

# Planting Churches in America!

By Mike Steele

There is an old Jewish tradition that says creation was not complete until the end of the seventh day. It was on the seventh day that God completed all things. What He did on the seventh day was to bring balance to His creation by establishing rest, tranquility, serenity and peace to offset the work of Creation in the other six days. He made the seventh day a time to be revived, replenished, renewed and filled with hope. It was a time to reflect on all that was good and to give thanks. God Himself looked on all He had created and acknowledged that it was good. Sabbath was the name given to that day. For years to come it was to be a day of great joy as people reflected on God's grace and care for them and their families. They would rejoice in His provision and give themselves a moment to rest their bodies. They would cease striving and let go of the worries of the world for a moment.

While vacationing last year, I focused on the idea of Sabbath and reflected on the goodness of God. It was hard to slow down and rest! I am passionate about seeing the Kingdom expand and struggle with taking a moment to rest and reflect. Our hurried pace today entices us to march on, take control, get ahead, advance the cause. What is funny about all that is that once you are in Christ, the only things that truly matter are the things He initiates and accomplishes through you. Scripture tells us we can do nothing on our own. So, as I was reflecting on God, I really began to relax and rest in His great love and mercy. I began to focus on just being with Him and enjoying time to rest, read and listen to Him.

Once again I was reminded that to be faithful to the Lord's call, one must choose to disengage the world and connect with the Lord. On several occasions we find Jesus leaving the busyness of the world and ministry to escape into the Father's presence. His times with God are a model for us so that our efforts flow out of a heart directed by God's leading.

Times of refreshing! What a great reminder for all of us. As we seek to partner with God in the expansion of His Kingdom, let us not forget to encourage each other to get together with God away from the noise of a busy world. This is the most effective way to grow close to Him and hear His plans and purposes for our lives, our families and our calling.

[http://www.dawnministries.org/regions/nam/simplechurch/articles/jun2003/plant\\_america.html](http://www.dawnministries.org/regions/nam/simplechurch/articles/jun2003/plant_america.html)