

## 1978

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.

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. Our Saviour church grew, by God's amazing grace!

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

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

**Move to Indiana**

**Expansion – helping networks of churches**



## 1985

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

## 1986

By 1986, Church Doctor Ministries had a total of 45 full- and part-time workers, many who were presenters for workshops throughout the United States and Canada. We published our most energetic resource: *Heart to Heart: Sharing Christ with a Friend*, written by our friend and part-time presenter, Steve Wagner.

## 1987

During the latter part of the previous year — a time when the ministry was financially stretched — the Board of Directors had 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 interdenominational Church Growth Movement: *Global Church Growth* magazine. The Board accepted and the first issue published by Church Doctor Ministries appeared in March 1987. This began to catapult the 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.

**Magazine  
publishing**

Church Doctor 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.

**Consulting  
ministry**

## 1989

1989 launched several 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.

**Expanding  
internationally**



Concordia Publishing House published Kent Hunter's book *Moving the Church into Action*.

## 1990

Concordia asked him to co-author *Courageous Churches: Refusing Decline, Inviting Growth* in 1990, which was released in 1992. Kent began to 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.

***New facility***

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

1991 brought more international invitations to train pastors. The ministry became 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.

## 1992

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 equipped lay people, pastors, and churches to be more effective in the Great Commission. Kent led a team 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.

## 1993

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, a 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 called *Strategies for Today's Leader*.

**Resources in various languages**

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**

## **1995**

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. 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 video was developed on the ministry called *The Strategic Equation*.

## 1996

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 resources.

## Radio Program

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. *Strategies for Today's Leader* increased subscriptions by 25%.

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

## 1997

Both *Confessions of a Church Growth Enthusiast* and *Your Church Has Personality* (the second version) 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, and short-wave radio and the Internet. The ministry purchased the house next door as the new Nehemiah Guest Missionary 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.

## 1998

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, D.C. 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 the 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. During 1998 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.

## 1999

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 republish an updated version of *Moving the Church Into Action*, retitled *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 website 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.

## 2000

By 2000, the ministry, now totally rebranded 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 recertified 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

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



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, Missouri, and Cleveland, Ohio. Also in 2000, 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.

## 2001

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.

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. His column was called “Ask the Church Doctor.” The ministry also began publishing the e-newsletter *The Church Doctor Report*.

## 2002

In 2002, The Church Doctor radio program, now on in Australia, Canada, the 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 10 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.

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 Visakhapatnam, 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

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 has continued to be used as reruns throughout the United States and 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.

**Focus on the  
transformational  
church  
consultation  
process**

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 (Now known as People Of the Book Ministries International). 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.

**Denominational  
consultation  
ministry**

## 2004

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

**Consulting  
relationship  
with revival  
church in  
England**

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

The year 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.

**Development  
as a modern  
apostolic  
ministry**

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 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**

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.

**Expansion of  
infrastructure**

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 “Church Doctor Insight” 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 more than 700 pastors from six Central and East African nations.

**Strategic  
planning for  
the Churches  
of God,  
Midwest  
Region**

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.



## 2007

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, and front landscaping.

In February 2007, Kent wrote an article for *Church Executive* 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.

It was in June that the website 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 more than 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 to participate in a consultation, especially those that cannot afford it.

***70 Days of  
Vision  
Campaign***

***United  
Methodist  
District in  
Midwest Ohio***

***Kenya pastors'  
conference***

***Thrivent grants  
pilot project***



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. 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. Keywords 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.

## **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 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.

### **2008**

2008 reflected the second best year in the volume of consultations, next to 2007. The goal targets for the strategic growth plan were achieved in this year. Three new consultation services were developed in this year and added to the service catalog: Coaching for Church Leaders, Coaching for Missional Preaching, and Ministry Snapshot Analysis. It was this year that the number of denominations, fellowships, and movements consulted by Church Doctor Ministries reached a total of 65.



Ministry leader Kent Hunter was the featured keynote speaker at the Midwest Regional Equip Conference in Peoria, Illinois, in February 2008.

This year marked the beginning of the coaching element as a follow-up to a consultation and as a stand-alone service. The ministry increased marketing presence, especially on the Internet. This was accomplished through the efforts of Tracee Swank.

**Coaching  
pastors**

Several Lutheran churches were consulted through a pilot grant from the Thrivent Foundation, the benevolent side of a Fortune 500 fraternal company of Christians.

In April, Kent Hunter served as the featured speaker for the Great Lakes Regional Pastors' Conference of Calvary Ministries International.

The ministry accelerated the training of consultants in 2008. The ministry organized another group of pastors and church leaders to attend the June Visitors' Week at St. Thomas' Church in Sheffield, England.

In July, the ministry used the services of business consultant Matt Register from Houston, Texas. This led to the development of a 92-page business growth plan for the ministry, targeted over the following four to five years.

**Business  
growth plan**

The Apostolic Council met in Palm Springs, California, in November. The topic was the issue of financial resources, the economy, and the church. In December, we continued work with the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, a denomination preparing for a major "reinvention" at their National Convention in June 2009, following the blueprint developed by Church Doctor Ministries.

