

**Xenos Christian Fellowship**

# **2006 Annual Report**

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## **Adult Ministries Division 2006**

### **Doug Patch, Division Coordinator**

“The springboard has been fully bent in 2005 by the post-college home churches and staff.” This was last year’s opening line of our annual report and was speaking of the great *potential* energy within the post-college ranks, for evangelism and growth. In 2006, the Lord blessed us as we begin to realize that potential! Let us see how:

1. One key 2006 goal: “Plant two more post-college spheres in 2006!” – God did!
  - The new Sunday Morning Café sphere was formed in April. It is led and taught by Jeff Gordon.
  - In April, Jim Leffel led a cadre of home groups as the new Sunday Evening Café sphere.
2. Another 2006 goal: “Plant up to 36 home groups – or a 34 percent increase in the number of home groups by the end of 2006!” – God did and then some.
  - We ended the year with 150 home groups rather than the 144 anticipated, almost 40 percent more.

Let’s look at last year a little more closely.

### **2006 Café Sphere Plants**

#### **Why did we change to the sphere oversight approach?**

By the spring 2003, Adult groups were at an all-time low in growth and that rate was in decline. We theorized that getting proven leaders to lead spheres would help. Since changing to our present sphere approach (aligning home groups and Central Teachings), we’ve seen growth every year and 2006 was the best year yet!

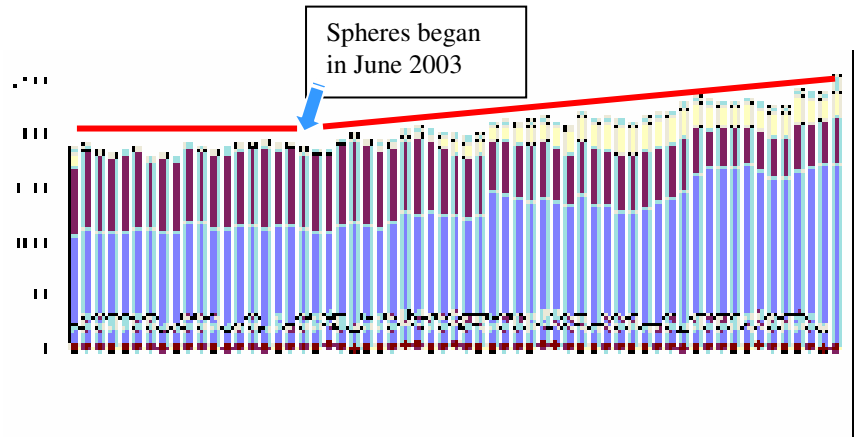
This results in a stronger support structure and more timely guidance. Considering the scriptural priority of strong relational ties in the Body of Christ and our Lord’s faithfulness, the results are no surprise.

## Whoa! Are numbers all we care about?

There are undoubtedly some readers, like myself at one time, who are a little put-off by the charts of numerical

growth. It does *seem* less than spiritual to “count” growth. I came to grips with that more than 20 years ago while studying and hearing what scripture demonstrates as God’s purpose for the church.

The New Testament is replete with positive accounts of growth and multiplication of churches. In my recent studies of the book of Acts, I have seen no less than 19 separate references to numerical growth of the churches. Luke knew as we do those numbers are about peoples’ relationship with Jesus. First, entering into an eternal relationship with him, and second, many of them like us, then choosing to love others as he does. And Luke knew that that growth was in accord with Jesus’ whole purpose for coming.



### Sunday Morning Café Plant

In April of 2006, two Sunday morning spheres (led by Jeff Gordon and Gary DeLashmutt) contributed home groups to the formation of a third sphere – “AM Café.” The Café sphere is led and taught by Jeff. Danny Walker took over the reins of the early Sunday morning sphere in the auditorium.

### How is the morning Café plant doing?

They have not been out even a full year, but let’s look at their first eight months. The morning Café sphere has grown by more than 16 percent, comparing their first three months with their most recent three. A portion of this increase comes from people transferring from our college ministry to adult ministries.

### Sunday Evening Café Plant

Also in April of 2006, the Sunday evening sphere sent 11 home groups to the Café for a new sphere, led and taught by Jim Leffel. Lee Campbell stepped into the role of senior sphere leader and central teacher of the Sunday Evening Auditorium sphere.

### **How is the evening Café plant doing?**

The evening Café sphere has grown by more than 16 percent comparing its first three to most recent three months of ministry.

### **West Side Plant**

The West Side actually planted in late 2005. But now with a full-year behind them, their model instills greater confidence that God is leading us with the vision of planting spheres, including offsite from Main Campus. In 2006 they grew by more than 13 percent.

Having a Central Teaching that is geographically closer to the west side has made a big difference in participation and outreach for West Side home groups. Our new sphere has generated growth and enthusiasm to reach out on the west side, resulting in many people taking steps to help and lead who have not done that in the past. We believe the momentum is building for even stronger growth in the future.

Scott Arnold (Senior Sphere Leader), Jack Strack (home group consultant), Ed Fausnaugh (Operations Manager), Annette Arnold (Administrative Manager) and the pioneering home group leaders in this sphere are responding with enthusiasm to God's call to that offsite sphere plant.

### **Stronger Home Group Growth**

We are growing at a greater pace than a year ago! The church's purpose – and every Christian's – is to be part of God's plan of bringing people back into a relationship with him. With him, we have the resources to discover true fulfillment and the promise of eternity with him. We are “intent on [that] one purpose” according to Philippians 2:2. These passages round out God's picture of his church: Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:1-16. If we live out his purpose, we should grow.

“Growth” is *qualitative* (primarily our character transformation) every bit as much as *quantitative*. We will certainly never sustain quantitative growth without the qualitative, and scripture emphasizes the quality of our walk in various ways.

