

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."



Greenwood Church Gives to Community by Dan

Steinbeck of The Pathway *reprinted with permission*

Fellowship Greenwood Church used the first Saturday in May for another of their "Live to Bless" activities.

On May 6, the church gave away thousands of brand new clothes, assisted by Garments of Praise ministry. In addition, they also gave away 48 haircuts and 36 oil changes, all for free.

"The bottom line is this: Two years ago, our church began to consider what if they took Christ seriously (for loving their neighbor). We're a legacy church going on six years when before we were dwindling. It's a 'beauty from ashes' kind of church," Pastor Chris Williams said of the six-year history of the church.

In addition to those numbers, 179 people

allowed Fellowship to pray for them, and 81 allowed Fellowship to share the gospel. From that event, one family became plugged into one-on-one discipleship of the church.

"Our goals are first to bless the community, second, to honor the Lord and love our neighbors, and third, see people come to the faith. The haircuts and oil changes filled up in days. We had four

oil-change bays and four hairstylists."

This was the second of six activities through the year. Several weeks ago, they helped the city with their Easter egg hunt. Later this year, they will help the city by manning and maintaining a Freedom Festival.

There is also a huge Halloween alternative trunk or treat, plus two "T-shirt Saturdays."

"The members wear T-shirts with the 'Live to Bless' theme and are told to do something nice for people. Sunday school classes have served at community ministries. Some people pay for someone else's meal or buy groceries. Some blessed our members with cookies. It's fun watching their

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Volunteers spent May 6 in the sun, blessing members of their community with free oil changes

Abiding Love Celebrates Grand Opening of New Worship Center

Pastor Clayton With of **Abiding Love Baptist Church** picked up a huge stone with the word, "Ebenezer" on it and celebrated with his congregation the



dedication of their new sanctuary on June 11, 2017. Lifting the Ebenezer stone

above his head, Pastor Clayton reminded the congregation of the story from I Samuel, when the Philistines had attacked God's people during a time of worship, repentance and

spiritual renewal. The Lord supernaturally intervened with loud thunder to confuse and frighten the Philistines, allowing Israel to overcome them in battle. Samuel then set a stone of reminder, an Ebenezer stone, declaring "the Lord has helped us thus far." (I Samuel 7:12) The congregation had outgrown their tiny facility

at 302 East Pearl, just off of the square in Harrisonville. Though the church has always been an active ministering congregation in their community, this new facility will allow the congregation to minister to their community in so many more ways.

Pastor Clayton then read from II Chronicles which recounts the building and dedication of Israel's first temple, describing each successive stage in the process and asking those present rhetorically, "Was it a church yet?", to which the congregation answered "no" each time. Only after the

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Fellowship Greenwood *continued from page 1*

creativity.

“The whole idea is if we Live to Bless, people will notice it is not normal in society. We say, ‘You’re right. We do this supernaturally,’” Williams said.

“Churches are myopic – and I’m guilty too. We don’t take ministry opportunities. Yet, churches are asking how to be relevant in their communities. When you love the people as Christ loved the people, you become the most relevant thing to them.”

There are other ways the church is active in Greenwood and the surrounding area. Last year a sixth grade class was bused from a local school and after a program, helped pack meals for ‘Feed My Starving Child.’

“We’ve proven ourselves. The school knew we wouldn’t embarrass them. Now some fifth graders are looking to be involved. Now some teachers and some students are attending churches.”

“My number one piece of advice is ‘live to bless’ with no strings attached. We do not want anything in return. We let the Lord bring the increase according to Galatians 5,” Williams said.



Abiding Love *cont'd from page 1*

Spirit of the Lord filled the temple was it a place where God’s people could worship



Him. Still, it was only a building; it was not a church, it could not contain God’s glory, but it was a place filled with God’s glory where the Lord met His people and they could offer praises to Him. Pastor Clayton then indicated that neither are we a part of the Church or born again until the Holy Spirit comes to live in us at our conversion. And, the Church didn’t become the church until the Holy Spirit fell from heaven on the day of Pentecost. Pastor Clayton noted that it took Israel

seven years to finish their temple so he didn’t feel so bad that it had taken them eight years to see their dream of having a new sanctuary become a reality.

