

MISSIONS & MINISTRY

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Visit us at www.blueriver-kansascity.org

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BR-KC Baptists



BR-KC_Baptist

"We envision a network of healthy Baptist churches partnering together to transform lives and communities through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home, in North America and around the world."



PAUL MILLER
INTERACTIVE COMEDY SHOW!

"It's amazing... there's no other way to describe it."
— Senior Financial Resources

"The sound of laughter almost brought the roof down!"
— Sandvik

As seen on
Disney CRUISE LINE

Register at
<https://2017appreciationbanquet.eventbrite.com>

Annual Pastor/Staff/Spouse Appreciation Banquet

February 3, 2017 - 7 p.m.

FBC Raytown Atrium
Event is **FREE** but
registration required
Childcare is available by calling
816-623-5260

Sponsored by



"Refugee Simulation Experience" Changing Perspectives

Have you ever tried to form a friendship with a refugee? If so, it was probably hard to find common ground between your American upbringing and their past experiences. The People Teams ministry of BR-KC put on a 4 Hour Refugee Simulation in November that put sixty participants through a live role play that followed the story line of a family who now lives in KC as they escaped the grasp of death and fled for their lives to a Ugandan refugee camp. Todd, one participant, described his experience: "We had to run from the guys with AK-47s and I was like 'they're

shooting at us, son.' There was a wounded girl lying on the path and we had to decide if we should risk helping her or if she was going to die." Groups had to make several decisions throughout the day about how to navigate a refugee camp and the resettlement process. About fifty helpers acted as thieves, smugglers, aid workers, and other roles to put participants through the gamut of real situations that KC refugees have encountered. People Teams partnered with Concilium Inc – a leading missionary security company, Becca Simmons - a make-up artist from World's of Fun, and Fusion of Midwestern Seminary.

Becky from FBC Blue Springs reflected, "I think the refugee experience allowed us to truly imagine what it would feel like to live in a constant state of 'unknowns' and feel the potential fears involved



Families reside in shanties in being uprooted and forced into less than desirable circumstances." Participants from almost every church confessed that they were surprised at how quickly they would put aside their morals to lie, cheat, and steal their way forward. Perhaps we might be quicker to "show grace and love," said Becky.

Of course, a role play has certain limitations in its ability to make participants feel like they are anywhere else than the backcountry of Liberty, Missouri, but one role player commented that the continuousness of the role play forced even the most reluctant of groups

continued on page 2



BR-KC Church Focuses on Haiti

Simulation

continued

to feel like they were somewhere else. Tony from KC asked, "How long was I in the camp?!? Only two hours! It felt like days!" In the debrief, participants reported feeling fear, frustration, sincere concern for imaginary people they met that day, and loss of human dignity. These emotions are common to the experiences of real refugees. The loss of dignity is not something that we think about when compared to the pain and suffering that refugees go through, but it produces a certain hurt in Joseph from The Congo. He recounts, "They made us drink water from the same puddle as the cows. We are human beings, but we were put on the same level as animals." Hopefully, all of the participants will now have an experience, albeit manufactured, that they can pull from when seeking to find common ground with a refugee in Kansas City.

Another refugee simulation is being scheduled for early Fall 2017. It seems to be an effective way to prepare those who want to minister to refugees but also a good way to expose youth groups, families, or individuals to the struggles of some around the world who are coming to Kansas City. Contact Andrew at kcpeopleteams@gmail.com if you have



A learning experience for the whole family

interest in being included next time or in current refugee ministry.

In 2000, **Red Bridge Baptist Church** members Bill and Jennifer Campbell heard a need, and their hearts turned toward it. Missionary Webb Chenault, whom Red Bridge supported, spoke of the orphans in Pignon, Haiti, and the urgent need to provide them with shelter, food, education, and spiritual hope. In early 2001 the Campbell family made an exploratory trip to Pignon. They were so stirred by what they saw that they found it difficult to leave. Just a few years later in 2003, using buildings and property donated by Webb Chenault, Haiti Home of Hope was founded.

Neither Red Bridge nor the Campbell family had experience opening or running an orphanage, so congregation-wide passion for the ministry was crucial from the beginning. A committee of members formed to research and plan each step. Prayer and financial support poured out from the whole church, but other gifts were also vital! From the congregation stepped forward engineers, medical professionals, teachers, electricians, and many others willing to use their talents to build up Haiti Home of Hope. The phrase most often uttered by those who've visited is "I want to go back!" A deep friendship was kindled between people in the heart of Haiti and people in the heart of the U.S.,

and it won't soon be extinguished.

