

# MISSIONS & MINISTRY

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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."**



## No Goats, No Glory A pastor's challenge inspires a Sunday school teacher and her students to give the gift of goats *by Heather Klinger, World Vision*

Three years ago, Pastor Larry Heenan of **Spring Valley Baptist Church** in Raytown, challenged every Sunday school class in his church to raise \$75 for goats from World Vision's Gift Catalog.

For Sharon Baker and her class of 12 third, fourth, and fifth graders, this seemingly simple request felt daunting. They were doubtful they could raise the money for even one goat.

But now with goat No. 238 in the works, Sharon's husband, Tom, has lovingly dubbed her the "crazy goat lady" — a nickname she has embraced with open arms.

"Goats are one of the cutest animals ever. They're so precious, and they provide so much for each family," Sharon says. "We realize there's a lot of hurt out there. We can't help everyone, but we certainly can help someone."

Fundraising really took off once her class started letting donors name each goat — starting with goat

No. 47, named "The Old Goat — Russell" by Jaunita Box in memory of her husband.

All of the goats now receive names, each one unique to the situation or the reason for buying the goat. And the children were insistent on going back and naming all of the previous goats too.

After goat No. 50, Sharon says



they were planning to quit, but the children wanted to keep going. And an answer to her prayer came quite obviously the next Sunday morning, with Pastor Danny Dyer pointing directly toward her during his sermon and telling her emphatically to never quit doing this good work.

"We do not have a goal any longer," Sharon says. "We are just going to keep going."

With help from her fellow teachers, Ed and Peggy Conway and Joe and Kim Biondo, the children in their class have been donating their allowances, doing extra chores, selling donated items, saving aluminum cans, collecting UPC codes, and using their imaginations to create crafts to sell — all to add another goat to their classroom's "goat meter," which keeps track of their progress.

"I am a Christ-centered, biblically anchored world-changer. I have the children say that every Sunday," Sharon says. "Their eyes light up when you tell them they are a world-changer. Saying that really broadens your view of who you are. It gives me the confidence to be the 'crazy goat lady.'"

Both the church and the community, particularly those in Sharon's line dance classes, have rallied behind them every

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## Ice or No Ice: The Gala Went On! *by Britney Hamm*

Saturday, January 14, 2017. The weathermen were predicting the largest ice storm in Kansas City in a decade. The grocery store shelves were bare; the roads unusually quiet as darkness settled over the city.

But darkness cannot overcome the light. Despite the hazardous conditions predicted to begin late Saturday evening, over 300 people gathered to say "Not in Our City" to human trafficking at the 3rd Annual

Hope Now Freedom Gala for the **Restoration House of Greater Kansas City (RHGKC)**.

Launched in 2015, the Restoration House exists to bring hope, healing, and restoration to survivors of human trafficking. They are the only faith-based residential program in the

area. In their first 18 months, they have helped 22 women on their journey to recovery.

As with any nonprofit, fundraising is absolutely crucial to the fulfillment



*continued on page 3*

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

**2016 CHURCH GIVING**

Church	2016 Assn- Mission Giving
Abiding Love	\$1,634.00
Antioch	\$465.24
Antioch Southern	\$2,793.35
Armour Heights	\$200.00
Avenue Family Church	\$0.00
AZ-U-R	\$0.00
Bales Avenue	\$1,100.00
Beaumont	\$0.00
Belvidere Heights	\$1,500.00
Bethany	\$0.00
Bethel	\$1,888.30
Beverly Hills	\$500.00
Big Creek	\$13,993.00
Blue Ridge	\$6,255.53
Blue Springs First	\$42,002.28
Blue Summit	\$1,360.13
Buckner First	\$2,780.42
Calvary, Blue Springs	\$1,323.81
Calvary, Independence	\$2,981.48
Calvary Temple	\$100.00
Carlisle	\$997.54
Cedar Creek Comm.	\$1,800.00
Celebration Community	\$50.00
Central	\$1,762.84
Church at Pleasant Ridge	\$75.00
Church of Faith	\$25.00
Cleveland First	\$20.00
Coleman	\$500.00
Connections Church*	\$0.00
Corinthian Missionary	\$400.00
Country Meadows	\$3,593.95
Covenant Memorial	\$600.00
Coventry Estates	\$875.00
Creighton First	\$5,759.70
Cross Creek	\$2,534.77
Crossroads, Grain Valley	\$650.00
Crossroads Bible	\$25.00
Discovery	\$50.00
East Lynne First	\$1,382.00
Ebenezer Missionary	\$500.00
Faith	\$6,674.16
Fellowship*	\$270.00
Fellowship Greenwood (Lenexa)	\$6,000.00
First Haitian	\$500.00
First Westside	\$400.00
Fleming	\$577.52
Forest Avenue	\$50.00

