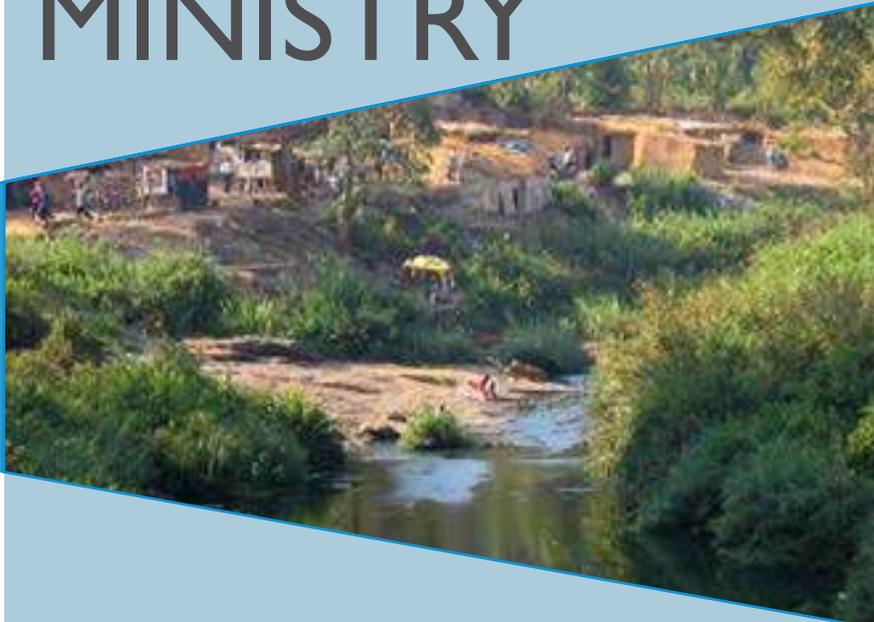




# MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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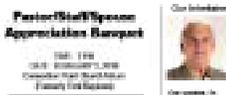
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## Mala-Who? Practicing “Pure Religion” in One of the World’s Poorest Nations

*Written by Ray Stewart & Britney Hamm*

MALAWI, AFRICA - A country few Americans could point to on a map. A country rich with diverse wildlife, indigenous culture, and breathtaking topography.

Despite this richness, Malawi is among the world’s least developed countries. Only 9% of the entire country has electricity and running water. Only 20% of children go to secondary school, and less than 1% go to college. Life-expectancy is low and infant mortality is high. HIV and AIDS are highly prevalent, which drain the labor force and government expenditures. The staggering impact of poverty strips Malawi and its people of their inherent richness.

Recently, the Lord opened the door for me to travel to Zomba – one of the poorest districts in the country –to work with an organization called “[The Passion Center for Children/Passion Center for Pastors.](#)” I had the opportunity to proclaim the gospel in the villages and equip pastors in their study of Scripture so that they can “rightly divide the Word of Truth” and stand against Islam and witchcraft, both of which pervade the culture.

Along with the need for spiritual nourishment, I also learned of the other issues the people of Malawi face. Perhaps the greatest of these is shortage of food. Malawi is primarily a nation of subsistence farmers who rarely grow enough food to meet their needs.

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Mala-Who, cont. from Page 1

The Passion Center has launched “[The Elisha Initiative](#)” to help end the cycles of pervasive hunger through a discipleship training program that addresses the practical issues of crop yield within a comprehensive biblical discipleship model.

[James](#) tells us that caring for orphans and widows is “pure religion.” [Deuteronomy](#) tells us the Lord “ensures orphans and widows receive justice.” And the [Psalmist](#) tells us that God is “the helper of the fatherless.” Clearly, God cares about orphans and widows, and as I discovered on my trip, this is a third area of ministry for us there.

We have connected with three opportunities in Malawi to care for widows and orphans.

- [The Champions Club](#) works with special needs children, who are often considered a curse in their village.
- The Child Headed Household (CHH) builds houses for children

who are left to be heads of households and helps them support themselves and their siblings.