**Here’s what some Senior Sphere Leaders have noted about qualitative growth in 2006:**

- **John Rue, Senior Sphere Leader of the Saturday evening sphere:**

“Many of our leaders new and old alike took steps of faith in trusting God’s calling to take risks in planting out new, smaller outreach groups.

“Our Saturday leaders learned new lessons about dealing with failure under grace, including the importance of being truth-tellers to followers about how things are really going so that change under grace is possible.”
- **Jeff Gordon, Senior Sphere Leader of the Sunday morning Café:**

“Our leaders and workers took ownership of the new CT and that made a big difference. They were there early to pray, greet people as they arrived, staff the sound booth, and perform music. The team effort is paying off with many new people coming out to CT and returning. Several new folks have already made it out to home church, too.”
- **Gary DeLashmutt, Senior Sphere Leader of the Sunday Morning 2 Auditorium sphere:**

“Perhaps the most significant development in our sphere last year was the proliferation of vital home group prayer meetings. Many more home group members are experiencing the reality that all truly spiritual work is birthed and bathed in prayer. I believe that our increased outreach and home group planting is fruit borne from more abundant prayer.”
- **Lee Campbell, Senior Sphere Leader of the Sunday evening auditorium sphere:**

“Our consultant staff notes that leaders are much more expectant about, alert and responsive to perceptions about God’s activity in and through their home church members.”

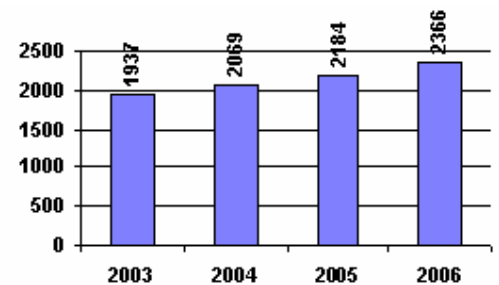
- **Jim Leffel, Senior Sphere Leader of the Sunday evening Café sphere:**

The kind of interaction and atmosphere generated at the Sunday night Café is really cool.

### **How are post-college home groups doing quantitatively?**

In 2006, we have grown by more than 8 percent compared with last year’s more than 5 percent!

We should be grateful to God for this and thank him profusely. Let’s affirm in our hearts that we know our role of watering and planting is essential, but the growth is caused by him.



### **How are we doing as ambassadors?**

If the President called and asked you personally to be an ambassador to a foreign nation, you’d be stunned speechless probably! What a privilege! “Wait ‘til I tell the guys!” Then he goes on and tells you the nation is the one he mentioned in his State of the Union. He tagged it as his number one focus on the planet to help. In fact, he considers the year a total success if the nation is won over to the plan that is certainly best for them.

By now, you have a mixture of feelings: privileged, awed, scared, feeling inadequate, yet excited – your mind flooding with ideas about what you’ll do in this role. He assures you he hasn’t dialed the wrong number (which we assumed of course) and makes it clear you will have the full backing of all the resources of the United States of America. He warns you that it won’t be easy; you will face some opposition in spite of the “rightness” of the cause. It will require sacrifice, he says, but ultimately, your mission (remember, it really is his and he is behind you 100 percent) will succeed.

God has no scripture that implies his mission is dependent on a chosen few. Ephesians 4:16 will take care of that notion if you doubt it). Instead, he tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things

passed away; behold, new things have come. <sup>18</sup> Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

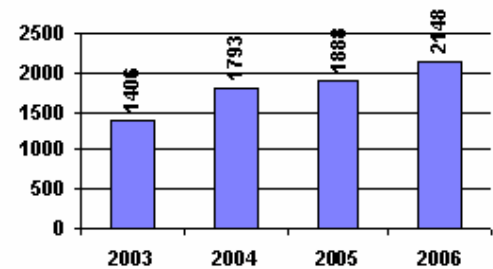
Therefore, the number of first-time guests to home groups is an important measure to see if we are prioritizing our role as his ambassador.

In 2006, we had well over 200 more first-time guests to home groups than in 2005.

I beg you to pause here and thank God for this. There will always be weaknesses in a church filled with

imperfect people (sorry – that includes you as well as me). But may he protect us from ever going soft on being “intent on one purpose” of reaching out to those who don’t know him.

This is worth the reminder: these are not “numbers.” We should see them as God does: people he loves as should we. Our friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family that have heard the offer of eternal life through the work of Jesus on the cross! With spiritual eyes and hearts we should praise God for continuing to use us!



### **Entering Into a Relationship with God**

This is God’s self-expressed desire in 1 Timothy 2:4 “God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

In 2006, post-college home groups have seen almost 200 people enter into an eternal relationship with God by asking for Christ’s forgiveness. We remain so grateful for our share in his work.

### **New Home Groups Planted!**



As noted in the introductory comments, this was a year of planting like none we have seen before. Why is this important? This final visible result of multiplying a group implies profound spiritual transformation during the years of getting to that point.

A home group must grow big enough to split in two and plant a new group. New people come to the group by every member responding to God and sharing the message with friends and family.

During a home group's history together, the Christians help one another become more Christ-like in their character, their relationships, and their values in life.

Because of the above, Christians discover the fulfillment of living as an ambassador for God and where they are particularly gifted (by him) to serve.

The size of group becomes too large for the home they meet in; it is time for new workers to step forward by planting a new group from this one and each group "starting over."

What a tremendous year in this regard. Going from 108 to 150 post-college home groups is a sure sign of God's blessing this ministry.

