

THE INDIAN RIVER PROJECT

Presbyterian Church in America

Renewing Hope Through the Power of the Gospel

The Indian River Project church plant exists to extend the influence of the gospel in North Brevard County by being the first of a series of churches planted by Christ Community Church.

IN SEARCH OF...

For decades the lush green landscape of North Brevard County has been the launching pad for America's Space Program. Born out of a war to beat the Russians to the moon, the Space Coast has been the scenic vista from which America and the world has seen some of man's most dramatic achievements and failures. It's monuments to exploration and discovery mark it's landscape. It's history, both good and bad, have been indelibly etched in it's social and global consciousness.

However rich and storied it's history, the Space Coast, for better or for worse, is now in search of a new identity. Reports from the once sacred halls of exploration question the successful completion of the Shuttle Program while engineers, designers, and scientists work feverishly to develop a newer, safer vehicle that utilizes the latest technology. What was once a clear-cut definable mission has now become a restless wandering into the unknown.

But what if the uncertainty that surrounds this community met with the certainty of God's Word and God's promises? What if men and women frustrated by turnover, fearful of obsolescence, and enslaved to an antiquated idea met the creator of worth, value, and significance? What if they met Jesus? Would they be changed? Would they become allergic to their own self-reliance? What if the community began to replace it's self-actualizing language of "discovery, enterprising, and frontier" with the gospel language of "alien, visitor, or sojourner?" Would the Space Coast be a different place and would the people be different because of the propulsion of the gospel?

The Indian River Project seeks to be a gospel-centered community that renews the hope of this community through the power of the gospel...that amidst the uncertainties of life there is one sure foundation, Jesus Christ. He alone is worthy of our trust. He alone is worthy of our worship. He alone is worthy!

Being confident that God has called us back to the Space Coast, Lori and I were delighted to reconnect with Dan and Margaret Thompson who have long desired the renewal of N. Brevard County through the power of the gospel.

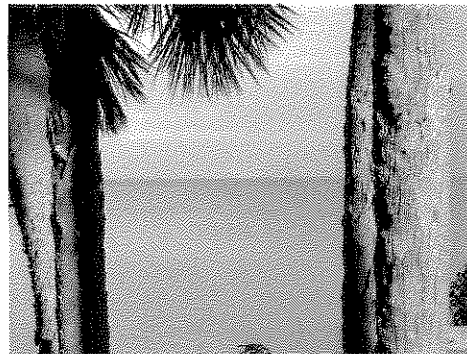
The Thompson's planted Christ Community Church (CCC) in Titusville seventeen years ago. This healthy congregation in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) has a vision to see a fresh movement of the gospel extend over the shores of N. Brevard County and to plant a net-

work of churches in that region. As God would have it, He has brought Lori and me together with Christ Community Church to plant their first daughter church on the border of South Titusville and Port St. John.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE

The target location of this new church plant is a combination of zip codes 32780 (South Titusville) and 32927 (Port St. John). The combined population as of the 2000 Census is almost 58,000. However, this area is expecting monumental growth over the next 5 years with the addition of two major developments (over 4000 single-family and multi-family units). The anticipated population boom in our target area alone is expected to climb an additional 8,000 by 2012. The time to act is now...before the population explosion takes place.

Having lived in this area for 18 months, we know that this community is deeply committed to their families...that's one of the beauties. But, it's brokenness is typically suburban — consumeristic, materialistic, and individualistic. We will have to work hard to demonstrate the emptiness of such self-serving motivations and to instill a mindset and lifestyle of being spent for the sake of the gospel.



RESTORING HOPE IN THE HEARTS OF SOUTH TITUSVILLE & PORT ST. JOHN

Who are we seeking to reach?