Church	2016 Assn- Mission Giving
Forest Grove*	\$81.61
Freeman	\$2,240.89
Full Faith Christian Center	\$0.00
Grace & Truth	\$1,400.00
Grace Baptist, Oak Grove	\$3,498.51
Grace Church of Independence	\$300.00
Grace Family Fellowship	\$1,800.00
Grace Heartland	\$1,100.00
Grace Point	\$863.54
Grain Valley First	\$14,689.00
Grand River	\$773.48
Grandview First	\$7,971.43
Greater Bethel Missionary	\$0.00
Greenwood Missionary	\$600.00
Haitian American	\$700.00
Harvest	\$1,500.00
Heart of Life	\$8,333.30
Hickory Grove	\$450.00
Hispanic, Rockwood	\$100.00
Holy Hill	\$1,200.00
Iglesia Cristiana Palabra Viva	\$1,100.00
Iglesia Jesucristo Verdad Y Vi	\$801.06
Iglesia Pan De Vida	\$1,284.24
Immanuel	\$7,100.87
In God's Hands Ministry	\$0.00
Independence First	\$999.96
International Comm Church (Russian)	\$0.00
Kansas City Korean	\$0.00
Lee's Summit First	\$35,313.45
LifeConnection	\$23,970.72
LifeConnection Grain Valley	\$764.94
LifeConnection Northeast	\$0.00
LifeQuest	\$700.00
Little Blue	\$400.00
Living Stones	\$200.00
Loma Vista	\$478.19
Lone Jack	\$1,200.00
Longview	\$900.00
Manna Fellowship	\$100.00
Martin City	\$1,659.39
Maywood	\$2,100.00
Mosaic Bible Fellowship	\$600.00
Mt. Nebo	\$250.00
Mt. Washington	\$100.00
New Birth Christian Ministries	\$0.00
New Life Cambodian	\$50.00
New Salem	\$1,293.21

Church	2016 Assn- Mission Giving
New Wave Ministries	\$50.00
New Zion Missionary	\$100.00
Noland Road	\$35,503.62
Norfleet	\$2,402.49
Oak Grove First	\$39,225.53
Oak Tree	\$600.00
Oakwood	\$2,750.00
Olive Branch Missionary	\$275.00
Paradise Outfitter Ministries	\$8,022.00
Paseo	\$250.00
Pathway	\$215.00
Peculiar First	\$3,961.00
Plaza Heights	\$250.00
Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$298.12
Principe de Paz	\$750.00
Raymore First	\$3,500.00
Raytown First	\$24,166.70
Red Bridge	\$600.00
Redeemed Ministries Bible	\$0.00
Redeemer Fellowship	\$350.00
Redemption Church	\$275.00
River Boulevard	\$1,960.63
River's Edge*	\$500.00
Roanoke	\$2,033.28
Rockwood	\$1,726.91
Second Missionary	\$100.00
Six Mile	\$1,673.80
South Haven	\$33,524.18
Southview	\$6,426.81
Sovereign Grace	\$50.00
Spring Valley	\$8,062.08
Spruce St. Matthew	\$1,000.00
Sterling Acres	\$4,988.81
Strasburg	\$859.00
Susquehanna	\$100.00
Sycamore Hills	\$6,764.52
The Church in Waldo*	\$1,827.45
The U Church	\$150.00
Tree of Life	\$20.00
True Light of Jesus Christ	\$0.00
True Vine	\$300.00
United Believers	\$315.00
Vietnamese	\$1,440.00
Word of Life	\$500.00
Wornall Road	\$1,300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$445,084.74</b>

**Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News**

Jennifer Hutton, Editor  
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**No Goats, No Glory** *con't* step of the way. Money periodically arrives in her mailbox with a note to buy another goat, and for Sharon's birthday and Christmas gifts, her friends give a goat in her name. People also donate money in honor of someone or in their memory.

