

Deaf Church Planting Ministry

Mason Fenner

While there are hearing churches everywhere, the Deaf Community has very limited access to a church where everything is "Deaf friendly" and where the Gospel is shared in their heart language. Many Deaf who would not attend a hearing church will attend a Deaf church where they have an opportunity to worship God and communicate with their pastor and fellow Christians directly. Even in churches with American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, unfortunately much of the language is lost. It is important for members of the Deaf Community to receive ASL directly from teachers and leaders who have good signing skills. Mason's goal and passion is to provide the Deaf with a church where they can fluently communicate with the pastor and the other members, and where they can come to know Christ as their personal Savior, not hindered by the fact they cannot hear.

Oakwood Deaf Community Church began in 2012 with just 5 attending in Solon, Ohio. Bible study and church services were held at the local recreation center. Over time, the church began to grow and eventually began meeting in Willoughby, Ohio in the fellowship hall of Willoughby Bible Church. Three years later, Mason and his team planted a second Deaf church in Westlake, Ohio bringing the number of Deaf churches in Ohio to a total of four. Mason hopes to see many more "Deaf friendly" churches and ministries grow and thrive in Ohio.

Pray:

For Christ to be brought to the Deaf Community and for the growth of believers.

For more Deaf churches to be planted in Ohio and for new leaders to guide upcoming ministries.

For continued strength, wisdom, and direction from God.

Alpha & Omega Highland Avenue

Julian Antún



When Julian Antún first made the long trip from Dominican Republic to Cincinnati, Ohio he could hardly have imagined what God had in store. As a gifted musician, Julian was invited to share his talents and heart for worship with a Spanish speaking church here in Ohio. It was here in the U.S. that Julian met his wife Cindy and they are now expecting their first child. Together they are working to begin a new church in Northern Cincinnati.

Alpha & Omega Highland Avenue is reaching out to the Spanish speaking population of Southwestern Ohio. They are currently meeting as a small group but are growing and hope to start meeting on Sunday mornings very soon.

Julian and Cindy are already seeing God do incredible things in the lives of kids through a music lesson program. God is using the Antún's love of music to break down barriers and show that God values each and every person. As Julian says, "Life changes... That is my passion: to see that God is doing something in a life through us."

Pray:

For *Alpha & Omega* to be an instrument of God to reach the Hispanic Community.

For the Antúns to have a strong connection with God & a healthy spiritual life.



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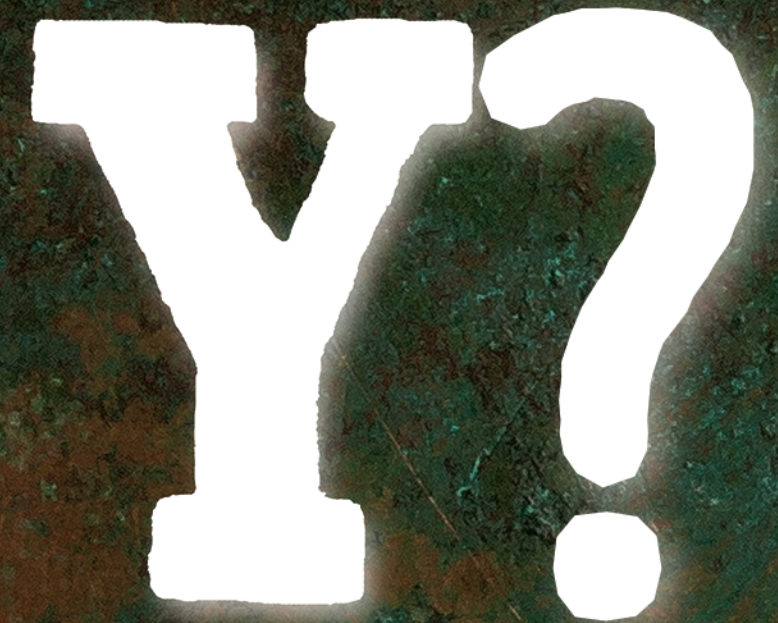
MISSION OHIO

The Ray Roberts Offering
& Season of Prayer for
State Missions in Ohio

PRAYER
GUIDE

Why Mission Ohio?

Every day, tens of thousands of Southern Baptists all over the state of Ohio have an incredible opportunity: to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our God urges every one of His followers to share this earth shaking, sin breaking, life changing message of reconciliation everywhere they go.



As you seek to share Jesus with those you *engage* every day, remember also the other missionaries in Ohio who boldly strive to impact their communities, their people, their neighbors, their families.....