2008 reflected the active involvement of Church Doctor Ministries consultants Ralph Funk, Tracee Swank, Barry Kolb, Alan Chandler, and Kent Hunter. Jonathan Hunter trained for the year in Sheffield, England, and served as a source of information for Church Doctor Ministries from within the British movement. Jonathan became connected with Church Doctor Ministries as a missionary.

## 2009

2009 will be remembered as the year in which the U.S. economy (and the world's) deepened into a point where it would be called the "Great Recession," even though there were a few signs of recovery by the end of the year. In spite of the economic downturn, the ministry finished the year with only 31 fewer consultation days than the year before.

**Great  
Recession**



The ministry not only kept all of its great staff, but added Tracee Swank as a full-time marketing director. During the year, Tracee worked with the staff to greatly expand the ministry's presence on the Internet by upgrading the website, expanding blog posts provided by consultants, and adding Facebook and Twitter. She also developed a process through Constant Contact for staying in touch regularly with those we serve.

The ministry continued and completed the pilot project with the Thrivent Foundation. For the first time, metrics were added to the consultation process for churches served in 2008 and early 2009. The results showed significant gains in each of the nine categories that provide the platform for spiritual health changes in local congregations. These results would later guide the ministry to the development of *Healthy Churches Thrive!*

Work continued in 2009 with POBLO, People of the Book Ministries International. This group reaches Muslims for Christ in the U.S., Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan.

Two new consultants began the training process in 2009. Also, another two consultants completed their training. Tracee Swank and Dr. Norbert Hahn are now certified Church Doctors. Norbert is also trained for the Staffing Consultation and the Outreach Clinic, and Tracee is trained for the Church Government Consultation.

**Trained  
consultants**

Chris Eder, who formerly worked in development for Ducks Unlimited, became a part-time volunteer to help the ministry in areas of fundraising. This has helped the ministry continue to keep prices low for congregations that need help.

In early spring 2009, we challenged donors to the ministry to help financially through a special campaign. The response was overwhelming and very encouraging.

A new ministry began, generated by an attorney in Peoria, Illinois, and another attorney in South Bend, Indiana. Both were representing churches in court cases and asked Kent Hunter to serve in the role of expert witness. This is a new ministry for helping churches, movements, and denominational groups.

Kent Hunter led another group to St. Thomas' Church in Sheffield, England. One of the pioneer U.S. churches of this movement, Threshold Community (Toledo, Ohio), added Church Doctor Ministries as an ongoing consultant to their efforts.

**Threshold  
Community**

During 2009, Kent Hunter wrote several lead articles published in magazines read by pastors and church leaders. These articles appeared in *Rev. Magazine*, the *Christian Standard*, *Preaching Magazine*, *The Clergy Journal*, and the *Church Executive Magazine*.



## Denominational reorganization

After seven years of consulting the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, this small denomination was able to pass sweeping reorganizational efforts by a vast majority at its annual convention in June. The denomination has dismantled its hierarchy and reestablished as a flat organization, similar to an apostolic network.

In September 2009, the ministry received a grant from the Gottlieb Foundation of Texas. This grant provided for the expansion of the ministry through marketing efforts connected with the ongoing growth plan, led by Tracee Swank.

During September, Jonathan Hunter returned to England to join the staff of St. Thomas' Church in Sheffield. His duties are to work with the student ministry of St. Thomas' Church and to plant a church among university students at Hallam University in Sheffield. As a missionary under the auspices of Church Doctor Ministries, he will serve as an inside observer of the British revival movement.

During the year several Outreach Clinics and Round Tables were provided throughout the United States to train pastors and church leaders to operate as missionaries on American soil.

In October, the Thrivent regional office of Southeastern Michigan provided two training events for pastors, led by Kent Hunter. The presentation was called "Turning Your Church Inside Out."

In December 2009, the ministry provided a Church Doctor Institute for those who were interested in becoming a Church Doctor consultant.

## Church Doctor Institute

In late December, Jonathan Hunter returned home for Christmas break and provided input from Sheffield for a U.S. strategy being developed by Church Doctor Ministries. This vision would eventually launch SEND North America.

## 2010

The Great Recession continued in 2010. Many parachurch ministries, sadly, closed their doors forever. With generous donations, Church Doctor Ministries limped through the year, financially. But we raced through the year in ministry reinvention. We continued work on the 10-year *Healthy Churches Thrive!* development. We launched the development of SEND North America. These are two of the largest undertakings the ministry has ever tackled.

*Healthy Churches Thrive!* is an long-term spiritual involvement for churches that want to experience an awakening and prepare for God to use them in the coming revival. The beginning of 2010 brought the results of the field test of 40 churches, focusing on nine spiritual indicators. The results came in after six months of involvement by the churches. The metrics showed a significant increase in the

## Healthy Churches Thrive!



number of people growing in spiritual practices, values, attitudes, and worldviews. This was very encouraging. We spent much of 2010 refining and preparing the background work to launch *Healthy Churches Thrive!* publicly.

In January we sponsored our Apostolic Council meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. Our guest speakers included Neil Cole, author of *Organic Church*; Tom Schaeffer, pastor of Threshold Community Church in Toledo; and Jonathan Hunter, church planter — joining us via Skype from Sheffield, England.

We continued to consult Threshold Community Church and coach Tom Schaeffer throughout the year of 2010.

In February, we provided a Staffing Consultation for People of the Book Ministries International (POBLO), the mission to Muslims in the U.S. and elsewhere. We continued to serve POBLO's Board throughout 2010.