"I could not possibly do this alone," Sharon says. "As we've asked others to come in and be a part of what we're doing, they become part of the team." Both their team and impact continue to grow, but Sharon gives all the glory back to God.

"Knowledge and prayer bring the passion — the knowledge that there are people out there who are hurting that you can help, and prayer to ask God's guidance every step of the way," Sharon says. "There are doors we never dreamed we could open.

"We never dreamed that we could talk to someone about a goat, and they would hand us \$75. That is purely God working in the hearts of other people. Once you see that happen, your passion becomes like a bonfire. It just grows. You realize that you can do something significant with God's help." *This article originally appeared in the Winter 2016 issue of World Vision magazine and was reprinted with permission.*

## Restoration House Gala continued from page 1

of their mission. For the third year in a row, the Gala did not disappoint. This year's Gala began with a VIP Social on the rooftop of the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza. Guests sipped hot beverages while taking in the breathtaking view of the Plaza Christmas lights. Christine McDonald, a survivor of human trafficking and Program Director of RHGKC, signed copies of her recently released book, *The Same Kind of Human*, alongside former Kansas City Royals player Willie Mays Aikens, who signed copies of his book, *Safe at Home*.

The silent auction and Gala dinner took place down in the elegant Ballroom of the Intercontinental. The array of auction items included hand crafted coffee tables, Royals tickets, custom-tailored suits, and more. Guests bid online through a mobile bidding app throughout dinner.

Melony McKaye from Life 88.5 served as the Emcee for the second time this year. The entire program, which included a mix of live speakers and video testimony, inspired, evoked compassion, and challenged us to remember that simple acts of kindness and generosity have the power to accomplish great good.



*Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler*

Dr. Rodney Hammer, Board President of RHGKC, presented the second Cry Purple Award to Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler for her exemplary work sponsoring instrumental legislation aimed at combatting human trafficking. In her speech, Congresswoman Hartzler painted Restoration House as a beautiful fulfillment of the Scripture in Isaiah 61:1, as this ministry brings good news to the poor, binds up the brokenhearted, proclaims liberty to the captives, and releases those who are bound.

Christine McDonald shared how the vision for Restoration House came to

be through a video that was recorded on the very same steps where she and other prostituted women once sat. She described how they would sit there, weary and defeated, aching for a life beyond prostitution, wishing "there was a place for girls like us." Now, decades later, her words have come full circle – Restoration House is the place for girls like her. This fulfillment was evidenced by the video testimony of a formerly trafficked young woman whose life has been restored through the work of Restoration House. Evoking such inspiration through stories of generosity and transformation provided the perfect segue for Auctioneer Gib Thurman to climb the bids as high as he possibly could for the 5 live auction items: a trip to Ireland, a custom diamond



*Auctioneer Gib Thurman drives up the price*

necklace, a Steamboat Springs Getaway, a Cancun Paradise Adventure, and a one-of-a-kind 1970 Super Bowl Champion Chief's Autographed Picture.

When the last item had sold, the last bite of cheesecake consumed, and the last speech given, over \$140,000 had been raised to shine light into the dark places of human trafficking, exceeding the goal of \$100,000 by 40%.

As guests drove home on the ice-free streets, the twinkling Plaza lights bespoke a visual reminder that when we let compassion and generosity shine through our hearts, the light pierces through the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.



## Associate Director's Report

*Gregg Boll*

We hope you'll plan on joining us for our next Legacy Cohort meeting on February 14 at **Country Meadows Baptist Church**, 4901 Lee's Summit Road, KCMO from 10am to noon. Legacy Cohort is a monthly fellowship for any pastor, staff member or church member who desires to help their church be more effective in growing the Kingdom in their community.

I have invited Pastor Scott Moots, Worship Pastor at **South Haven Baptist Church**, to do a worship workshop. I know some of you have part time worship leaders who work outside the church but the hope is that with enough advance warning, some of them could rearrange their schedules and attend. Some of the topics we hope to cover are:

- A Theological Foundation for Worship; What is worship and why do we worship the way we do?
- Leading your People to Worship and encouraging greater participation in worship
- How to develop a worship team
- Acoustics, Audio/Visual Issues (time permitting)

Scott brings a wealth of practical experience and versatility. He has lead worship in nearly every ministry setting. Scott is one of the most balanced, competent



worship leaders I've known in my 30 plus years of ministry. This will be a practical couple of hours that will help you improve the quality of your worship. After sharing several essential aspects to quality worship, Scott will lead a Q&A time so you can ask specific questions related to your setting. Lunch will be served. I hope you'll plan to be with us. Please email me at [Greggb@kcbaptist.org](mailto:Greggb@kcbaptist.org) so I know how much food to provide and with any particular questions you have about worship which you would like us to address.