The day was punctuated with special music, guest speakers and the congregation corporately dedicating itself to the Lord to utilize the new facility for His purposes and gospel. Abiding Love is now located just east of highway 7 on EE highway, on the north side of Harrisonville.

Our Work in the Horn of Africa Continues

Shire, Ethiopia is alive with joy and excitement as the celebration took place with the first ever graduation of the Bible students held in the Shire Kalehiwet Church on May 21st. The Bible School was founded and is supported by BR-KC. The Bible students have come from

surrounding towns and from refugee camps to attend classes and will now continue spreading the gospel all over Ethiopia and to the ends of the Earth. Let’s remember to lift them up in our prayers for encouragement and strength as they walk in their new paths. Thank you to all who have taught, donated money, books, prayed for the students, and worked on building the classrooms.

playing basketball, volleyball, and of course soccer. What a blessing! Thank you for all of the materials needed, they went so far!



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Two refugee camps were given clothes, shoes and 300 pounds of uniforms for

We visited two church plants led by Bible School students that are reaching out to the community to what could certainly be considered “some of the least of these” in area children to be sponsored. We distributed food, clothing and shoes to 15 children at each location and were able to visit their school. The schools are crowded and have minimal

Associate Director's Report

At this year's Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, there was a controversial resolution regarding the "Alt-Right" movement. Allow me to share the non-media, unbiased version of what happened. An African American Baptist pastor from Austin, Texas asked from the floor to have his resolution condemning the Alt-Right movement accepted and presented to the whole convention for approval. The Alt-Right movement is a loosely organized group of people who advocate white supremacy and open disdain for people of other ethnicities, especially African Americans, mostly through social media. The committee initially rejected the pastor's request and chose not to consider his resolution, giving several procedural reasons. Still, every messenger sitting in the convention hall knew that the resolutions committee had made a huge mistake and that we could not leave Phoenix with any ambiguity about where we stand as a faith family with regard to race and the gospel.

This is when a wonderful display of everything good about our Southern Baptist polity sprung into action. In SBC life, we do not have a top-down, hierarchical form of governance. Rather, we have a bottom-up, grass-roots led denomination in which every local church sends messengers to the annual meeting to express their will and priorities to our elected SBC leaders. While we generally trust and follow the leadership of these elected denominational servants, occasionally the messengers speak from the floor to correct or amend something done by our leadership. That's what happened this year in Phoenix.

After the resolution against Alt-Right was initially rejected, a host of pastors and other denominational leaders began working behind the scenes to revive the resolution and to see what parliamentary options were available for reintroducing it. By this time the Resolutions Committee knew they had made an egregious error and requested through the Convention parliamentarian that they be allowed some time in the Wednesday schedule to present a rewritten version of the pastor's Alt-Right resolution. Parliamentary Procedure stated that a super majority vote (2/3rd) of the messengers gathered was needed to allow the resolution to be considered in the next day's convention schedule. The vote was taken and every messenger in the building raised their hand, most shouting a hearty "Amen", to allow the resolution to be considered. The following day, Wednesday, nearly 10,000 gathered convention messengers overwhelmingly voted to approve the Alt-Right resolution, stating unequivocally our belief that the gospel is for the salvation of every nation, tongue and tribe. Racism is antithetical to the gospel and no born-again, Bible believing Christian can claim to love God but hate his brother (I John 4:20). Southern Baptists spoke clearly to repudiate any semblance of white supremacy or racial hatred. Southern Baptists are far from perfect, but we are working hard to repent of every form of racism and to love everyone without partiality.



People Teams Update

Andrew Huesing

The vision of People Teams is to see reproducing disciples and churches among all of the ethnic people groups in Kansas City. This vision will require committed believers building relationships among specific people groups and making disciples. These believers will provide time, prayer, on-ramps, and coaching.