We also consulted Mountain Top Administration, a Christian corporation in Sebring, Florida, developed to care for a young man, Michael Conner, who has survived a terrible automobile accident, is technically brain-dead, but who has lived for almost two decades. The end result of this consultation was the writing of an e-book by Kent Hunter called *Michael's Story*.

In 2010, Tracee Swank began an intensive effort to train several aspiring consultants. She continued her phone coaching with several pastors and churches throughout the year. She also began multiplying her ministry.

A Church Doctor Institute was held in April, with new candidates for consulting training attending.

In 2010, we continued to publish the e-mail, bi-monthly newsletter *The Church Doctor Report*. This publication continued to improve in quality and grew in the number of those who received it.

In June, we led a team of 20 North Americans to Sheffield, England, introducing them to that movement.

Upon returning home from Sheffield, Church Doctor Ministries officially launched the development of SEND North America, a project we have been praying about and developing for several years. SEND North America is a training mechanism to equip young adults to become missionaries with revival DNA. This huge project was set to begin with the first Training Unit in September 2011. Research, the development of a leadership team, and business plan would occupy much of our time. Focus groups were held with pastors throughout the summer. This effort attracted a new staff member to Church Doctor Ministries: Chris Eder.

**Coaching New  
Consultants**

**SEND North  
America**



Much of the Church Doctor Ministries staff attended the Willow Creek Leadership Summit at the satellite site in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in August.

In September 2010, the ministry received a second grant from the Gottlieb Foundation. This grant greatly helped to move the ministry forward. We also began public preview events for *Healthy Churches Thrive!* in September. The initial response from pastors was positive.

In October, Kent visited western Canada, at the request of several leaders. An awakening has broken out in Canada, which may foreshadow the same breakthrough in the U.S. about four to six years later.

**CLBI**

Tracee Swank consulted a large church in Colorado, while working with Dr. Tim Matheny on his final project to train as a consultant.

We received Tim Matheny as a certified Church Doctor, successfully completing his last consultation in Colorado. This addition to the Church Doctor team provides a resident consultant in the west.

Tracee Swank and Kent Hunter met with Dave Wetzler, CEO of ChurchSmart. We began the process of identifying a collaborative effort between Church Doctor Ministries and ChurchSmart.

In October and November, Kent taught a workshop he developed at the request of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Michigan District Church Extension Fund. This workshop is for training leaders in churches. The workshop represents a new teaching event called “Leading From the Center of God’s Will.” It was so successful, the District asked if we would do more of these workshops in the following year.

**Leading From  
the Center of  
God’s Will**

In November, Kent conducted a follow-up consultation at Hope Lutheran Church in Bonita Springs, Florida. This ongoing relationship has helped this church move forward, as God blesses their progress.

In December 2010, the SEND North America leadership team began to search for the first leader of this ministry. We also began developing the recruiting network among North American universities. We forged a partnership with Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) in Alberta, Canada, to collaborate in the SEND North America training of young adults.



## 2011

2011 began with the continued launch of *Healthy Churches Thrive!* and, in process, continual upgrading and expansion of this spiritual adventure.

In January, Hollywood producer and director Jeff Thomas filmed 10 DVDs that form one of the core teachings for the *Healthy Churches Thrive!* launch communities, introducing 26 Biblically Different Ideas.

**Film Crew:  
HCT! DVDs**

During 2011, Tracee Swank began to share leadership responsibilities for Church Doctor Ministries. She continued to be mentored for future leadership of the Ministry, which will increasingly allow Kent Hunter to focus on writing, speaking, and teaching, as well as equipping more consultants. This is planned as a several-year project. It signals the beginning of a new chapter of history for the ministry, legacy leadership beyond the founder.

**Shared  
Leadership**

Josh Humberger became the first leader of SEND North America, scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011. The launch team continued preparations for SEND with the first recruiting of young adults occurring in mid-winter.

**SEND Leader**

2011 marked the turning point in the consulting ministry, as a team of trained consultants moved from a 10-year dream to a reality. It was a small beginning, but the multiplication represented by Tracee Swank being an active and acknowledged leader in the field, as a Church Doctor consultant, was a major first step. Prior to this, other trained consultants would provide an occasional consultation, but this is the first time that it became a regular effort on the part of a trained consultant other than Kent Hunter. Tracee began to multiply herself, discipling and equipping two other potential consultants. This historic change represents a point in which the theory of discipling consultants in the Church Doctor culture became a reality.

**Discipling  
consultants**

We continued to more actively consult the Muslim and ethnic outreach ministry POBLO (People of the Book Ministries International), providing regular mission direction to this outstanding ministry.

**POBLO**

Fundraising for SEND continued throughout this year. This is a major challenge as the country continues in the repercussions of the recession.

Consultations continue to pick up slowly, as churches begin to feel better about spending money in a tight economy.

The SEND website was launched in March 2011. We completed the curriculum and began to identify 52 teachers for the first SEND training year, which would begin in September 2011 and end in June 2012.



We provided workshops presenting “Leading from the Center of God’s Will” for the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

**Leading from  
the Center of  
God’s Will**

In April, the Ministry provided another Church Doctor Institute (CDI) for those who are considering training to become certified Church Doctors.