- There is a great need for Widows Assistance because of the many women left to fend for themselves, often due to deaths associated with HIV/AIDS.

The needs are plentiful, but the opportunity is ripe to help our fellow image-bearers in Malawi loosen poverty’s grasp. I have been invited to travel to Malawi at least 3 times a year to teach in the Passion school. My wife will come with me and teach a Titus 2 women’s study, and we hope to bring members of our church with us as well. It is our hope that through these trips we can continue to encourage and equip our brothers and sisters in Malawi to proclaim the riches of His mercy and address physical needs among their people.

Ray Stewart is the pastor of [Grace and Truth Church](#) ([ras.entinc@yahoo.com](mailto:ras.entinc@yahoo.com)).



## South Haven Baptist Blesses Community Using Grant Money

### A Letter from Dr. Richard Young to BR-KC, Senior Pastor of South Haven Baptist



Love Loud volunteers do demo at the Home for Minors



Dr. Richard Young and Gregg Boll discuss Love Loud Day with Blessing Bags in front

I just wanted to let you know how God used your generous gift of \$2,500 to [South Haven Baptist Church](#) for our [Love Loud Day](#) on October 14, 2017. Because of the BR-KC’s Vision 2020 Grant, South Haven was able to mobilize the church and impact the community in a tremendous way. Just through this one day we were able to love others, develop better community partnerships, and get the church out of the building.

Through Love Loud, South Haven mobilized about 325 church members to love the community like never before. These wonderful volunteers served by conducting a free car wash, baking and

distributing hundreds of bottles of water, trimming trees, cutting grass, and doing small home repairs. They were also able to help with a free eyeglass clinic, serve hamburgers and hotdogs at local businesses and the police and fire departments, and pay for the wash and dry at local laundromats – plus so much more!

Overall, through Love Loud we had five who came to know Christ as their Savior, hundreds of gospel conversations, hundreds of church members blessed because they were able to serve, community partnerships established, a community that knows more than ever that South Haven cares, and a church that has a Great Commission

mindset!

There is so much more that God continues to do because of Love Loud, and there are so many incredible stories that have come from this day of serving – and BR-KC is a big part of this because of the Vision 2020 Grant money.

So, thank you for supporting the local churches in the association to make it possible to do this kind of ministry. Our 2018 Love Loud is already on the calendar, and we are anticipating God doing great things through His church once again.

Interested in applying for grant money? See the top panel of the back page.

# Partner Ministry Update

## Rehope Market, Kristin Spilker

[Rehope Market](#) is an online women's resale boutique with a passion and purpose to prevent, heal, and end human trafficking. We officially launched in June with a website, Facebook page, and Instagram account. With over 1,000 items available for sale, we have had over 3700 visitors to the website, resulting in over \$2,500 in online sales! Proceeds go to support the work of the [Restoration House](#).

Each item we sell is carefully curated from donations and then washed, ironed, measured, photographed, and prepared to be shipped to buyers all over the U.S. Every package is adorned with our logo label and an insert about how purchases help end human trafficking. Many of our local customers pick up their purchase at our office in the Brookside area. Our shoppers all over the country love the idea of shopping with a purpose!

Since our launch, five churches have hosted Rehope Outlet Community Sales, where items that don't make the cut for the online boutique are sold for a steal of a price. These sales also serve to increase community awareness about trafficking and the work of Restoration House.

Throughout the fall, we began conducting pop-up sales to allow customers to see and try on the clothing! These pop-up sales have been held at churches, community centers, galleries, and events including the [Brookside Bluegrass Festival](#), [Highland Rehab Facility](#), [Thrive Pilates](#), and [First Fridays in Crossroads](#). At our Pre-Holiday Open House, over 75 customers purchased \$1200 worth of merchandise and learned about Rehope's mission while enjoying appetizers and hot chocolate. We are already making big plans toward "restoring lives and reviving hope through renewable fashion" in 2018, with three in-home events on the calendar in January and a presence at the [Hope Now Freedom Gala](#) on January 20th.

