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*Flourishing* in the Desert

*PCA Chaplains*  
offer guidance to those in need





# Flourishing in the Desert: Catalina

*"The night before the first worship service, I just got down on my knees and said, 'God, please give us 100 people tomorrow'... The next day we had 101 adults and 31 kids. We haven't looked back since. Today, we have over a thousand members, and we've already spun off three churches in town." -Mark Roessler, Catalina Foothills Church*

Backdropped by the Catalina Mountains of Tucson AZ, Catalina Foothills Church (CFC) has successfully planted three daughter churches in a region of the country thirsty for the Gospel. A participating church in the Southwest Church Planting Network, CFC has also helped to plant churches in Las Vegas NV, Santa Fe NM, Flagstaff AZ, Seattle WA, Albuquerque NM, and Honolulu HI.

When senior pastor Mark Roessler first arrived in Tucson over 15 years ago, he wasn't sure it was going to work. "The night before the first worship service, I just got down on my knees and said, 'God, please give us 100 people tomorrow,'" he recalls. "I was scared it was going to be a flop."



Winston Maddox with Catalina Foothills Church (CFC) Senior Pastor Mark Roessler (right).



Catalina Foothills Church.

His fears were unfounded. "The next day we had 101 adults and 31 kids. We haven't looked back since. Today, we have over a thousand members, and we've already spun off three churches in town." Founding members Paavo and Marguerite Ensio hosted early worship services at their Tucson home. "We called it Patio Presbyterian Church, because we met on their patio," jokes Mark.

Mark and his wife Norma moved to Tucson in 1994 from Birmingham AL, where Mark was on the staff at Briarwood Presbyterian Church. A native of Mississippi, Mark and his family have also lived in North Carolina and Florida. "I kept telling Paavo that I didn't work west of the River," he smiles. "But when I flew out here to look at the possibility of planting a church, one thing I noticed was that there weren't many churches out here at all. In Birmingham,

there's a church on every corner. We started praying about it, and reluctantly we decided to come. There's an old saying by Borden of Yale. If you see ten men carrying a log, and there are nine men on one end and only one man on the other, where would you go? Well, you'd go to the end with just one man."

CFC's emphasis on evangelism and outreach has resulted in rapid growth of the church and its church planting network. "Each time we've planted a church," says Mark, "we send people out from our church who then become the core for the new church. That's always a step of faith. It's very hard to do, because we become very attached to those people, and we've worked hard to build relationships with them."

"The hardest one for me was our first plant," he continues. "In 2001, we sent out over a hundred people from our church to plant



Rincon Mountain Church in east Tucson.



# Catalina Foothills Church

Rincon Mountain Church. It was hard. But the best way to plant churches is to be willing to take some of the people you have and use them to get another church started.”

Led by Phil Kruis, former assistant pastor at CFC, Rincon Mountain Church is located in east Tucson. “God has built a very strong, healthy and vibrant family-centered community here at Rincon Mountain,” says Phil. “We’re a suburban church that is seeking to meet the needs of our community through Gospel living and Gospel procla-



Holy Cross Church Pastor Pete Rehrmann.

planting and put aside money to plant churches, what you’re doing is creating another missions minded giving and sending entity. You’re growing another church that will support missions work and other churches.”

Mark finds that leading by example is the most effective way to inspire others to share his vision for outreach. “The key to evangelism is that Jesus said, ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.’ If the senior pastor of the church is not out doing it, then there’s no way for him to say, now y’all need to go out and go do this. The key is to follow Christ yourself. That’s how you equip others.”

In 2007, CFC sent out Allen Cooney to plant Dove Mountain PCA, now led by Ed Eubanks. Holy Cross Church began meeting for worship in 2011, led by Pete Rehrmann, former youth pastor at CFC. There are also plans to launch a new church plant close to the University of Arizona. Led by Andy Tracy and Mark Wellman, University City Church already has a strong core group of about 150–200 students who have been attending CFC’s college and career group, called the Branch.