## **2007 Preview**

- **Sustain the growth with quality**
- **Prepare to establish new beachheads**

### **Sustain our Growth with Quality**

The substantial turnaround in Adult Ministries' health is directly related to orienting our oversight according to spheres. That oversight has:

- increased the personal connection with leaders and workers;
- enabled us to be more proactive in training;
- enabled us to be more responsive in providing pastoral care.

150 home groups represent a substantial challenge and opportunity to maintaining the quality of each of these facets of shepherding home group leaders and leaders-to-be.

The Fiscal Support Team voted substantial support of this cause in last week's retreat. We must now fund it. The many new people the Lord has reached out to have an opportunity to begin to make the best investment they ever have.

Without support of this ministry, it is unlikely we'll sustain the growth God has provided. If that happens, I believe we'll eventually return to the struggles we were encountering several years ago in Adult Ministries.

### **Prepare to Gain New Beachheads**

We must be willing to go to other parts of this city and establish new beachheads by planting additional spheres.

We have a wealth of trained workers and leaders in all walks of life whom the Lord wants to mobilize. Our church is naturally and biblically 100 percent dependent on the "proper working of each individual part" in order to grow in quality and quantity. We are being called upon to come out of our comfort zones and prepare ourselves to establish two new beachheads.

By funding both Growth Modules that were voted in, we have the budget for two possible sphere plants:

- a plant on the east side of Columbus as early as this spring;
- another in the new facility near the Ohio State University campus on 4<sup>th</sup> Street – "*The 4<sup>th</sup> Street Study Center and Coffee Shop*" – more toward the fall.

In both cases, the Lord still needs to clarify issues before we can commit the church to either endeavor. But the funding of these plants is a necessary first step. What a vision he provides!

There are hundreds of new people – adults and children – he brought to us in 2006. Imagine every one of them experiencing all it means to walk with their Lord. He wants to touch their lives through people just like you and me – sustaining the growth he has granted.

He offers two additional fields of harvest in the Columbus community. Communities that can be impacted by God's presence working through us in a new way.

We are poised to bring great honor to God through this church in 2007. Let's be a church who stewards these opportunities this coming year and at year's-end, looking back with amazement in how he has used us.

In his Service,

Senior Sphere Leaders: Scott Arnold, West Side; John Rue, Saturday PM; Jeff Gordon, Sunday AM1 Café; Dan Walker, Sunday AM1 Auditorium; Gary DeLashmutt, Sunday AM2; Jim Leffel, Sunday PM Café; Lee Campbell, Sunday PM Auditorium. Division Coordinator, Doug Patch

## **Equipping Division 2006**

### **Mike Sullivan, Division Coordinator**

In 2006, our overall goal was flexibility. We strove to make our classes, materials and Study Center more flexible, so people could receive the training they need to pursue their ministry.

#### **Classes**

We introduced every-other-week classes to help people balance ministry with training. Offering weekly and every-other-week class formats made our course more accessible to students.

Our Christian Ministry classes used to be 10 weeks long, but we broke them down into shorter modules. This allowed students to get trained in shorter bursts and take a break when necessary. In the past, when students were unable to finish these 10 week courses, they had to start all over again.

We also pioneered a new approach to leadership training in the Christian Leadership 3 course. Students watched the first three lectures on DVD. Then they met with an expert leader to discuss case related to the content covered in these lectures. They will repeat this process for lectures 4-6 and 7-10. We're finding that this approach (a) saves our teachers time, (b) gives students greater flexibility in when they cover the material, (c) helps individuals better understand the practical implications of what they are learning through rich classroom interaction.

#### **The Study Center**

Our church library is located on our main campus in the northeast side of Columbus and is used by home group leaders and workers to prepare teachings. But new

spheres of home churches have created new centers of ministry in different parts of the city, and the Study Center is no longer central or convenient to everyone in our church.

The Fiscal Support Team approved creating a modest library on the west side to support home groups in that area, but insufficient pledges left us without funds.

Nevertheless, through generous donations from Xenos members and through a volunteer team of carpenters supplied by Finishing Well, we were able to start two modest libraries. The West Side Reading Room will be a lending library, with cataloged books available to patrons by spring of 2007. Books and shelves are already in place. We were also able to support the opening of the new 4<sup>th</sup> Street Study Center and Coffee Bar by providing Bible software and a modest collection of reference materials.

Being flexible involves moving resources closer to where the action is. As our church continues to grow, we hope to improve these two new libraries and start others if needed.

### **The Master's Degree Program**

The Master's Degree program continued to draw students from outside Xenos who appreciated the excellent classes we offer through Trinity and the reasonable price of tuition. We were able to assist several of our future leaders with tuition, enabling them to remain in their ministry here in Columbus, while getting the depth and knowledge they need to eventually lead a sphere.

### **The Finishing Well Ministry**

The Finishing Well Ministry served folks in the Columbus area by offering support with minor home maintenance and repair. Finishing Well also helped children of aging adults cope with supporting their parents during the last stages of life.

## **2007 Growth Proposals**

There is an ongoing need to prepare leaders at every level in our church. In 2007, we will expand our capacity to support students taking advantage of our MA program. This will ensure that folks stepping into the highest levels of leadership will have the training they need to be effective.

### **Study Center and the West Side Reading Room**

We plan to improve our collection at the Study Center and the West Side Reading Room. Our materials must be on the leading edge to support the work of our home group leaders. Students who attend our seminary extension classes need an excellent research library. In 2007 we hope to improve our video collection. PBS, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel and other media outlets periodically produce documentaries that address questions of faith and issues that are great to talk about with nonChristians. We want to circulate more videos like this at the Study Center because they are often unavailable at the library or local video store.

