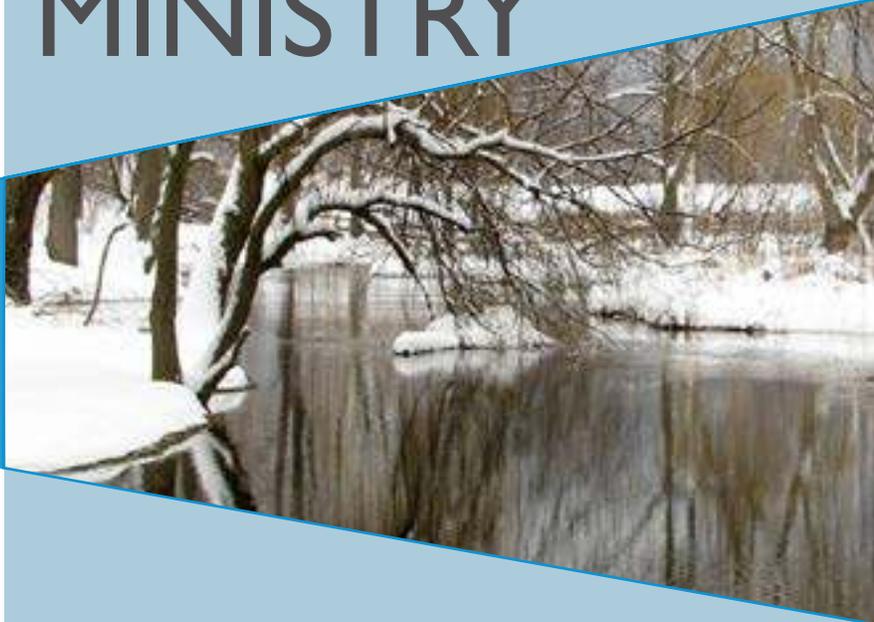




MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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Associate Director's 2017 Recap & Report

Written by Gregg Boll, greggb@kcbaptist.org

KANSAS CITY, MO-- 2017 was another busy and productive year. We celebrated many victories with our [BR-KC churches](#). Some called new staff members they desperately needed. Some finished remodeling projects. One moved into a brand new sanctuary, greatly expanding their ability to minister to their community. Some saw numerical growth, others saw spiritual growth and a deepening of their people's faith.

The suggestion has been made by some that perhaps the decline that evangelical, Bible-believing churches have experienced in the last ten years does not mark a failure of the gospel to reach people who have never heard it, but rather the slow and steady exit of cultural "Christians" who never really knew Christ. From visiting our pastors, I believe more of them are encouraged and hopeful about the future now than they were a few years ago. We still face many struggles, but I am thankful for what we see God doing in our churches. Here are a few highlights from 2017:

- Last year I led ten monthly Legacy Cohort Meetings, the name of which has now changed to Revitalization and Leadership Cohort. The purpose of this group meeting for pastors and their staff is to equip and encourage pastors with resources to bring health and growth to their churches. From this group of pastors we have mentored a formidable team of men who desire to help other churches and pastors who are struggling.

Associate Director's cont. from Page 1

- Out of these Cohorts, we are working to put together a Revitalization Team who could be called upon by any or our BR-KC churches to assess, strategize, and gently lead them toward a better path forward.
- We held the annual Lifeway VBS Training Clinic at [Grain Valley Baptist Church](#) this spring. Over 50 attended to prepare their workers and directors for a quality VBS.
- In May, we hosted our annual Williams-Farmer Preaching Fellowship at [Harvest Baptist Church](#) in Blue Springs. Pastor Hosea Bilyeu, formerly pastor of [Ridgecrest Baptist](#) in Springfield, Missouri, was our conference leader. He provided every participant with his recent book and taught key concepts of effective preaching.
- BR-KC launched a partnership with [Diakonos Counseling](#) in Independence, MO through which

our pastors, staff, and their family members can have access to professional, confidential counseling at a fraction of the normal cost.

