



Coffee with a Cause

by Ron Kidd, Church Planting Strategist, Central-East Region

Church planters must be creative, be able to think outside the box and, most importantly, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Jonathan Davis and Clint Clifton are two such church planters.

In 2008, Pillar Church in Dumfries sent out Jonathan and Jennifer Davis to plant a church in Locust Grove, west of Fredericksburg. The Davises and Clint Clifton, Pillar's church planter/pastor, worked diligently on a strategy to reach Locust Grove for Christ. They needed to find a way to meet people in a non-intimidating and non-threatening environment. They hosted an outdoor movie, a paintball competition, and even a banquet in honor of community leaders, but saw little success. In an area filled with gated communities, busy commuters, and few who showed interest in another new church, Jonathan and Clint became discouraged.

Several months later, on a mission trip to Indonesia, the Holy Spirit led Jonathan and Clint to a group of orphans in Nagara, a city of extreme poverty. Just weeks before, the overseer of the orphanage had died in a tragic car accident. His widow had assumed the heavy responsibility of caring for the 25 children but was struggling under the financial burden. Clint was able to connect the children to an Indonesian friend who, with the blessing and endorsement of the government, took the orphans into his home. Although his generosity was extraordinary, housing that many children proved difficult.

Upon returning to the States, Jonathan and Clint worked to raise \$8,000 and later returned to Indonesia with another team. They purchased a piece of land and built what is now called the Pillar House. The house shelters the orphans but is still lacking plumbing and electricity. Jonathan and Clint wanted to do more, and the Lord gave them an idea: What about opening a coffee shop in Locust Grove

that could provide a meeting place for the church plant and also support these orphans? Since coffee is a major export of Indonesia, they could exclusively serve Indonesian coffee.

Coffee with a Cause (CWAC), located 15 miles west of Fredericksburg on Constitution Highway (Route 20) is now a fully functioning coffee shop and a ministry of Pillar Church at Locust Grove, the church the Lord enabled Jonathan Davis to plant. CWAC uses its setting to engage people in conversation and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the community. Its two employees and several volunteers are always eager and ready to share their faith, pray with a customer, and talk about their ministry. Customers are happy to purchase an excellent cup of coffee in support of a worthy cause. Every penny made above CWAC's expenses goes to serve those in the community and to support the orphanage in Indonesia with food, clothing, and school supplies. Not only is the coffee shop a community gathering spot, it's also the meeting place for Pillar Church at Locust Grove. Needless to say, the 5:00 PM weekly Sunday worship service has incredible coffee!

Pillar Church at Locust Grove is establishing itself as a Christ-centered fellowship of believers with a strong commitment to the surrounding communities of Locust Grove, Lake Wilderness, and Fredericksburg. It all started with two men who listened to the Holy Spirit and were willing to step out of the box. Is the Lord calling you or your church to move out of your comfort zone to reach your community for Him?

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.coffee-cause.com
www.sbcv.org/mobilizing
www.sbcv.org/multipling

■ Contact:

Call 540-854-4242 (Coffee with a Cause) or your SBCV regional missionary at 888-234-7716 for details.

■ Consider:

Are you being called to move out of your comfort zone?

Founders (l-r): Jonathan Davis and Clint Clifton

