



NORTH
AMERICAN
BAPTIST
CONFERENCE

1219 Pleasant Grove Blvd.
Roseville, CA 95678

Return Service Requested

DISCIPLESHIP TO FRUITFULNESS



Even just a few years ago, Holly* considered herself to be a spiritually seeking person who tried different spiritual avenues. Even when she expressed curiosity in Christianity, says Darren Lof, it was “probably more her adding something else to her spiritual pocket.” Darren and his wife, Crista, have known Holly since their kids were in the same kindergarten class more than seventeen years ago.



Throughout the years, Darren and Crista have continually encouraged Holly to pursue a right relationship with God as found through Jesus, but it wasn't until they started Gather Steveston, a church plant in Richmond, British Columbia, that she began to take a serious look at Jesus and His life and teachings. Her discipleship journey has been a slow process, but Darren and Crista have been there every step of the way.

Would you consider giving to the Ministry Resource Fund in support of church planters like Darren and Crista Lof? Your generosity allows for church planters, pastors, and leaders all across the NAB to be supported through training, resources, and assistance designed to aid in the flourishing of God's Kingdom and the spreading of the Gospel to people like Holly.

Darren and Crista have lived in the Steveston neighborhood for more than twenty years. Their love for the city and the people in it – people like Holly – drives their desire to see God's Kingdom come to fruition in their neighborhood. To that end, they planted Gather Steveston in the fall of 2018 with a hope of engaging with the community in a way that sees God's Kingdom manifest in Steveston.

Even though Darren and Crista had reached out to Holly for years, it was their new church that was the catalyst that brought her to finally place her full trust in Jesus. Holly was one of the first to show interest in Gather Steveston, and ever since the first meeting, she has been the most committed member of the church.

For Holly, her relationship with the Lofs for the past seventeen years has been transformational. For the first time this past December, she was able to look in the mirror on Christmas morning and not be sad, and she said it was only because of Jesus. Even longtime friends of Holly have noticed a change in her. She was recently baptized at a beach; part of her reason for wanting to be baptized was to be able to tell people how her life has changed and encourage them to listen to and look toward Jesus. As Darren describes it, her process of discipleship toward conversion is now becoming a discipleship to fruitfulness.

So often it is new church plants like Gather Steveston that are able to go into previously unreached corners of our communities, large or small – to people previously uninterested in hearing about Jesus – and spark the kind of disciple-making Jesus trained his earliest disciples toward. Even as much of the world has slowed down due to the current global pandemic, God continues to be on the move in and through new church planters. Darren and Crista aren't alone in the NAB; they are just one couple in a whole wave of new NAB church planters in the last few years.

Two of the most recent couples in the early stages of church planting are Andy and Sarah Wesner in Ellinwood, Kansas, and Joe and Sarah Caples in Roseville, California. The Wesners just recently completed the assessment process and are figuring out where God is leading them to plant a church and what it will look like. The Caples are further along in the process; they have already established themselves in the neighborhood where they will be planting, but they have not yet launched. And just this past month, two additional couples from the NAB completed the three-day assessment process and are making plans to plant new congregations in Kansas and Iowa.



* A pseudonym

All of these couples – the Lofs, the Wesners, the Caples, and others – are at different stages of the church planting journey, but every step of the way the NAB has been by their sides to provide coaching, training, resources, and support, much of which is provided through the Ministry Resource Fund. Would you give \$50, \$100, \$500, or more to the Ministry Resource Fund to help support missional training through Blue Ocean, provide crucial coaching for church planters, and supply office support for church planting efforts, among a host of other ministry needs? Your gift will make a significant difference in these discipleship efforts.

Ways to Give

- Online** www.nabconference.org/give/fall
- Text to Give** Text gift amount followed by “FALL” to (204) 400-2238 for Canadian giving or to (916) 249-0534 for US giving.
- Credit Card by Phone** Contact Lisa Meinschock (916) 783-1520
- Check/Cheque** Make payable to “North American Baptists, Inc.”
- Stocks or Securities** Contact Betty Buchholz (916) 797-6231