

A Historical Perspective

Church Doctor Ministries began in 1978 in Detroit, Michigan, with a handful of pastors and leaders who felt called to begin a ministry to equip churches for transformational change toward the effective implementation of the Lord's Great Commission. In the beginning, the ministry was called the Church Growth Center.

Dr. Kent Hunter was the pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in urban Detroit, his first call in the ministry following graduate school. The church was dying rapidly in a neighborhood that was changing racially. Kent began a D.Min program at Fuller Seminary and was introduced to the Church Growth Movement. It revolutionized him and his ministry! The people who worked with Kent incorporated the non-profit ministry of Church Doctor Ministries.

This ministry has been blessed with expanding opportunities, but remains responsive to the felt needs of churches for the purpose of helping them become more effective in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Two years after its beginning, significant growth convinced Kent that he was called by God to prepare a number of materials for the ministry. He resigned his pastorate and wrote books and materials for two years.

Since the ministry was not large enough for Kent to be involved full-time, he took a call to part-time ministry at Zion Lutheran Church, Corunna, Indiana. The congregation had been declining. With very few people in worship, the church could not afford a full-time minister. Kent served the congregation as a part-time pastor and maintained the work of Church Doctor Ministries.

The ministry office was moved to Indiana and the Board of Directors called the staff (Neil and Joyce Bachman and Geraldine Dettmann) into full-time ministry. There were no finances and there was no promise of secure income. People would get paid as the money was available. It was an adventure in faith! During this time, the ministry published several of Kent's books: *Launching Growth in the Local Congregation*, *Gifted for Growth*, *Six Faces of the Christian Church*, *Your Church Has Doors*, *Facing the Facts for Church Growth* (co-authored with Diane Barber), and *Great Commissioning the Christian Teacher*. The book *Foundations for Church Growth* was published by Leader Press and quickly became a standard introduction to church growth.

During this period, Kent developed the Two-Year Church Growth Process for regional involvement, enabling 25 congregations or more to be involved in a two-year emphasis. The Two-Year Process represented, at its beginning, involvement in

Church Doctor Ministries began as the Church Growth Center in Detroit, MI

Move to Indiana



workshops and follow-up studies. This launched the ministry into an expansion program and the need for added staff. Secretarial, marketing, and shipping personnel were added. The organization began to reach out in other directions.

In 1985, Abingdon Press published Kent Hunter's *Your Church Has Personality*, a book in The Creative Leadership Series, edited by Lyle Schaller.

By 1986, the organization had a total of 45 full- and part-time workers, many who were presenters for workshops scattered throughout the United States and Canada. The Center published its most energetic resource: *Heart to Heart: Sharing Christ with a Friend*.

During late 1986—a time when the ministry was financially stretched—the Board of Directors made another bold step in faith. Dr. Donald McGavran, founder of the Church Growth Movement, offered the ministry the publication that was the communiqué for the international and inter-denominational Church Growth Movement: *Global Church Growth* magazine. The Board accepted and the first issue appeared in March 1987. This began to catapult the Center's ministry into the mainstream of leadership of the Church Growth Movement. It also brought an international and inter-denominational awareness of the ministry. Kent served as the Senior Editor and John Hinkley was Managing Editor. In the same year, Kent Hunter was elected President of the North American Society for Church Growth.

The ministry expanded its service-oriented ministry with an analytical tool called *Creative Insights Analysis*. Development of another ministry continued toward the end of 1987: *The Dynamic Leadership Project*—training leaders at all levels of church life toward sensitivity and vision for world evangelization. The consultation division of the ministry and *Heart to Heart: Sharing Christ With a Friend* began to expand. Several resources were translated into Spanish.

1998 through 1990 were busy and exciting years of ministry. The consultation ministry rapidly expanded. Materials were translated into Japanese, Norwegian, German, Portuguese, and Braille. Kent was asked to write a feature column in the publication *World Evangelization* of the Lausanne Movement. He was a delegate to the World Congress on Evangelization in Manila, Philippines. He attended the consultation on World Evangelization AD 2000 in Singapore. He taught 3,000 pastors at a week-long conference in Lagos, Nigeria. He was the main speaker at the Japan Church Growth Institute.

