



CHURCH PLANTING  
PARTNERS



## Partner Roundup - July/August 2021



*Our 5th wheel & truck parked outside of Expedition Church, Livingston, MT*

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

If you haven't heard already, Phil & I launched a ministry in 2020 called Church Planting Partners. **Our mission is to come alongside new churches and their pastors to accelerate**

**the Great Commission.**

Pastors of new churches (aka "church planters") can become overwhelmed with the enormity of the challenge and can be under-resourced regarding ministry partners. Statistics vary, but upwards of two out of three new churches fail or

struggle to thrive after the first five years.

Montana Baptists and North American Mission Board have asked for help and endorsed us as Evangelism Catalyst Missionaries so we are currently spending late summer and fall in western Montana. Our truck and fifth wheel trailer enable us to deploy on-site to churches and communities.

Visit our **website** for more information.

**Footnote:** *Thank you to Angie Olsen & Debbie Freeman for helping us with our Real Estate business while we are deployed to MT!*



*assisting Summer Lunch program feeding children & parents at Sacajawea Park, Livingston, MT*

## Lives Touched

We arrived in Livingston, Montana at Expedition Church (pictured above) on July 22 and have been serving with Pastor Darryl Brunson and his wife, Veronica. Expedition Church is an exciting story. They started just over 3 years ago and BC (Before Covid) were averaging 55 in attendance. They are bouncing back after the COVID lockdown ended, but their attendance is now ~30. However, they are an EXTREMELY mission-minded church and have hosted 23 mission teams so far in 2021, with more coming to do service projects in the local communities.

This year so far the mission teams have served over 5200 hours in the communities of Livingston and Whitehall resulting in 790 conversations that included God, church, prayer, and/or the gospel. Lots of churches talk about God's love – **Expedition Church goes and shares God's love!** Our mission here so far has been to help with the logistics of serving the servers, encourage the pastor and members, and help with church maintenance projects that can easily be deferred when a church is busy in GO MODE.



*prepping food to freeze at Livingston Food Resource Center*



*Buffalo traffic jam, Custer State Park, SD*

## **Dooley Adventures**

We were delayed a few days because of two torrential downpours in Columbia, MO that found their way into the basement of our house but we were finally able to get on the road to Montana in Mid-July. Traveling to Montana, we experienced beautiful

sights including the Black Hills of South Dakota, the Devil's Tower National Monument in Wyoming, and the prairies of Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument in eastern Montana.

While in South Dakota, we intended to worship with fellow believers in Custer SD, googled the local Baptist Association, and found First Baptist Church of Custer. First Baptist Church of Custer has a Facebook page. First Baptist Church of Custer has a phone number and an address, but drive there to find out **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CUSTER NO LONGER EXISTS!!**



*Sylvan Lake, Custer, SD*

Custer is a town of 2,000 souls, in a county of 9,000 people, and the nearest SBC-affiliated church is in an adjacent county nearly an hour away. A vivid illustration of why God called us into this ministry of helping new churches begin and become established.



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

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

<> Thank you for your prayers for Phil's recovery from surgery! It's a long recovery process but he's progressing! Pray for his energy level to continue to improve as well.

<> Pray for all the seed sown by Expedition Church to bear fruit in the form of transformed lives and new believers in God's family.

<> Pray for Amber who works in Livingston. When we met her and asked her how we could pray for her, she teared up and said, "That I might experience the presence of God in my life." We invited her to attend Expedition Church, pray that she does so.

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