



# Loving Our Communities to Christ

*A prayer-care-share initiative of the Mission America Coalition*

Second Quarter

Issue 2, 2010

**Fresno, Calif.**

*God provides needed medical equipment for an elderly woman in Fresno through neighbors who took time to pray for her and hear her needs.*

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**Boise, Idaho**

*Read three stories of individuals coming to Christ in the Treasure Valley / Boise area through the prayer-care-share lifestyle!*

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**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

*One church is reaping a harvest in Cedar Rapids with new commitments to Christ nearly every week.*

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**Fox Valley, Ill.**

*Businesses in the Fox Valley have asked the Tri-City prayer team to prayer walk their buildings and have reported a decrease in accidents and unfounded law suits since.*

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**Thomasville, Ga.**

*To have a more racially diverse planning team, city leaders in Thomasville are gathering African-American leaders to hear from them and share the LC2C vision.*

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**See these stories and more about Loving Our Communities to Christ partner cities inside!**

*Cover photo from Field Day, a neighborhood outreach of the Hope Initiative in Tuscaloosa, Ala.*



**The Tri-City Prayer Team prays for awakening and reviving in the Fox Valley.**

## Fox Valley, Ill. [website](#)

“Stayed and Steady” in prayer-care-share has been the motto of Love Fox Valley volunteers. The Fox Valley is made up of four contiguous regions (Valley North, Elgin, Tri-Cities, and Aurora) with interdenominational and cross-cultural pastors prayer groups. When one marketplace leader and his wife entered early retirement, the Lord raised them up to call business people, pastors, and intercessors to unite for weekly prayer. Bob and Jan Troendly are avid Catholics who love the Lord and love sharing the gospel. Their Tri-City Prayer Team prays for awakening and reviving in the Tri-City region. Some businesses have invited the Tri-City prayer team to prayer walk their buildings and have reported a decrease in accidents and unfounded law suits after the prayer walks. In the Elgin area, a citywide Good Friday service took place in April representing about 11 churches. The Pastors Prayer Group has brought in several official leaders in the city for prayer—to encourage them and bless them in their roles in the community. Leaders have included the Elgin Chief of Police, School Superintendent, Fire Chief, and Jerry Rose from TLN (Total Living Network).



**Men from four different congregations work together during Spring Clean in Santa Rosa.**

## Norwalk, Iowa [website](#)

Five congregations are walking together in the small city of Norwalk, which has about ten congregations in all. As they considered involvement in Loving Our Communities to Christ, coach Bill Berry held a Skype conference call with them from New Orleans, providing an on-screen presentation for 20 minutes and seeing each pastor on camera as they asked follow up questions. “Out of this conversation all the congregations represented chose to become part of the LC2C movement,” report Berry. “Our plan is to continue to use Skype as a tool for coaching.”

## Santa Rosa, Calif. [website](#)

The annual Spring Clean in Santa Rosa included about 1,100 people in four cities gathering to clean up their communities. This care event has created trust and appreciation for the Church in the community. In addition, more churches than ever are coming together to offer school supplies to needy families. More than 40 churches will distribute about 2,000 full backpacks to kids and

present the gospel to parents. In the last four years, more than 2,000 people have committed their lives to Christ through this outreach. The leadership team in Santa Rosa has expanded beyond pastors and ministry leaders to include leaders in the marketplace and those with ministry in prayer and intercession.

## Charlotte, N.C. [website](#)

The prayer tent in downtown Charlotte continues to be a blessing to the community. Several months ago Charlotte Awake held a meeting with women in the city to call them to begin prayer cells all over the city. Three prayer cells have begun with commitments for 15 more. One of the city leaders, Janet Butts, has birthed Pennies for Hope project, caring for people’s immediate needs as well as empowering them to take steps for the long term.

## Boise, Idaho

The leadership team in the Treasure Valley / Boise area has expanded to include more pastors and marketplace leaders, meeting together twice a month to work through strategic planning. Over 1,500 people participated in Seek God for the City this year and they had strong participation in the National Day of Prayer gathering at the Capitol.

## Newton, Kansas. [website](#)

Newton held its Kingdom Class Awards Banquet in April honoring individuals, congregations, and ministries in Harvey County who have modeled a Kingdom spirit. The Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast and Igniter Student Ministries were honored for interdenominational cooperation and having community impact through “being good news / sharing good news.”

