

FALL 2017



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLIES

Connecting to Advance God's Kingdom

Across the Continent...



An associate at **Gracepoint Gospel Fellowship** in New City, NY, **J.P. (John Paul) Ilarraza** and his wife, **Tahira**, are starting a new church in southern Rockland County September 10th. Gracepoint has helped start several churches, and **Shellie Sampson**, pastor of one of their recent plants (**Celebration Orange County Gospel Fellowship**) is helping with many details for setting up a new church.

Vanu and Vivek Kantayya started public meetings in their home last January. Recently they began holding Sunday services for **The Marketplace Church** in a hotel conference room on Sundays. They are praying for someone to join their team who can help with worship and music. Boise is one of the fastest growing cities in the west.

Watershed Church in Elgin, IL, is a "replant" of a church "uprooted" by major difficulties, leaving them without a building and starting from scratch. They have turned a corner, however, and their official grand opening is set for October 1st.



Church Planting FCA congregations catch the vision, share resources

Starting on a single day in June Fellowship churches from across the land joined together to launch new congregations in needy areas of the United States.

Today, we celebrate! Nearly \$25,000 was raised through the effort, much of it to help start **Arise Church** in an exploding Phoenix suburb. (See the article on the reverse side about Joe and Joy Soria's call to Phoenix.)

Additional funds have been earmarked for FCA church planting projects in other regions. Several new churches are on the drawing board (see left column).

It's not too late to join in!

Some churches delayed their offering because of local scheduling issues. So your church can still make a difference in this FCA effort. Use the video (bit.ly/2itqe7x) to inspire your church to see the possibilities. Funds may be sent to: FCA Church Planting, 4909 East Buckeye Rd, Madison, WI 53716.

Get more FCA news and views online. Go to www.fcaministers.com

HARVEST IN THE DESERT

Last spring, **Joe Soria** answered a call to plant a church in the Phoenix area. Since then, he has visited a number of FCA churches, sharing his vision and raising funds to start **Arise Church** in the Northwest Valley of Phoenix.

In late August, Joe, along with his wife and son, packed their belongings and headed west, aiming for a public start of the new church in April, 2018.



Since FCA pastor Tom Alexander planted **Two Rivers Church** in Phoenix 14 years ago, the city has continued to explode until it is now the sixth largest city in the U.S. Phoenix's many needs prompted the FCA to target the area for new churches. Last January, **Power and Love Church** began, making **Arise** the third FCA church plant in the Phoenix area.

Joe and Joy Soria grew up in FCA churches—Joe at **Christian Life Church** (Mount Prospect, IL) and Joy at **Rock Church** (Rockford, IL). A youth pastor since 1998, Joe became associate pastor at **Lighthouse Christian Church** (Fond du Lac, WI) in 2014.

"Our new church will be guided by our vision," says Joe, "to love Jesus, follow Jesus, and share Jesus with our community." He is excited to offer life-giving, Spirit-filled ministry to the city. "It's busting at the seams but is also in desperate need of the gospel." *"They see a desert, but I see a harvest field"*

Some of Joe's initial goals include finding locations for worship gatherings, meeting with local organizations (such as **Phoenix Dream Center** and **Phoenix Inner City Kids**) to discover ways to serve them, developing the Alpha Course for presentation within their apartment complex community room, inviting people to various fellowship gatherings, offering healing and prayer ministries—an important distinctive since most area churches are not Pentecostal, and launching a website.

"We will be aggressively evangelistic," Joe says. "We'll invite neighbors to informal gatherings so we can get to know them—while they hear about our vision and interact with our leadership."



"When people think of Phoenix, they see a desert," Joe observes. "God has taught me to see a harvest field. And we are praying for a team of people who will choose to see Phoenix the same way."

To learn more about the new work and follow its ongoing journey, check it out on Facebook (arisechurch.org) and on Twitter: @arisechurchaz.