

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## SUPPORTING HOME MISSION CHURCHES



**WELS100IN10.NET**

**Sometimes it's what you don't see that is just as important as what you do see.** You don't see the crew of people working backstage helping with costume and set changes, but you know that they're vitally important for the success of what happens on the stage. Sometimes it's what you don't see that is just as important as what you do see.

**This is especially true for our home mission churches.** We see the videos and read the stories. Tears well up in our eyes as another lost soul understands for the first time what God's grace means for them. We rejoice in these Spirit-worked victories!

Yet behind these stories is the work of many people that are vital to WELS Home Missions. There are district mission boards (DMBs) and mission counselors who spend countless hours conducting interviews and doing in-depth research to identify potential mission fields. When a new mission field and core group are identified, mission counselors and DMB members will travel to that field to conduct Bible studies, equipping and encouraging the group for outreach in their communities. When the new missionary arrives, he and his wife will attend a church planter intensive weekend that provides essential training and ongoing encouragement during the next two years. Additionally, during the early years of a mission, the mission counselor will make onsite visits and have regular contact with the missionary to provide further guidance and encouragement.

This behind-the-scenes work is vital to WELS Home Missions and the 100 Missions in 10 Years initiative. It prepares and equips our missions and missionaries for the gospel to be proclaimed that the Holy Spirit might open even more eyes to the peace and joy we have through Jesus. May God continue to bless their efforts!



In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Mark Gabb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**REV. MARK GABB**

Home Missions administrator



# 100 MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS

WELS HOME MISSIONS 2023-2033

## MISSION COUNSELORS

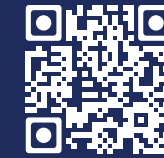
District mission boards (DMBs) and home mission churches are supported by three home mission counselors. They work with the DMBs to find, evaluate, and develop new home mission locations. They also provide onsite assistance to home mission congregations and counseling and training to the new missionaries who are called to serve them. This support is crucial in guiding mission churches on the way to becoming self-supporting congregations. WELS Home Missions also works with three specialized mission counselors that assist congregations with Hispanic, Asian, and Campus Ministry outreach.



Get to know these six mission counselors at [wels100in10.net/missioncounselors](https://wels100in10.net/missioncounselors).



## SUPPORTING HOME MISSION CONGREGATIONS AND MISSIONARIES



Learn more about the **NEW STARTS AND ENHANCEMENTS** approved towards our goal at [wels100in10.net](https://wels100in10.net).

## CHURCH PLANTER INTENSIVE AND COACHING PROGRAM

Brand new church planters gather with experienced home missionaries for a church planter intensive at Eternal Rock Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, Colo. Experienced church planter Jared Oldenburg, home missionary at Eternal Rock, developed the program and leads the training. This extended weekend seminar encourages and equips pastors who are called to plant brand new home mission churches. After the intensive, new church planters are paired with a coach from an established mission church to guide them for their first two years of launching a new church.



Learn more at [forwardinchrist.net/support-new-missionaries](https://forwardinchrist.net/support-new-missionaries).



## DISTRICT MISSION BOARDS

District mission boards (DMB) are the heart and core of Home Missions. They are the "boots on the ground" as they support existing home mission churches and work with area congregations to identify locations to plant new churches throughout their district. This group of two to four pastor and two to four laymen volunteers helps build a solid foundation for each new mission start and shepherds these new churches and their pastors on their path to being self-supporting.



Learn more at [wels100in10.net/DMB](https://wels100in10.net/DMB).



*"It'll be an experience of a lifetime, building a church that didn't exist. And it's just awesome to be a part of it."* —Paul Claflin, Core group member, Windsor, Colo.



Learn how **HOME MISSION CHURCHES** get started at [wels100in10.net/lightindarkness](https://wels100in10.net/lightindarkness).



*"As much as the church planter intensive was able to ground me, set our ministry on a good path, and send us out with valuable information, the coaching program is now my lifeline in an ongoing way. My coach is the most accessible avenue to bounce ideas off, get input from, and help me grow as a pastor."* —Rev. Joe Lindloff, church planter in Marquette, Mich.

➔ **PRAY!** Lord, by your grace alone we have a church presence in many new locations across North America. We humbly ask that you continue to bless our synod's 100 Missions in 10 Years effort. Thank you for providing the finances, district mission boards, mission counselors, and church planter intensive and coaching program to support these new mission churches and missionaries as they seek and gather the lost to share your good news. Bless the efforts of the missionaries already on location and give patience to the core groups who are still waiting for you to send them their first shepherd. Most of all, open more hearts to receive the message of saving grace given through the gospel. Amen.

➔ **GET INVOLVED!** Share the excitement of this effort with your home congregation, friends, and family. Is there a community that would benefit from a new church? Is there a demographic in your community that your church could reach out to with the gospel? Could your congregation support a new mission church by volunteering through a WELS Mission Journeys trip? Talk with your district mission board to see how you or your congregation can get involved and learn more at [wels100in10.net/getinvolved](https://wels100in10.net/getinvolved).

➔ **GIVE GENEROUSLY!** God's generosity has resulted in the riches of forgiveness, peace, joy, and hope. Let that move you to support this initiative! You can give a gift online at [wels.net/100in10gift](https://wels.net/100in10gift) or through the QR code below. Or use the tear-off coupon provided and mail with your check to **WELS, Attn: Gift Processing, N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188**. Give through appreciated assets (e.g., stock) or from your IRA by calling 800-827-5482. *Thank you!*



**WELS HOME MISSIONS**  
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53188

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