

“Facilitating Missional Church Planting Locally and Abroad!”

Michael J. Armbrust founded and led ministries whose impact still reaches far-and-wide.

1982-1990 - Maranatha Campus Ministries at the University of Minnesota. “I was baptized, discipled, and became very active in sharing my faith and leading others to Christ. I developed a heart and love for reaching out to International students.” MJA - “Michael was one of the first to step forward in a lay ministry capacity. He began outreach to the University of WI-Stout leading Pastor Johnathon Bislew and Gene Emahiser deeper into the Kingdom” Rev. Bruce K. Harpel.

1990's - Northwestern College graduated in Organizational

Administration his senior Thesis was on “How to start a new church” adding a Master of Arts in Theological Studies, 2009. - “I have also placed a high value on being missional which has been expressed in a couple of ways. First, I have been on ten short-term mission trips throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America. The earlier trips were about building projects and exposing Americans to life outside the USA. The last five trips have been about leadership development of national leaders.” MJA



1997 – 01 – Church Planted The River Church, Faribault MN. www.theriverchurch.org - Pastors: Steve and Joan Crombie.

2002 – 2012 Church Planted The River Church, Farmington MN. This was a hotbed of leadership development that is evidenced by Michael's fruit: five pastors sent into ministry, one daughter church planted, 11 adult and youth mission trips, and many salvations with water baptisms in the local river.

2004 – Haiti Michael leads and deploys three successive work teams that constructed a church and distributed compassionate care packages.

Little did we realize a Haitian revolution had begun.



Mission River is birthed as a leadership building church that would train and release disciples into the fivefold ministry empowered with the Holy Spirit's gifts.

2006 – Church Planted True North Church, Cannon Falls, MN. www.truenorthcf.org - Lead Pastor: Scott Wildenberg.



2010 – Panama Michael travels with five other Americans to the mountains, slept in tents, and endured the heat and multiple bug bites. - “It was all exhilarating! Conducted “hut to hut” evangelism, and in the evenings we would show a Jesus movie - the people loved it!” MJA - Results of this trip include; 120 gospel presentations, 57 won to Christ, one new church established. Michael ended up being the first white man ever to visit this corner of the world.

2011 – Mexico Michael with Laura Rand and other e3 Partner ministers did evangelism and church planting. God moved mightily with three new churches planted, 40 small groups created, and 343 brought to Christ.

2012 – Cuba Michael leads a team. - “One of the Pastors, who had been working for the past 35 years developing a new church, asked if we would pray for her mother-in-law who was sick. After going to her house to pray, the husband of the Pastor asked to “know more about Jesus” (even though his wife was a Pastor, he was not yet a Christian). I shared with him, and he accepted Christ. His wife was elated that he had finally made this decision.” MJA

2013 – 14 Crossroads Church As a church plant consultant Pastor Michael helped launch new church starts in Elko-New Market, Uptown Church, Historic Wesley, and Inver Grove Heights Campus.

2013 – 14 Colombia Michael with Pastor Nehil Bejarano, Dennis and Hannah Nelson, conducting a “Healthy Church Conference.” - And Michael with Rusty Russell returned where God did some amazing things. Over 50 brought to Christ, a boy blind in one eye-now sees, a man deaf in both ears-now hears. Pastors were trained and multiple people encouraged in the faith.



2017 – Belize Michael and Laura Rand teach 150 pastors leadership training and church planting with a side trip into Mexico.



2019 – Mission River

We are scheduled to Haiti, Nepal, Colombia and are opening a Minneapolis mission as “City Reaching Center” in collaboration with www.cityvisiontc.org/city-reaching-center-2 and Rev. Dr. John A. Mayer.