- **Families** - the small town feel encourages relationships which could be nurtured through family-centered events and fellowship groups.
- **Inquirer's** - Many seek spiritual direction but have either had a bad experience with Christianity in the past or have a warped vision of the freedom and acceptance of the Gospel.
- **Students** - the schools in South Titusville and Port St. John are plagued by the typical and overwhelming problems of apathy and undirected potential. We aim to win students to Christ so that they might influence the world.
- **Internationals** - the growth of TICO airport and it's helicopter training facilities has brought many international students to the area. Knowing we only have a short window of opportunity with these students, it's our desire to proclaim the gospel in word and deed so that they might take up the cross of Christ as they return to their different homelands.

Gary and Lori Ginn
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Titusville, FL 32780

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Email:

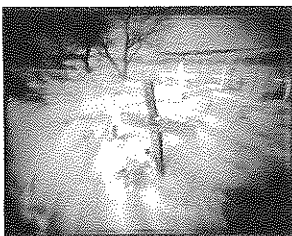
gary@christcommunitytitusville.org

The Hope of the Gospel

"I'm too big of a sinner to be tricked by a celebration of discipline. What I need is accountability to believe the gospel more and more. My biggest problem is not a lack of discipline, but a lack of believing the gospel. The grace of Jesus alone is sufficient to change somebody like me." - Rev. Scotty Smith, *Thoughts on the New Year 2006*

Three Distinctives:

- Transformational Community Life
- Merciful Caring for the Poor
- Redemptive Worship



The Message of the Cross

OUR MESSAGE OF HOPE

Our message of hope will be very simple. To quote the late Jack Miller, "We are far more sinful than we can imagine, but we are also far more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dared dream." The classic Gospel message is this: that sinners are forgiven and accepted by God because of the work of Christ (2 Cor 5:17). Contained in the gospel is the power of God to transform anybody and anything it touches. The Gospel changes everything!

We want people to be surprised by how urgent, penetrating, and relevant the gospel is to their lives. The gospel is not about trying harder or being nicer; it's about a whole new life and a new object of worship. Once that foundational change occurs, every aspect of life is different. Jesus Christ is the Lord of all and we expect monumental transformation — in relationships, in community, in careers, and in neighborhoods.

A COMMUNITY OF GRACE

The Gospel critiques both religion and irreligion (Matt. 21:31). It will affect everything we do at our new church. It is the foundational core value upon which all of the other core values find expression.

Our community will be based on the grace, freedom, and hope of the gospel. We will be a warm and welcoming community, not being threatened when people who look different come into our midst. In fact, we will pray that God makes us a richly diverse community foreshadowing the consummated kingdom when Jesus returns (Gal. 3:28, Rev. 7:9).

WHAT WILL OUR CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

- Redemptive Worship
- Transformational Community Life
- Biblical, Practical Preaching
- Merciful Caring for the Poor
- Relentless, Relational Evangelism
- Active lay leadership and training
- Revitalizing Prayer
- Strategic Multiplication

A GOSPEL-SHAPED VISION

- **The Gospel gives us hope.** The Gospel reminds us that we are pilgrims — we are not yet home. Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus enables us to live freely and securely amidst the uncertainties of life.
- **The Gospel brings relational intimacy.** Honesty and integrity are assumed in Christian relationships. Because Christ frees us from needing the approval of others, we can speak the truth in love.
- **The Gospel creates a new community.** In Jesus, Christians become new people of God, united to Christ and to one another.
- **The Gospel makes us wounded healers.** Because we have been forgiven and healed of so much, we seek to be used by God to bring His reconciliation to others. We don't reject people for their sin. We love them and point them to the only place of hope, the Cross of Christ. We will not hide our hearts or pretend that we don't struggle.
- **The Gospel has hands and feet.** As we preach mercy and grace, we strive to live it too. The Gospel assumes that we will actively seek justice for the poor.
- **The Gospel renews culture.** Our desire is to see growing Christians working in their vocations with both excellence and Christian distinctiveness, thus transforming the culture from the inside out.
- **The Gospel produces changed lives.** We become more and more like Christ through the ongoing application of the gospel to our lives, through the power of the Spirit.
- **The Gospel continues to branch out.** The Gospel always challenges us to "get out" from our positions of comfort and security by calling us to His harvest field. By God's grace, we hope to partner with Christ Community Church and Mission to North America to plant a series of churches in Brevard County.