Today, HHH is its own 501(c)(3) corporation, but Red Bridge continues to give, pray, and organize short term missions trips; and over half of the board of HHH are Red Bridge members. Haiti Home of Hope provides total care for 50 orphans, runs a milk clinic and feeding clinic, provides scholarships to local children, and gives support to local widows. If you'd like to learn more about the ministry, go to haitihomeofhope.org, or like the Haiti Home of Hope Facebook page.



Jennika before and after

You are invited to attend the
HOPE NOW FREEDOM GALA
 BENEFITTING



January 14, 2017

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. VIP Social

5:45 p.m. Registration & Silent Auction Opens

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Gala Dinner

InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza

401 Ward Parkway

Kansas City, Missouri 64112

\$100 per person, includes Dinner and Entertainment
\$25 per person for Optional VIP Social in the Rooftop Ballroom overlooking the beautiful Plaza Lights

Register by January 6, 2017 at www.restorationhousekc.com/events
 For more information, contact Jennifer Hutton (816) 623-5260

Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News

Jennifer Hutton, Editor
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 Carson Conover.....Student Minister
 Andrew Huesing.....People Teams

Associate Director's Report

I work among and converse with pastors and staff members of Southern Baptist Churches nearly every day of the week in a variety of settings. Let me assure you that none of them are having an easy time of it. If it's not stressful issues within the church they are addressing it is the slow drain on their membership from the cultural shift and growing disinterest in organized religion (the church) which has been taking place for the last several years. Watching this slow decline in your church's attendance is brutally difficult to handle for pastors. They are told at conferences by denominational leaders that "if you haven't baptized anyone for a few years you ought to just turn in your papers as a pastor and Baptist", or, "leadership is everything", implying that if their church isn't growing it is their fault. This slow decline, not to mention the regular stresses of being a pastor, takes its toll on the pastor. No one in the church quite understands this kind of despair, thus, the pastor often carries this burden alone. There it is; the one word that defines leadership and pastoring better than any other; lonely. In that loneliness, Satan gangs up on the pastor and conducts a full frontal attack on him. Satan even convinces some pastors that they can handle it without help.



Here's some good news, pastor. You're not alone, you're not the only one whose church is struggling. Your ministry is not a failure because God measures it based on faithfulness, not numbers. And, there are a group of pastors in Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association who get together once a month to share the pastoral burden, to encourage one another and discuss church revitalization principles that are working to bring back churches from the brink of disbanding. The group has discussions of current books written on revitalization and invites in guest

speakers to address pertinent subjects. We call it the Legacy Cohort and the schedule is just below this article. I strongly encourage you to join us for our next Legacy meeting. I think you'll be blessed by it. Also, below, you'll find the schedule and location for our quarterly E3 prayer luncheons. This is a time for pastors to pray for one another and share victories and burdens in a safe, confidential setting. We hope you'll make it a priority to join us for one or both of these events designed specifically to encourage and support pastors.

Gregg



2017 Dates to Remember

E3 Meetings

Noon - includes lunch

2/2	Abiding Love, Harrisonville
2/16	Pathway, Raymore
2/23	Harvest, Blue Springs
3/2	Sterling Acres, Independence
5/4	Abiding Love, Harrisonville
5/18	Pathway, Raymore
5/25	Harvest, Blue Springs
6/1	Sterling Acres, Independence
9/7	Abiding Love, Harrisonville
9/21	Pathway, Raymore
9/28	Harvest, Blue Springs
10/5	Sterling Acres, Independence
11/2	Abiding Love, Harrisonville
11/16	Pathway, Raymore
11/30	Harvest, Blue Springs
12/7	Sterling Acres, Independence

Legacy Cohort

10 a.m. - includes lunch

1/10	Country Meadows, Independence
2/14	Country Meadows, Independence
3/14	Country Meadows, Independence
4/11	BRKC Office, Greenwood
5/9	BRKC Office, Greenwood
8/8	Church at Three Trails, Independ.
9/12	Church at Three Trails, Independ.
10/10	Church at Three Trails, Independ.
11/14	Oakwood, Lee's Summit
12/12	Oakwood, Lee's Summit



Campus Ministry Update

Carson Conover, Blue River/Longview

It's finals week at MCC Blue River and Longview! God has been very kind and gracious this semester. It's been one of the most encouraging I've had in a long time! Here are a few reasons why I'm encouraged.



