



MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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Good Wins & Hope Restores at the Hope Now Freedom Gala

Written by Britney Hamm britney@zeloskc.com

KANSAS CITY, MO-- The 4th Annual Hope Now Freedom Gala, benefitting the [Restoration House](#) was held for the second year in a row at the Intercontinental on the Plaza on January 20. The event featured a VIP social on the rooftop with author [Christine McDonald](#), the [5 Star Jazz Band](#), a silent and live auction, dinner, keynote speaker and Cry Purple Award recipient [Russ Tuttle](#).

The program was as power-packed as years prior. Various speakers from the board, sponsors, and staff of Restoration House celebrated the recent triumphs and travails of Restoration House and its partners in the fight against sex trafficking. In between speakers, a video chronicled the powerful testimony of a trafficking survivor who came to Restoration House in 2017. She described her lingering PTSD, fears, and triggers as "just what the enemy wants to do to keep me from doing what the Lord wants to do." The remedy for those things? Love, she said, specifically the love of "people who love us unconditionally even though they don't know us. That's what we need – love."

Her weighty yet hope-filled testimony segued into a poignant moment of solidarity as Executive Director September Tribble invited the survivors in the room to come forward. One male and several female survivors, including the woman in the video, came to the front of the room while over 600 people rose to their feet in tribute to their journey, their strength, and their restoration. Tribble credited their journey with a thought-provoking reflection that "strength is not found in those who stand up and look strong while doing something but those who fight and

Hope Now Gala cont. from Page 1

win battles that others know nothing about.”

Russ Tuttle, Founder of the [Stop Trafficking Project](#), stole the show with his climactic speech. Clothed in the humble spirit of Jesus, he graciously accepted his award, saying, “it feels like an exaggerated joke that I would be associated with this award.” He dedicated the award to his wife, his parents, and his staff, repeating the phrase, “this is for you.”

**“The bad news is there are too many lives to restore.
The good news is, hope restores.”**

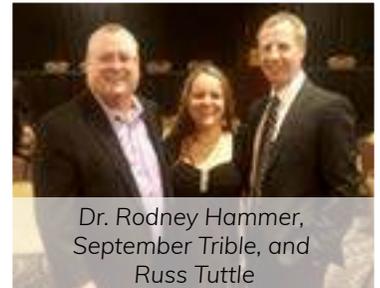
He then captured the audience with a taste of his trafficking prevention work with youth, using startling stories and shocking statistics to demonstrate the hidden dangers of social media and the reality of the sex-inundated culture our youth are facing. The task is daunting, he admitted, overwhelming, even. Yet, he said, “God is so big. In humility we are better together.”

He concluded with a dazzling buildup illustrated by mind-boggling visual slides of a beam of light in unexplored galaxies to drive home his point: God’s bigness and majesty are unfathomable even in the face of such overwhelming evil. “The bad news,” he concluded, “is there are too many lives to restore. The good news is, hope restores.”

The 2018 Gala grossed \$180,000. The impact goes far beyond the dollar

sign, however. For if one man was convicted to lay down his sex addiction and start stopping the problem instead of perpetuating it...if one parent realized the dangers of their child’s unchecked social media access...if one survivor felt loved and supported by 600 unnamed faces...if one individual got a glimpse of hope for the first time...then there can be no doubt, good wins and hope restores.

Learn how you can help at www.restorationhousekc.com



Dr. Rodney Hammer, September Tribble, and Russ Tuttle



Over 615 guests attend the Gala



Over 70 items donated for the silent auction

Pastor’s pilgrimage celebrates 25 years with one church

Featuring Ernie Cecil of Antioch Southern Baptist Church



Pat & Ernie Cecil stand at opening of Jesus’ tomb

<http://antiochchurch.info/>

HARRISONVILLE, MO--When Ernie Cecil became pastor of [Antioch Southern Baptist Church](#), a gallon of gasoline sold for \$1.05.

At Antioch, Pastor Ernie (as he is known by his congregation) has performed 251 baptisms and 158 funerals. Furthermore, he has joined 94 couples in matrimony, including the oldest couple to be married in Missouri history.

On Wednesday, January 10, Pastor Cecil and his wife Pat returned from a 13-day pilgrimage, having spent 10 days in Israel and 3 days in Jordan. The trip was a gift from the elders of Antioch in celebration of Reverend Cecil’s 25th anniversary as

On January 14, addressing his congregation for the first time after the tour, Cecil humorously described the trip as, “more awesomer than I thought it would be.” With sixty-five miles of walking during their visit, the Cecils explored such highlights as Jesus’ empty tomb and the ruins of the synagogue in Nazareth where Jesus famously declared the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy (Luke 4:16-21).

