



# EQUIPPER

The monthly e-magazine from the Ministry Development Team of  
Grace Communion International, Church Administration and Development USA

April 2011  
Volume 6, Issue 4  
[www.gci.org/MinDev](http://www.gci.org/MinDev)

Dear minister on journey with Jesus:

Last month, several of us from the CAD team attended the Generations Ministries (GenMin) summit held near Dallas, TX (see picture). About 100 leaders, representing seventeen GenMin camps and three missions groups, gathered for celebration and training. A highlight was the inspiring testimonies from twenty- and thirty-something leaders who are committed to Christ, to his mission, and to our denomination. Those of us who are a bit older, are privileged to help encourage and equip them. Not only are they our future—they are a welcome, vital part of our present journey with Jesus.



GenMin summit near Dallas

This year, leaders from Church Multiplication Ministries (CMM) joined the summit for meetings of their own, and joint meetings with GenMin. We were thrilled to hear reports of new GCI churches being planted by our young leaders—many having “cut their teeth” in leadership in the GenMin system. We are going forward together!

In this issue, we share an article from Steve Elliott concerning how a small church is involved in church planting. Steve is an experienced planter and trainer/coach of planters. He joined us in Dallas to help us strategize ways to participate in what Jesus is doing to multiply churches. Steve is also addressing our 2011 regional conferences.

Wishing you and yours a joyous Easter,

Ted Johnston, CAD ministry development and communications

## Ministry Resources

- Sample sermons for Easter: <http://www.preaching.com/sermons/easter/>
- *Was Easter Borrowed from a Pagan Holiday?*: <http://tinyurl.com/6jofuzc>
- *Ten Reasons Why Small Churches Stay Small*: <http://tinyurl.com/63maaz7>
- Free audio training course with Tim Keller on Christ-centered preaching (requires free download of I-Tunes): <http://tinyurl.com/4aksf6p>

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### Church Next Training

CAD is pleased to announce the next round of *Church Next Training*, designed to prepare ministry leaders to start new churches and to help pastors participate in church renewal and church planting.

October 11-15, 2011

GCI Headquarters, Glendora, CA

For information and registration, email [Randy.Bloom@gci.org](mailto:Randy.Bloom@gci.org).

Outfitting churches, ministries, pastors and ministry leaders for ministry on journey with Jesus.

## A Church Planting Story by Steve Elliott

Pastor Celestino “Jun” Sabate moved to central California in 1998 and planted a church among Filipinos living there. In the twelve years since, that one small church has multiplied into five, with three more in development. Several other churches have been planted in the Philippines and Japan with the active involvement of Jun and others from the original church plant. How did this multiplication occur?

Though Jun began with little financial support, he received intensive church planting training from the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). There Jun learned that effective church planting requires developing a church “system” that advances **multiplication at every level of ministry**: multiplication of believers (through congregational involvement in evangelism), multiplication of disciples (through relationship-centered growth experiences), multiplication of leaders (through relationally discerning potential leaders and then training them), multiplication of ministries (through empowering and deploying the growing number of leaders), and multiplication of churches (which is the result of becoming effective at all of the other levels of multiplication). For New Testament examples of this pattern of multiplying churches, see Acts 1:8, Acts 19:10-12, Acts 13 and I Thessalonians 1.

Jun allowed me (Steve) to be his coach and mentor during those early years, and that helped him. But what carried him through the challenges and tough times, was his faith in God and a determination to follow God’s Word, which he believes teaches the true nature of the church and describes a magnificent church planting movement—one led by the Apostle Paul, his traveling team of church planters, people Paul trained along the way, and the other Apostles.

Jun trained his people, starting with his elders. He taught them to lead (in a way that reflects Jesus’ leadership, see Mark 10:45), and to teach and to preach. He is thrilled to boast in his disciples’ success, believing that his elders now preach as effectively as he does. When he travels around the U.S. and in other countries, he is thankful that he leaves his congregation in capable hands and does not have to bring in outside preachers to take his place.

Jun says that this delegation of pastoral leadership responsibility is counter-cultural for Filipinos. It is common for them to view the pastor’s role as similar to that of a Roman Catholic priest, who would not give “ecclesiastical responsibilities” to the “laity.”

So, one small church planted twelve years ago, has become twelve more relatively new churches. Now the vision of this growing family of churches is to plant at least twenty more churches over the next decade in the U.S., Asia, and potentially other parts of the world.

Can a small church plant churches? My answer to that question is a resounding “Yes!”



Steve Elliott



Pastor Jun Sabate

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Steve Elliott, an experienced church planter, formerly served as regional church planting leader for EFCA. Steve is now President of *Church Assistance Ministry (CAM)*, a mission agency that specializes in training, coaching and leadership development for church plants, churches, denominations and mission organizations in various parts of the world. Steve currently provides consulting services to GCI in the U.S. In addition to his role as a church pastor, Jun Sabate serves as CAM’s International Director.