**CDI**

In May, Kent finished the e-book *The Future Is Now: How God Is Moving in the Twenty-First Century*. This book became available on Amazon.com in August. This was our first public prediction of a coming revival in North America. It also featured the increase of those in churches who have “holy discontent” and “spiritual restlessness.”

**The Future  
Is Now**

In June, Tracee Swank, Tom Schaeffer, and Kent Hunter led a team to St. Thomas Church in Sheffield, England.

**England**

Jon Hunter continued to serve in Sheffield, England, as a missionary, now in his second year, focused on student outreach to university students.

In August, Kent Hunter finished writing the e-book *The J-Dog Journey: Where Is Life?* This is the story of Jon Hunter and the experience that led him to train in FORM, a program in England. This led to the idea of SEND as a ministry for North America. This e-book would become available on Amazon.com.

**HCT! Preview  
Events**

In mid-2011, Church Doctor Ministries began to sponsor *Healthy Churches Thrive!* Preview events. These presented an introduction for churches to consider this spiritual adventure. We continued to develop and strengthen *Healthy Churches Thrive!* as churches “field-tested” the experience. This learning-in-process would continue to be standard operating procedure for *Healthy Churches Thrive!* We began to recognize we were onto something really great – and we had a lot to learn to develop it further.

August 2011 was a flurry of activity in preparation for SEND, and last-minute recruiting continued. We all sensed that this was the beginning of a historic moment that would take years to develop further. In the process we began to develop a relationship with a local foundation that could, one day, help with SEND.

**SEND Launch**

In September 2011, we launched SEND with five young adults. The training center is the storefront church led by pastor Mike Albaugh, Destiny Family of Faith, in Kendallville, Indiana.

In October, Kent wrote and developed the Outreach Clinic, a summary of missionary teaching directed at helping Christians reach others in their social networks. This training was also modified for teaching to SEND young adults. In a different version, it became part of the *Healthy Churches Thrive!* adventure. It also became another workshop provided by Church Doctor Ministries.

**Outreach  
Clinic**



The bimonthly newsletter, “Church Doctor Report” continued publication and readership expanded greatly in 2011. The readership was expanded dramatically through Internet connections as well as through those involved in the *Healthy Churches Thrive!* pilgrimage in their local churches.

**Church  
Doctor  
Report**

Tracee Swank greatly expanded the use of social media and online marketing in 2011. With the help of PWB Marketing, the website was greatly improved, to a much higher level, a process that would continue in a major way in 2012.

**Social media**

At the end of 2011, Tracee Swank and Kent Hunter began a relationship with the leadership of the new, rapidly growing network of churches, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).

**LCMC**

## 2012

2012 began with the SEND young adults returning from their Christmas break. By this time, we could already see that God was doing what we had hoped: these young adults were experiencing spiritual transformation and the development of mission culture. The momentum of this movement was beginning. The young adults and their leader, Josh Humberger, were beginning to look forward to their out-of-country mission trip to Guatemala, and they were preparing to raise money for that event. The young adults were receiving training in cross-cultural ministry to prepare them for this upcoming spring trip.

**SEND**

In January, we were beginning to conduct the first special focus follow-up consultation with *Healthy Churches Thrive!* churches and learning how we could help these churches even more.

In February, we continued to develop a relationship with a local foundation, hoping to receive a grant for the purposes of expanding the SEND movement.

The SEND young adults were learning about church planting, taught by a church leader originally from northern Africa.

In March 2012, another church began the *Healthy Churches Thrive!* pilgrimage, bringing the total to five in three states. This slow growth provided the ministry opportunity to develop support mechanisms. Reports were already being received of the transformation of leaders and members toward increased mission and outreach in these churches.

In March, the SEND young adults participated in their monthly weekend excursion in Detroit, living with Christians who were former Muslims. They also attended a



mosque to experience the practice of those committed to Islam. The Christians taught them effective strategies to witness to those who are Muslims.

**Outreach to Muslims**

In the end of March, Kent and Janet Hunter spent a week in Belize (Central America) with missionaries Steve and Grace Hughey. This was a reconnaissance excursion to consider first steps and potential openings that could lead one day to a SEND movement in Belize.

**Belize**

During 2012, Jon Hunter, the Church Doctor missionary in England, expanded leadership for ministry to university students. He and his British associate, Ben Gardner, provided a conference in Sheffield for university students.

**UK Mission**

In April 2012, we continued to expand the team concept of the ministry. Tracee Swank was trained to provide her first church government consultation presentation, which she delivered at a church near Ann Arbor, Michigan.

We conducted another workshop on the subject of “Leading from the Center of God’s Will” in the Detroit area.

During April, we conducted several trailblazer events in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, to promote interest in *Healthy Churches Thrive!*

**Trailblazer Events**

The subscribers to the bimonthly “Church Doctor Report” continued to grow in 2012, primarily through online subscriptions.

**Church Doctor Report**

In May 2012, we received a grant from a local foundation to provide open-house events to promote SEND to area young adults.

The SEND team left in May for a 10-day mission trip to Guatemala. This experience was life-changing for the entire team, including SEND leader Josh Humberger. The mission agency hosting this mission experience, CALMS, said they had never had such a well-equipped team. These young adults were better equipped, they reported, than many American pastors. We were thrilled to learn that SEND was so blessed by God. It worked as we had hoped.

