

God's leading in unexpected ways results in a thriving Boston area church.

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For Pastor Michelet Alexandre and his wife Michelle, successfully planting a church in Greater Boston is the result of following the leading of God in unexpected ways. Here is the inspiring story of the Haitian Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church in Brockton, Massachusetts.

Michelet and Michelle Alexandre moved to the United States in 1994 and settled in New Jersey. Soon after that, they planted a church and expected to serve there a long time. However, Michelle suffered two miscarriages, so in 1997 they moved to the Boston area for the special medical care she needed.

They settled in Dorchester and served for a season as active members of the Haitian New Jerusalem Baptist Church. God was good and two healthy daughters were born to them! They bought a home in Randolph and moved their family once again.

Feeling the call and urge from God to start a church, in 2004 they began a worship service in their home. At the first service, 25 people crowded together into their living room! The spirit and fellowship were wonderful, however, Rev. Alexandre felt certain that the new church would be more successful if they met in a public place rather than in a private home. So, he rented a conference room in a nearby Holiday Inn for two hours each Sunday, meeting there for the next three years. But by 2007 it was clear that the Haitian people did not consider a hotel to be a suitable place for worship: After three years they had added almost *no* new members!

Discouraged by apparent failure, Pastor Michelet spent hours in prayer asking, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" One Saturday night, he reached a decision: He called the hotel and abruptly cancelled the rental agreement. Impressed by the Spirit, Michelet called his brother in Brockton and asked if the church could meet in his home. His brother agreed and the Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church was unexpectedly relocated to Brockton.

Apparently, God wanted a new Haitian church in Brockton, because within the first nine months their attendance grew from 22 people to approximately 50 people! They moved to a rented storefront in downtown Brockton and continued to grow. They expanded next door to a second storefront and continued growing. Today, nine years after their unexpected move to Brockton, 150 people regularly gather for worship in a rented double-wide storefront in downtown Brockton. The church now has deacons, a Youth pastor, worship leaders, a band, a Sunday School, a Sunday evening service and programs for evangelism and discipleship. The church has outgrown its space and they must move once again.

Three months ago, the Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church stepped out in faith and made the down payment to purchase a 10,000 ft² building. This property was once used as an auto repair shop and warehouse. It will require extensive remodeling before it can be used as a place of worship. Michelet's dream is to finally have a suitable space to carry out all the ministries of the church and to reach even more Haitians in Brockton for Jesus Christ.

For Michelet and Michelle Alexandre, earnestly seeking God's direction, then faithfully obeying His unexpected leading, has turned an apparent church plant failure into a wonderful success!