

Extend Mission Cluster

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For some time DaySpring has begun thinking about how to expand, multiply, and extend our ministry and character beyond our Waco congregation. This sort of vision has been expressed in various ways, including: would it be possible to plant/encourage DaySpring-like congregations in other cities like Waco; how can DaySpring serve as a renewing and revitalizing influence in Baptist life here and abroad; how can we encourage and support DaySpringers who are in various locations away from Waco serving churches and institutions, etc.

As a core mission of DS, we see ourselves as a place to form and shape Christians who come through Waco and DaySpring and then serve other places. This has long been a commitment of the church, so we aren't proposing a new commitment, but asking how we can do this in the months and years to come. From our conversation at the cluster, we have a goal to have at least one phone or video conference with DaySpringers in ministry by the end of the summer. Eric Gilchrest is going to work out the technology and we'll invite former DaySpringers to join us for the conference call. We are also compiling some of the music and worship resources developed at DaySpring to share with DaySpringers who may wish to use them in their own places of service. We are thinking of friends like Amber and John Essick (Louisville), Chris Fillingham (Kansas City), Julie Merritt (North Carolina), Matt Vandagriff (Houston), and others.

These are intermediate goals which will help us learn more specifically how we can help DaySpringers in other places. Learning from them, we'll better know how to move forward by the end of the summer. We also discussed the possibility of publishing an online journal with contributions from DaySpringers and former DaySpringers and the idea of linking a Waco-DaySpring liason with DaySpringers away from here. Another idea is to create an online map on which DaySpringers can indicate their location and meet other former members nearby if they wish.

In another direction, we talked about encouraging and supporting a conference Carlos is helping organize in El Salvador this summer including several church members. In what ways is this an extension of our ministry? And finally, we want to do a good job with 'missionary care' and continue to try to stay connected with DaySpringers who are serving in various places around the world.