In 1989, Concordia Publishing House published Kent Hunter's book *Moving the Church into Action*. Concordia asked him to co-author *Courageous Churches: Refusing Decline, Inviting Growth* in 1990, which was released in 1992. Kent began to

**Expansion—
helping networks
of churches**

**Magazine
publishing**

**Consulting
ministry**

**Expanding
internationally**



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teach as a visiting professor of church growth in the graduate school at Huntington College. Other colleges and seminaries began using Kent as a visiting lecturer.

In June of 1990, a commercial building became available. Through a financial campaign, it was purchased and renovation began.

During this time, Dr. Donald McGavran discovered he had incurable cancer and was given only a few months to live. He set up his estate so *Global Church Growth* magazine would receive finances to perpetuate its publication. These funds enabled the expansion of this resource.

1991 brought more international invitations to train pastors. The ministry began to be even more directed toward international and interdenominational activity. The ministry trademarked the title “The Church Doctor.” Kent participated in radio interviews and call-in programs as the Church Doctor.

In early 1992, the ministry began to get involved in research-based resources and activities. In November 1992, the building was completed. As the ministry postured itself for an aggressive future, a vision emerged to reach 10 million new people for Christ in the next 10 years. This would be accomplished by multiplication as the ministry equips lay people, pastors, and churches to be more effective in the Great Commission. Kent led a team of people to conduct an all African conference in Owerri, Nigeria, for 1,000 pastors. Kent's book *The Lord's Harvest and the Rural Church* was published by Beacon Hill Press in 1993. A business manager was added during this time. Marketing efforts were expanded.

In 1993, Kent led conferences in Russia and Brazil. *Foundations for Church Growth* was published in Portuguese and released in Brazil. Kent led a training event in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in October 1993. The North American Society for Church Growth changed its name to the American Society for Church Growth and moved its administrative offices to Church Doctor Ministries. Cheryl Kroemer became an assistant to Kent. Shelly Hinkley also joined the staff this year as assistant managing editor of *Global Church Growth* magazine.

In January of 1994, Kent led another group to minister at a conference in Russia. Further research and strategic development continued for The Church Doctor™ radio project. A new video tool was created: *Great Commission Christian Schools*. In July 1994, the new international version was published of *Foundations for Church Growth: Biblical Basics for the Local Church*. September 1994 also marked the inaugural issue of the new version of *Global Church Growth* magazine, the result of two years of research and field testing. It would now be *Strategies for Today's Leader*.

New facility

Resources in various languages



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In 1994, *Foundations for Church Growth* was published in Russian.

Kent began to train associate consultants to multiply and expand that arm of the ministry. In 1994, HarvestSearch—the research arm of the consultation work—was started, led by Tom Hamel. The American Society for Church Growth chose John Hinkley as secretary/treasurer on a permanent basis and Kent became administrator. This was also the year for the development of the concept of the Nehemiah Guest Missionary Program. The ministry would host missionaries from the U.S. and beyond, as partners and interns.

Multiplication of church consultants

In 1995, Kent began to departmentalize the ministry, imagineering the concept of having different teams or families of ministry.

During this year, Kent also rewrote and revised *Your Church Has Personality: Find Your Focus-Maximize Your Mission*. A new catalog describing the various services of the consultation ministry was published.

Church Doctor Ministries was blessed with the addition of a guest missionary facility. The Nehemiah Guest Missionary Program became a reality. Guest missionaries began to come and serve at the ministry.

Guest missionary facility

Kent ministered with a third large team in Moscow, Russia, and conducted conferences in South Africa and Botswana. Kent addressed the National Association of Evangelicals, conducting several workshops.

The Church Doctor™ radio program continued to be a research aspect of the ministry, and the ministry developed a media package and demonstration tape.