### **The Alpha Course**

Last year, we did a careful study of our classes that are geared toward nonChristians—courses like Basic Christianity, Investigating Christianity, Parenting without Guilt, and others. We found that 123 people had come to Xenos for the first time through one of these classes over a 12 month period. With such a good opportunity before us, we are looking for ways to strengthen our ties with the non-Christian who attend our classes. One way we hope do this is through the Alpha course.

The Alpha Course is a series of video lectures used by many churches as an effective way of helping people explore the meaning of life. Alpha utilizes a dinner/video/discussion format. Seekers have the opportunity to dialogue with other seekers as they explore questions of faith. We're hoping that the increased interaction in this course will help people make the transition from attending a class to meeting Christ and joining a home church.

In addition to offering the Alpha course to the church at large, we want to give individual home churches the ability run their own Alpha courses. Groups would have the flexibility to implement the class in a way that best fits the particular people they are trying to reach.

### **Finishing Well**

Finishing Well plans to support individuals coping with tragedy through a grief recovery ministry. This ministry will offer a series of workshops that provide a biblical perspective on suffering in a supportive environment with others going through a similar experience.

### **Parenting Classes**

Bev DeLashmutt's Parenting Without Guilt class was a big hit with non-Christian parents last year. This year we plan to offer age-specific workshops, refreshments and discussion groups led by experienced Christian parents. By connecting with parents in discussions groups, we're hoping to get to know the students better and expose them to Christian love and hospitality. We think we're more likely not just to attract them to Xenos, but to a relationship with Christ.

We continue to get a lot done with a small amount of money. And we plan to continue to operate that way. As home groups and spheres continue to grow and multiply, God will be active, equipping and mobilizing a new generation of servants and leaders. We hope that this year's initiatives will further advance his work among us, next year and beyond.

## Missions Annual Report – 2006 Dave Glover-Division Coordinator

*The Xenos Christian Fellowship Missions Division exists: to advance cross-cultural indigenous church planting movements.*

*Long-term Vision: A church accessible to everyone in the people group resulting in changed lives and transformed communities.*

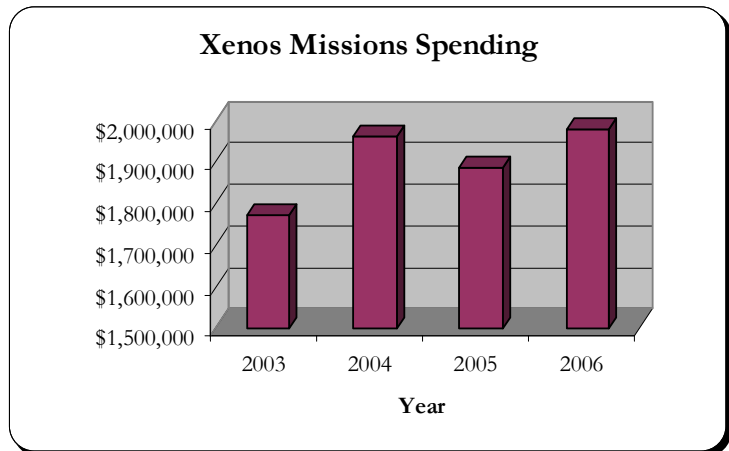
### World Missions

In 2006, we are thrilled to report the planting of two small groups, one in Eastern Europe and one in Taiwan. Praise God for this incredible accomplishment! We look forward to God working through these new leaders to further His kingdom.

It was a privilege for us to host Bill and Susan Smith from the International Mission Board. They provided two weeks of strategy coordinator training for the Curt and Pam (SEAsia), Mark and Laura (E.

Europe), and James and Tonette (Urban Concern), and the missions division.

Our four couples from Cambodia team (Benadums, Geslers, Giancolas, and Whites) and one couple from the SEAsia team (Patrick and Melissa) attended the month-long World Team church planting training in the Philippines. In addition, Sean and Amy Gibson attended and served as instructors. We also had the opportunity to participate in the annual LEAD meetings in Europe and Asia. The LEAD meetings provide an opportunity for the field directors to come together for a time of study and fellowship.





## **Humanitarian Aid & Development Fund**

The [Humanitarian Aid & Development Fund](#) featured 12 different options for donors, including three new funds. There was a generous outpouring of support and we exceeded our goal of \$145,000. We were fortunate to have Clive Calver speak at the kick-off meeting for this year's fund drive.



We made the difficult decision to withdraw from the Eastern Europe (North) field. The three couples all arrived in Columbus by June and are adjusting to life and ministry here in the United States. We are thankful for their years of sacrificial service to the people of Eastern Europe.

We conducted two short-term trips, one to Cambodia (28 adults) and another to Indonesia (10 adults). In preparation for the trip, the mobilization director held the short-term missions class. The quarterly prayer meetings were well attended and featured a variety of speakers. Finally, we hosted two couples who were in Columbus on home assignment.

## **Urban Concern**

The two adult home groups in South Linden continue to do well. James and Tonette Brown developed a class to share the information gleaned from the strategy coordinator training with the other home group leaders.

The middle and high school large meeting attendance was down this year. We averaged 33 students per week attending middle school small group and 40 per week in high school. The elementary Bible study meets on Sunday along with the two home churches and is averaging 31 students per week.

Student transitions from one age group to the next are a key result area for the ministry. Overall, the transitions went well. 70 percent of the elementary students transitioned into middle school small groups. 93 percent of the HCS fifth-grade students transitioned into middle school small groups. Overall, 79 percent of the middle school students transitioned into high school small groups. Transitions will continue to be a strategic focus for the staff and volunteers in 2007.

