

# NCO Outreach

September 2008

Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful." Titus 3:14

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*This month's mission's letter gives us information about Ron and Chery Boehm and their new relationship with VisionOhio.*



If you have been reading NCO Outreach, you may be wondering why you are seeing the Boehms featured again so soon. Yes, they were the focus of February's issue, just 8 months ago.

Well, there has been a change. May 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron resigned from Go2. His leaving Go2 so suddenly (after a mere four months with the new organization) may cause some to wonder if he discovered some secret, terminal flaw with Go2, OR if he was quietly asked to leave because of a character or performance issue with him. Did he have a "fall-out" with the leadership or was he enticed away to do something else? Actually, none of these is the case.

So why did he leave? Through many years of pastoral experiences and church planting, Ron knows how important it is, to coin a phrase from author Jim Collins, to get the "right people on the bus." The awkwardness of this whole situation is that Ron got on the wrong bus and it took him four months to realize what he had done. His gifts and calling were not a good match for the Go2 "bus," so the best thing for him to do was to "get off the bus." Ron called Dr. Tim Boal on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and tendered his resignation, which he reluctantly accepted.

From 2000 to 2005 Ron participated with the VisionOhio Strategy Team. When the Strategy Team came to the conclusion that there needed to be key leaders focused on implementing the strategy, the VisionOhio Operations Center was born and it was considered part of the GBNAM regional strategy.

With the blessing and matching grant from GBNAM, the Northwest Chapel became a Key Church Resource Center and the VisionOhio Operations Center began with Ron coordinating the efforts of Tony Webb, Terry Hofecker, Martin Guereña, Chery Boehm and Jamie McClary.

The Op Center took the suggestion from Tom Nebel's book (*Big Dreams in Small Places* - see page 119ff) to begin building seven necessary systems for church planting movements, which are...

1. *Spiritual Dynamics (Prayer)*
2. *Established Church Involvement*

3. *Coaching*
4. *Recruitment*
5. *Funding*
6. *Assessment*
7. *Training*

Since that time the Op Center has sponsored and coordinated mass communications for prayer, leadership summits for pastors in Ohio to interact with a focus on church planting (Leadership Summits, Micropolitan Movement, etc), training for church planters (Dr. Hofecker teaches a Grace Seminary Course on church planting), coaching and training events for coaches, assessments and training events for assessors, recruiting procedures, etc.

In the spring of 2007 Ron and Chery attended Exponential, a national interdenominational event for church planters from all over the country. Ron took a three session course led by Steve Ogne of Church Resource Ministries on Building a Church-Planting Network. He suggested ten similar systems for a healthy network and claimed that it may very well take 10 to 20 years to build it.

As VisionOhio was pressing on, the future of GBNAM became more of an issue through 2007. At the end of 2007, because of the uncertainty of his future work, Ron turned over the leadership of the Operations Center to Tony Webb.

Under Tony's leadership, the VisionOhio Op Center has continued to morph. Tony invited Ron and Nathan Wells to be a part of the Op Center Team, which he is leading to function as a Covenant Community of workers.

While Ron was technically unemployed, Tony and he began discussing the possibility of Ron working full-time with VisionOhio. After much prayer and seeking of advice, Ron and Chery decided to pursue that possibility.

As of the first of August, Ron and Chery are now employees of the Grace Brethren Church of Columbus, seconded to VisionOhio and supported from a special fund created by the church. Most here in the United States are not familiar with the term "second" (pronounced se-kund). It is a British term and very common on the international scene. It means "to transfer an employee, official, or soldier temporarily to other duties." The Boehms, VisionOhio and the GBCC have a signed agreement guiding this arrangement for the next three years.

While serving by this agreement, Ron and Chery will operate under the direct supervision of Tony Webb, but report to both him and a designated leader at the

GBCC. The church will manage the offerings given for the Boehms and see that they are properly dispersed.

Ron's duties, broadly stated, involve...

- Coaching (20% of time)
- Established Church and DMBs (20%)
- Development - fund raising (40%)
- Regional movement multiplication (10%)
- General movement support as directed by coordinator (10%)

Chery is included in the support package for about half a day per week. She will be working alongside Ron when possible/desirable, and ministering to wives of pastors and church planters.

Ron is driven by a desire to "catalyze the planting and multiplication of a significant number of biblically-faithful churches (churches that win unreached men and women to Christ and foster their effective discipleship) by building healthy church reproduction and multiplication environments both within and among FGBC churches." He wants to leverage his strategic position in Northeast Ohio to develop essential church planting systems (such as Coaching systems, Assessment Centers, training venues, etc.) that initiate, process, fund, support and encourage Midwest church planting.



To get a better grasp on what the Boehms are doing, one needs to understand VisionOhio. What is VisionOhio, or what does VisionOhio aspire to be? Most leaders have a "brain chip" that leads them to think of VisionOhio as a typical Grace Brethren organization with a board of directors and staff operated by the dream of one man, the executive director. So when VisionOhio does not talk about its board of directors and executive director, 'suspicion alarms' go off and brains freeze in bewilderment. Though explanations are given, frantically behind the scenes, the brain is looking for the controller of VisionOhio operations.

VisionOhio IS different and the old "brain chip" needs upgraded. Right now these men are giving life and direction to the work of VisionOhio: Tony Webb (director), Ron Boehm, Nathan Wells, Terry Hofecker and Martin Guerena. Though leaders in their own right, they all share one thing in common: a desire to see new Grace Brethren churches formed all over the state for the purpose of reaching lost people and making disciples. Each one has history in the church planting movement, is actively engaging the planting of new churches, and is pursuing a better understanding of the church-planting process through reading and training.

These men pray for new churches and church planters AND they encourage others to pray also. They assess church planters AND they train other church leaders to be assessors as well. These men coach church planters AND they provide training and encouragement for other church leaders to become coaches. These men dream, visionize, about church planting AND they create venues for other church leaders to dream about the possibilities as well.

VisionOhio is much more than what 5 men do, directed by one. VisionOhio is really about what the leaders of Grace Brethren churches want to do and are doing in the work of church planting.

Church planting is different than pastoring a church and VisionOhio tries to bring to church leaders a better understanding of the process without dictating or controlling what is actually done. VisionOhio works with church leaders to give birth to new churches. VisionOhio believes in the centrality of the local church to the mission process, and that church planting is all about the mission of reaching our "Judea and Samaria."

VisionOhio is working to care for some important matters as it morphs. VO knows that accountability is critical, so there is an effort going on now to create an accountability group made up of a few, strategic district leaders. VO knows that vision and direction are important, so it is seeking to create a vision statement from a collaboration of church leaders from around the state.

So if you think VisionOhio wants to be an organization that tells churches what to do with regard to church planting, you need to change your "brain chip" because VO does not operate that way. The vision for reaching Buckeyes for Christ lies within and the work of making it happen arises out of local churches. Some of us who are at the core of VisionOhio may be able to help and advise, but ultimately the decision and effort to reach people for Christ via church planting resides in the local church – its leaders and people.

We believe we are bringing the call to plant churches back to where it belongs: the local church. We believe that most churches can't do it alone, so we want to help churches work together. We believe that church planting cannot be left to chance, so here we are. Let's see what God will do through all of us working together to expand His Kingdom for His glory!

If you would like Ron and/or Chery to talk with you further about their ministry, to share with your mission committee or to make a presentation in your church, contact them at ...

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