Leadership

CHURCH PLANTER PROFILE

In January 1993, Gary Ginn moved from Eastern NC to the Space Coast. It was here that he came to know Jesus through an outreach of First Baptist Church of Merritt Island. Gary and Lori met on Merritt Island and were married there in January 1996. Their return to the Space Coast is a coming home of sorts. In August 1996, Gary began classes at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL while Lori began classes at RTS in June 1998.

Gary graduated from RTS in 2000 with a Master of Divinity degree while Lori graduated in 2002 with a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies. While in seminary, Gary and Lori worked as Resident Managers of the Ronald McDonald House of Orlando (serving families with critically-ill children being treated in Orlando area hospitals). After graduation, Gary served as Assistant to the Pastor at Good Shepherd PCA in Ocala, FL. Gary's responsibilities included: leading Middle School youth functions, leading fellowship groups, overseeing Children's Ministry including VBS, preaching, and starting a "Satellite Sunday School" at the Skill Day Center in Ocala, FL.

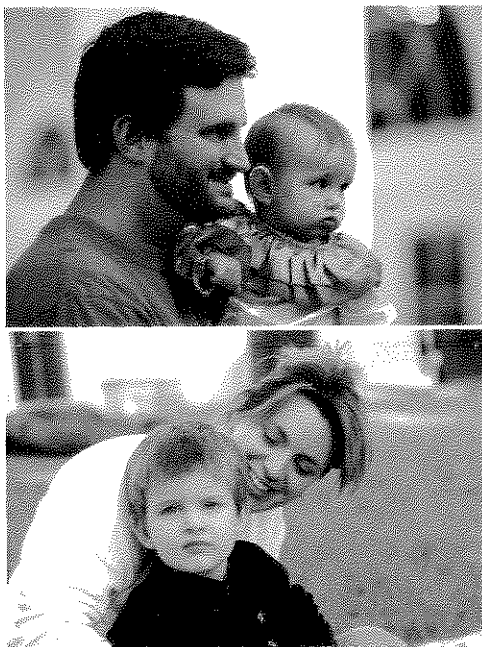
In August 2004, Gary was called to Christ Community Church (CCA) in Titusville, FL. As Assistant Pastor, Gary's responsibilities included: Assimilation Team Leadership, preaching, coordinating Leadership Community Meetings, leading small groups and fulfillment of apprenticeship requirements. Lori has worked on a part-time basis as a teacher at Redeemer Christian School in Ocala and is currently working as an editor in the Doctor of Ministry Program at RTS.

Gary and Lori live in Titusville and have two children now, Jack (3), Annie (1), and one on the way due in June.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

This project is affiliated with one church and two agencies: Christ Community Church, Central Florida Presbytery, and Mission to North America, an agency of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

The Rev. Dan Thompson is the pastor of **Christ Community Church** in Titusville, FL. Rev. Thompson has served as Gary's mentor for the



first year of a two-year apprenticeship and will continue to assist Gary in apprenticeship and transitional phases of the church plant. Christ Community Church will be the "mother" church of this new church plant and has committed people, prayer, and financial resources to get it started.

Central Florida Presbytery is taking a very aggressive approach to starting new churches. The presbytery, by faith, believing it to be caught up in a movement of the Holy Spirit, hopes to start 31 new churches across the Central Florida region over the next five years. The success of the Space Coast Project is crucial to the Presbytery's desire to be part of a movement bigger than itself.

Mission to North America recruits, assesses, trains, and supervises church planters for denominational purposes. Gary and Lori have been assessed and approved for the Indian River Project.