## News from the churches

BR-KC sent another team with the gospel and aid to northern Ethiopia January 16. Pastor Randy Messer of **FBC Oak Grove** and Deacon Ed Newsome of **United Believers** taught in the BR-KC founded Shire Evangelical Bible College while Jim and Nicole Brown from **Noland Road** led the team ministering to children in Shire and the Eritrean Refugee Camps of Tigray, Ethiopia. You won't want to miss their report at our BR-KC Semi-Annual meeting on April 23rd.

**Blue Summit Baptist** has an urgent need for volunteers to help with the Night to Shine event on February 10th at Arrowhead Stadium. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs. If you can help, contact Pastor Charles Beeghley at pastor4him@gmail.com.

**Calvary Baptist** in Blue Springs is hosting Bud and Barbara Lee in concert on February 12th at 4 p.m.

Associational WMU Annual Meeting is on March 18th at **Coventry Estates Baptist**, 17133 E. 39th Street in Independence. 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Church planters Mike Roy from **Pathway** and Peter Assad from **The Church in Waldo** will speak along with other WMU.

**LifeConnection Church** in Independence has baptismal robes to give away. Email cathy@lifeconnectionkc.org.

**Sycamore Hills** in Independence has called Tony Pursley as their full-time associate in Music and Education. Tony is a graduate of Southern Seminary.

The MBC will be providing Disaster Relief training on March 10 and 11 at Pleasant Valley Baptist in Liberty. Visit [www.mobaptist.org/dr/dr-training/](http://www.mobaptist.org/dr/dr-training/) for more information.

## Save the Date

**Spring Semi-Annual Meeting**

**April, 23, 2017**  
**5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**More details coming soon!**

## Counseling Services Provided for BR-KC Pastors, Staff and their Families

We are excited to announce that BR-KC has entered into a partnership with Diakonos Counseling Services to provide confidential counseling for our pastors, staff and their families. There are times when the emotional, physical and spiritual burden of ministry can cause serious strain on pastors and their families. However, they usually never reach out for professional help to process their stress and family crises for fear of how it might impact their relationship with the church or because their financial situation doesn't permit it.

How does our partnership with Diakonos work? If you or a family member needs professional counseling, simply call Diakonos [www.diakonoscounseling.com](http://www.diakonoscounseling.com), tell them you are with BR-KC and schedule an appointment. You will

receive one free consultation and then all subsequent counseling sessions, up to six sessions, will only cost you \$22 each. Diakonos will cover a portion of the cost of each session and BR-KC will cover the rest. The Association will never be informed of who we are paying for. Our hope is that this new partnership will make Christ-centered, clinical counseling accessible for you and be a game changer for your family and ministry.

### Vision 2020 Grant Schedule

**February 3 - Grant Requests Due**  
**February 22- Checks Written**  
*info and applications available at <http://blueriver-kansascity.org/grant/>*

## December Financial Report

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Receipts from churches	\$39,281.67	\$445,084.74
Other Income	15.20	151.92
Total	\$39,296.87	\$445,236.66
Less Expenses	( 42,777.09)	(444,771.82)
Balance as of December 31, 2016	(\$3,480.22)	\$464.84
Budget \$467,420.19 Annual	\$38,951.68 Monthly	\$467,420.19
Budget Receipts + other income		445,238.66
Receipts compared to budget 96%		(\$ 22,183.53)

## Calendar

February		March	
2	E3, <b>Abiding Love</b> , Harrisonvle	2	E3, <b>Sterling Acres</b> , Indep.
3	Grant Requests Due	9	Ministry Teams
	Apprec. Banquet, <b>Raytown FBC</b>	14	Legacy Cohort, <b>Cntry Meadows</b>
9	Ministry Team Meeting	30	VBS Clinic, <b>Grain Valley FBC</b>
14	Legacy Cohort, <b>Cntry Meadows</b>		
16	E3, <b>Pathway</b> , Raymore		
23	E3, <b>Harvest</b> , Blue Springs		