall.org/awareness-events

Questions/Overnight Accommodations: call/text LuAnn Troxel 219-508-3433



STAY CONNECTED

Prayer support is needed in every part of HarvestCall work. Here are two ways to learn about projects, how to be involved and how to pray specifically.

E updates | Get occasional emails with news and info by going to the HarvestCall website (www.harvestcall.org) and selecting "Join our email list" on the home page.

Social Media | Engage with us on Facebook or Instagram for the most current information.

[Facebook.com/harvestcall](https://www.facebook.com/harvestcall)

[Instagram@acharvestcall](https://www.instagram.com/acharvestcall)



HELP FINANCIALLY

Choosing "Where Needed Most" allows us flexibility to direct resources to ministries most in want. However, if you feel moved to support a specific project, just indicate that on the remittance envelope. If specified donations are greater than the need for any designated project, they will be rolled over to the General Fund.

An envelope is provided with appropriate boxes to check. Checks can either be given to your local HarvestCall Representative or mailed to:

**Apostolic Christian HarvestCall
PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996**

Or if you wish to donate online, visit the HarvestCall website at:
www.harvestcall.org/donate

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