## **Harambee**

Harambee had an excellent year with the average low-income student scoring over the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in both reading (58<sup>th</sup>) and math (64<sup>th</sup>). The total enrollment is 78 with 68 percent of the students coming from the target area. Our goal is to see the percentage of students from the target area continue to increase. We were able to enroll 15 voucher students (9 – kindergarten, 3 – first graders, 1 – second, and 2 – fifth graders). We also provided scholarships for 13 HCS graduates to attend Calumet Christian School.

### **The After School Program (ASP)**

The After School Program had an average daily attendance of over 35 students with 91 percent of them completing their homework each day. The job club had 24 middle school students participate in the program this summer. Both the ASP and job club are lead by indigenous workers.

### **Harambee Community Center**



Finally, on November 28, we broke ground for the new Harambee Community Center. Praise God for reaching this significant milestone! In addition to the generous outpouring of support from Xenos Christian Fellowship, Alex Steinman and James Brown, along with a number of volunteers, spearheaded an effort to raise more than \$1 million.

2007

**The team in SEAsia** will continue to utilize their recently developed non-government organization (NGO) for reaching remote areas of the region. The NGO provides development assistance for impoverished areas while creating open doors for the gospel.

**The East Europe team** would like to provide financial support for a student ministry house. This young workforce is eager to learn and the team wants to acquire additional equipping resources for the national leaders.

**The Cambodia leadership team** will complete their strategic plan and determine how best to allocate workers for the harvest God has prepared.

**The Taiwan team** continues to see working class people come to Christ and they have an excellent plan to train these new believers in evangelism and discipleship.

**Finally, we plan to increase the Xenos Humanitarian Aid and Development Fund** from \$145,000 to \$160,000. “Investors” will have the opportunity to choose from 14 different funds, including four new ones. The Missions Division will announce the fund options for 2007 at the conclusion of the general fund pledge drive.

**Urban Concern** will move into our new facility on Bonham Ave. this summer. Our plan is to have the building ready for the start of school. During the first quarter, we will spend a considerable amount of time recruiting for the 2007-08 school year and we anticipate the new facility will greatly assist the recruiting effort. The fourth Harambee class will graduate in June and we plan to give these students the opportunity to attend Calumet for middle school.

We are studying several different structural changes for the student Bible studies. We desire to maintain a consensus of students serious about their relationship with Christ and where they are comfortable bringing their friends. One of the changes is moving to a high school home group format. There are a number of high school students ready to plant the first high school home group in South Linden. In addition, we plan to plant another adult home group South Linden.

The Urban Concern staff will also research options for providing personal, family and financial counseling for the families of South Linden. We look forward to seeing God work in the lives of many people to bring about lasting change in the South Linden community.

## **Operations and Administration Division 2006**

### **Steve Bauer, Division Coordinator**

2006 moved so quickly for Operations personnel. That tends to happen when God has a lot set before us and we are working daily to see his vision come to fruition. And what a vision we have been pursuing...

#### **Facility Projects Bear Fruit and Set the Stage for the Future**

At our Main Campus facilities in north Columbus, we opened a new extension, the Café. This 13,700 square foot area is unique in its look and function at our main venue. Unique finishes and closeness create a comfortable smaller Central Teaching environment for up to 400 people. Two new spheres planted in this space in May and those groups, along with the spheres that they planted from, have grown. God has used our new spaces dramatically already.

**Our resident construction manager, Derf Braun,** finished out his solid oversight of construction on the Café in time to move on to representing the church on the Urban Concern school and community facility construction project. We're blessed to have a resource like Derf, as we continue to build and expand ministry spaces every year. Ground was broken in South Linden for this community asset in November and site work had commenced before the end of the year. We're so excited to open the new school in time for the 2007-08 school year, after a year in which we worked with and through community groups and city agencies to complete plans and design for a new 31,000+ square foot facility with classrooms, a gym and great outdoor ministry spaces.

**Our Technical Services (i.e., sound and light, AV) staff** accomplished all the installation work on the Café and prepared it for highly successful ministry, while still tending to the details of supporting multiple on-going Central Teachings and many events. This over-and-above normal work didn't end with the Café, but we moved right on to the University project at North 4<sup>th</sup> St. and 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. Jeremy Myers has become a true installation expert, and his service, along with many others who have worked tirelessly to deliver new ministry space, will impact many for Christ into the future.

**Phase 1 of our University area project**, to replace leased space for our student group, progressed but was behind schedule at the end of the year. We moved into the new “4<sup>th</sup> Street Study Center and Coffee Bar” in January 2007, and vacated our leased building (which is targeted to be demolished to build scholarship fraternity housing in 2007). College students will have an incredible resource for ministry for the long-haul, with auditorium seating for over 400 and a comfortable coffee and snack bar area.

**Phase 2 at 4<sup>th</sup> Street** is under way and an additional 32,000 square feet will be added to the smaller 6,400-square-foot venue in mid-2007. This second-phase space will give us flexible sphere-planting room for adults and students, allowing us to be ready for God to lead us into ministry expansion in the University area. Work is underway and we should have occupancy in May or June.

God is moving through these projects in two of the most distressed areas in Columbus. Area residents are amazed, grateful and casting a watchful eye as they see our work unfold. God’s vision is to revitalize communities through his people, and we can’t wait to see the opportunities and challenges these new venues will bring to his church.

### **Operations & Administration Division Support Work**

Our Division’s mission is to provide logistical and material support to the divisions more directly involved in front-line spiritual warfare in our communities and across the world. Like the clerks, cooks, trainers and intelligence operatives in a war arena, we provide the behind-the-lines basics that keep our people taking ground in the battles. It’s so comforting to know the war is won, and I thank God regularly for providing us with amazing servants to carry out the detail work in his church.

We work for the elders and leadership of the church, our staff, our members and the communities in which we serve. God has blessed Xenos with an incredible array of people with a burden to serve daily, and who keep God’s blessings in focus as they work to shed light on the chaos of our work.