**SEND Team in Guatemala**

2012 included several consultations in different states and with churches from several denominations. Both Tracee Swank and Kent Hunter led these consultations. This process included consultants-in-training, who were being disciplined during each consultation.



Throughout May, June, and July, we provided several Compass Events in northeast Indiana. These were aimed at young adults to encourage interest in SEND. These were poorly attended. We learned that most churches we visited had already lost touch with many of their young adult “20-somethings.” We learned that recruitment must move in other directions.

## Compass Events

In May 2012, Tracee Swank began to reconfigure the financial and banking effectiveness for Church Doctor Ministries in ways that would reduce cost, provide electronic banking, and streamline financial processes. This effort would continue for several months, throughout the rest of the year.

On June 1, 2012, we celebrated the graduation of the first SEND unit of young adults. The event was held at Destiny Family of Faith Church in Kendallville, Indiana. Parents, relatives, friends, sponsors, mentors, and several area pastors joined SEND leader Josh Humberger and the Church Doctor Ministry team for this inspirational event. Special presentations were made by Tracee Swank, Kent Hunter, and Josh Humberger.

## SEND Graduation

In June, Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank led another team of North American pastors and church leaders to the Immersion Experience in Sheffield, England. This year’s trip included a visit by Tracee and Kent to the Message Trust, a ministry to inner-city youth in Manchester, U.K. A relationship was forged to include exposure to this ministry on future trips.

## The Message Trust

In July, Kent Hunter attended a leadership meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, organized by the network of churches called Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. Kent consulted the group, which was focused on transitions faced by churches. The result of this effort was the development of an extended guide that appears on the LCMC website.

## LCMC

August 2012 was another hectic month in preparation to launch the second year of SEND North America. Recruitment efforts were intense. A group of three young adults began SEND in September.

## New SEND Launch

We continued to work with the local foundation to secure a major grant that would help us find ways to more effectively promote SEND among young adults.

Tracee Swank spent a busy July and August consulting and providing events to promote *Healthy Churches Thrive!* with pastors and church leaders.

Another Outreach Clinic was provided for a church in Michigan in August 2012.



In September 2012, we began to write a grant for a local foundation to provide assistance for part of Josh Humberger's salary and to provide more effective recruitment efforts for SEND. The grant, if received, would span a three-year effort. We came to realize that SEND is a young, fragile movement with enormous potential, and it takes years to build momentum, particularly as former SEND young adults share their experiences with others.

More consultations for churches were conducted in Indiana, Kansas, and Michigan by consultants Tracee Swank and Kent Hunter.

## **Consultations**

Another workshop, "Leading from the Center of God's Will," was conducted for churches in the Toledo, Ohio area.

In October 2012 we partnered with Threshold Church in Toledo, Ohio, to provide an immersion excursion. Participants included pastors and leaders from Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

## **Threshold Immersion Excursion**

Kent Hunter spoke to the National Convention of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) at the Convention Center in Denver, Colorado.

Tracee Swank and Kent Hunter provided a special focus consultation and an Outreach Clinic for a church in Loveland, Colorado, as part of their *Healthy Churches Thrive!* adventure.

Kent Hunter led a pastors' conference, sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, in Plymouth, Michigan, on the topic "Breakthrough Churches: Practical steps for your church to increase Great Commission impact!"

## **Breakthrough Churches conference**

Kent Hunter spoke to the Great Commission Research Network in Nashville, Tennessee, on the topic "Blow Ups or Grow Ups: Effective Strategies for Turnaround Churches." This conference was attended by more than 100 high-profile church leaders throughout the United States.

We video-recorded the first pilot presentations of the proposed Church Doctor.TV YouTube teachings, utilizing Church Doctors Dennis Kutzner and Kent Hunter.

## **Church Doctor TV**

In November, Church Doctors Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank conducted several consultations and worked with *Healthy Churches Thrive!* congregations.

In December, Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank provided a mini-conference on the dynamics of turnaround churches, hosted by Destiny Family of Faith Church in Kendallville, Indiana.



More Church Doctor.TV video recording occurred in December. Video recordings and guidance documents were developed for *Healthy Churches Thrive!* leaders, as part of our ongoing improvements.

A Christmas party was held for the SEND young adults and Church Doctor Ministry staff. Several local pastors and friends of the Ministry attended with their spouses.

On December 30, 2012, the international Christian television program “Restoration Road” featured SEND leader Josh Humberger and two of the SEND young adults who graduated the previous spring, Tim Kruse and Nick Wilson.

**SEND young adults on television**

A DVD for *Healthy Churches Thrive!* was recorded and edited. It provides teaching for church leaders and staff involved in the spiritual adventure.

## **2013**

In early January 2013, Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank provided a *Diagnostic Consultation* for a large multi-site megachurch in Omaha, NE. This became the first consultation of a church connected with an association of congregations that have left a major denomination in recent history. The following week, Kent and Tracee provided a *Worship Consultation* for a large church in Michigan. The consultation was held at the student center of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan. A *Special Focus Consultation* was provided in mid-January for a church in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Tracee conducted an *Outreach Clinic* in Kendallville, Indiana. Kent began a *Staffing Consultation* for a church in Toledo, Ohio.

**Worship Consultation**

John Wargowsky joined the staff as an Internet Marketing Specialist, working from his location in Columbus, Ohio.