## COMING TO CHRIST IN THE TREASURE VALLEY

*One member of the Boise leadership team had been praying for three employees at his business for several years. He listed their names on the prayer wall at his church. Soon after, one of them came to him for help with her son and wondered if his church could help her too. They met with the pastor that day and she asked the Lord to come into her life!*

*Another couple attended a church membership class in the Treasure Valley. The wife, Debbie, shared that she and her husband had successfully raised their children as atheists and now she regretted that choice. She had received Christ two years before. Her husband Dave had been attending the church for a few months. “I’m still an atheist but...when Jim preaches I just have to listen,” he said. “There’s something about his sermons that forces me to pay attention.” The couple set up a time to talk to a pastor about Debbie being baptized and at that meeting the pastor shared the gospel with both of them. Dave announced that he was ready to accept Christ. They prayed together and four days later, Dave and Debbie were baptized. Now, they pray for their three children to receive Jesus.*

*Jami, a woman in her 40s, has had a history of drug use and jail time. She indicated on her registration card in church that she had questions about her faith. She met with the pastor and prayed to receive Jesus that day. Jami told her daughter Sheila, who is 18 and pregnant, that she needed to talk with the pastor, too. Three weeks later, Sheila received Christ as her Savior. Later, Jami wrote on a prayer request card: “My life has been so incredibly changed since receiving Jesus in my life. It continues to be incredible every day. Praise God.”*

## Tuscaloosa, Ala. [website](#)

About 500 people in Tuscaloosa are committed to a daily prayer-care-share lifestyle and about 50 people have made new commitments to Christ so far this year! The Tuscaloosa Prayer Network reports involvement from 50 congregations, five ministry organizations and 10 marketplace groups.

The HOPE Initiative is being extended into the city of Northport with the cooperation of Northport Mayor Bobby Herndon and his staff—a significant step for the community.

In the Alberta area, the Police Athletic League (P.A.L. program) is working with the churches to help provide athletic, recreational, and educational opportunities that help build trust between police officers and the young people of the area. Positive relationships between young people and police officers reinforce responsible values and attitudes, which promotes a safer and more positive community.

## El Paso, Texas [website](#)

One of the city leaders in El Paso, Lauraine Huffman, has begun a small group for women leaders, “The Olive Branch.” She is discipling women leaders and teaching them to make disciples. One of the women is head of the local Better Business Bureau and recently made a commitment to Christ. Another discipling group “12 for Jesus” meets Mondays to encourage each other and share progress.

El Paso and its sister city Juarez, across the border of Mexico, continue to be lifted up to God in prayer 24/7 through a prayer initiative launched a year ago. About 28 churches and 168 prayer partners participate. A monthly gathering of youth ministers, called UNIFY, sponsors several citywide events including the annual youth-led conference and service day.

## Thomasville, Ga. [website](#)

City leaders in Thomasville have started a “listening process” in order to have a more racially diverse strategic planning team. They are gathering African-American leaders to hear their perspectives, glean from their wisdom, and share the Loving Our Communities to Christ (LC2C) vision, hoping to draw some of them into leadership. Five issues have risen to the surface through this process with the “hub” issue being church unity and communication. “People see the Church as having a coordinating function in the



**The Fresno core leadership team prays together at a recent meeting.**

community. Without unity and communication, the various ministries and agencies are less effective,” reports Thomasville LC2C Coach Howard Boyd.

## Fresno, Calif. [website](#)

About 20 pilot churches are involved in Loving Our Communities to Christ (LC2C) in Fresno, recruiting about 1,000 of their members to Loving Our Neighbors. About 600 are actively committed to a daily prayer-care-share lifestyle. Many on the leadership team are finding creative ways to love their neighbors. One put benches in his front yard in order to meet his neighbors. Another connected a poor family on his street with a Southern Baptist youth service project that will provide the family with a new roof at no charge. Others in need are referred to Love INC, such as one neighbor with a toothache who was referred to a dentist in a Love INC church and received immediate care without charge. The Police Department in Fresno leads “Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life,” organizing church-based evangelistic block parties in the poorest parts of the community. National Day of Prayer events for both Fresno and Clovis were twice the size they have ever been and had a Loving Our Neighbors theme. Sixty parachurch



**Eugene ministry leaders were among 5,000 who greeted National Guard Troops returning home.**

ministries in the community come together monthly for the Citybuilders Roundtable.

## Eugene, Ore.

About 45 congregations and ministry organizations are involved with One Hope, the Loving Our Communities to Christ (LC2C) partner in Eugene. Sixty pastors and ministry leaders gathered to hear the vision for a prayer-care-share lifestyle and the LC2C movement from LC2C coaches Tom White and Larry DeWitt. Also in the second quarter, nine local congregations joined together to begin a Love INC development team. In April, 35 pastors and ministry leaders were among 5,000 to greet National Guard Troops as they returned home from Iraq. The pastors served cake to the soldiers and those attending the ceremony.

