

# Leading Forward: Churches with more than one location

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In 2006 Geoff Surratt, Greg Ligon, and Warren Bird authored the book **The Multi-site Church Revolution**. I bought it, read it, and thought about it. The concept was interesting. The benefits were logical. The success was unarguable. With the exception of Fellowship Church in Grapevine, none of the churches interviewed or mentioned were in our general neighborhood. What a difference a year can make!

By mid-September, three churches in our association will be operating as multi-site churches. Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, was the first to have a second location with a beginning in August 2006. Prestonwood North in Prosper currently meets at the high school and has broken ground on a permanent location. Dr. David McKinley serves as the overseer of Prestonwood North.

First Baptist Church, Denton, will launch their second site First Denton East in the Savannah community about 10 miles east of Denton on Highway 380. Brad Cockrell will be the campus site pastor. They will begin on September 9.

The Village Church, in Highland Village, will open The Village Denton on September 16. They have acquired the property of the former Grace Temple Baptist Church just off of the UNT campus. Beau Hughes is serving as the campus site pastor.

Each of these three churches have a common goal of expanding the Kingdom of God by providing additional meeting locations in various geographical areas while conserving costs by using existing church staff to enhance the ministry and outreach at the new location. Dr. Jack Graham (Prestonwood), Dr. Jeff Williams (FBC, Denton), and Rev. Matt Chandler (The Village Church) have each championed the vision and encouraged the congregations to move forward with the new format of church expansion and church extension.

Each of these three multi-site churches will have live praise and worship music. The sermons will vary from site to site. Prestonwood North uses a variety of on-site speakers and some video messages from the main Prestonwood campus. Both First Denton East and The Village Denton will be using video of the sermon from the main campuses

with the Senior Pastors of those main campuses occasionally preaching live while the main campus views the sermon on video.

Each of these is very new. All will make changes and adjustments as they continue to learn and develop their processes. This is true for all church planting and church expanding movements. This approach will reach many unchurched and lost people for the Kingdom. Likewise, this approach will not appeal to all. However, I commend these three churches for taking a risk into new territory for the sake of reaching and discipling people for Christ. My prayer is that we will all be seeking new ways and fresh approaches to expanding God's Kingdom. Pray for each other as we labor together. Pray for these three churches as they step into a new area. Pray for all of us to continually be open to God's leading into the uncharted territories for service.