CHALLENGE BIBLE STUDIES -

We spent the semester studying and discussing Luke's Gospel at both Blue River and Longview. Several students said this was the first time they've ever read Luke's Gospel!

- We had 7 weekly bible studies on campus. We had 34 students consistently participate in the weekly Bible study. Another 14 students who participated occasionally or semi-consistently.
- In the past year, 1 student came to faith and was baptized at **LifeConnection**. 2 students have become partners at LifeConnection. 4 more students have begun to occasionally attend Sunday worship gatherings.

CORE TEAM - We began the semester with a core team of 4 students who stepped up to stretch their faith and take greater ownership of ministry to their campus.

- These students met together every Monday morning this semester at 8 a.m. to learn to study the Bible and facilitate a Bible discussion.
- All 4 of these students led or co-led a Bible study for the first time ever!
- We've already recruited two more students to the core team for the spring semester!

DOUBT DAY - In my last update, I mentioned that we were preparing to host Doubt Day—an outreach effort to students and faculty with doubts, questions, and objections about God and faith. We held two 50 minute sessions and provided pizza for all in attendance. We had a decent turnout!

Thank you to everyone who reads my updates and prays. I have a text message prayer team. Would you consider joining? Text "PrayUp" to 781-728-9542 to join.

News from the churches

Big Creek Baptist in Pleasant Hill is looking for a part-time administrative assistant. Job description is available by contacting the church office at 816-540-2365. To apply, send resumes to PO Box 395, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080 attention Personnel Committee.

Oakwood Baptist is looking for a part-time Worship Pastor. Send resumes to Pastor Russ Taylor at russ@obckc.com.

SonShine Preschool and Daycare and Club K4 at **FBC Buckner** is accepting resumes for teachers and childcare workers. For more information or to apply, visit www.fbcuckner.org.

South Haven in Belton is looking for a part-time Children's Ministry Coordinator. For more information, visit southhavenchurch.org. Email resumes to PastorRichard@southhavenchurch.org.

Belvidere Heights in Grandview is looking for a part-time Music Director. Email resumes to bhbcmo@aol.com.

Dave Vitt, a member of **Word of Life** in Peculiar, has recently written an online devotional, The Teachable Heart. He would like to offer it free to all of our churches. If you or your church is interested (you could link this to your church's website) visit <https://theteachableheart.wordpress.com/>.

2017 Vision 2020 Grant Changes

The following changes were approved at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

- Grants will be given out on a semi-annual basis – February and August
- The approximate amount for each semi-annual period will be \$21,391.83
- 15% of the amount will be allocated for Restoration House
- 15% of the amount will be designated for emergency capital needs of churches
- 70% will be flexible within the five existing ministry objective categories
- Churches/ministries will have a maximum number of two semi-annual requests with only one request being granted each time
- Churches can only be funded in any given category once per year
- Only one emergency capital needs request per year is allowed per church. If no emergency capital needs are requested in a grant period, the remainder of the funds become flexible and can be used in other categories

For more information, or to apply for a grant, visit blueriver-kansascity.org/grant.

February Schedule

- 2/3/17 - Grant Requests Due
- 2/22/17 - Grant Checks Written

August Schedule

- 8/4/17 - Grant Requests Due
- 8/23/17 - Grant Checks Written



Awareness and Volunteer Training Event
January 19th
6 - 8 p.m.
Heart of Life Church
LSMO

Ongoing Needs:
Quik Trip Gas Cards
Aldi Gift Cards
Price Chopper Gift Cards
Walmart Gift Cards

November Financial Report

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Receipts from churches	\$37,078.32	\$405,803.07
Other Income	14.70	136.72
Total	\$37,093.02	\$405,939.79
Less Expenses	(29,398.05)	(401,994.73)
Balance as of November 30, 2016	\$7,694.97	\$3,945.06
Budget \$467,420.19 Annual	\$38,951.68 Monthly	\$428,468.48
Budget Receipts + other income		405,939.79
Receipts compared to budget 95%		(\$ 22,528.69)

Calendar

January		February	
2	Office Closed for Holiday	2	E3, Abiding Love , Harrisonville
10	Legacy Cohort, Country Meadows , Independence	3	Apprec. Banquet, FBC Raytown
12	Ministry Teams	9	Ministry Teams
16	Office Closed for MLK Holiday	14	Legacy Cohort, Country Meadows
		16	E3, Pathway , Raymore
		23	E3, Harvest , Blue Springs