The time required to invest in cross-cultural relationships is a commitment of about two hours a week. They will also need a team of people praying for their ministry updates among a certain people group. We are calling for people across the association to join the Somali, Iraqi, Congolese, Algerian, Syrian, and Burmese prayer teams at this point. You will receive occasional emails with urgent prayer requests like Muslims who are close to following Jesus or for protection for an African during a trial caused by the enemy. **Email kcpeopleteams@gmail.com** if you would like to start personally reaching out to internationals or be added to one of these vital prayer teams.

People Teams provides specific ways to start friendships with internationals that we call "On-ramps." The fall includes opportunities like a ladies sewing group on Tuesday afternoons, sports with teenagers, giving driving lessons, English classes on Monday mornings or Wednesday evenings, home Bible studies, and whatever we can come up with that is conducive to starting a friendship. Many of these meet needs but the primary purpose is to build relationships that will be the vehicle for meeting needs, teaching God's truth, walking with them as newcomers to America, and helping them to follow Jesus.

Coaching comes from a network of believers from various countries or former overseas missionaries who can be a resource for those who seek to minister cross-culturally. There is also a four hour refugee simulation where groups can role play as refugees in order to have an experience to pull from as they go about refugee ministry. For more information, write kcpeopleteams@gmail.com.

Ethiopia Update

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materials to work with. The teachers wore white lab coats to be identified. We have pictures and information on the children if you are interested in being a sponsor for \$35 a month.



News from the churches

Fall Grant Schedule

August 4 Grant Requests Due
 August 23 Grant Checks Written
 For more information or to apply
www.blueriver-kansascity.org/grants/

Calvary Baptist, 1915 N. Liberty in Independence is hosting an AwareKC Human Trafficking Awareness Event on July 8th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Youth (6th grade through high school) and their parents/caregivers are encouraged to attend. This event is free.

Fleming Baptist in Orrick is looking for a part-time music leader for Sunday mornings only. If interested, contact Gene Wyse at 816-470-3623.

First Baptist Church of Raymore is looking for a Worship Pastor. Those looking for either a full-time or part-time position are encouraged to apply. Email resumes to jbeckner@comcast.net.

Tree of Life Church is in need of a truck to assist them in their new ministry, Helping Hand, as they seek to deliver furniture and other essential items to families in need. Contact Pastor Jerry Akins at 816-888-1491.

Palabra Viva is in need of a portable baptistry and podium. If you have either to donate or sell, contact Pastor Luis Mendoza at 816-805-7978.

Grace Family Fellowship in Pleasant Hill is looking for a large wooden pulpit. If you have one available, please contact Christa Tuttle at info@gffpleasanthill.org.

Rehope Market Outlet

If your church is interested in hosting a Rehope Market Outlet Event by providing volunteers and a parking lot, please contact our office at 816-623-5260. All proceeds benefit Restoration House.

Visit rehopemarket.com and follow on Facebook and Twitter
 @rehopemarket

Religious Liberty and Church Liability Workshop

Thursday, August 24, 2017
 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. lunch included

First Baptist Church of Raytown
 10500 E. 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138

BR-KC has teamed up with Brad Dacus of Pacific Justice Institute, Attorneys Michael and Jonathan Whitehead, and GuideOne with Moyer & Moyer Insurance to bring you a practical day of training. Topics covered will include religious liberty threats and the legal steps you can take to protect your ministry and your church.

This event is FREE but registration is required at
<https://www.liabilityandliberty.eventbrite.com>

May Financial Report

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Receipts from churches	\$42,024.29	\$203,795.94
Other Income	7.63	76.19
Total	\$42,031.92	\$203,872.13
Less Expenses	(36,172.01)	(178,976.45)
Balance as of May 31 2017	\$5,859.91	\$24,895.68
<hr/>		
Budget \$472,782.29 Annual	\$39,398.52 Monthly	\$196,992.60
Budget Receipts + other income		\$203,872.13
Receipts compared to budget 103%		\$6,879.53

Calendar

July			
4	Office Closed	10	Ministry Team Meeting
		16	Finance & Admin, BR-KC
		23	Grant Checks Written
August			
4	Grant Applications Due	24	Liberty and Liability Workshop, FBC Raytown
8	Legacy Cohort, Church @ Three Trails, Indep.		