

## AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH DEVELOPER'S CALL FOR A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY IN LAKE COUNTY

What is God doing in central Lake County, IL and how can we be a part of it? This question is the focus of the Great Rivers Region new church planting effort in Northern Illinois.

Rev. Roland Kuhl has been living in central Lake County for over 13 years and is the first member of the pastoral team that will be involved in forming this missional community. As yet, there is no community, but there is a vision.



- Presently, Roland Kuhl is prayerfully seeking two or three other persons who will make up the core organizing team for the development of this community – a team that seeks to discern the movements of God in central Lake County.
- An invitation is being developed that will be sent to residents within the subdivisions of Fox Chase,

Sweetwater Mill and Oak Tree in Round Lake Beach, IL, to become a part of a conversation which explores what it is to live life in the way of Jesus and with Jesus.



- The focus of such a conversation is for people to discover the ways of God in a non-threatening manner with the focus on finding ways to live out God's mission in Lake County.



- The plan is to create an environment around a Sunday brunch in a local coffee shop, Café Barista, where neighbors connecting with one another also begin to talk about spiritual things, and by introducing Scripture, the conversation turns to doing life in the way of and with Jesus Christ.

Roland relates that “the community discovers what God is doing as it listens to the stories of God in their daily living. Out of such listening, people begin to see to what God is calling them. These stories become a part of God’s Story as we immerse ourselves in Scripture – not merely as an adjunct to our lives, but as a foundation for guiding our living in light of the righteousness, vision and mission

of God. In this way we begin to live life in the way of Jesus, and more importantly, with Jesus.”

For a number of years in conversation with pastors and people, Roland has discovered that there is a deep sense that God is doing something significant in Lake County, Illinois. Though there are a number of established churches, as well as numerous church plants “doing church” in the seeker-sensitive style, there is a growing dissatisfaction with this kind of approach to “church.” A whole new generation is seeking an encounter with God that is more than “Sunday services” but is seeking for a religious experience where God is in the totality of life.

So what exactly is a missional community?

A missional community is a community of people who desire to engage all of life not only in the way of Jesus, but with Jesus Christ – living out the gospel of the kingdom/reign of God. Daily they purpose, through their speech, behavior, and actions, to continue the ministry of Christ in the contexts where God has placed them. In this way, this community discovers how they are being used of God to fulfill God’s mission in the world – restoring all creation and reconciling all humanity to God.

It is a great joy to extend the second ABCD call of 2006 for this exciting new church plant initiative - a missional community in central Lake County in Northern, Illinois! The gift you give today will make it possible for American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region to partner in the forming of this missional community as they seek to participate with what God is doing in Lake County.

**Send your check in the enclosed envelope today!**

**ABC-GRR POB 3786 Springfield, IL 62708**

**If you want to support New Church Planting in the Great Rivers Region through the ABCD program, please contact the GRR Regional Office for more information.**

**217-726-7366**