Radio program

During 1995, Kent wrote numerous articles for various magazines, edited the *Encyclopedia for Evangelism and Church Growth* written by Elmer Towns, and was asked to endorse a number of books.

In 1995, a videotape was developed on the ministry called *The Strategic Equation*.

In June 1996, The Church Doctor™ radio program was accepted by Ambassador Advertising Agency of Fullerton, California. They would syndicate the program, distributed on compact disc. The program launched as a 90-second feature on 52 stations in October 1996. By the end of the year it was carried by 82 stations. The Church Doctor™ radio effort was a major expansion of the ministry. A director of marketing was added as well as a person in the area of resource fulfillment. The shipping area was completely revamped. The computer and phone systems were replaced. The ministry began to produce Church Doctor audio


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resources.

The ministry conducted a conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan, for several hundred key Christian leaders from Muslim nations. We conducted a record number of consultations in 1996. Tom Grunow was hired to conduct a capital campaign to raise funds for various ministries of the Center. *Strategies for Today's Leader* increased subscriptions by 25%.

In 1996, part-time worker Olive Hinkley joined Church Doctor Ministries.

Both *Confessions of a Church Growth Enthusiast* and *Your Church Has Personality* were published in 1997. It was another year of record consultations. Church Doctor Ministries began a major research project that identified changing patterns of training leadership for ministry.

MissionTeams International began as a division of the ministry, and conducted another mission trip to South Africa in June of 1997. The conferences taught 1,500 people who committed to train over 30,000 more. By the third quarter of 1997, The Church Doctor™ radio program was aired daily (Monday through Friday) by 200 radio station outlets throughout the United States, Canada, and South America, via AM, FM, short-wave, and the Internet. The ministry purchased the house next door as the new Nehemiah House.

In late 1997, Brad Benbow of Rutter Communications began a marketing audit of the ministry, leading to a process whereby the ministry would move toward “branding” around the Church Doctor theme. The ministry received a grant to publish a research tool Kent developed two years earlier under the working title *The Congregational Readiness-to-Grow Profile*. The public title became the *Church Vitality Profile*. The ministry formed a Board of Advisors for MissionTeams International and began looking for a director to expand this ministry.

In 1997, The Church Doctor™ radio program and the ministry became a member of the National Religious Broadcasters.

The first part of 1998 provided the opportunity for Kent and several staff members to lead a workshop at the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Convention in Washington, DC. This led to an article by Kent published in the NRB magazine. In March, Kent taught at the Crossroads Discipleship Training School at the University of the Nations in Kona, Hawaii. The Church Doctor™ radio program began airing daily in Puerto Rico. The trademark for The Church Doctor™ was received.



A training conference was conducted by Church Doctor Ministries and Missions International in Borba, Brazil (Amazonas region) for pastors—the first of its kind in history—in April of 1998.

In the early summer of 1998, Kent spoke to a large crowd at the Created to Praise conference in Roselle, Illinois. He provided a prophetic and challenging word to the church based on his most recent book *Confessions of a Church Growth Enthusiast*. In the next two weeks, Kent presented as a plenary speaker and served as a consultant at the Billy Graham School of Evangelism in Wheaton, Illinois. This was the first time the ministry had collaborated with the Billy Graham organization. During the summer of 1998, Kent completed the mentoring process for Dr. Barry Kolb, the newest associate consultant. Dr. Bob Whitesel took over as senior editor of *Strategies for Today's Leader* and Kent Hunter became publisher.

In the fall of 1998, a small team conducted two conferences in South Africa. One was for an interdenominational group, and one was for a combination of the different Lutheran groups in South Africa. The latter conference was connected with Rev. Warren Arndt of Faith Lutheran Church, Troy, Michigan. The next week, a team went to Visakhapatnam, India, in collaboration with the ministry of Dr. P.J. Titus. The pastors attending the conference (almost 1,000) collectively committed to train 189,491 others over the next 12 months.