Mark describes church planting as a kind of multiplication: “If you invest in church



mation. The greatest needs of our part of Tucson all impact the family in significant ways. Debt, domestic violence and drug use top the list. We strive to equip every person who walks through our doors with Gospel tools for community engagement.”

*“The key to evangelism is that Jesus said, ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.’ If the senior pastor of the church is not out doing it, then there’s no way for him to say, now y’all need to go out and go do this. The key is to follow Christ yourself. That’s how you equip others.”*

*-Mark Roessler, Catalina Foothills Church*



Rincon Mountain Church Pastor Phil Kruis.



Holy Cross members and friends.





When CFC first started out, Mark began training about a dozen people to share their faith, using Evangelism Explosion as a guide. “That was back in 1995. Several of those people are still with us. Winston Maddox was my first trainee, and now he’s the executive pastor of our church,” he says.

Evangelism efforts have ebbed and flowed. “Not all of our daughter churches do it the way we do it,” Mark says. “They’re all a little different. We sometimes had up to 50 people going out on Wednesday nights to share their faith. Currently we have just about nine folks that do so. I still go out on those calls myself. Just last week we led an 82-year-old man to Christ in his living room. His wife was just ecstatic — she had been praying for him for years.”

Ed Eubanks is the pastor of Dove Mountain Church. “Our approach to outreach is somewhat less programmatic and more organic than that of our mother church,”



Ed Eubanks, left, with Ty and Kali Reece and their daughter Brooklyn.

*“The south side of Tucson tends to be more economically depressed. We have multiple opportunities to reach other ethnic and socio-economic groups. It’s our vision as a church to be a part of that.”*

*-Ed Eubanks, Dove Mountain Church*

he says. “We tend to emphasize the value of natural relationships that occur with coworkers and next-door neighbors and friends from the gym or the golf club or wherever it is that you have friends outside the church. We emphasize the importance of investing in that friendship, loving them well, and being a good friend to them — as well as taking the opportunity when it presents itself to welcome them into the life of the church or to invite them to worship or some other church event. Our folks have responded much more to this style of evangelism. They feel better equipped for a more organic style of outreach.”

Dove Mountain Church currently meets in a local Christian school. “We have a pretty diverse group of regular attenders,” says Ed, “which is representative of the culture here in Tucson. We have working professionals, those with blue-collar jobs, retirees, and college students. Wycliffe Bible Translators have their Mexico headquarters in north Tucson. Probably 12 to 15 people in our congregation are actively involved with or

retired from Wycliffe, and a few other families have been involved in missions work.”

Ed sees plenty of opportunities in Tucson to reach out to the lost. “We have an Air Force base here, which is largely an unreached area,” he says. “The south side of Tucson tends to be more economically depressed. We have multiple opportunities to reach other ethnic and socio-economic groups. It’s our vision as a church to be a part of that.”



Dove Mountain Church members and friends.

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# PCA CHAPLAINS OFFER SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE TO THOSE MOST IN NEED

“Opportunities for US military and civilian chaplains are growing and expanding,” says MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator and PRCC\* Executive Director Doug Lee, “Reformed men who feel called to ministry, but whose skills are more in line with the personal counseling that’s a large part of being a chaplain, should take into consideration this growing and fertile field of ministry.”

Doug served as an Army chaplain for over 30 years. Today, he oversees MNA chaplain ministries, which includes recruiting and endorsing prospective chaplains.

According to Doug, there are currently over 200 chaplains in the PCA. Most of these serve in the military. Close to 90 PCA chaplains serve in a civilian capacity, in nursing homes, hospitals, federal and state prisons, police and fire precincts, The US Department of Veterans Affairs, and marketplace ministry in businesses across the nation.

Luke Heibel works as a chaplain at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. “In my ministry, I encounter people who would otherwise never cross the threshold of a church,” he says. “It’s an occupation that in both simple and surprising ways connects me to others at points of crisis and acute need, every single day.

