



Visit places with us where new churches are really needed
—
just a short train ride away from San Francisco and
Line 1- From San Francisco to Pittsburg/Bay Point

Contra Costa County grew by more than 100,000 people over the past decade, making it the fastest growing county in the Bay Area on both an absolute numbers and a percentage basis. Some of the most unchurched communities are along the public transportation system called BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit), which connects cities in four counties. Its average weekday ridership is over 367,000. The CostaMeda Baptist Association (named from the counties of Contra Costa and Alameda, both of which overlap the Association's region) is praying for new churches in all of the towns where there are BART stations. *Come along and ride with us!*



Orinda Station

The town of Orinda, just one BART stop east of Oakland, had a 2010 population of 17,485. The only significant sized non- white population is the Asian 2,209 Asians population. The city is home to affluent professionals who commute to Oakland and San Francisco. The median age in Orinda is 47.8 years, the largest segment of which is 45 to 64 years old. Over 90% of Orinda is owner occupied.

There is no Southern Baptist church in Orinda, but one is needed there. A planter would most certainly need to live in the area, but strategically, a church reaching nearby and similar towns of Lafayette and Moraga may also reach into Orinda, and from that new start, a planter who lives in Orinda may hopefully be discovered and deployed.

Lafayette Station

With a population of 23,893 the town of Lafayette is only a twenty-five minute BART ride from San Francisco. In some ways, you could say that Lafayette is closer to San Francisco than some of San Francisco is to itself. It is almost 85% white, with the next largest group being Asian (9%). There is only one, struggling SBC Church in Lafayette, and we need at least one strong church there.

Moraga, another small town, borders Lafayette to the south. Because Lafayette is so small, Moraga is just a few minutes from BART too. Moraga had a population of 16,016 in 2010, which is stable with 2000 data. The town is around 76% White (12,201) and 15% Asian (2,393 people). Median 2006-2010 home value was \$955,500. There are no Southern Baptist churches in Moraga.

Sometimes people refer to the three neighboring towns of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda as Lamorinda. These three upscale communities share many characteristics. One of these is that there are no healthy Southern Baptist churches in the combined area of 57,000 people. It is a priority to start at least one English speaking church here, but we are praying for one in each town.



Walnut Creek Station

Walnut Creek is an exclusive residential community, with an upscale urban center. With a population of just over 64,000, Walnut Creek has seen its white population declined by over 3000 while its Asian population increased by 2000. The 7421 Asians in Walnut Creek are mostly Chinese (3359) and Filipino (1349). There is already a Korean SBC church and a Chinese SBC church, but they are not growing.

There is one growing SBC church in Walnut Creek that is reaching mostly Caucasians.

One new English speaking church is needed in south Walnut Creek. If that church is not able to incorporate Asians, one pan Asian church is also indicated. Rossmore, an affluent retirement community of 9,200 is two miles from Walnut Creek, also needs a church to reach the active seniors who live there.



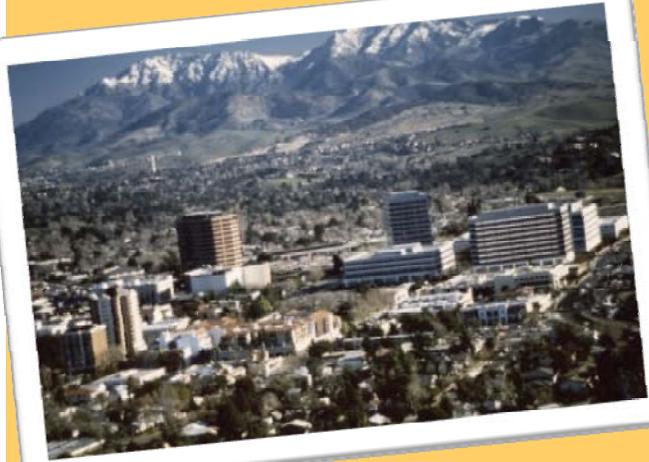
Pleasant Hill Station

Pleasant Hill is a city of 33,152 where there is no Southern Baptist Church. It is 68% non Hispanic White, 13.6% Asian and 12% Hispanic. The largest Asian groups are Chinese and Filipino, each with around 1,300 people. Hispanics number over 4,000. It is also home to Diablo Valley College, a community college of 22,000 students from 40 countries. At least one multiethnic English speaking church is needed, preferably one that will reach out to Diablo Valley college. A Spanish speaking church is also needed in Pleasant Hill.

