



PURSuing THE "GREATER THINGS" OF CHRIST'S ASCENDED MINISTRY TODAY! (JOHN 14:12)

**Dear Alumni and Friends of CPC New Haven and Mission Anabaino,**

We at Christ Presbyterian Church New Haven and Mission Anabaino pray you are well and with the anticipation of a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Speaking of, there is often much ado about the "real" meaning of Christmas. From a historical perspective, the great irony is that Christmas (on December 25<sup>th</sup> as associated with Christ's date of birth) was a 4<sup>th</sup> century attempt to Christianize pagan solstice celebrations. Perhaps the jury is still out as to whether or not the whole program has been a success, or that the sum effect has been to paganize Christianity -- the debate continues. But one thing is for sure, to the extent that we remember Christ's incarnation this season, we can all agree that the real meaning of Christ's birth is "Immanuel, God with us," wherein "God and sinner reconciled" (in the words of the Christmas hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*).

And yet this begs the question: How then during Christ's ascension ministry today is Christ STILL with us unto salvation? The clear answer according to scripture is the real, if mediated, presence of Christ in and through the local church (to the degree that this church is carefully built upon the foundation of the apostles with Christ as the cornerstone c.f. Eph 1:22-23, 2:19-22).

Think about it, if this is true, *really true*, then to participate in the birth of a new church in an unreached place is to participate in "Christmas" and the "re-birth" of Christ (mediated) all over again! This mystery is great indeed, how it is that the church becomes the very body of Christ in the midst of us (Eph 1:22). But it is real, even as we see how the church is described as the very epi-center of the coming of the kingdom of God in Matthew 16.

Stated practically, there is no greater evangelistic strategy such as to impact not only this life, but the life that is to come, than to participate in the birth of a new church. It's a place where people are evangelized from their infancy to their death, and it is made accessible both socially and geographically in so far as Christ is in the midst of us by means of the local Christ centered church. This is exactly what we at *Mission Anabaino* are inviting you to do with us. **Will you take a look at the attached brochure that briefly sets forth our vision for "scratch" church plants? And then would you consider giving toward our goal of planting another church in another unreached region?** For without equivocation, we can say that there is perhaps no greater "year end gift" to be made than to participate in such an endeavor—Immanuel, God with us, wherein "God and sinners are reconciled."

Thank you for your consideration,

Rev. Dr. Preston Graham Jr.  
*Senior Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church New Haven*  
*Executive Director, Mission Anabaino*

# MISSION NABAINO

## A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GOSPEL

*"The Spirit operates by creating out of the word a body, which St. Paul calls the Body of Christ....*

*As such this body becomes matched to Christ as His vis-à-vis in history and as the instrument of His saving purpose in the Gospel. It is the sphere where through the presence of the Spirit the salvation-events of the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension are operative here and now in history, the sphere where within the old creation the new creation has broken in with power!"*

— T. F. Torrance

## WHY CHURCH PLANTING?

- Christ tells us that the Church is the epicenter of the Kingdom of God.
- By its very nature — as the mediatorial presence of Christ — the Church IS mission!
- The Church is an essential element of the gospel — outside it there is no ordinary possibility of salvation!

## WHY MISSION ANABAINO?

- MA is uniquely gifted and experienced at cultivating scratch plants in frontier regions.
- MA has a growing reputation for its collaborative approach and expertise in reaching unreached regions with the gospel.
- MA has a Five Mark / "Total Christ" theological vision that is thoroughly informed by Scripture.

**MA HAS A  
PROVEN RECORD OF  
PLANTING CHURCHES**  
**19 CHURCHES  
IN 5 YEARS**



# WHAT WE NEED

Through this year end giving, we hope to raise a full church planting grant of \$150,000! It's not too late to make this tax-deductible year end gift. We are also looking for monthly partners to support the work of MA. For example, a full \$150,000 grant could be reached by:

- 10 people at \$500/month = \$60,000
- 20 people at \$100/month = \$24,000
- 40 people at \$75/month = \$36,000
- 40 people at \$50/month = \$24,000
- 20 people at \$25/month = \$6,000

MA has more church planting opportunities than we can currently support! Future locations are targeted in Mirebalais, Haiti and Madison, WI, among others. **Would you make it your legacy to help plant a Christ-centered church?**



## TO SPONSOR A CHURCH PLANTING GRANT

Visit [anabaino.org](http://anabaino.org) and select "Online Donations" in the upper right hand corner. Under "Donation Applied" select "Mission Anabaino."

or

Write a check to "Christ Presbyterian Church" with "Mission Anabaino" in the memo. Mail to: Christ Presbyterian Church, 135 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT 06510

## MA MISSION CHURCHES



## MA ANCHOR CHURCHES

- CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- CHRIST COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH