



Church Health and Growing

During 2008-2009, pastors and leaders from around the country continued to show increased motivation and enthusiasm. The testimonies of churches that have been working with AVI for several years has caused an inundation of pastors who are interested in forming part of our training program on Natural Church Development and the Holistic Mission.

Mere logistics haven't allowed us to accept all those who are interested, but that by no means prevented the number of churches involved in the network from growing compared to last year's numbers. In total we created 28 networks made up of 198 pastors, each one with a minimum of three leaders who are participating in the health and growth process for their churches.

So as you can see, our work has multiplied, and because of this we are joyful and are giving glory to God. The churches are also growing, and not only in terms of quality as is represented by the eight characteristics of a healthy church. They are also growing in number considering the fact that 3,528 new believers were baptized into the kingdom of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.



The number of those who were baptized gives us great joy, as does the number who gave their lives to Jesus Christ in the congregations who are working with AVI.

Over the past year, the churches reported 6,026 new believers. And since AVI only reports those who have continued to faithfully attend church for at least three months after their conversion, the number who gave their lives to Christ could actually be larger.

God is at work, and He is present in his church in order to give her blessing. What an honor to be part of his plan.



A Stimulating Note

The following paragraphs were reprinted from last March NCD News Letter:

"We would like to present to you the TOP 10 NCD countries. The ranking is based on the number of NCD Surveys processed in 2008. This country ranking never stays the same. It changes quite a bit from year to year and amazes us again and again.

*Looking at the 2008 ranking of countries, we are delighted by the fact that **all continents are represented among the TOP 10**. This again shows that NCD is more than a purely "Western" approach to church health."*

The TOP 10 NCD Countries in 2008

Country	No. of NCD Surveys
USA	1,551
Philippines	341
Canada	214
Australia (engl)	193
Dominican Republic	136
Mexico	131
Germany	83
United Kingdom	83
New Zealand	79
Indonesia	52
Republic of South Africa	52
Sweden	48

SOURCE: Natural Church Development Institute