## Rhode Island [website](#)

About 30 congregations have come on board as the Loving Our Communities to Christ process begins in Rhode Island. In June, 10 of the congregations swapped pastors and each visiting pastor shared the prayer-care-share vision, which was well received.

### CARING FOR NEIGHBORS IN FRESNO

*“[One of our elderly neighbors] had just undergone surgery and was having difficulty getting around. After we visited with her for a bit, we asked if we could pray for her. She told us she needed a muscle stim machine that her insurance wouldn’t cover. As the Lord would have it, I had one sitting in my closet. We prayed for her and, later, when I took it to her, she was so grateful. She told me that she had been wanting someone to pray with her, and she felt we were sent from God. We were so grateful that we had the opportunity to get to know her and to share and pray with her.”*

—Member, Northwest Church, Fresno



**The local Christian radio station in Cedar Rapids invited Serve the City to do live radio spots promoting National Day of Prayer.**

## Cedar Rapids, Iowa [website](#)

Cedar Rapids is taking action to prevent the peak of suicides, domestic abuse, divorce, and addiction that can take place in a community years after a significant disaster. Serve the City in Cedar Rapids is forming a sister corporation Hope CDA, an affiliate of the national Christian Community Development Association. As a result of the historic flooding in Cedar Rapids in 2008, about 300-500 homes need to be rehabilitated along with 600 empty lots. An organization like Hope CDA will help rebuild the community and rebuild lives. Serve the City in Cedar Rapids also formed a local chapter of the Christian Emergency Network to offer training and coordinated response services for a future disaster.

The National Day of Prayer had its highest attendance this year in Cedar Rapids. As 200 laypeople, pastors, and ministry leaders gathered for the noon-time prayer rally, the “National Day of Reason” group also came with its state president for the second time in three years.

“We loved on them and privately welcomed them again this year,” reports city leader Charles Daugherty. “We had an opportunity to operate functionally in prayer-care-share. The president related to us what she had told the eight college students: ‘You don’t have to be afraid of these people, these people are some of the most loving people you will meet.’”



**About 26 leaders from Kansas City attended the National City Impact Roundtable and the Mission America Annual Gathering in March in Birmingham. Paul Cedar and Tom White address the group.**

## Kansas City, Kan.

This year has been a fruitful one for the citywide prayer movement in Kansas City as the Kingdom expands through making friends, deepening connections in the presence of God in united prayer, and mission across racial and denominational lines.

## Phoenix, Ariz.

A leadership team is emerging for Loving Our Communities to Christ in Phoenix, and new relationships are continually being built. As a result of preparation for the Luis Palau festival and the Season of Service, leaders of every level are connecting to the prayer-care-share vision. Many are building lasting care relationships through the Season of Service activities.

## Charleston, W.Va. [website](#)

When a sensitive public announcement was to be made from the governor’s office, the Charleston governor called Pray West Virginia to request a prayer team before he made the announcement. A team of intercessors came together in the reception area of his office and he asked for prayer for the decisions being made in the legislature, as well as the announcement. Pray West Virginia distributed nearly 500 backpacks with school supplies at two locations in Charleston in July. Enough supplies were left over to provide for teachers at both locations as well—teachers often have to provide supplies for themselves out of their own pockets.

## Branson, Mo.

The Faith Community Health Center, which opened in March in Branson with one doctor and eight patients, had 204 clients registered by June. About 155 of them have been treated and the center expanded its operating hours from Saturday mornings to include Wednesday evenings as well. Twenty leaders participated in a two-day Spiritual Influencers Prayer Summit following the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast (attended by more than 700 professionals) for National Day of Prayer. Loaves and Fishes completed its third year of operation with 1,500 volunteers serving over 8,500 meals, plus 4,200 to-go boxed meals. The Hope on the Road bus ministry operated nightly offering rides to residents at weekly rental motels.

## Coachella Valley, Calif.

[website](#)

Leaders in the Coachella Valley are seeing the fruit of their strategy to divide their 40-mile valley into five regions for the recent Festival of Life held with Mike MacIntosh. “We were able to carry on significant grassroots ministry in every one of the regions,” reports Paul Cedar, LC2C coach for the region and MAC chairman. “There have been especially wonderful ministries to the poor and neediest...we were able to lovingly and appropriately share the gospel with people in every socio-economic level in the Valley.”

