

**[Source: *New Wave: Strategy Coordinator Churches* (September 2005) The Commission, International Mission Board]**

First Baptist Woodway typifies an exciting new phenomenon: the strategy- coordinator church.

What is a strategy-coordinator church?

"It's a church that is owning the task of taking the gospel to an unengaged people group," says Ken Winter of the International Mission Board's Church Services Team. "It is making a commitment that says, 'We, under God's leadership, are going to do whatever it takes to see this people coming to Christ, being disciplined and churches being planted that will lead to other churches being planted'" - and, ultimately, to a church-planting movement.

Winter counts up to 40 Southern Baptist churches now actively committed to reaching specific peoples or cities around the world. Strategy-coordinator churches vary in size and type, from large congregations with multiple mission commitments to much smaller bodies focused on a single task.

"It definitely is not limited to megachurches," Winter says. "I have seen a church that averages 180 a week in worship take on this responsibility in the Amazon Basin."

Some strategy-coordinator churches, like Woodway, relate to missionary strategy coordinators or teams already on the field, cooperating to reach a city or population within the missionary's larger people group. Others commit to reaching peoples not being engaged in any way by a missionary or mission team. Either way, the church takes primary responsibility for reaching its particular population or location - strategizing, guiding the work and mobilizing others to get involved.

What they all share is a vision for the world - and a need for training, mentoring and encouragement. That's where the Church Services Team comes in. Eighteen strategy-coordinator churches will come together this summer with IMB strategists to trade ideas and sharpen ministry models.

"I think it's the wave of the future," says Church Services Director Elvin McCann, himself a former missionary strategy coordinator. "There is no way we're going to fulfill our overall strategy to get to all the peoples and all the cities apart from it. It's a combination, where our missionaries reach out to their people group and churches come alongside to help fulfill the Great Commission."

Could your church become part of the wave? To find out more, call (800) 999-3113, ext. 7826.