OUR STATE OF OHIO! - for Jesus!

We hope you find the stories that follow encouraging, and that you will join us in praying for the Gospel message to bear fruit throughout Mission Ohio.

For questions & to request additional materials-free of charge, please contact:
State Convention of Baptists in Ohio - A Cooperative Program Ministry
9000 Antares Ave. | Columbus, OH 43240 | (614) 601-6789
Jack Kwok, Ph.D. Executive Director-Treasurer | www.scbo.org

www.scbo.org/SMO



Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps

VJ Sanchez



CWJC/CMJC is a ministry of the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) that began nationwide in 1997. Their purpose is to assist men & women in need with a hand up, not a hand out.



This is accomplished by providing biblically based Life Skills and Pre-Employment Skills Training in a Christian environment where men and women are equipped and encouraged for a new life in Jesus Christ.

VJ Sanchez serves as the director of CWJC in Columbus. Currently in Ohio there are two CWJC sites and one CMJC site with a brand new CWJC beginning very soon in Garrettsville. These ministries are uniquely positioned to impact a tremendous number of individuals and families. Whether reaching out to people who are a part of the SNAP Program of the Welfare Department, working with men who are a part of the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Program, or partnering with the new "South Side Housing & Employment Program," the message of the Gospel is changing lives every day.

It is not unusual for VJ to hear people say, "I never knew that God loves me" or "I never knew I had a purpose for my life." Through this open door VJ is able to help change lives spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially. By providing practical employment training and life skills, CWJC and CMJC are meeting participants from all walks of life and pointing the way to Jesus!

Pray that Mentors and Instructors will be effective in reaching and training participants

Pray for office volunteers to be fruitful in their work - and for more volunteers to join the ministry.

Commencement Church in Colerain

Josh McKinney

"From Day One we have made it a ministry priority to become actively engaged with our community," says Josh McKinney, Church Planting Missionary and Lead Pastor of *Commencement Church* in Colerain Township, a community in the northern part of Cincinnati.

As God was impressing upon their hearts to begin a new work after 11 years of serving a legacy church in Cincinnati, Josh and Missy McKinney found themselves dreaming of the kind of church they wanted to be a part of and where they could raise their two sons. Missy shares, "We felt that it was a non-negotiable that the church that God was going to start be a church that rolled up their sleeves and served. That we served others and not only spoke to others about Jesus, but that we made it a priority to show them Jesus, too!" That is exactly what Commencement has done. Through partnerships with local government, the local school district, and other local non-profits; Commencement has lived out one of its ministry mottos, *to not just go to church, but to be the church*. Commencement has brought back the local community Easter Egg Hunt, served free popcorn at Summer Movies in the Park, provided games and inflatables at community festivals, and introduced a new Fall Festival in the community. The church's partnership with a local elementary school has even given the church the opportunity to minister to teachers, administrators, and families in one of the lowest income areas of the township.

Pray:

That every action of Commencement will lead to opportunities to point more people to Jesus.

For additional partnerships between Commencement, established churches, and potential individual ministry partners.

That God will raise up leaders to become actively engaged in ministry leadership at Commencement.

For the McKinney family as they provide leadership to Commencement and its various ministries.

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Gospel. Dan says the ministry doesn't end there. "Once they do know Jesus they learn to walk again, to talk again. Oftentimes they come and volunteer. The truth is they get busy in the Kingdom advance." This story is true for so many not only at the Life Center, but also at *New Heights Church*, where Dan also serves as pastor. He rejoices to "See the people who are reached for Christ reaching their neighbors and reaching to the city. It's already begun. The Holy Spirit causes that to happen in people."

Dan believes wholeheartedly that once Toledo is changed by the Gospel, then all of the midwest and even the whole nation will be won for Christ.

South Side Life Station & New Heights Church

Dan Stevenson

Dan Stevenson has lived in the Toledo area for most of his life. He personally experienced the remarkable change that Christ can make in a person when he met Jesus at the age of 26. As he recognized the changes God was working in him Dan also found that he was being put to use in advancing the Kingdom. Now he is seeing God work powerfully through him all over Toledo, Ohio.

At the *South Side Life Station*, no one in need is turned away. This mission center is a place for individuals and families to come and receive free food, clothing, toiletries, and most importantly the

Pray:

That Dan and his ministry partners would have the strength, boldness, and opportunities to share the Gospel.

That resources will always be available to provide for practical needs that can lead to meetings with Jesus.

That God will continue to soften hard hearts, to break chains of addiction, and offer freedom from depression.