Our Elders, Sphere Leaders and Division Coordinators received funding from our division for off-site retreats and meetings and travel for vision-setting and ministry refinement work. We provided the resources and time to help set the direction for Xenos and to investigate “best practices” (and pitfalls to avoid) in ministry work.

**The Facilities staff**, headed with outstanding leadership by Dave Bucklew, was able to meet needs of growing ministry in new and existing buildings and grounds to great effect. God has blessed us with productive (and unique) properties across central Ohio, and it takes incredible focus to maintain and make them all ready for use.

We will have over 200,000 square feet of buildings under management in 2007, on more than 76 acres of properties at three Community Park Drive facilities, in South Linden, at Calumet School and now on the OSU campus. Dan Mayner has a key role as the guy responsible for many of our “first impressions” for the general condition of our grounds, a task he relishes with obvious results.

**Information Systems** covers not only the computers and communications technology we need to work together, but also the data we need to monitor ministry growth and identify opportunities and issues in the church. Andy Ault provides direction to a gifted group of our very own “geeks,” while maintaining our database systems for home group reporting and church statistics. Andy Leedy provides critical technical management expertise across our networks and with installations at our new facilities.

**Accounting for the stewardship** of the rich financial resources God has placed in our hands is the work Alan Burkholder, CPA, directs (aptly positioned as our “Controller”). Cate Gilbert is one of longest-term employees and blesses us with her servant attitude and depth of knowledge about our work today and our ministry history in her role as our accounting expert. This year we received over \$7.5 million in donations to our General Fund, Buildings Fund and other targeted areas. We have financed over \$4.6 in facility debt. Scot Northrup rounds out this department with daily focus on the hundreds of account entries needed to maintain our solid financial condition and report on our finances.

**Our Technical Services** crew oversaw audio/visual and meeting needs for facility openings, while working to maintain their workload in supporting regular and recurring events and meetings. Mark Grover heads our efforts to deliver the highest quality service for our many locations. Ian Martin has joined Jeremy Myers to provide support for more venues and events, and it’s great to have these gifted men focused on our facility installations and at our many meetings.

I have to offer our sincere thanks and prayers to the diligent and sacrificial volunteers who provide support running sound and light at our Central Teachings, conferences and other events. We are blessed with servants who can take on challenges running live meetings and working with our systems and helping extend the impact of our paid personnel.

**Our Master Scheduling and Event Support manager**, Michelle Houston, is charged with taking contending and often at-odds requests for facilities and services, and sifting through the details to find solutions that best serve the greatest need. We also provide logistics and food services, under the direction of our spheres, for meetings through this department. Our outdoor grilling and use of our new kitchen are overseen under this area. We also reached the level of a-wedding-a-month (for church members) this year at our facilities, and this activity is sure to grow as the church does.

**Finally, the Office Services department** was led by Cathy Kaiser. After an incredible year of dramatic cost reduction and focus on allocating costs to using ministries in 2005, the team was able to maintain expenses and deliver solid support at the reception desk (headed by Suzanne Fox) and in the trenches through our equipment, supplies and hands-on help. We also took the first steps in replacing key unproductive and even obsolete systems (old copier technology and the decades-old phone system), within budget!

### **Primary Goals for 2007**

We are done acquiring facilities and seeking funding for building projects. We now will work to deliver new ministry spaces and provide needed services for all of our guests, members, ministries and communities. We are poised to have new facilities open in critically distressed areas of central Ohio in January, June and August. God is working to revitalize areas that have long lost hope in their future. All of us are excited about the challenges that lay before us, serving in these “missions” outside our own comfort zones.

Building projects consume resources in every department of Operations & Administration. Once completed, we don't slow down too much, as those buildings start to get used and requests start to come in for facility and systems enhancements to support active ministry.

Each department will see an added load as the year progresses, but we will work to meet needs with out much growth in staffing. Our division's overall ministry ethic remains, "Do the Most with What We Have," which often translates into doing more with less. Only the Facilities area is budgeted to receive a small increase in staff hours. We will work hard to minimize additional resources, but we will have to meet growing ministry needs.

The Elders will set out to study off-site and share with us their findings with the church as new direction from God becomes clearer. Master Scheduling & Event Support will certainly require more attention, with systems needed to schedule geographically dispersed facilities.

As we look to the future, this year and beyond, we see our task lists are fuller than we could ever get done. So pray with us that God would give us his priorities, his vision for the details and his power to do our work his way. I am grateful and humbled to be able to work with the people God has put in our division, and look forward to what our Lord has in mind for 2007.



## Student Ministries Division 2006

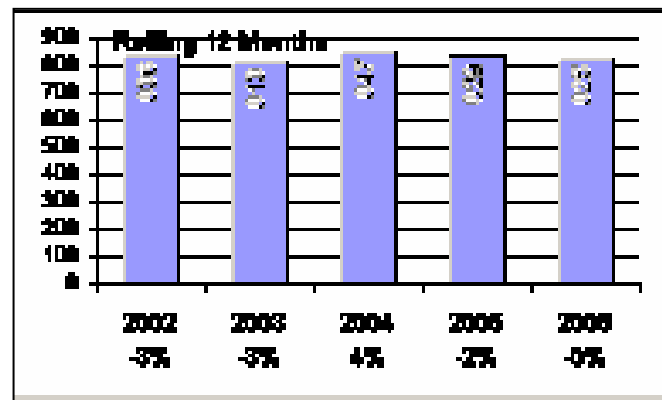
### Joe Botti, Division Coordinator

God continues multiplying the gospel message to hundreds of students. As in previous years, many began a personal relationship with Jesus Christ this year and now enjoy vital Christian fellowship. We trust a large number of them will develop into workers and leaders for Christ's church. We also are privileged to move the college ministry to our new location, "4<sup>th</sup> Street Study Center and Coffee Bar." Due to construction set backs, the facility was not opened until mid January 2007.

