



MISSIONS & MINISTRY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



FEATURE
Semi-Annual Meeting Recap

Pages 1-2



CHURCH SPOTLIGHT
Palabra Viva and the Multi-Ethnic Church Planting Center

Page 2



PARTNER MINISTRY
Collegiate Ministry Updates

Page 3



ASSOCIATION NEWS
Invitation to the 2018 Hope Now Freedom Gala

Page 4

A publication of the
Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association
www.blueriverkansascity.org

Semi-Annual Meeting Recap

What a great spirit was evident among nearly 200 people from Association churches gathered on October 1 in Oak Grove, Missouri. Four Oak Grove churches worked together to host this fall's semi-annual celebration. [First Baptist Church of Oak Grove](#) hosted the supper, BBQ and chili cook-off contest. [Paradise Outfitter Ministries](#) provided a unique meeting space for the business session and mission celebration. Paradise Outfitters, [Cross Creek Baptist Mission](#) and [Grace Baptist Church](#) provided praise music and childcare. The Burmese Karen Youth Choir and a combined band from our Association's Hispanic Church network provided special music performances.

Additional highlights included:

- A new resource for affordable, confidential counseling available to BR-KC pastors, church staff, and their family members underwritten by Director Steve Pringle and [Diakonos Christian Counseling](#) along with BR-KC Association.



Steve Pringle from Diakonos Counseling with Gregg Boll

Continued on Page 2

Semi-Annual, cont. from Page 1

- Randy Messer, Brandon Smith, Ray Gurney and Rich Cummings shared how their Oak Grove churches responded to the recent tornado that tore through the community in March. Stories of God's grace during and after the storm included the fact that no one was seriously injured or killed though over 400 homes and apartments were destroyed or seriously damaged. [Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief](#) volunteers came to aid the community and the churches all worked together to help with the recovery.
- [Abiding Faith Baptist Church and Mission](#), along with [Fellowship Greenwood](#), were unanimously welcomed as new member churches into the Association.

Additionally, Dr. Hammer celebrated the progress of [Restoration House](#), one of our key partnership ministries. The long-term restoration ministry for survivors of sex

trafficking stands on much stronger financial footing, thanks in large part to Steven Robinson, our Development Director, and the effective faithfulness of our Restoration House staff led by September Tribble.

He also shared that Restoration House is partnering with BR-KC and the [Missouri Baptist's Children's Home](#) to launch a desperately-needed Home for Minors for girls rescued from sex trafficking. Please contact our office at (816)-623-5260 for more information on how you can give and help.

The meeting concluded with the recognition of Jerry Tharp of [Lone Jack Baptist](#) for serving as Moderator, Luis Mendoza of [Palabra Viva](#) as incoming Moderator, and Brian Grout of [Church at Three Trails](#) as Moderator elect.

You can access the entire book of reports containing the 2018 budget, new committees, and thorough ministry reports at www.blueriverkansascity.org



From left: Brandon Smith, Ray Gurney, Gregg Boll, Rich Cummings, and Randy Messer



From left: Brian Grout, Luis Mendoza, Jerry Tharp, and Dr. Rodney Hammer

Palabra Viva & the Multiethnic Church Planting Center

Luis Mendosa, MECPC Director, planterluis@gmail.com



The last few months we have been very busy at the **Multiethnic Church Planting Center-Welcome Center** located in Kansas City. Our work involves developing pastors and church planters and fulfilling the needs of our community.

Assessment Last August, with the assistance of Ken McCune of the Missouri Baptist Convention and Pastor Pedro Achucarro of **Iglesia Pan de Vida** of Grandview, we assessed two Hispanic church planting candidates. Through this assessment, we helped them discover and affirm their God-given abilities and calling to plant churches among Hispanics residing in Kansas City.



Training Leaders We conducted a study and analysis of church growth from four different perspectives: spiritually, numerically, in multiplication, and influence in the world. With the help of local and regional pastors we determined that spiritual growth is primary and are now working on a practical growth plan that churches can utilize.

Immigration Assistance We have helped new immigrants address their immigration needs with the assistance of a local attorney and friend, Bill Niffen.

ESL With the assistance [FBC Blue Springs](#), we have been able to offer weekly English classes to the international community in KC.

Connecting with People New friends from various countries utilize our building on a regular basis. Some like sewing, others knitting, but all like tea! In addition, we have begun developing a partnership with a local school located in our community.



Partner Ministry Update

Collegiate Ministries

Carson Conover, Blue River & Longview Community Colleges

Baptisms. Last spring, 3 students professed faith in Christ and were baptized.

Giveaways on Campus Our Challenge tables with a 30-second survey and gift card giveaways have allowed us to build a text group of 400+ contacts we can invite to join Challenge Bible Studies and Challenge Socials.

Bible Study at Longview Every Thursday at 12:30pm we meet to study Matthew's Gospel with students in partnership with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. We had 14 students the first week.

