

The Strategic Church Partnership

As church planting and church renewal in Latvia has accelerated another challenge has arisen. The need for prayer support, encouragement, mentoring and financial resources has far exceeded the current capacity of Latvian Baptists. This, in turn, has led to the development of the Strategic Church Partnership initiative.

A Strategic Partner Church (SPC) from outside of Latvia makes an initial three to five year commitment to walk alongside and co-labor with a Latvian church plant or a church seeking renewal. Currently, these churches will primarily come from the United States although there are churches from Norway, Sweden, as well as, other countries also involved.

When a SPC comes alongside a Latvian Partner Church Plant (LPCP) the SPC will be partnering with a new work that is engaged in a local community, has a Latvian support network and is connected to the M4 church planting learning community.

As a former IMB missionary to Latvia I have seen firsthand the need, the opportunity and the passion for church planting and church revitalization. In response, we are looking for successful impactful models of church planting and church revitalization God would use through the Strategic Church Partnership process. The goal is to look outside of Latvia for dynamic churches that are willing to come alongside a Latvian church plant or church revitalization work.

While the purpose of this proposal was to highlight the Strategic Church Partnership, we do want you to know that there are other levels of involvement. God may have touched your heart regarding the Church Planting and Church Renewal movement in Latvia. Yet, you do not believe He is calling you to become a SCP church. If this is the case please contact us for more information about other engagement and support opportunities.



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Strategic Church Partnership



**An opportunity to
join God in a
church planting
movement in Latvia
and beyond**

The Baltic Pastoral Institute and Church Growth

Upon being elected to lead the Union of Baptist Churches in Latvia (LBDS) in 2006, one of the first realities that Peteris Sprogis faced was the lack of qualified and trained pastors. There were many more Baptist churches than Baptist pastors. This was amplified by the lack of effective theological and pastoral training. This led to the launching of the Baltic Pastoral Institute (BPI) to accelerate training and deploying of pastors and other church leaders.

The Baltic Pastoral Institute course of study includes a full year of intensive resident training. This is followed by two years of intensive non-resident training. By graduation BPI students are well prepared, spiritually and personally, for the work of ministry.



The **Strategic Church Partnership** will involve both hands on and remote engagement. Some possible elements of the partnership are:

Develop a **Prayer Support Network** in both the LPCP/LPRC and the SPC.

Travel to Latvia

Initially, the SPC would send representatives to Latvia during a Vision Latvia trip to meet and develop a relationship with the potential Latvia partner church.

A Partnership Covenant

Throughout the duration of the partnership, the SPC would develop strategies with the LPCP/LPRC to deploy **Short Term Mission Teams** in support of ministry initiatives and projects in Latvia.

Travel from Latvia

It is very helpful and encouraging for Latvia church leaders to come to the USA to observe healthy churches and ministry.

Financial Commitment

Initially, we do not ask the SPC to make a specific financial commitment. However, as the partnership develops we would ask the SPC to **prayerfully consider offering financial support for mission critical projects and initiatives.**

When a SPC comes alongside a Latvian Partner Renewal Church (LPRC) the SPC will be partnering with a church that has gone through a thorough a thorough assessment, been given specific prescriptions for church health, function and renewal, as well as, made the commitment to follow the prescriptions with the assistance of BPI, the LBDS, and, hopefully, the SPC

A Word from Dr. Rob Zinn, Senior Pastor Immanuel Baptist Church, Highland, CA

We have been involved in the work in Latvia since entering into a church to church partnership in 2004. We have seen God do amazing things including raising Peteris Sprogis to lead the Baptist Union. We still consider BPI and the Baptist Union as key partners in our Global Outreach Ministry. If you are looking to engage in God's Kingdom work internationally, I strongly urge you to prayerfully considering joining in the church planting movement in Latvia through a Strategic Church Partnership.

Pastor Rob Zinn