## Oasis Children's Programs 2006

Our main goal of developing a strategic plan has been accomplished! We are just beginning to implement the plan and are optimistic about the effect it will have, especially in helping increase the training and feedback for the hundreds of extra volunteers now contributing through the adopt-a-class approach. Attendance did not grow again, but at least it didn't dip much below the 2005 level.

This stagnation in growth is probably more of a function of household demographics in our church. As our church has aged, we have seen fewer parents in the prime child-bearing ages (25 to 35). This should right itself as more folks come out of our dynamic college ministry and begin families.



## 2007

Our main goal is to implement the strategic plan formulated last year. This includes a strategy for recruiting motivated and capable volunteer directors and classroom leaders who can then recruit and lead their classroom teachers. The other main aspect of this plan is to increase the feedback and encouragement to our directors and team leaders.

## Xenos Christian Schools 2006



The schools now receive voucher students from schools in academic watch or emergency in Columbus Public. Most of these students have adjusted well. In addition, a new computer/study/reading skills class was added in the sixth grade. We are especially thankful our students excelled in standardized tests by ranking in the 79<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Harambee School also excelled beyond expectation. Low-income students averaged in the 58<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading and 64<sup>th</sup> in math. The percentage of low-income students performing above the national average soared from 52 percent to 61 percent. Although the middle school did not meet one of its goals of organizing a student government, they did create a number of student prayer groups.

An emphasis on global awareness prompted a fundraiser to address practical needs in three African countries. The students readily embraced the project and sacrificially raised over \$21,000 for World Relief ministries in Sudan, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone. Meanwhile, the staff integrated information about Africa into the Bible and social studies curriculum. The middle school also marshaled 15 students for a summer mission trip to Mexico where they ministered to orphans and helped with construction projects for the orphanage.

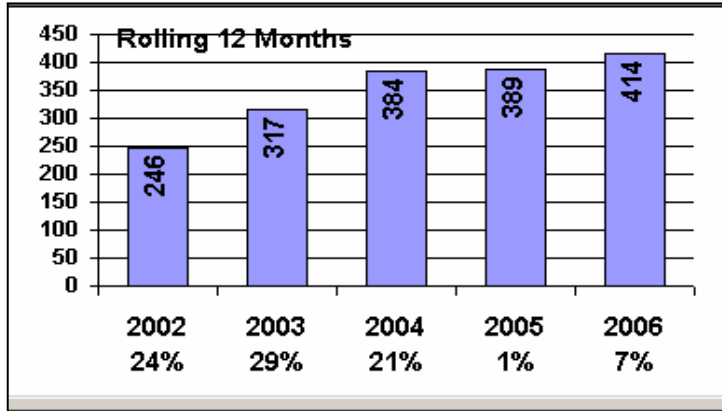
Finally, construction began on the new Harambee Community Center. Harambee and Urban Concern leaders met the goal of raising just over \$1 million. Harambee Christian School will benefit greatly from being housed in just one building.

## 2007

Enrollment decreased slightly this year, most likely due to household demographics of Xenos. We hope to increase enrollment by 15-20 students by implementing a new marketing strategy which includes ads in the local paper, a new and improved website, a new annual report, and an informative and warm open house. If enrollment does not increase, we may need to adjust the number of open classrooms for

the 2007-08 school year. The middle school also set a goal to raise \$20,000 for Cambodia and take 20 students on another mission trip to Mexico.

### Junior High 2006



As reported last year, junior high attendance was not expected to increase much due to the leveling off in the number of incoming Oasis students. This chart shows cell group attendance increasing by only 7 percent.

However, that's excellent, considering the ministry graduated 160 eighth graders while taking in only 100 new sixth grade students. Factoring that, growth was more like 20 percent.

At the same time, a net of one additional cell group was planted, from 49 to 50. Again, not bad considering the ministry ended 20 eighth-grade cell groups but took in only 10 new sixth-grade cells. Real multiplying growth was actually 11 new cell groups!

On a concerning note, Central Teaching attendance decreased by 2 percent; however, the leadership has already taken measures to bolster attendance. We don't think it's healthy for students to miss their Central Teachings. The saying, "foundations are forever" really applies here. Students who neglect Central Teachings don't do as well spiritually, especially in high school. So, help us lay the best foundation for our students by getting them to our junior high Central Teachings.

On the positive side, we know many students continue sharing their faith. 42 percent of our attendance is made up of non-Xenos students and at least 28 students prayed to receive Christ through our ministry.

### 2007

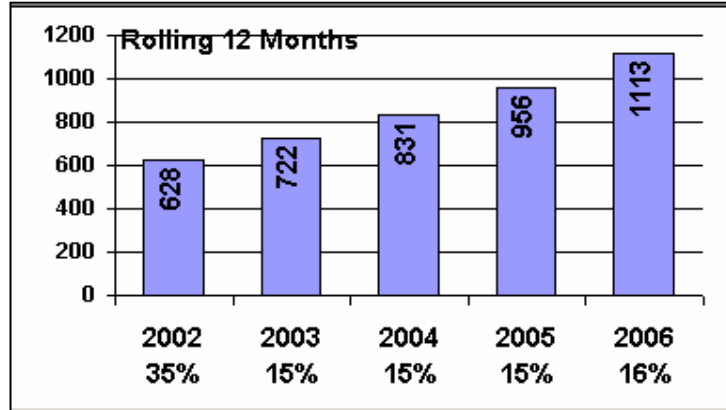
We hope to increase CT attendance by making the meeting more exciting and creative. One goal is to provide monthly CT fun nights. In addition to strong Bible

teachings, these fun nights would include special events, such as a tailgate party or dime-a-dog night). We began this approach in November 2006, and have seen promising results. Let's keep praying for our middle schoolers and their spiritual growth.

