



CHURCH PLANTING  
PARTNERS



## Partner Roundup - September/October 2021



*Pre-Church Plant Work - Meeting Whitehall Mayor Mary*

### **First things, first...**

**THANK YOU** for your prayers and gifts that make the ministry and mission of Church Planting Partners possible!!! **Our mission is to come alongside new churches and their pastors to accelerate the Great Commission!**

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The pandemic has been especially difficult and discouraging for all pastors and ministry leaders. The struggle is magnified in new and young churches as they lack "established" members and leaders. Some find themselves essentially needing to Start Over.

It's been wonderful to work with Montana Baptists and North American Mission Board as Evangelism Catalyst Missionaries, but we will soon be heading back to Missouri for the season since our fifth wheel trailer is not livable in the winter (and parts of Montana have already over a foot of snow!).

Visit our **website** for more information.

**Footnote:** *Thank you to our friends and fellow agents at Iron Gate Real Estate for helping us continue to do Real Estate business while we are deployed to MT!*



*Pre-Church Plant Worship Gathering, Whitehall, MT*

## Lives Touched

In September we pulled the 5th wheel trailer over to Whitehall, Montana, 85 miles west of Livingston. Pastor Darryl Brunson of Expedition Church feels a burden for the spiritual condition of the people in Whitehall and the surrounding Jefferson Valley, a community

of over 3000 people. This July, Expedition Church began a monthly Sunday evening worship. Phil and I spent the week prior to their 3rd meeting in September canvassing the town with door hangers and setting up a booth at the local farmer's market to get the word out about Expedition's cookout and worship gathering. In addition, we conducted a survey assessing the community's spiritual needs. We had 20 locals attend the worship gathering (4 times the number that attended August!) and Pastor Darryl gave a clear gospel message.

After doing some follow-up the week after the Whitehall worship gathering, we moved 68 miles north to Helena, capital of Montana, with a metro area population of 80,000+. We ministered to Pastor Caleb and Courtney Groteluschen who have a 3 year old church plant called Capstone Church that



*Capstone Church, Helena, MT*

is bursting at the seams with young families and children. Their church meets in a small rental space and recently went to 2 Sunday morning services to provide room to grow! We were able to encourage them and assist with organizing their children's ministry area, storage unit, assist with preparation for their October "Candy Jam" Outreach, and advise them regarding their future ministry real estate needs. Capstone is reaching new people for Christ in a rapid growth area of Montana.



*Overlook into Paradise Valley from Pine Creek Trail*

## **Dooley Adventures**

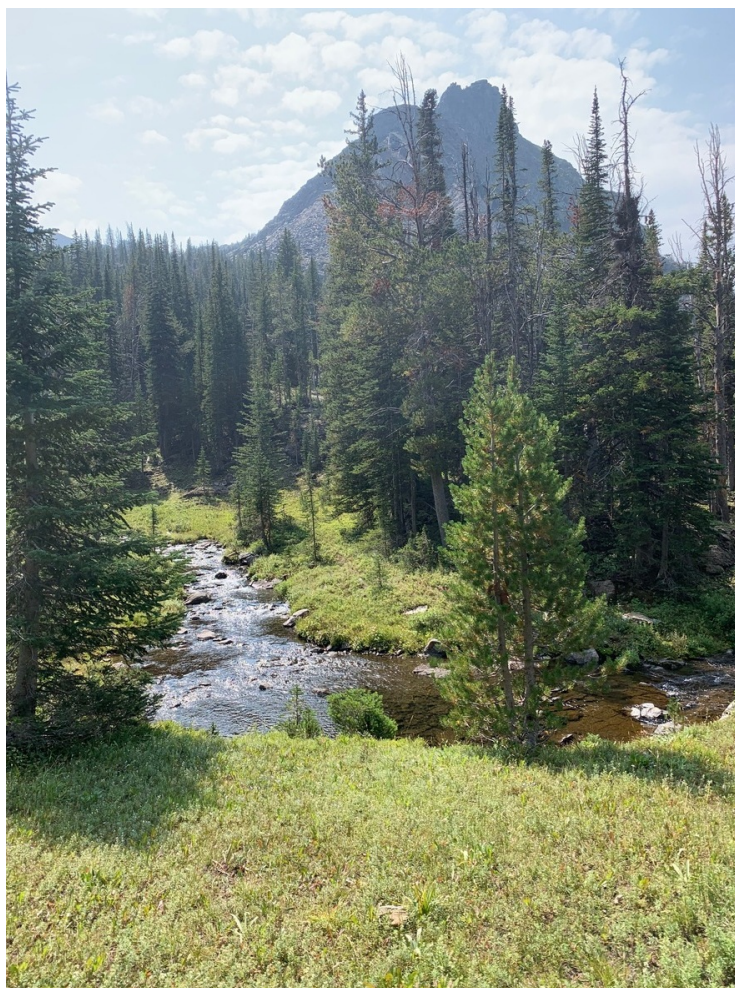
Before leaving Livingston, we decided to tackle a 12 mile hike in the Custer Gallatin National Forest and Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness and Mountain Range. Pine Creek Trail starts at about 5500 ft elevation past beautiful mountain waterfalls and climbs

to over 9000 ft elevation to Pine Creek Lake, a gorgeous mountaintop lake.

Our plan was to hike up to the lake and camp then come back down the next day but the (unnamed) Dooley Expedition Leader took a wrong turn once the trail crosses a mountain stream so we took the hard way up. Carrying our 30 lb backpacks (including our new bear canister meant to keep safe anything that would attract a bear-besides us :-)) we climbed for 3 hours to only go 1/2 mile and ended up camping for the night on a knoll overlooking Paradise Valley.



*Off trail near Pine Creek in Custer Gallatin Nat'l Forest & Absaroka Mountain Range*



That evening it rained a bit, it was a cool 45 degrees, but we kept warm in our sleeping bags, and the surrounding mountaintops sheltered us from the wind.

The next day, we kept climbing and found our way back to the trail. We saw breathtaking waterfalls, lakes, and mountain views. Plus, we got a future teaching illustration about the need for repentance after taking a wrong turn!

**Your Church Planting Partners,  
Phil & Laura Dooley**

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**Please Partner with us for these Prayer Requests:**

<> Pray for encouragement to all the struggling pastors and churches in the wake of the pandemic. Pray for Christ followers to experience unity in Christ and renewed commitment to their local churches.

<> Pray for the salvation and spiritual growth of the people of Whitehall and Jefferson Valley. Also, for God's wisdom for Brother Darryl on a potential new church plant there.

<> Pray for God to meet Capstone Church of Helena's need for a bigger space at an affordable price in the appropriate time.

<> Continued prayer for Amber who we met when we first arrived in Livingston. We have stayed in touch with her and she made it to church recently. Pray she will continue to seek God in the face of some recent challenges.

<> Pray for our safety as we travel home in the next week.

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