Concord Station

With a population of just over 122,000, Concord is the largest city in Contra Costa County. It is 31 miles northeast of San Francisco, and 22 miles northeast of Oakland. It has a vibrant downtown core, an impoverished area, and several suburban developments. The non-Hispanic white population is 64,094, the Hispanic/ Latinos count is 34,576 and there are 4,792 African Americans. The Asian population includes 2,056 Asian Indians, 3,117 Chinese, and 4,611 Filipinos.

Four of the six Anglo/ multiethnic churches are growing or healthy, but another church that attracts younger English speakers is needed downtown. There are two Filipino churches, including one in core group stage and three Hispanic congregations, one of which is healthy and another in core group stage. At least one Hispanic church is needed. A Chinese or pan Asian church and an Indian church are needed as well. There is one struggling Chinese church in Concord already. Many whites in Concord are Middle Eastern or Russian. There is a growing Russian church in Concord. A new church is needed among Middle Easterners and other Muslim peoples.



North Concord/ Martinez Stations

There is also a North Concord BART station that gives access to not only the suburbs of Concord's north border, but is the gateway to the town of Martinez too. Martinez is the county seat of Contra Costa County. It is also home to a major Chevron refinery. This city of 35,824 has three strong Southern Baptist churches. Two are Korean congregations- one Korean speaking and one English speaking. The third is African American. There are only 222 Koreans in Martinez, and 2,640 Asians, but the SBC churches serve a wider Korean community. The same is true for the African American church in a town where there are just 1,465 African American residents. There are 25,219 whites in Martinez among whom two churches are needed. There are also 4,977 Hispanics, and a church is needed to reach them too.



Other Religions

The Sikh Center of the San Francisco Bay Area, Gurdwara Sahib, is located in the Contra Costa Census designated place, El Sobrante. Along with a Hindu temple in Concord, It is a major draw for the 21,000 Asian Indians in the county, among whom new churches are needed.

A new 66,000 square foot Sufi church is being built in Saranap, on the outskirts of Walnut Creek. The congregation is both Middle Eastern and Caucasian. In addition, the Islamic Center of Contra Costa Center is located in Concord, and there is one in Antioch where there are growing communities of Muslims from not only the Middle East, but also from South Asian and Africa. We are praying to start churches among these various Muslim groups in Contra Costa.

Pittsburg/ Bay Point Station

Pittsburg recorded a population of 63,264 in 2010, up from 56,769. The racial makeup of Pittsburg is approximately 23,000 (36.5%) White; 11,200 (17.7%) African American; 9,900 Asian, 5,600 of whom are Filipino (15.6%) 13,000 who claim "other race" and 4,600 from two or more races. There were 27,000 Hispanic or Latino of any race (42.4%). Over half of these (14,000+) are between 25 and 34 years old. The White and African American populations have decreased while the Hispanic and Asian population has grown since the 2000 Census.

There are three SBC African American churches (one in core group stage) and one Latino congregation in Pittsburg. No SBC churches are reaching Whites or the large Filipino group. At least one English speaking multiethnic church that can reach Caucasians and Asians is needed. Two Spanish speaking churches are needed, one of which would be non traditional, and a Filipino church is also needed. Los Medanos Community College, with 10,000 enrolled provides another significant outreach opportunity.

Pittsburg, along with Bay Point is a high poverty, high unemployment, and high crime region of Contra Costa County. Families and Schools are suffering, and the body of Christ would find this a good place to make a kingdom investment of time and resources.



Bay Point shares a BART station with Pittsburg. It is a census-designated place of 21,349 people. Almost 55% are Hispanic of any race, but mostly of Mexican origin. Around 11% are African American, 21% non-Hispanic white, 10% Asian (900 persons are Filipino) and the rest claim either "other" or two or more races.

There are two Southern Baptist churches in Bay Point (white and Filipino). Neither of these is growing. There is a need for one Spanish language church and one English speaking multi-ethnic church in Bay Point.



Beyond the BART: Antioch & Brentwood

Antioch, with a population of 102,372 is 48.9% white, (17.3%) African American, 10.5% Asian and 31.7% Hispanic. There are two strong African American churches in Antioch. There is no healthy, growing Hispanic church, and only one healthy church reaching the white population. At least two more English speaking Anglo or multiethnic churches are needed, plus at least two Hispanic and one Filipino church to reach over 5,000 people. Brentwood, population 51,481, has one healthy SBC church reaching mostly Caucasians. It needs at least one more church to reach the city's 32,572 white population, one or two churches to reach the 12,486 Hispanics, and a multiethnic church that is able to reach Asians (3,469) and African Americans (3,226).