- In addition to our lending library of Bible studies and discipleship resources, we are utilizing an exciting online resource opportunity with [Right Now Media](#). BR-KC is paying for a limited number of one-year subscriptions for some of our member churches in 2018.
- I was invited by two churches to lead them through Transformational Church and the accompanying church assessment. This has been fruitful time spent with our churches over a seven-week period, usually on Sunday evenings.

I welcome other invitations to come along side you and to help you look at your church with an outsider's eyes. It is a joy and privilege to serve you and the churches of BR-KC and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.



Liberty & Liability Workshop



Preaching Fellowship



Abiding Love Grand Opening

A Dwindling Church Turned Thriving Multicultural Congregation: The Story of Harvest Baptist, by Lead Pastor Alan Shelby



They had an \$11,000 monthly mortgage on the building they had renovated three years before and a \$5000 payment on the old property across I-70. Yet less than 100 active members filled the congregation of [Harvest Baptist Church in Blue Springs](#), across the street from Blue Springs High School. The congregation found themselves wondering, *what will become of the testimony of God in this place?* Despite the seeming impossibility of the situation, God was not done with this faithful few yet.

Harvest was founded by eight families in 1993. Their first facility was part of the old Community College. They occupied that building until they finally purchased it. By 2007 they needed more space, so they bought the Assembly of God building and renovated it... and then God called the founding pastor into a new ministry venture. The church called pastor Alan Shelby, who had 25 years of service on a large pastoral staff. With the church at a crossroads, Pastor Shelby was prepared to lead the church on a new path with a focus

on multicultural outreach, a focus fitting for the vibrant and thriving community surrounding the church.

Since embarking on this new path, Harvest has started a ministry to international students and a Spanish-speaking ministry. The congregation and the staff are as diverse as the community. They now have pew-chairs instead of pews to increase sanctuary seating. Street parking is necessary, and expansion plans for adult education are being considered.

Harvest joined BR-KC in 2015 to cooperate with like-minded churches. Harvest had the founding structure that made it a perfect candidate for revitalization. At its core, the church is about reaching, discipling and equipping—winning the lost, discipling the saved, training the disciplined, and sending the trained to plant or revive other places. Let's pray 2018 is a great year for each other in God's mission!

Partner Ministry Update

Collegiate Ministry

by Carson Conover
Longview/Blue River
Community Colleges

New Semester: The spring semester is underway! We spent time this week with student leaders hosting a table event on campus to recruit new people. We had students fill out 30 second surveys to gauge spiritual interest and gather contact information. We'll be giving away several gift cards to students to thank them for their time. Additionally, we'll be following up personally with as many students as possible to share our faith and invite them to participate in our ministry. We'll be launching new Bible studies on campus in two weeks.

Developing Leaders: I have a team of 4 student leaders that I'll meet with on a weekly basis. The aim is to invest in them to help them grow in their character, convictions, and competencies. We're reading through a Bible reading plan together, John Piper's Don't Waste Your Life, and a leadership course called Habitudes.

Prayer: Please pray for us—that God would grow the number of student leaders on our core team, that God would grow our number in Challenge Bible Studies, and that we'd have evangelistic impact. Thank you for all your support!



by Travis Hamm
Impact UMKC/Kansas City
Collegiate Impact

We Need Your Help! For the last 10 years Impact has been sharing the gospel and making disciples at UMKC. God has worked to bring students to faith in Jesus and be sent out as His ambassadors. Meanwhile there are over 39,000 college students on 8 campuses in the Kansas City area with no Baptist ministry presence.

God is leading us to change that. This spring, my intern, Kyle Yehle, will be spending time on these college campuses - talking to students, professors, and administrators; identifying spiritual and physical needs; and determining next steps for launching gospel-centered, disciple-making ministries on these campuses. Below is the list of the colleges along with the dates Kyle will be on the campuses. You can also check out our map and info about greater K.C. colleges here - <https://blueriver-kansascity.org/map/>. Our findings will be compiled and shared in the Semi-Annual Meeting report on April 8th.

If you know someone connected to one of these colleges, connect us to them! Email me (travis@impactumkc.com) with their name, contact info, and college connection. Please pray as we seek God's guidance in reaching these students with the good news of Jesus. Thank you, BR-KC!