During this time, Kent was nominated and accepted the position to be on the Board of Directors for the Joy Leadership Center of Community Church of Joy in Glendale, Arizona. He also accepted the position to be Concentration Coordinator for Church Growth for the Wagner Leadership Institute in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which is led by his mentor, C. Peter Wagner. It was during 1998 when we officially changed the name to Church Doctor Ministries. During this year the ministry began advertising with full-page ads in *Leadership* magazine, focusing on The Church Doctor™ trademark.

In January 1999, Kent served as a speaker at the BreakForth Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, a conference sponsored by New Creation Ministries. This ministry is led by Arlen Salte, the most popular Christian singer in Canada. In February 1999, Kent spoke at the National Religious Broadcasters convention in Nashville, Tennessee. His team also conducted a reception for the Church Doctor at this convention. It was during this time the relationship developed with Dr. Robert Ratcliffe, the senior editor at Abingdon Press. Abingdon agreed to re-publish an updated version of *Moving the Church Into Action*, re-titled *Move Your Church to Action*. This book, which was not promoted heavily by Concordia, became available in December 1999.



Also at this time, Kent established a relationship with Michael Nason, an agent who deals with authors and ministries to provide them opportunities to grow and expand to new levels.

In April 1999, Kent was asked to speak at the conference of Churches Uniting in Global Mission (CUGM). This is an organization of large church pastors formed by Robert H. Schuller. This meeting, held in San Antonio, connected Kent with Dr. Chet Tolson, who became a friend to Church Doctor Ministries in the area of stewardship. Also at this time, Kent was asked to be a featured speaker at the next CUGM meeting in Minneapolis in October 1999. Church Doctor Ministries joined the Willow Creek Association during this year.

During the fall of 1999, the final plans were completed for the first Web site branded as The Church Doctor™. The Church Doctor™ radio program remained strong and was now being represented on 298 radio outlets. It became available on live feed via satellite. The format of the radio program improved in various ways as the ministry continued to make the program a stronger feature.

By 2000, the ministry, now totally re-branded as the home of Church Doctor Ministries, greeted the new millennium with a plan of reinvention for the new century. In 2001, the Board met and re-certified the commitment to remain in the present location. Corunna, Indiana is part of our brand, known throughout the world. The consultation ministry became a dimension under the leadership of Michael Brown. Michael added research analyst Al Pownell. Writing books and articles became a content team, with the addition of Kelly Hahn. Everaldo Rego became minister of intercession.

During 2000 Kent was a main speaker at The Crystal Cathedral in California. He addressed the Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. He also spoke as the featured speaker at the National Early Childhood Development Conference in Houston, Texas, a Church Growth Conference in Port Harcourt, Nigeria and Created to Praise Conferences in St. Louis, Mo and Cleveland, OH. 2000 was also the year Kent spoke at the Imaginative Church Conference sponsored by Community Church of Joy, held in conjunction with the Disney Leadership Institute at Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

In 2001, the ministry began developing a restructuring process to develop infrastructure, to make a greater impact on more churches.

In February of 2001, Kent spoke at the Community Church of Joy Evangelism Conference. In February he spoke at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention.

***From Church
Growth Center
to Church
Doctor
Ministries***



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The Church Doctor™ radio program continued to air on hundreds of radio stations in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and England.

In March 2001, Kent spoke at the Created to Praise Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, and in April he presented at the Community Church of Joy, Joy Leadership Center, at the Conference called “Reinventing the Main Street Church.”

In 2001, the ministry continued to publish *Strategies for Today's Leader*. The Board attended the Willow Creek Leadership Summit. In August, Kent spoke at the National Religious Broadcasters Regional Conference in San Francisco, California. It was in 2001 that the ministry began providing Regional Church Doctor Clinics in various cities. The ministry also produced numerous audio resources. Kent began writing columns for *Rev. Magazine*. The column was called “Ask the Church Doctor.” The ministry also began publishing the e-newsletter *The Church Doctor Report*.

In 2002, The Church Doctor™ radio program, now on in Australia, Canada, U.S., Puerto Rico, and England, was reformatted to a 60-second spot. Kent and the content team wrote several new books. In collaboration with Bob Whitesel, *A House Divided* was published by Abingdon Press. Abingdon also published Kent's book, *Discover Your Windows: Lining Up With God's Vision*. Chip MacGregor from Alive Communications became Kent's new agent.

**Biblical worldview
book: Discover
Your Windows**

Kent began training more consultants through Church Doctor Institutes. A large grant from three participating families enabled the ministry to move forward in numerous ways during this time. Its purpose was to move the ministry to the next level. It worked!

In late August of 2002 Kent was asked by the Israeli government to join Wayne Skaff, an evangelical Christian administrator who formerly worked with the Billy Graham Association, and two Rabbis, one Reformed and one Orthodox, to visit Israel. The group spent ten days meeting with Cabinet members and Dignitaries, as well as visiting the various sites in Israel. We focused also on the Israeli/Palestinian challenge. Previous efforts made through the Oslo Accord, the Camp David meetings, and other efforts, focused on humanitarian, compromise, or geographical issues that had surrounded this long standing conflict. We concluded that the conflict was a biblical issue. During this visit, Kent interviewed Ehud Olmert, who later became the Prime Minister of Israel. The American team was also profiled in a film that was made by the Israeli government's Division of Communications. Kent gave a presentation on this film, which was set in the environment of old Jerusalem with the city wall in the background. This film was later shown on worldwide television.



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Kent continued to serve on the Board of Directors for the Joy Leadership Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The training of consultants continued throughout this year. In January, Kent spoke at the BreakForth Canada North American Conference for Worship and Leadership.

In August, the ministry sponsored the first “Church Doctor Invitational,” inviting others to join at a Willow Creek Leadership Summit conference satellite site. We began using this venue to interact with pastors and leaders at churches we have consulted to mentor them further.

In October of 2002, Kent led a large team to Visakhapatman, India, for a second conference in which 1,000 pastors and church leaders were trained.

In November, Kent spoke for a conference of growing churches of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

In 2002, Kent developed and the ministry published the *Discover Your Windows Questionnaire*. During this year, Kent also wrote articles for the e-newsletter of ChurchCentral.com, a vehicle for Church Central Associates, a mechanism used by Group Publishing Company. Kent continued writing as a featured columnist for Rev. Magazine. He also continued to provide programming for The Church Doctor™ radio program.

During 2002, Kent began a research project with George Barna that would study how well pastors are trained for ministry by Bible colleges and seminaries.

The consultation ministry continued to grow in 2002 and new services were added.

2003 represented a transition in the history of the ministry. We stopped publishing *Strategies for Today's Leader* and Shelly Hinkley moved into the position of Consultation Coordinator for the ministry. We intentionally focused on our core competency as consultations. The consultation ministry continued to grow. We developed several systems to make it better. A catalog of consultation services was published. We began advertising the *Church Vitality Profile*. It was in this year that the consultation ministry was evaluated, unsolicited, by a group that was hired by *Christianity Today* Magazine. The key researcher identified Church Doctor Ministries as the best, most thorough consultation ministry in the U.S. The ministry's trained consultants began active duty. Several more began training. Those trained to be consultants with Church Doctor Ministries, in 2003, included: Dr. Barry Kolb, Dr. Bob Whitesel, and Dr. Brad Miller. In 2003 the ministry stopped producing The Church Doctor™ radio programs. Though the radio program continues being used (as “re-runs”) throughout the United States and

**Focus on the
transformational
church
consultation
process**



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several other countries, the ministry no longer needed to produce new programming. Thirty-six compact discs had been produced with 45 programs each, for a total of 1,620 programs, which provides six years worth of Monday through Friday programming.

In February, Kent taught students in the Doctor of Ministry program at Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield, Pennsylvania.

During 2003, Kent ended his term of service with the Community Church of Joy Leadership Center Board of Directors and began service with the POBLO Board of Directors (People Of the Book Lutheran Outreach). This ministry focuses on reaching Muslims for Jesus Christ.

In May, Kent was the keynote speaker for the Grand Canyon Synod gathering for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Scottsdale, Arizona. In June, Kent was a key speaker for the Created to Praise Conference in Ellisville, Missouri.

In 2003, Church Doctor consultant Bob Whitesel wrote the book *Staying Power: Why People Leave the Church Over Change, And What You Can Do About It*, published by Abingdon Press.

Kent continued research for the book with George Barna on training pastors for ministry. This manuscript began to be known as *Working for God*. Kent wrote major lead articles for *Rev. Magazine* and *Net Results* and continued the Church Doctor column for *Rev. Magazine*.

In September, Kent trained pastors of the Free Methodist Church at a conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. During 2003, Kent also spoke at numerous venues throughout the United States, providing a one-day conference called "Ministry on the Same Page."

In December of 2003, the Church of the Lutheran Brethren invited Kent to be interviewed, on behalf of Church Doctor Ministries. The result was a proposal written in September, responding to a request of this small denomination for a consultant to develop a strategic plan for redesigning the denomination. Of the 30 proposals reviewed, three were chosen for interviews. The Church of the Lutheran Brethren chose Church Doctor Ministries to lead this strategic planning process, starting in 2004. This was the beginning of a strategic planning service of the consultation ministry.

In January 2004, Kent provided a Coaching Consultation for Mark Zehnder. They met in Colorado Springs and visited C. Peter Wagner. It was during this meeting

**Denominational
consultation
ministry**



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that Wagner identified Kent as a modern-day apostle. This dramatically reoriented the way the ministry would be organized and directed in the future. Also, in January, Kent led training for pastors for the Mid-South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Memphis, Tennessee. In February, Kent spoke for the Leaderlift Conference in Albany Oregon, sponsored by a Christian radio station that broadcasts The Church Doctor™ radio program. Throughout the year, the ministry continued providing one-day conferences on the subject “Ministry on the Same Page.” We continued to work with the POBLO ministry, through Kent’s involvement on the Board of Directors. Ongoing work continued with the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, through what became know as the “Lead-On” project.

2004 was one of the most active years in the history of the ministry. Throughout the year, we continued the intense work for the strategic planning “Lead-On” process with the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. We also set a new record for the number of consultations conducted in one year. We continued to train consultants.

In 2004, Kent’s book *the Jesus Enterprise: Engaging Culture to Reach the Unchurched* was published by Abingdon Press. Kent also continued the Church Doctor column for *Rev. Magazine*. Work continued on the manuscript *Working for God*.

Also in 2004, Church Doctor consultant Bob Whitesel wrote the book *Growth By Accident, Death By Planning: How Not to Kill a Growing Congregation*, published by Abingdon Press.

It was in 2004 that the ministry launched the Love the Church Fund, an opportunity for people to donate for churches that need financial help for a consultation service. The ministry also launched the *Love the Church Newsletter*, which is sent to those who complete an e-mail commitment prayer card to pray regularly for the church. This began a development orientation toward impacting the Christian Movement in America through the intervention of consultants and the transformational change God provides through them.

In May 2004, Kent and several other pastors, including associate consultants Bob Whitesel and Brad Miller, visited Sheffield, England. At St. Thomas’ Anglican/Baptist Church, they observed the extraordinary revival that had spread to 80 other churches in England and several more on the continent of Europe. It was at this time that a relationship began between Church Doctor Ministries and St. Thomas’ Church. This would provide an immersion training experience for carefully selected church leaders to be exposed to this movement of God, with the hope that God would use these people (once they return to the United States) to bring

Consulting relationship with revival church in England



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revival to the States. The annual immersion training experience became a consultation service.

In June 2004, Kent was a keynote speaker at Created to Praise in Ellisville, Missouri. In October, Kent spoke for the Outreach Convocation of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Alpena, Michigan. In November, Kent spoke for the Entrepreneurial Church Conference at the Joy Leadership Center in Phoenix, Arizona. In December, Kent attended the International Coalition of Apostles meeting in Dallas, Texas. In 2004, Kent developed a relationship with a new agent, Greg Johnson, from WordServe Literary, Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

2005 continued the transition of the ministry to a focus on consulting churches. Kent continued writing the column for *Rev. Magazine* and developed the e-newsletter *The Church Doctor Report*. Kent also began as columnist for the *Church Press* e-newsletter, with a column called “Church Doctor Insight.” Kent also continued effort on the *Working for God* project.

Consultations continued to be strong in 2005. New sales systems and follow-up systems were developed with the help of Terry Mink, a sales specialist who served on the Board of Directors. This included training for the staff. More consultants were trained. David Hyatt was trained as a coaching consultant and Ralph Funk as a specialist for the *Church Vitality Profile* and Staffing Consultations.

In February, Kent was invited to attend a “Transference of Wealth/Marketplace Ministry” gathering hosted by C. Peter Wagner in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In April 2005, Kent was a keynote speaker for the New Directions Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. In May he spoke at the Northwest Ohio Synod gathering of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at Bowling Green University in Bowling Green, Ohio. In June, Kent was the keynote speaker for the National Convention of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, held in Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania. In June, Kent led a group of 20 to Sheffield, England, to be trained in the Revival Movement centered at St. Thomas’ Church.

In August 2005, Kent solidified a several-year project in which he has worked on the development and structure for the Association of Great Commission Churches, with Dr. Mark Zehnder of Omaha, Nebraska.

In October 2005, Kent taught another Doctor of Ministry course at Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield, Pennsylvania. Also, Kent was the keynote speaker for the national gathering for the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) in Altoona, Iowa. In November, Kent was invited to attend the Lutheran

Development as a modern apostolic ministry



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Church—Missouri Synod Mission Partners Meeting in Desert Palm Springs, California. During this same month, the ministry began discussions with the Churches of God (Findlay, Ohio) Midwest Region (Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa) to develop a strategic planning process. The ministry began to offer Church Doctor Round Tables, events where pastors could visit with a consultant and share the challenges they face.

In December, Kent attended the International Coalition of Apostles Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

2006 continued the transition to a consultation-oriented ministry. Consultations continued strong in 2006. Infrastructure changes at the ministry moved in the direction of this focus. The ministry continued to provide Church Doctor Round Tables. Consultants continued to be trained. A Help Desk position blueprint was developed as part of the response mechanism for consultation inquiries. Money was raised to provide a significant expansion in consultation advertising, which began in March. Jason Atkinson, who had interned at the ministry for two summers during his college years, was brought on as manager of the ministry.

Kent continued to serve on the POBLO Board of Directors in 2006.

In March of 2006, Kent presented a conference on “The Jesus Enterprise” in Visalia, California. Also in March, he attended the regional meeting of the International Coalition of Apostles in Indianapolis, Indiana. In April, Kent spoke at the Midwest Region Conference of the Churches of God in Columbia City, Indiana. In the June meeting of the Board of Directors, we discussed the thorough ramp-up business plan to expand consultations. Kent led a group of 14 to St. Thomas’ Church in Sheffield, England, for immersion training.

Kent continued providing the bi-monthly e-newsletter *The Church Doctor Report* and the monthly column for *Church Press*. The column for *Rev. Magazine* ended. Kent wrote a lead article for *Clergy Journal*, which appeared in July 2006.

In 2006, Church Doctor consultant Bob Whitesel wrote the book *Inside the Organic Church: Learning From 12 Emerging Congregations*, published by Abingdon Press.

In July 2006, the ministry signed a contract for a strategic planning process with the Churches of God (Findlay, Ohio) Midwest Region. In September, Church Doctors Kent Hunter and Brad Miller taught with Dr. Mark Zehnder in Nakuru, Kenya. The conference trained over 700 pastors from six central East African nations. Also in September 2006, Jenny Wilcox became Consultation Coordinator and Shelly Hinkley moved to Special Projects Coordinator for the ministry.



In November, Kent Hunter and Church Doctor Bob Whitesel attended the American Society for Church Growth annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Also in November, the ministry conducted the first annual Apostolic Council meeting in Detroit, Michigan. This Council is comprised of big-picture, strategic thinkers who guide ministry efforts through networking. In December, Kent and Church Doctor Barry Kolb attended the International Coalition of Apostles in Dallas, Texas.