**Internet Marketing Specialist**

SEND continued, with a number of the teachers providing topics for the young adults. The group of young adult SEND participants were involved in a mission immersion experience during this month.

Tracee Swank began a process of building staff for a new chapter of history for Church Doctor Ministries. The staff began to meet in accountability groups, by gender.

In February of 2013, Kent led a staff retreat for a church in Auburn, Indiana. Church Doctors Kent Hunter and Chrysanne Timm provided a *Special Focus Consultation* for a church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This was followed by an *Outreach Clinic*.



Tracee began a several-year process of increasing the ministry's financial development process. Throughout 2013, and for several years, Tracee involved other leaders in efforts to greatly increase the social media channels of the ministry.

**New financial system**

The *Healthy Churches Thrive!* Spiritual Adventure continued in several churches in Michigan, Kansas, Ohio, Indiana, and Colorado. While many Christians benefited greatly from this service, our own evaluation led to the need for further changes in how it is implemented in congregations. It was also discovered that many of the staff leaders of churches needed more training to effectively guide their congregations in a spiritual renewal movement like *Healthy Churches Thrive!* We began several restructuring efforts the development of a 24-CD series that would be called *Healthy Leaders Thrive!* for staff and lay leaders to watch on a monthly basis for the first two years of *Healthy Churches Thrive!* We intentionally withdrew much of the promotion of *Healthy Churches Thrive!* until important changes could be made to grow the experience to greater effectiveness. Ironically, during this same time, our monitoring of churches involved (data gathered at six-month intervals) showed significant spiritual growth in nine categories.

**Healthy Leaders Thrive!**

The ministry received a grant to help promote SEND North America.

**Grant for SEND**

In March 2013, Tracee and Kent provided a roundtable for pastors in Omaha, Nebraska. In mid-March, Tracee led a Church Doctor Institute, the first-step training mechanism for potential Church Doctor Consultants.

In mid-April, Kent and Tracee presented "An Assessment for Congregations" at a conference sponsored by Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, held in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kent and Tracee taught a roundtable for a large group of Presbyterian pastors in Cordova, Tennessee, and another roundtable at a coffee shop in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The *Church Doctor Report* continued bi-monthly publication in 2013. Increased subscribers number almost 4,000.

The SEND young adults participated in an overseas mission trip. They traveled to Belize in Central America.

**SEND in Belize**

In May, Kent Hunter continued to consult POBLO, People of the Book Ministries International, in Detroit, Michigan, a ministry that reaches Muslims and other ethnic immigrants for Christ. Kent became Chairman of the Board of Directors for POBLO, at their request.



Kent and Tracee provided a roundtable in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area of Southern Michigan. They also provided a *Special Focus Consultation* for a church in Ypsilanti.

In June 2013, Tracee and Chrysanne Timm led another group on an Immersion Excursion to England.

In August, the entire staff attended the Global Leadership Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In September, SEND began its third year of training another group of young adults.

**SEND begins  
third year**

The Church Doctor Missionaries, Jonathan Hunter and his new wife, Esther, continued the work of reaching university students in Sheffield, England.

In October of 2013, Kent and Tracee attended the Convention of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ in Detroit, Michigan. They presented on the topic "Burn Out or Burn On."

Kent led another meeting of the Board of Directors for POBLO. Kent and Tracee led a *Healthy Churches Thrive!* follow-up consultation for a church in Toledo. They conducted an *Outreach Clinic* for this same church.

Kent and Tracee and new staff member Joshua Henry attended the Great Commission Research Network Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Great  
Commission  
Research  
Network**

Kent and Tracee provided a follow-up consultation for a *Healthy Churches Thrive!* church in Walled Lake, Michigan.

Michele Ellison joined the staff as a transcriptionist, working from her home in Savannah, Georgia.

Kent taught a large roundtable event for pastors and church leaders of the southeast region of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Kent spoke at the conference the following day as a plenary speaker.

**Evangelical  
Presbyterian  
Church**

In November, 2013, Church Doctor Specialist Dennis Kutzner consulted network gatherings for Calvary Ministries International. Kent and Tracee provided an *Outreach Clinic* in Omaha, Nebraska.



The year 2013 ended with a continued development of the *Healthy Churches Thrive!* Spiritual Adventure. While we continued to serve these churches involved, we chose not to take on new congregations until additional support for church leaders became available. We developed several qualifying surveys, identifying the percentage of those in a congregation who scored high on a “holy discontent” survey.

**Healthy  
Churches  
Thrive!**

In 2013, Jason Atkinson upgraded the software used for data and research surveys that are part of the Diagnostic Consultation process, as well as other information-gathering efforts.

## **2014**

In 2014, Church Doctor Ministries began to emerge in ways that will have even greater impact on the Christian Church for the Great Commission. An intensive, long development of video teachings, CDs, and print materials began. This development process was tied to the greater use of the *Healthy Churches Thrive!* ministry to churches. This work ultimately expanded the quality and length of *Healthy Churches Thrive!* and increased the opportunity for spiritual renewal. Field testing with numerous congregations throughout the United States, from different denominations, occurred in the previous three years. The results, monitored by surveys and interviews, demonstrated measurable results in several areas of spiritual fruit. We recognized that two more years of development would be required. We also recognized that the receptivity for most churches in the U.S. would not come for perhaps five years. This represents the largest massive faith adventure ever attempted by Church Doctor Ministries. The fruit may be several years away, but the results are unparalleled by anything available, as far as we know.