**OUR CHURCH,
ALONG WITH ITS
PARTNERS, DESIRES
TO BE A CHURCH-
PLANTING
CHURCH. BY
GOD'S GRACE AND
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WILL SEEK OUT
AREAS IN NEED OF
A NEW CHURCH
BOTH IN NORTH
BREVARD COUNTY
AND AROUND THE
WORLD.**

The shape of the Christian movement as a constellation of local congregations needs to be renewed and continued, not scrapped and superseded...Richard Lovelace in Dynamics of Spiritual Life

A central theme in the Bible is that God is creating for Himself a people who are His own possession. God is not merely saving individuals; He is building a new community in this world. He is forming a new humanity from the ashes of Adam's fallen race. The gathering of this community is at the heart of God's promise: "I will be your God and you will be my people"...Rev. Dan Thompson, Christ Community Church

How You Can Get Involved

PROJECT TIMELINE

Transition and Startup - Right now we're in the middle of transition from Christ Community Church to the new church plant. In January 2006, Rev. Dan Thompson and the session at CCC challenged, through the preaching of the gospel, many of the families of CCC living in the target location to partner with us in this new work. Graciously, eleven families from CCC have committed to the church plant. In February 2006 we moved to our target location and began a core group Bible study and establishing contacts and evangelism in the community. In May we'll establish our small group ministry and by Sept 2006 we should have several small group fellowship groups up and running. A couple of outreach events will be held over the summer months to give us more exposure in the community. Corporate worship will begin when project funding is complete and 6 small group fellowships (10-12 people each) have emerged. Continued training and mentoring will be provided by Rev. Thompson and the New Church Network of the Central Florida Presbytery. By God's grace and provision, this church plant will be completely self-supporting in three years.

Additionally, financial commitments to the Indian River Project have been made by Christ Community Church and the Central Florida Presbytery.

| FUNDS COMMITTED: | YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Christ Community Church | \$20,000 | \$15,000 | \$35,000 |
| Central FL Presbytery | \$20,000 | \$15,000 | \$35,000 |
| Total Committed | \$40,000 | \$30,000 | \$70,000 |

| OUTSIDE SUPPORT GOAL TO COMPLETE THE INDIAN RIVER PROJECT | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Startup Costs | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
| \$ 40,100 | \$97,000 | \$79,750 | \$42,750 | \$ 259,600 |

| FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP GOALS | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| Type | \$ Amount | Total | Monthly Amount |
| Central FL Presbytery | \$ 35,000 | \$ 35,000 | \$ 1,460 |
| Christ Community | \$ 35,000 | \$ 35,000 | \$ 1,460 |
| 1 Church/ Individual | \$ 50,000 | \$ 50,000 | \$ 1,390 |
| 2 Churches/ Individuals | \$ 25,000 | \$ 50,000 | \$ 695 |
| 5 Churches/ Individuals | \$ 10,000 | \$ 50,000 | \$ 275 |
| All Others Combined | \$ 39,600 | \$ 39,600 | \$10 - \$150 |
| TOTAL | | \$ 259,600 | |

PRAYER PARTNERSHIPS

We believe that prayer is the vehicle God chooses to meet the needs of His people. As a result, we need a significant group of people to pray for this project. We believe that it's going to take more than 100 prayer partners to make this project successful. Would you be willing to pray for us? Let us know if you are willing to receive weekly or monthly prayer requests by email. Contact us at:

gary@christcommunitytitusville.org

REFERRALS

If you have family members or friends living in N. Brevard County, please refer them to us. Or, let us know who they are and we'd be happy to contact them directly.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We trust God that the Indian River church plant will be completely self-supporting in three years. We welcome pledges of regular giving that is spread out over the full three years, or over a shorter time period as you feel led.

All contributions are tax-deductible and should be designated for the **INDIAN RIVER PROJECT** and sent to:

Mission to North America
1700 N. Brown Rd., Suite 101
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8122