

## Serving Church Planters Through Coaching

Coaches help athletes to become all that they can be! Steve Ogne helped me understand the value of coaching for church planters when he came alongside me as I started Lake Hills Church in 1990. He listened, cared, strategized, trained, and challenged me along the way. That's what good ministry coaches do—help leaders develop their God-given potential so that they grow personally and make a valuable contribution to the kingdom of God.

Now as I coach church planters, I love encouraging others in starting new churches. Coaching isn't about giving advice; it's about listening, providing support, and asking good questions. I love coaching church planters! Let me introduce you to two church planters I've been coaching in the Missionary Church Western District this past year:



Mike and Christie Clack, Queen Creek, Arizona.

Mike Clack is planting **Fellowship Connection Church** in Queen Creek, Arizona. They've recently launched Phase 1 of their communitywide Sunday morning encounters, meeting in a movie theater. Just like missionaries in a foreign country, their launch team is discovering ways to relate to lost people and communicate the good news of Jesus. Mike shared recently: "We hosted a BBQ and UFC Fight Night at our house and had 40 nonattending friends there. We are really focusing on building relationships with people first." Everyone who is part of this new church has come through a relational connection. Please **pray** that they will make disciples who make disciples in the Queen Creek community.

Willie O'Burke, with several families from **Windsor Community Church**, began **Crossway Chapel of Greeley**. After one year, their new church of 110 people is constantly building relationships with people who don't know Jesus. Willie notes, "Our approach to evangelism is not program-based, but lifestyle-based. People are building relationships and making friends with nonchurched people in their lives, and when it's time, they're inviting people to be among others in the body." Please **pray** specifically for wisdom and guidance for Willie, that the Lord will protect and preserve their unity, and that many souls would be saved through the church's ministry.



Willie and Lisa O'Burke, Greeley, Colorado.

There's one more thing related to coaching that I'm excited about. Last month I began a coaching certification program which began with a three-day training event in Hollywood, Calif. During the next six months, I will receive training and coaching to further develop my ministry coaching skills. Would you please **pray** for me to learn all I can through this process?

We give thanks to God for the prayers and financial support we receive each month. As soon as we are 100 percent supported, we can devote ourselves fully to serving church planters through coaching, assessing, and training. Do you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to contribute monthly? If so, we are grateful for your partnership in our ministry.

Thankfully,

*Dave for the DeVries*