Twenty-five years is a milestone for the Cecils, but with an evangelism training conference and a mission trip to Costa Rica planned for this month alone, Pastor Ernie is showing no signs of slowing down.

Partner Ministry Update

Horn of Africa

by Randy Messer, Lead
Pastor of FBC Oak Grove

by Nicole Brown,
Noland Road Baptist

Our trip to Ethiopia in January was fruitful – and adventurous. If it should come out that I swam in the river, it is true! I am still living to tell about it. Smooth travels allowed us to start working immediately. We taught two classes each day and had 38 new students I had not taught before. They were so eager to learn that they arrived 30 minutes before class every day to have a prayer service!

Since starting this ministry 4 years ago, these church planters have started at least 9 churches (that I know of), some out in the open and some underground church plants. God is working in a mighty way!

Some of my other trip highlights included:

- Preaching at one of the church plants on Sunday.
- Sharing in some coffee shop street evangelism alongside a modern-day martyr for Christ.
- Leading a social worker to Christ.
- Leading a healing and wholeness prayer meeting during which one new believer was presented to the church and another asked to be delivered from alcohol.

BR-KC, be proud. To have a little part in this mission is humbling and rewarding.

What a pleasure to serve almost 600 unaccompanied minor refugee children in Camp Hitsats even though we were expecting 200! When the unexpected happens, God always shows His mighty hand.

Last October, 50 orphan children in Ethiopia received school supplies and clothes because of generous donors right here at home. Once again you stepped up so we were able to give bags of flour, oil, and pasta. The children were thrilled to receive such gifts. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Happiness filled the vans as we commuted back from a day of serving local Ethiopian people at the river. For the second time we were with our sweet friend Rigbe (a social worker) who always seems to have a big smile on her face while she serves adults and orphans. But this time was different. Pastor Randy Messer led her to the Lord right there in the van as we listened through interpreters! Imagine the ripple effect she will have not only on the 50 orphan children she oversees but the countless others in her path!

BR-KC has a [partnership](#) in Northern Ethiopia through which we established a bible training school and outreach to Eritrean refugees.

MARCH

March 1 - [Pastor's Prayer Luncheon](#)
Noon @ Crossroads Church

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

March 15 - [Pastor's Prayer Luncheon](#)
Noon @ Southview Baptist

March 22- [VBS Clinic](#)
6:30p @ FBC Lee's Summit

March 24 - [WMU Annual Meeting](#)
9:30a @ Norfleet Baptist

March 30 - BR-KC Office Closed
for Good Friday

news & events

VBS WORKER TRAINING



Thursday, March 22
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Lee's Summit FBC
2 NE Douglas
Lee's Summit, MO

“ We think they are at the ends of the earth, but they see themselves at the heart of God's Kingdom being built.

- Randy Messer



Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News

Britney Hamm, Editor

Vol. 37, No. 3 MARCH 2018

(USPS 058-960)

Published monthly for \$1.00 per year
by Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association
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Periodicals postage paid at Lee's Summit, MO
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BR-KC Baptist Association,
806 W. Main Street Greenwood MO 64034

“When everyone else values you only for your production, it is difficult to remember God simply values you for who you are.”

Jeff Iorg in his book, The Painful Side of Leadership



APR
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Leading Major Change in Your Ministry

by Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association

Free

Leadership Conference

Every ministry eventually needs to make major change – like a new building, location, missions strategy, staffing plan, budgeting approach, worship style, etc. Ministry leaders must lead wisely to keep the change process from undermining the desired results. Based on three decades of experiences in leading major change in a church, a church plant, a state convention, and seminary – Dr. Jeff Iorg will share a practical, proven model for leading major change.

[Dr. Jeff Iorg](#) is the President of Gateway Seminary

DATE AND TIME

Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 9:00AM - 3:00PM CDT

LOCATION

Connection Point Church Raytown
10500 East State Route 350 Raytown, MO 64138

REGISTRATION AND COST

Event is free. Lunch will be provided.
Registration required at <https://goo.gl/Z3XEHv>

Save the Date for April 8th!

BR-KC Semi-Annual Meeting

DATE AND TIME

April 8, 2018
4:30-7:30PM

SCHEDULE

4:30-5:30PM Missions & Ministry Micro Conferences
(includes box dinner!)

5:30-6PM Fellowship & Potluck Dessert

6-7:30PM Celebration Worship & Ministry Highlights

LOCATION

Three Trails Church
1229 W. 31st Street
Independence, MO 64055