Challenge Socials

Our most recent Challenge social was an evangelistic outreach. We gave away free bottled water and sodas and invited students to have a conversation with us about their deepest thirsts in life. Each conversation concluded with a gospel presentation and an invitation to join a Challenge Bible Study. We had approximately 40 spiritual conversations.

On another occasion we gathered students for fun lawn games and provided cold lemonade on a hot day. We also provided 3 gallons of ice cream and toppings for an ice cream social. We hope to help students build a community of friends through these events.

Travis Hamm, University of Missouri-Kansas City & KC Collegiate Strategy

Fighting Trafficking G.R.A.T.I.S., our student anti-trafficking group, are connecting with many students to inform them about human trafficking. G.R.A.T.I.S. volunteers at Rehope Market monthly and are planning a big event to raise awareness on campus about trafficking. We hope to share the light of Christ with students through their participation!

Gospel Laborers. God has answered our prayers for more laborers. We have an intern, Kyle, and a discipler-maker team of 12 students and alum. We also continue to meet others who desire to be equipped for college ministry, and we are seeking to do so.

Welcome Week Events We kicked off this semester with a few events. We served 214 free coffee drinks at Java Night, served dinner to 150 students at a BBQ, and worshipped through poetry and music at Spoken Word and Worship.

Transformation My wife, Britney, lead a UMKC student to Christ during the first week of class. She is now in a Discipleship Group.

Discipleship Groups We have two men's groups and three ladies' groups. Many of the students in these groups are not-yet-saved or are young believers. We are excited for the opportunity to share Christ with them and disciple them.

news & events

NOVEMBER

November 2 - [E3 Meeting](#)
Noon @ Abiding Love

November 9 - [Ministry Team Meeting](#)
11a @ BR-KC Greenwood Office

November 14 - [Revitalization Cohort](#)
10a @ Oakwood Baptist

November 16 - [E3 Meeting](#)
Noon @ Pathway Church

November 16 - [Restoration House Monthly Training & Awareness](#)
6-8p @ Heart of Life Lee's Summit

November 22-24 - Office Closed
for Thanksgiving

November 30 - [E3 Meeting](#)
Noon @ Harvest Baptist



Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News

Britney Hamm, Editor

Vol. 36, No. 11 November 2017

(USPS 058-960)

Published monthly for \$1.00 per year
by Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association
806 W. Main Street Greenwood, MO 64034
816-623-5260 [jenniferh@kcbaptist.org]

Periodicals postage paid at Lee's Summit, MO
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BR-KC Baptist Association,
806 W. Main Street Greenwood MO 64034

“Join us overlooking the Plaza Lights at the Intercontinental Hotel on January 20, 2018.

We look forward to 550 guests raising \$200,000 for Restoration House at our 4th Annual Hope Now Freedom Gala!”

- Steven Robinson, Director of Development

Periodical



You are invited to attend the
HOPE NOW FREEDOM GALA
BENEFITTING



January 20, 2018

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

\$50 per person for Optional VIP Social in the Rooftop Ballroom overlooking the beautiful Plaza Lights

Register by January 12, 2018 at www.restorationhousekc.com/events
For more information, contact Jennifer Hutton (816) 623-5260

EVENT SPONSOR



VIP SPONSOR



ABOUT THE BENEFICIARY

Restoration House of Greater Kansas City is a faith-based, long-term residential program for survivors of sex trafficking. RHGKC empowers sex trafficking survivors to find hope, healing, and new lives free from the pain and fear they have experienced. RHGKC's holistic program meets participants' physical needs, provides recovery counseling, and offers education and job training.



HONOREE

After decades of church and para-church ministries, Russ is the founder and president of The Stop Trafficking Project and is a founding board member of KC Street Hope. His ministry focus, since 2009, is combating sex trafficking from a Christ-centered perspective. A huge part of his ministry involves a collaborative awareness and prevention strategy called "AwareKC", where students and adults are educated and empowered. Russ lives in Shawnee, KS with his wife, and two daughters.

GALA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Holly Knipp, Chair, The Knipp Team RE/MAX Heritage

Becky Moyer, Vice-Chair, Moyer & Moyer Insurance Agency, Inc.

Steven T. Cox, CFA, Past Chair, Providence Financial Advisors, LLC

Elizabeth Knipp
Reece Nichols
Real Estate

Stefany Mitchell
Adecco

Kisha Nickell
Principle Design
Studio

Linda Mueller
Reece Nichols
Real Estate

Carl Chinnery
Chinnery Evans &
Nail, PC

Terry Roth
First Guaranty
Mortgage Corporation

Cyrus Contractor
CCC Capital
Investments LLC

PROGRAM

Russ Tuttle, Guest Speaker

Melony McKaye, Emcee, Morning Host, Life 88.5

Dr. Rodney Hammer,
Board President, Restoration House of Greater Kansas City
Executive Director, Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association

Gib Thurman, Auctioneer

5 Star Jazz Band, Entertainment