

Sweet Home Appalachia

By Stan Friedman, p. 40

A church planter returns to his roots in West Virginia

1. How far away do you currently live from the place where you were born?
2. Justin Bowers says Appalachia is somewhat forgotten when it comes to church planting. Why do you think that is?
3. New Community Covenant Church's nonprofit serves students in the local school district. Bowers explains that in their context, the church is able to have relationships within the schools. Would a program like this work in your neighborhood schools? Why or why not?
4. New Community is looking at mission opportunities serving people in the oil and gas industry who come to their area. How might a church serve such a large number of short-term residents?
5. The article states, "Presence is the underlying theme of the church's ministry." In what ways do you exercise the ministry of presence, either personally or as a church body?