Chaplaincy casts me into ministry situations that require me to give all that I have — and simultaneously reveals how insufficient my best efforts are apart from God’s grace.”

“It’s a humble ministry devoid of conspicuous human glory,” adds Luke, “but it will lead you to where God is active in human hearts because of his fierce passion and love for inconspicuously precious people. Chaplaincy serves ordinary, suffering people who are often completely ignored and falling through the cracks of society.”

A chaplain is a teaching elder who preaches, teaches, counsels, performs marriages, and conducts funeral and memorial services. “But he wouldn’t have the normal routine of a church or personal interaction with a church flock over the course of many years,” says Doug. “He would be advising a secular supervisor who may or may not be a Christian; he might be working under a chain of command, accountable to somebody else. He might be advising hospital staff on ethical issues, or death issues. It’s a different world.” Doug would love to see the chaplaincy more advocated among our Reformed churches. “In the PCA,” he says, “we have more pastors than positions. More men ought to consider that maybe God could use their skills in a chaplaincy position. There are plenty of places for a pastor to serve outside a normal parish ministry.”

For more information, or to see how you might get involved, visit [prcc.com](http://prcc.com) | \*Doug Lee serves as MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator and as Executive Director of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains (PRCC), which endorses chaplains for seven Presbyterian and Reformed denominations.



From left: Navy chaplain Stephen Scott, Retired Navy chaplain Ron Swafford, Retired Army chaplain and former Chaplain Ministries Coordinator Dave Peterson, Retired Navy chaplain Stan Beach, Retired Army Chaplain and Chaplain Ministries Coordinator Doug Lee, Air Force Chaplain Joey Wright, Navy chaplain Twig Sargent.



At the US Naval Chaplaincy School ceremony honoring Chaplain Beach, his wife Ellen is escorted by grandson Marine Corporal Matthew Beach.

A rare honor took place recently at the US Naval Chaplaincy School and Center at Fort Jackson SC: A key building wing was named in honor of PCA Naval hero, retired Chaplain Stan Beach. US Navy policy does not permit buildings to be named after living persons; an exception was made for Chaplain Beach — indicating the high esteem in which he is held. Chaplain Beach began his Chaplain career as a Navy and Marine chaplain during the Vietnam era. He was wounded while caring for Marines in Vietnam and his exploits during an intense battle continue to inspire and encourage Naval chaplains today. Several PCA active and retired chaplains were able to rejoice with him on Dedication Day.



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## INSIDE MULTIPLY SUMMER 2013

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- PCA CHAPLAINS OFFER SPIRITUAL  
GUIDANCE TO THOSE MOST IN NEED

## From the Coordinator

*“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will **pour** my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.” Isaiah 44:3*



Dear Friend,

In this issue of *Multiply*, you'll read about the church planting efforts of Catalina Foothills Church (CFC) in Tucson AZ. Over the past 20 years, CFC has successfully planted three daughter churches in the area, with a fourth in the works. In a place where the spiritual climate greatly resembles the surrounding

arid landscape, CFC's focus on outreach and various methods of evangelism are like streams of living water flowing in the desert.

“As the Gospel takes a greater grip on our hearts, we have been blessed to see many adult conversions to Christ through faithful Gospel proclamation,” says Phil Kruis, pastor of Rincon Mountain Church, one of the daughter churches. “We have also been blessed to see many professions of faith from our covenant children.”

You'll also hear from Doug Lee, MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator, about how PCA chaplains are a vital part of our ministry across the nation. Chaplains encounter people at times of greatest need — whether in military duty, serving a prison sentence, or suffering in the hospital. Chaplains have a unique opportunity to share Christ's love with those who might never attend a church worship service.

Thank you for your continued prayers and diligent support of ministries like these. With your help, the Word of God will continue to go forth into dry and desolate places thirsty for the Gospel.

In His Name,  
Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator