

GREATER HOPE MISSION UPDATE

What have I been doing toward the Greater Hope mission since the meeting?

- **Meeting with folks interested in/praying about being a part of our launch team.** These have been great conversations. There are new opportunities for these conversations emerging all the time. I'm very thankful.
- **Learning more about our target area.** In addition to the demographics I shared at the meeting, I've been able to use a very powerful database purchased by the Florida Church Planting Network (MissionInsite) to learn even more about the target area. Also, I've had conversations with people living and/or working in Mulberry about the needs of the area and the vision for Greater Hope. Fun work!
- **Preparing information for a financial support team.** We will need to raise \$255,000 for the first three years of the church plant. I'm preparing budgets, brochures, and pledge cards, and will soon be asking you to help! Thank you to those who have already given!
- **Praying for our target area.** One of my favorite things is to go on "prayer drives" and "vision drives" around the target area. It is amazing what comes to mind as I drive around the city praying for people, churches, businesses, schools, civic officials, etc. Several people have enjoyed joining me on "vision drives," too. On these trips, I get the opportunity to share what's on my heart for ministry as we drive around the Mulberry area.
- **Making new contacts (and reestablishing old contacts) in our target area.** Very positive so far. Excited to do this more. In particular I've connected with an employee of the city of Mulberry who has been praying and working for renewal in the city over the past year. Praise God!
- **Preparing a more detailed timeline for the next year.** We hope to gather a launch team and have the majority of our funds raised by midyear so that we can begin launch team training in the summer and preview services in the fall.
- **Working with other leaders at Trinity to devise a transition plan for me in my role here.** We are working on a plan to pass off my oversight of staff and ministries at Trinity throughout this Spring.

What are the major things I will be doing next?

- **Fundraising.** We hope to receive \$150,000 from church planting networks, but we're praying for God to provide the remaining funds from our launch team and financial support team. That means we're hoping to raise \$255,000 for the first three years of

the church plant. Let me know if you're interested in meeting with me about joining the team.

- **Continuing to meet with folks interested in/praying about being a part of our launch team.** I'm continuing to make it around to as many people as possible. Please let me know if you'd like to meet to talk about the possibility of helping plant Greater Hope!
- **Attending the MNA Church Planter's Conference in February.** Stacey and I will attend this conference in Orlando. This opportunity for training was recommended to us at the Assessment Center in October.
- **Vision gatherings.** We're excited to start these gatherings on February 12. Anyone interested in being part of the launch team (even if you're not sure yet) is encouraged to come! We will share a meal, spend time together, hear a brief update on the mission, and pray. We hope these will become gatherings that you look forward to regularly.
- **Putting our house on Success Avenue up for sale.** We hoped to have this done already, but getting everything "sale and show ready" has been slower than expected. I'm terrible at stuff like this! Pray!
- **Continuing to pray for our target area.** If you want to join me for a "vision drive" or a "prayer drive," let me know! Also stay tuned for updates like this and for future "prayer walks" that we'll be leading around the target area.
- **Launching 2-3 Bible studies in our target area.** We're hoping these Bible studies help build community and generate interest in the gospel. Pray for fruit!

How can you get involved?

- **Pray about joining our launch team.** You (yes you!) could be on God's list!
- **Attend our vision gatherings.** Join us for an evening of food, fun, vision, and prayer. The first gathering is scheduled for February 12 at 5 p.m. at the home of Shayne and Amanda Bass.
- **Talk to me about helping start a Bible study in the target area.** I'm looking for men and women interested in helping others hear and understand the gospel.
- **Pledge to join our financial support team.**
- **Commit to praying for Mulberry and the Greater Hope mission.**