Armbrust Quips “Jesus does not call the equipped, He equips the called!” “A good Leader always walks with a limp!” “If you could do anything for God without failing what would it be?” “Are you ready for an adventure?” “The people you start with will not finish with you.” “It’s not how you start; it is how you finish.” “Helping people develop a healthy relationship with Jesus that’s contagious!” “Church doesn’t have to be boring.” “Always take someone else with you.” “If you want to be a person of authority you need to be under authority.” “You must be a servant leader.” “Life is either a great adventure or nothing!” “See it BIG; keep it SIMPLE!” “I am a BOX pusher!” “How big is your GOD?” “A live DOG is better than a dead LION!” “The most important thing we can do while on this earth is to PRAY!” “Life is a journey, not just a destination!” As Austin Powers would say, “I lost my mojo, baby!” “Conflict is not bad; it is just how you handle it!” “Remember Rule #2 Your are not Him - Rule #1 There is a God!” “Wherever I am, I am called to be His cheerleader!” “My greatest personal happiness occurs when I am closest to Him.” “Take a risk for God.” “We have to give God the control.” “The reality is this: choose what you want to do but more importantly who you do that with... the rest of life is simple.” “When things are bad, ask what could be the worst thing to happen? YOU could die and go to HEAVEN!” “God is GOOD! All the Time! And all the time! God is Good!”

“In pursuing His will in my life, I have found three truths that are important in becoming the person God wants me to be.”

The first is the importance of being honest with God. We need to be honest because there is nothing we can keep hidden from Him. “He knows the secrets of the heart” (Ps. 44:21).

The second truth is the importance of staying close to Him. Jesus desires to give us an “abundant life” (John 10:10) which is only found in Him. This



abundant life is obtained when we “abide in Him” (15:5) and “keep His commandments” (15:10).

The third truth is the importance of keeping our focus on Jesus. “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” (Heb. 12:2). Imagine a road with two ditches - pity and pride. When we focus on Jesus, we stay in the middle of the road, and our travel is easy.” MJA

“Some years ago, I heard someone say, “At the end of life if you have two to three close friends - you win!” (As a people-person, this seemed a bit pessimistic.) All I can say is, “thank-you!” Thank you for standing when I could not stand. Thank you for maintaining the relationship. God’s purifying fire of this past year has removed much. Nevertheless, I have come to realize that those who value me, and the ministry I offer, are still here. I am amazed. You have modeled Jesus to me, thank-you!...”Thanks for your prayers to get me steered for the next part of the journey. In addition, your faithful support has kept us alive to fight another day - you have been a HUGE blessing! The Lord will repay you in ways you can’t imagine!” Your ministry partner, but more importantly, your friend.” MJA



WHO was Michael... He was a Son, a Husband, a Father, Friend, and a Follower of Jesus Christ the Lord! He was Wise vs. Smart in order to win souls for the Kingdom. - “Knowledge can be a dangerous thing when it is not harnessed by wisdom. The goal of wisdom is to build and encourage others. This only happens when it is harnessed by wisdom. Knowledge by itself is like an unbridled horse that runs a mock.” MJA - Michael loved sinners in the spirit that gave life to those who were bound by sin. He was like Barnaba’s, a man of encouragement, taking chances, stepping out in faith with Jesus always catching him! Everyone liked Michael because he had the infectious charisma of Jesus.

“You are my Don Quixote (Michael), and I (Dennis) am your Sangho Panda!” Meaning: Quixote and Panza were the two main characters in Cervantes’ travel classic. Quixote (Michael) was an unrealistic visionary, forever embarking on a quest (for Jesus) to save the world from evil (devil). Panza (Dennis) was the realist who would remind Quixote that he needs a horse and the giants he sees are really windmills. Quixote with his head in the clouds and Panza with the feet on the ground. Realists need visionaries and visionaries need realists who understand the needs, opportunities and resources of the situation. I am proud to have been one of the many partners in Michael’s ministry and God’s will. I needed him more than he needed me. Dennis Nelson (PS think Frodo and Samwise)

Mission River continues Michael’s vision and purposes with planned trips to Colombia, Haiti, Nepal, Belize, Cuba, and more. It has been our pleasure to serve and know Michael; We will not say Goodbye - Just until we meet again!” We believe Jesus has said to Michael: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master.” (Mat. 25:21)

Board: Dennis Nelson, Laura Rand, and Vern Swedin

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (now with Michael), let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...” (Heb. 12:1-2)