### College-High School 2006

As you can see, this ministry grew robustly, at 16 percent. Much of the growth came from our high school ministry, which grew in home church attendance by 28 percent.

A good portion of this growth came from the large number of incoming ninth graders from the junior high ministry.



The college home churches slowed to 9 percent growth, down from previous years. Part of this is due to sending almost 70 participants to adult home churches, more than any other year. The other reason could be the delay in our move to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. We think attendance will pick up after the move.

The college-high school sphere arrangement enhanced oversight and coaching, which was especially needed with so many newly planted groups. Between the college and high school, 19 new home churches were planted, two of which were sent to the adult ministry. There are now 56 college and high school home churches! Because of the vigorous church planting, we need to plant another sphere. That means we'll need to hire another sphere leader and part-time consultant.

Our Central Teachings suffered this year. We thought the south (Calumet) high school Central Teaching would plant in 2006, but the anticipated growth never materialized. In fact, this meeting decreased by 6 percent in attendance. We'll take a wait-and-see posture. The meeting could still plant by spring, 2007 if attendance picks up.

The North (Bldg X) high school Central Teaching did much better, growing by 24 percent! Although the number of first-time guests to our home churches decreased by 12 percent this fall, we still saw 18 percent more first-timers this year than last! It was a harder fall than we foresaw. We are praying for a resurgence of growth.

## **2007**

We anticipate the college ministry to surge forward with the move into the new 4<sup>th</sup> St. facility. We think both home churches and Central Teachings will benefit greatly from this move. The major goals for 2007 are to:

- move into the new facility by mid January;
- by fall 2007, plant another nine churches, totaling 65;
- by fall 2007, see 15 percent in attendance growth, totaling 1,347 students.

We should pray for recently planted college home churches and the less-experienced young leaders in those groups. We also should pray God grants us a growing numbers of effective high school leaders and workers to lead the mushrooming number of high school groups.

## **Support Services Division 2006**

### **Phil Franck, Division Coordinator**

**Here are the six departments that make up Support Services:**

#### **Evangelism Impact Ministries (Sherri Fojas)**

This department offers aids and venues for home groups to reach out to friends and community with the Good News of Christ.

#### **Conversation and Cuisine (C&C)**

Conversation and Cuisine remains one of the most effective ways for home churches to do pre-evangelism. 2006 showed a resurgence of groups doing C&Cs and particularly the newer “neighborhood” approach. Namely, 26 C&C events were held with 165 guests attending. This is better than the last two years, but not up to where it was in the first half of the decade before there were so many other evangelistic and pre-evangelistic venues to be involved with. We developed two new facilitators and three new topics in 2006, and aim to add at least three new topics in 2007.

#### **Playgroup Network**

Playgroup Network reaches out through mothers and their young children getting together informally to play and talk about issues that matter; and exchange ideas, support and friendship. We had 15 playgroups in 2006. We still feel this is an underused venue. At least three people met Christ directly as a result of playgroups in 2006.

Playgroup Network put on a one-night seminar on the topic of Sex, by Gary and Bev DeLashmutt, with 800 in attendance, with many reports later of men whose first time it was to anything Xenos.

#### **Crew-Xenos Soccer Clinic**

Crew-Xenos Soccer Clinic had 99 people, 23 were guests, and an extremely compelling Gospel was presented.

#### **Live-Music Pub Nights**

Live-music Pub Nights at Xenos remained a big hit with 800 people coming out attendees, at least 200 of whom were guests. We diversified with bringing in bands from outside Xenos.

### **Father-Son Buckeye Breakfast**

Father-Son Buckeye Breakfast enjoyed former quarterback and national champion Craig Krenzler, along with linebacker Simon Fraser. The gospel was given to 500 attendees, 200 of whom were guests.

- GameTime (basketball, softball, volleyball, kickboxing) all had decent numbers of participation and guests.
- Hispanic Bible Study now almost three years old and growth continues to fluctuate.

All About Xenos class had 40 guests, and one person received Christ at the class.

### **Communications (Jay Reilly)**

- Central Teachings continue go onto the website a week after each CT, in RealMedia, MP3, outlines, and PowerPoints. Podcasting is working and people are discovering and using it with Xenos' website teachings.
- More people than ever are using Xenos' website – we had 4.25 million pages accessed in 2006.
- We have one year's worth of video of Central Teachings to be edited and used in the event of a remote Xenos sphere site.
- Xenos News will be going to a different format: once a year on paper, and quarterly on the website.

### **External Relations (Jay Reilly)**

- The Xenos Summer Institute was excellent quality. But we had 1,718 registrants though we'd hoped to get 2,000 as in years past.
- Book and CD sales ended the year \$4,500 to the good.
- **Counseling (Katey Downs)**
- Katey Downs, Bev DeLashmutt and Amy McCallum conducted 2,082 counseling sessions.

### **Internal Services (Kathy Hoffer)**

■ We have 850 Servant Team members. That's 3 percent below 2005 numbers—a decrease due largely to peoples' ability to become home church leaders before getting on the Servant Team.

**Central Teaching Administration (John Rue, Gale Flowers)**

- We raised up four new bands to play at CTs.
- We planted a new adult sphere in the newly finished Café.
- Plans for planting either an east-side sphere or a north campus adult sphere continue to take shape.
- \$8,000 in improvements were made to warm up the main auditorium environment.