In December 2006, Jon Zinnel was added to the position of Help Desk.

Work continued in 2007 in the Strategic Planning Process for the Midwest Region Conference of the Churches of God. During 2007, the ministry also began a capital campaign to raise funds to renovate the facilities and repair the roof, foundation, front landscaping, and the parking lot.

In February 2007, Kent wrote an article for *ChurchExecutive* magazine. Kent's "Church Doctor Insight" column for the *Church Press* e-newsletter continues to be published on a monthly basis.

In April, Kent presented *70 Days of Vision* Regional seminars for the Churches of God. In May, the ministry published the *70 Days of Vision* Campaign Resource Kit, a tool for churches using the book *Discover Your Windows* for congregational campaigns.

In June, Kent led a team of 15 to the immersion experience of St. Thomas' Church in Sheffield, England. Earlier in 2007, Kent was asked by Mike Breen to be a consultant to The Order of Mission, the networking arm of the emerging world revival ministry from Sheffield, England.

It was in June that the Web site underwent massive renovation through the help of Matt Register in Houston, Texas.

At the end of June, Kent Hunter and Jon Zinnel began a Strategic Planning Process for the Maumee Watershed District of the United Methodist Church (Western Ohio Conference), with a meeting at the District office in Toledo, Ohio.

In July 2007, Kent spoke at the Annual Convention meeting of the Churches of God Midwest Region in Decatur, Illinois.

In September/October 2007, Kent Hunter, Dr. Mark Zehnder, and Dr. Richard Burkey trained over 1,000 pastors in Nakuru, Kenya.



The Apostolic Council for Church Doctor Ministries met in Dallas, Texas, in November 2007.

In late November 2007, after a growing relationship and effort of almost three years, the Thrivent Foundation began providing grants for Lutheran churches to participate in a consultation. Church Doctor Ministries continued efforts to identify other foundations that could be approached to help churches outside the Lutheran family of congregations to participate in a consultation, especially those that cannot afford it.

In December, Kent attended and provided a presentation on “21st Century, Pain-Free Church Government” at the International Coalition of Apostles in Dallas, Texas. It was also in December that Kent met with the leadership of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren in a Follow-Up Consultation for the Strategic Planning Process, “Lead On,” at the denomination’s headquarters in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This denomination will provide recommendations from this process to reinvent the entire denomination at their June 2008 Annual North American Convention. At the end of December, Kent led a group of 32 on a tour of Israel, providing specialty teaching on “what happened at Holy Land sites and what can be learned to improve your Great Commission lifestyle in your church back home.”

2007 marked the year when great strides were made to advertise the Church Doctor consultation services. Advertisements were placed throughout the year in *The Lutheran* magazine, *Rev. magazine*, *Clergy Journal*, *Christian Ministry Sourcebook*, and *Outreach* magazine. Key words were purchased through search engines on the Internet. Round Table “mini-consultations” were provided in several cities. Direct mail marketing of consultations continued.

2007 was also the year when the ministry began to organize around partner consultants. Trained and certified consultants (in various consultation services) were now located in Texas, Michigan, Iowa, and Indiana. These consultants have now been reorganized as associate partners in ministry. Heavy emphasis is now placed on training consultants in two annual Church Doctor Institutes, and Help Desk leader, Jon Zinnel, has been providing support to the consultant partners to build their practices, as non-geographical extensions of Church Doctor Ministries.

It was in 2007, after 15 years of research and field testing, that the ministry released the Church Government Consultation.

2007 also marked the further refinement of the growth plan for the ministry, as an ongoing process. It was during 2007 that the ministry hit the strategic growth plan



Historical Perspective of CDM

target goals for 2009 (two years ahead of schedule). 2007 set a historical record for consultation ministry provided in one year. Church Doctor Ministries actually conducted twice as many consultations compared to 2003, just four years earlier.