- Jan 22-Feb 9: William Jewell; MCC - Maple Woods
- Feb 12-Mar 2: Park University; Avila University
- Mar 5-16: Rockhurst University
- Mar 19-Mar 30: MCC - Business Technology; Penn Valley
- Apr 2-20: Kansas City Kansas Community College; Johnson County Community College

FEBRUARY

February 1 - [Urban Pastors Fellowship Lunch](#)
Noon @ United Believers Community

February 2 - Grant Requests Due
www.blueriverkansascity.org/grant

February 2 - Pastor/Staff/Spouse
Appreciation Dinner
<https://appreciationbanquet2018.eventbrite.com>

February 13 - [Revitalization & Leadership Cohort](#)
10a @ Spring Valley Baptist

February 15 - [Pastor's Prayer Luncheon](#)
Noon @ Grace Family Fellowship

February 22 - [Pastor's Prayer Luncheon](#)
Noon @ FBC Raymore

February 24th - Intruder Awareness &
Response Workshop
8a-3p @ Sterling Acres
<https://goo.gl/hWcFvZ>

news & events

Association News

First Baptist Buckner is hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant. Interested applicants can call the church office at (816) 650-5632 or email a resume to pastor@fbcbukner.org.

The annual **WMU** meeting is Saturday, March 24th, from 9:30-11:30am at **Norfleet Baptist Church** (5512 Norfleet Rd. Kansas City, MO). The meeting will emphasize Family Missions. One of the speakers will be Andrew Huesing and his family.

View more news, jobs & classifieds
www.blueriverkansascity.org/online-news

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Britney Hamm, Editor
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**“Do what you can,
with what you have,
where you are.”**

- Theodore Roosevelt

Help End Veteran Homelessness in Kansas City

WHAT: Planning Meeting for tangible opportunities to help end veteran homelessness

WHEN: Monday, February 12, 6:30p.m.

WHERE: United Believers Community Church(UBCC), South Campus
5600 E.112thTerrace KCMO, 64134

WHO: UBCC PEACEMAKER’S Military Ministry and YOU (INTERESTED CHURCHES)

Veterans Community Project is creating Veterans Village - a community of 50 transitional tiny-homes and onsite services to provide housing stability and address the underlying cause of the Veteran’s homelessness. This combination of housing stability and onsite services will lead to more successful permanent housing outcomes.

Intruder Awareness & Response Workshop

The BR-KC Baptist Association and [Sterling Acres Baptist Church](#) are teaming up with [Strategos International](#) to present a [1-Day Intruder Awareness and Response Class](#) for Church Personnel on Saturday, February 24th. The class will be held at Sterling Acres, 11200 E. 47th Street, KCMO, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided by the Association.

This course will educate your church security, ushers, greeters and parking attendants on recognizing behaviors and non-verbal clues that can alert church members and security team members to potential danger. This course also discusses the behavioral indicators of armed individuals whether they are lawfully armed or unlawfully armed. Learn how to instill a mindset in your members of “See something, say something”.

Stategos will review the statistics and trends of crimes against churches since 2007 and what has been learned from them that could protect your people as well as giving a biblical rationale for

having a proactive church security plan.

Additionally, this course provides strategies for de-escalating conflict through use of the right language and covers language to avoid with a potential gunman. Included with this course is an overview of lockdown procedures and when it’s appropriate to lock down the church and the how-to of church evacuation in the event of a live shooter scenario.

For more information and to register for the class, visit <https://goo.gl/hWcFvZ>. You can also find the link on our website on the calendar page. BR-KC has agreed to subsidize the cost of this course for our church personnel. Scroll to the bottom of the course description page to register. You will see a link to enter a promotion code, click on that link. Enter the promo code KCBAPTISTORG and click on the “apply code” button. A new ticket type will appear with the discounted price listed. Select the number of tickets you wish to purchase and then click on the “Register” button at the bottom. Complete the registration by entering the contact and payment information. Call Gregg Boll at 816-623-5260 with any questions.