## Grays Harbor, Wash.

A Convoy of Hope is being planned for September in Grays Harbor offering a free medical and dental clinic with food distribution and activities for kids. Thirty congregations are involved with great support from the business community and other Christian ministries. They are also working to establish Love INC in the area, which will be a key ministry to serve the community.

## REAPING A HARVEST IN CEDAR RAPIDS

*One Serve the City partner church in Cedar Rapids reports people coming to Christ almost every week. On over 90% of Sundays it has at least one white rose on the platform signifying a new commitment to Christ that week. “All without a word spoken,” reports city leader Charles Daugherty. “Prayer-care-share is their lifestyle. The pastoral staff, elders, and deacons all have the prayer-care-share vision.”*

# LC2C Partner Cities

## Branson, Missouri

**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**—Serve the City ([www.servethecity.org](http://www.servethecity.org))

**Charleston, West Virginia**—Church in the City ([www.churchinthecity.com](http://www.churchinthecity.com))

**Charlotte, North Carolina**—Charlotte Awake ([www.charlotteawake.com](http://www.charlotteawake.com))

**Coachella Valley, California**—Lighthouses of the Valley ([www.lovemovement.com](http://www.lovemovement.com))

**Corvallis, Oregon**—Church of the Valley – Corvallis ([www.covcorvallis.org](http://www.covcorvallis.org));  
Love INC of Benton County ([www.yourloveinc.org](http://www.yourloveinc.org))

**El Paso, Texas**—Las Cruces Prayer Network ([www.unitelascruces.org](http://www.unitelascruces.org))

## Eugene / Springfield, Oregon

**Fox Valley, Illinois**—Love Fox Valley ([www.lovefoxvalley.org](http://www.lovefoxvalley.org))

**Fresno, California**—ESA Love INC ([www.esali.org](http://www.esali.org))

**Grays Harbor, Washington**

## Kansas City

**Newton, Kansas**— ([www.missionalchurchnetwork.org](http://www.missionalchurchnetwork.org);  
[www.missionalchurchnetwork.blogspot.com](http://www.missionalchurchnetwork.blogspot.com))

**Norwalk, Iowa**—([www.fccnorwalk.org](http://www.fccnorwalk.org))

## Phoenix, Arizona

## Rhode Island

## San Bernardino, California

**Santa Rosa, California**—Together in Christ Santa Rosa ([www.togetherinchrist.net](http://www.togetherinchrist.net))

**Thomasville, Georgia**—Community Transformation, Inc. ([www.communitytransformationinc.com](http://www.communitytransformationinc.com));  
Thomasville Family and Marriage Net ([www.thomasvillefamily.com](http://www.thomasvillefamily.com))

**Treasure Valley, Idaho** (Boise)

**Tuscaloosa, Alabama**—Tuscaloosa Prayer Network ([www.tuscaloosaprayernet](http://www.tuscaloosaprayernet))

## Join Us in Praying

*Pray for City Impact!*

- Give praise for ongoing reports of people finding and following Christ as their Savior and Lord.
- Petition the Lord for a prayer champion in each city; someone who has an anointing to call the Church to extraordinary prayer by communicating the vision and connecting leaders and networks.
- Ask the Lord for additional pastors in every city who live a prayer-care-share lifestyle and call their members to love their neighbors and neighborhoods.
- Give thanks for those who have provided financial support on both national and regional levels—their contributions have started and strengthened a culture-changing movement in congregations and ministries across the country!

## More Stories and More Resources!

*Find all of these resources at [www.missionamerica.org/LC2C](http://www.missionamerica.org/LC2C).*

[LC2C Connections](#)—Newsletter with resources for LC2C partner cities

[LC2C Blog](#)—Resources, interviews, recommendations, and information for partner cities from Phil Miglioratti (National Coordinator for LC2C)

[MAC's Evangelism Connection](#)—Evangelism news, research, trends, and ideas

[Partner Cities](#)—Profiles of each of the current LC2C partner cities

[LC2C Frequently Asked Questions](#)—The basics about LC2C

[The MAC and LC2C Relationship](#)—The origins of LC2C

[LC2C Report Archive](#)—Past quarterly reports, podcasts, newsletters and more

[How LC2C Partners with a City](#) (MP3)—A Lighthouse Report audio spot with Phil Miglioratti

[Loving Our Neighbors](#)—Principles for congregations adopting a prayer-care-share culture

## Mission America Coalition

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