Volunteers and donors continue to make Rehope Market possible with over 100 volunteers putting in more than 400 hours of work to date. You can be involved, too! Here's how:

- Donate new or nearly new women's clothing.
- Host a small popup sale
- Volunteer to sort, iron, measure, process orders, enter data, etc.
- Like, follow, and share our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Shop online, at an event, or by appointment at our office!
- See side panel for items we need!

Visit [www.rehopemarket.com](http://www.rehopemarket.com)



# news & events

## JANUARY

[January 1](#) - New Year's Holiday  
BR-KC Office Closed

[January 9](#) - Revitalization & Leadership Cohort  
10a @ Spring Valley Baptist

[January 11](#) - Ministry Team Meeting  
11a @ BR-KC Office

[January 15](#) - Martin Luther King Day  
BR-KC Office Closed

[January 20](#) - Restoration House  
Hope Now Freedom Gala  
@ Intercontinental on the Plaza  
<https://restorationhousekc.ejoinme.org/gala2018>

[February 24th](#) - Church Security & Active Shooter Workshop  
8a-3p @ Sterling Acres

## REHOPE MARKET WISH LIST

- Unscented laundry pods
- Office supplies (paper and printer ink)
- Shipping supplies (tissue paper and ribbon)
- Packing tape
- Water bottles and snacks for volunteers
- Donations for operational expenses ("Supplies for Rehope Market" on [www.generosity.com](http://www.generosity.com))
- 2-3 individuals to volunteer on a weekly or bi-weekly basis

Help us get to 1,000 likes on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/rehopemarket/>

### Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News

Britney Hamm, Editor

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## 2018 Grant Schedule

2/2 Grant applications due  
 2/28 Grant checks written  
 8/3 Grant applications due  
 8/22 Grant checks written

Learn more or apply:

[www.blueriverkansascity.org/grant](http://www.blueriverkansascity.org/grant)

Periodical

## 2017 Grant Report

Gospel Outreach	Spring	The U Church	\$ 1,000.00	ACT	Spring	Restoration House	\$ 3208.78
	Spring	Cedar Creek	\$ 1,000.00		Fall	FBC Raytown	\$ 1,000.00
	Spring	Impact Ministries	\$ 2,290.00		Fall	Blue Summit	\$ 2,000.00
	Fall	Carson Conover	\$ 1,500.00		Fall	The U Church	\$ 995.05
	Fall	Impact Ministries	\$ 1,100.00		Fall	Greater Bethel	\$ 1,000.00
Resourcing Churches	Spring	Calvary, Blue Springs	\$ 3,208.78		Fall	South Haven	\$ 2,500.00
	Spring	Paradise Outfitter Ministries	\$ 1,000.00		Fall	Restoration House	\$ 3,208.78
	Spring	Calvary, Independence	\$ 2,000.00	Church Planting	Spring	The Church in Waldo	\$ 1,000.00
	Fall	Coleman	\$ 2,388.00		Spring	Redemption Church	\$ 2,900.00
	Fall	Palabra Viva	\$ 1,200.00		Spring	LifeConnection Grain Valley	\$ 300.00
Equipping Leaders	Spring	Haitian American Baptist	\$ 1,500.00		Fall	LifeConnection Northeast	\$ 1,000.00
	Spring	Mt. Nebo	\$ 785.27		Fall	Grace Church	\$ 1,000.00
	Spring	FBC Grandview	\$ 2,000.00				
	Fall	Fellowship Greenwood	\$ 2,500.00				



Our Entertainer



Our speaker, Dr. Charles Petty, is President of Family Success Unlimited located in North Carolina. Dr. Petty is a funny, educational and inspirational professional speaker. He has the rare ability to package profound, life-changing truths in humor.

## Pastor/Staff/Spouse Appreciation Banquet

TIME: 7 PM

DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2018

Connection Point Church Atrium  
 (Formerly First Raytown)

**FREE EVENT**

REGISTER NOW AT

<https://appreciationbanquet2018.eventbrite.com>

Childcare available by reservation  
 Call 816-623-5260 in advance

Sponsored by:

