



# ignite

## church planting

### chicagoland

ISSUE ONE, 2017

Accelerating Jesus' Mission by Starting Churches

# GOD RESPONDS TO PRAYER

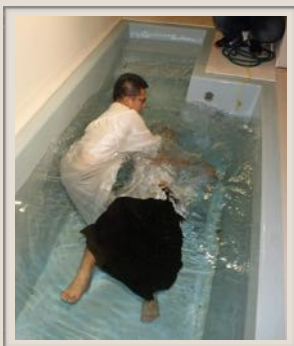
BY LANCE HURLEY (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

(Looking back at 2016)

As I write this, we have just begun our 30 Days of Prayer emphasis. Prayer is one of the core values we embrace as a church planting ministry and I truly appreciate starting off the year with 30 days of focused prayer. During these 30 days, we are praying for Chicagoland counties, for church planters who will reach out to the different people groups of our region and for the city of Chicago. We also highlight the different church plants that are preparing for launch in 2017. Praying specifically allows us to look back and see God's hand at work in direct response to our prayers. In this issue of our newsletter, I thought we would look back at some of these answers.

### RiverStone Christian Church in Oregon, IL

We prayed for this church plant which came from a church that had decided to close. The building was given to Ignite and we began the search for a church planter. God brought Craig Arnold to us and he began to build a launch team. When the church closed, there was a group of about 14 people. Launch day brought 133 people to RiverStone with 100 coming from the immediate area. We rejoiced when 14 people were baptized into Jesus on Memorial Day with others to follow later in the year. God's hand has been at work through the ministry of this new church and new people continue to find Jesus at RiverStone. What a great answer to prayer this church is.



### Engage Christian Church in Oak Park, IL

The December 2015 prayer letter had a little blurb talking about the need for planters on the south and west sides of Chicago. I received a query from a potential planter the first week of December which contained this quote, "I saw what you are praying about and I may be one of the men you are looking for as I want to start a church on the west side." Fast forward a few months, and after assessment, Dawayne and Saylease Choice came to start a new church that would reach out to the African-American community in Chicagoland. Dawayne is in the process of building a launch team for the church and the picture comes



from their first preview service which took place on January 8. Dawayne is involved in mentoring young men in Oak Park and Chicago's Austin neighborhood through area schools

and the Boys and Girls Club. We started praying for someone who would come and help us reach a people group we have not been reaching and God provided a planter. (Engage is anticipating a March 2017 launch in Oak Park, IL.)

### Rvwang Community Church In Glen Ellyn, IL

During last year's prayer emphasis, I felt God calling us to pray for an Asian church planter. Several of us began to do this regularly and I started looking for a planter who would reach this people group. At a church planter meeting in May, Matt Wright (Cornerstone CC in Glen Ellyn, IL) mentioned a man from Myanmar (formerly Burma) who had approached him asking if a church he was starting could meet in their facility. Matt told me that the man is pursuing his doctorate at Lincoln Christian University. When I heard this, I asked Matt to connect me to the man saying, "He may be the person we have been praying for." I met with Robinson and we helped launch Rvwang Community Church. (The picture is from one of the baptisms the church recently celebrated.) I love the way that God answered this prayer, for he not only brought us a planter, but an entire church!!

**"WHEN I CALLED, YOU ANSWERED ME; YOU MADE ME BOLD AND STOUTHEARTED."**

**-PSALM 138:3**

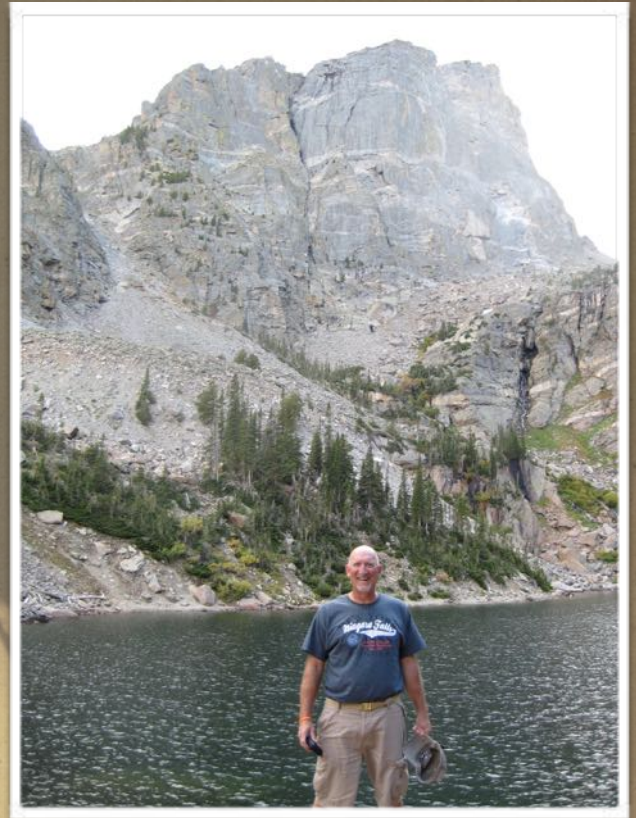
These are just three of the many answers that God gave in response to prayers we prayed. This is why we practice prayer at Ignite, for we know that God responds when his people pray. One of our theme verses for 2017: "When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted." (Psalm 138: 3) Father, continue to help us pray big, bold prayers as we press into the year ahead.



# ASKING GOD TO MOVE MOUNTAINS IN 2017

We know that God wants churches planted so people can find new life in Jesus. Please pray that God will move obstacles so these big prayers can be answered positively in 2017:

- The launch of Engage Christian Church and Nations Chapel Christian Church – that God will bring over 100 unchurched to these new churches;
- Three Chicagoland churches committing to become parent churches;
- Ignite catalyzes a movement of unity among all the Christian Churches in Illinois to focus on church planting here and internationally (through ICOM 2017 in Peoria);
- 20 potential planters in our pipeline from each of the four distinct people groups of Chicagoland.



## YOU CAN STILL ORDER IGNITE'S PRAYER JOURNAL

There is still time to order an Ignite Prayer Journal. This tool will be a valuable resource for anyone wanting to develop a deeper walk with Jesus. It also provides specific prayer items for those who want to pray for Ignite's church planting ministry. Journals are available by sending back the enclosed postcard or clicking the link on our website ([www.ignitechurchplanting.com](http://www.ignitechurchplanting.com)).

For more information, please visit [www.ignitechurchplanting.com](http://www.ignitechurchplanting.com)

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