

Soma

A Church of the Christ

What is "Soma"?

Imagine sitting at a local coffee shop and overhearing a conversation between two people in their 20's. At first glance, with their tattoos and piercings, these aren't the kind of people you think you would find at a church. But as you eavesdrop, you quickly discover that their faith in Jesus is intense. You hear one of them describe how Jesus has changed his life, and you are inspired by his passion to begin a Life Group with other men at a local pub. The other young man's passion is evident when he talks about how he and a group of others will be cleaning up a neighborhood park. They talk a while longer, pray together, and then leave.



This is Soma...a community of Christ-Followers who are being Jesus to an emerging generation of people. Soma is also the Greek word for "body" and for us it serves as a metaphor for who we are and want to be; the "body" of Christ to those who are missing from God's Kingdom.

And best of all...our name constantly gives us the opportunity to describe who we are, evoking the question, "what is Soma?"

Help us get Connected

If you've got a blog, website, MySpace, Facebook, or one of the hundreds of other online networking tools, we'd love to have you add Soma (www.somasalem.org) and/or our online blog (www.somachurch.blogspot.com) as a link on your website.



And...if you know of anyone who would be interested in hearing about Soma or would like to be a prayer or financial partner, please forward our newsletter on to them.

Please Pray 4...

- **People.** They are the reason we do ministry. May God send us into people's lives to bring Jesus.
- **Work Funds.** We've got a great plan to get into the community; now, we just need some working funds.
- **Broken Barriers.** There are a number of things that keep people from coming to faith in Jesus. We want to see those barriers broken and know that only God can do it. From doubt to past pain to fear of failure, would you please pray that God would defeat the enemy and prepare hearts for Jesus.
- **Potential Partners.** Please pray for a number of people considering joining Soma right now.

Quick Links

www.somasalem.org

www.somachurch.blogspot.com

www.dwaynedhilty.blogspot.com

www.kairoschurchplanting.org

www.swfamily.org

www.cityofsalem.net

Fuel for the Journey

As we're getting Soma up and running, one of our favorite analogies to describe what we're doing is a big, jumbo jet. Like a jumbo jet needs fuel for moving down the runway and gaining enough momentum to lift off the ground into the air, a church plant requires certain "fuel" to get off the ground and up into the air. Fuel can take shape in various ways (including prayer and people-power), but one specific fuel that we are needing now is work funds (i.e., the "moolah" for items that we need as a new church). Here's the reality...your generosity towards our needed items will make a real, tangible difference in someone's life. So...please stop and look over the following list and pick a way to provide "fuel" for the Soma journey:

Trailer.....	\$2,480	Laptop.....	\$920
Projector.....	\$2,200	Decorations.....	\$1,500
Mailers.....	\$12,000	Bibles.....	\$500
Baptistry.....	\$800	Service/Evangelism...	\$3,200
Sound Equipment.....	\$2,900	Facility Rental.....	\$800/month



Into the Community...

Being Jesus to an emerging generation. The phrase sounds good, but unless there are actions to back up our mission, it will be hard for this emerging generation of people to consider Jesus.

From March 15-22, Soma will have 12 students from Abilene Christian University with us as we serve our local West Salem community. From passing out flyers, to cleaning up a local children's playground, to hosting a free BBQ in an area park, this week will serve as Soma's first big steps in reaching out to our local community.

And just as exciting...one of the keys to successful church planting is creating enough "critical mass" to move past various road blocks along the way. Sunday, March 16, then, is shaping up as Soma's first "informal" preview worship gathering as we are praying that God would send us 40 people to worship with us and hear about the mission and vision of Soma in West Salem.

By the Numbers...

8

People currently on our Launch Team

25

People we hope to have on our Launch Team by the end of March

13

Cubic yards of hog fuel being laid on playgrounds by ACU students this month

1272

Elm St NW, Salem, OR
(Our current church address)

10052008

When we prayerfully hope to launch Soma (10/05/2008)

4

Core Values that Soma shares as a community:
Authentic Community
Missional Living
Creative Dignity
Spiritual Formation

PJE 520

Trish's license plate # on her "hoop-t" 1988 Thunderbird (Trish is one of the leader's in the Soma community)

222

Miles from Salem to Crater Lake where we're planning a Soma snow-shoeing trip

SOMA

A Church of the Christ

1272 Elm St NW
Salem, OR 97304
503.689.1995



Being Jesus to an Emerging Generation

by

Creating Authentic Community,
Practicing Missional Living,
Engaging in Creative Dignity,
& Nurturing Spiritual Formation