**Development  
of content  
for Healthy  
Churches  
Thrive!**

SEND continued with a new group of young adults in 2014.

**SEND**

We greatly expanded and improved a one-day workshop for churches called the *Outreach Clinic*. In January, we provided the *Outreach Clinic* to several churches involved in *Healthy Churches Thrive!*

God answered our prayers with generous donations to obtain a quality video camera, equipment, and software for editing. We began to record the 18 segments of teaching that will be edited and available to churches. This new resource, when completed, will be a course in “How to be a missionary in your own community.” It will be available to churches for purchase under the title *The Damascus Road: Where Christians Become Missionaries*. This service will become one of the many components of *Healthy Churches Thrive!*

**Video  
equipment  
added**

In February, Tracee Swank taught the workshop “Leading from the Center of God’s Will,” which the ministry developed in previous months. This workshop



focuses on the issues of church governance, a key roadblock for many churches seeking effective renewal and outreach.

We continued to work with People of the Book Ministries International in 2014. Our consulting focused on moving this outreach ministry to Muslims from a single cell ministry to a movement.

**People of  
the Book  
Ministries**

Also, in February, we consulted a church in Toledo.

It was during the month of February that Kenzie Ritchie joined the staff.

In March, we began to develop the CD series *Healthy Leaders Thrive!* This set of 25 CD teachings will eventually become a valuable component of *Healthy Churches Thrive!* We also presented the workshop “Burn Out or Burn On” and another *Outreach Clinic* in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In April 2014, Tracee began to cultivate a number of relationships with key church leaders who became potential board members. Kent provided a *Church Government Consultation* for a congregational church in Toledo, training Church Doctor Chrysanne Timm. Kent also began writing conference materials for an upcoming leadership conference in Belize, Central America. He also wrote materials for a new workshop, “Turn Your Church Inside Out.” In late April, Kent and Tracee consulted a church in Palm Springs, California.

**Turn Your  
Church  
Inside Out**

In May, Tracee consulted a church in Livonia, Michigan. Kent and Tracee presented a workshop in several locations in Michigan on the subject “Turn Your Church Inside Out.” Kent and Tracee provided a *Special Focus Consultation* for a church in Walled Lake, Michigan. They also consulted a church in Shelby Township, Michigan. Kent led another board meeting for POBLO in Detroit, Michigan. during the month of May, SEND Leader Josh Humberger led the young adults on a mission trip to Honduras, in cooperation with Dr. Steve Hughey, Leader of CALMS, a mission agency working in Central America.

**SEND in  
Honduras**

In June 2014, Kent and Tracee led an Immersion Excursion to England. Josh Humberger resigned his position as leader of SEND. It was decided that we would take a year to reconfigure SEND, make some improvements, and launch another training season in September of 2015. Kent and Tracee conducted a *Special Focus Consultation* with a church in Southern California. While in the area, they taught a roundtable for area pastors. At the end of June, Kent led a *Staffing Consultation* at a church in northwest OH.

**2014 England  
Excursion**



In July, 2014, Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank, along with David Bruce, led a conference for pastors and church leaders in Belize, Central America. The conference focused on “Biblical Discipleship: The X-Factor.” This conference was sponsored by Dr. Steve Hughey and CALMS. Church leaders attended from Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala. One group operates a large Christian radio station in the Hispanic language in northern Belize, reaching southern Mexico. Participants were given the book *Foundations for Church Growth* and encouraged to multiply the experience in their churches. They also received participant notes to re-teach the workshop and multiply the effort.

**Belize  
Conference**

In August, Kent and Tracee provided a follow-up report for a church in the northeast Detroit area. The entire Church Doctor staff attended the Global Leadership Summit in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Kent led a *Staffing Consultation* for a large church in Marysville, Ohio.

**Global  
Leadership  
Summit**

In September 2014, we continued recording the teachings for *Healthy Leaders Thrive!*

In October, Kent worked with POBLO at their headquarters in Detroit, Michigan. Kent and Tracee led a group on an Immersion Excursion at a church in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Kent consulted a church in Seguin, Texas. Kent and Tracee presented workshops in Whitehall, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Kent and Tracee presented a conference in Lansing, Michigan, “Reaching Young Adults.”

**Immersion  
Excursion in  
Hot Springs,  
Arkansas**

In November 2014, we continued to record segments of *Healthy Leaders Thrive!* Tracee led a Church Doctor Institute, training potential new consultants. This Church Doctor Institute was held at our office in Corunna, Indiana. Kent began writing his next book, a process that would take six revision drafts over the next 18 months. The working title for this book is *Who Broke My Church? 7 Strategies that Change Everything for Churches*. Tracee would provide input support for the entire book project.

**Who Broke  
My Church?**

In December 2014, Kent worked on writing the first draft of the book. We continued to video record the last segments of *Healthy Leaders Thrive!*

Dave Beare joined the staff team as Administrator in December of 2014.

Church Doctor missionaries Jonathan and Esther Hunter move to serve a church plan and teach in an international school in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Missionaries  
in Malaysia**



## 2015

January 2015 began with Kent Hunter heavily involved in writing the book *Who Broke My Church?* in its first-draft form. Tracee Swank continued to develop and expand the marketing and communication channels of the ministry and the staff team.

**More Work  
on the Book:  
*Who Broke  
My Church?***

John Wargowsky expanded duties as the ministry Communications Specialist, working from his location in Columbus, Ohio. Kent wrote a series of 12 articles to be used in newspapers and as blogs.

Kent consulted a church in Oregon. Later in January, he developed a workshop derived from the 2014 conference in Belize, “Biblical Discipleship: The X-Factor.”

**Biblical  
Discipleship:  
*The X-Factor***

In February, Kent consulted POBLO Ministries International, the ministry that helps Christians and churches reach Muslim immigrants for Christ.

Tracee and Kent presented the workshop “Biblical Discipleship: The X-Factor” to a group of church leaders in Holt, Michigan.

Kent and his wife, Janet, visited Church Doctor missionaries Jonathan and Esther Hunter in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tracee consulted a church in Toledo, Ohio.

In March 2015, Kent and Tracee consulted a church in the northwest area of Oregon and presented a roundtable on biblical discipleship.

Kent and Tracee consulted with a megachurch pastor in Phoenix, Arizona. They presented a roundtable as well in Phoenix. Kent revised the *Procedure Binder*, the detailed directions Church Doctor Ministries uses for Diagnostic Consultations.

**Revision of the  
Consultation  
Procedure Binder**

Kenzie Ritchie became the new SEND Leader and began preparations to restart SEND in September 2015.

**New SEND  
Leader**

In April, Tracee Swank worked with a church in Oregon, Ohio. Tracee also presented the workshop “Leading from the Center of God’s Will” in Lavonia, Michigan. Kent Hunter consulted a church in Mequon, Wisconsin. Kent and Tracee led a group to England at the end of April, through the first week of May. The group visited the Message Trust and Ivy Church in Manchester, St. Thomas, Crookes Church in Sheffield and Holy Trinity Brompton in London. While in



London, the group met with Peter Brierly, a church movement analyst in Kent, U.K. In London, we met with a representative pastor of the Desperation Church Planting Group.

Kent consulted with POBLO in Detroit, Michigan, in April. Tracee and Kent spoke at a regional conference of the National Association of Lutheran Churches in Greenfield, Indiana. Kent and Tracee consulted a church in Torrance, California.

Kent and Tracee taught a roundtable, “Change and Your Church,” in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Also in April, Destiny Family of Faith Church in Kendallville, Indiana, hosted the premier public sharing of the video series *The Damascus Road: Where Christians Become Missionaries*. Jason Atkinson from our staff edited this entire series.

***The Damascus  
Road Video  
Series***

In June 2015, Kent Hunter led a *Staffing Consultation* at a church in northern Wisconsin. Tracee joined Kent for a staff debriefing.

Tracee and Kent met with the CEO and Vice President of Thrivent Financial in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to solidify plans by which Church Doctor Ministries would provide workshops hosted by Thrivent field representatives. These workshops would be for pastors and church leaders.

***Thrivent  
Financial***

In June, Kenzie Ritchie continued to prepare for SEND to begin the following September.

In July, Tracee provided a roundtable at a church in Waterloo, Indiana. Kent wrote the workshop “Energize Your Church for Impact.” Tracee hosted a Church Doctor Institute, the training event for potential Church Doctors.

***Energize Your  
Church for  
Impact***

In August, the staff team attended the Global Leadership Summit at the Fort Wayne satellite site. Kent, Tracee, and Kenzie presented the workshop “Change and Your Church” in Monroe, Michigan, a workshop sponsored by Thrivent representatives.

***Change and  
Your Church***

In September 2015, SEND began its fourth training season, led by Kenzie Ritchie.

***SEND training***

Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank presented the workshop “Energize Your Church for Impact” in Kendallville, Indiana. Kent led the board of directors meeting at People of the Book Ministries International in Detroit, Michigan. Tracee, Chairman of Church Doctor Ministries’ Board of Directors, welcomed several new board members at its fall meeting.



Tracee and Kent taught the workshop “Energize Your Church for Impact” at a church in Greenfield, Indiana.

In October, Tracee and Kent led a group on an Immersion Excursion to a growing church in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Tracee developed a grant request for SEND with a local foundation.

In November, Church Doctor Ministries hosted a visit from Tim Tucker of the Message Trust, from Cape Town, South Africa. Tim spoke to groups in Waterloo and Kendallville, Indiana, and Detroit, Michigan.

Jonathan Hunter, former missionary for Church Doctor Ministries in England and Malaysia, joined the staff as Mission Developer and Recruiter for SEND North America.

In December, Tracee Swank led the Church Doctor Institute for potential consultants at the Church Doctor Ministries office in Corunna, Indiana.

Kent revised and edited the fourth draft of the manuscript *Who Broke My Church?* Kent also wrote a grant for a foundation in southern Illinois.

Jonathan Hunter, Kenzie Ritchie, David Bruce, and Quinn Jacquay provided an exhibit for SEND at the Urbana Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

***Hot Springs  
Immersion  
Excursion***

***Tim Tucker of  
South Africa***

***Recruiter  
for SEND***

***More work on:  
Who Broke  
My Church?***

***Urbana***

