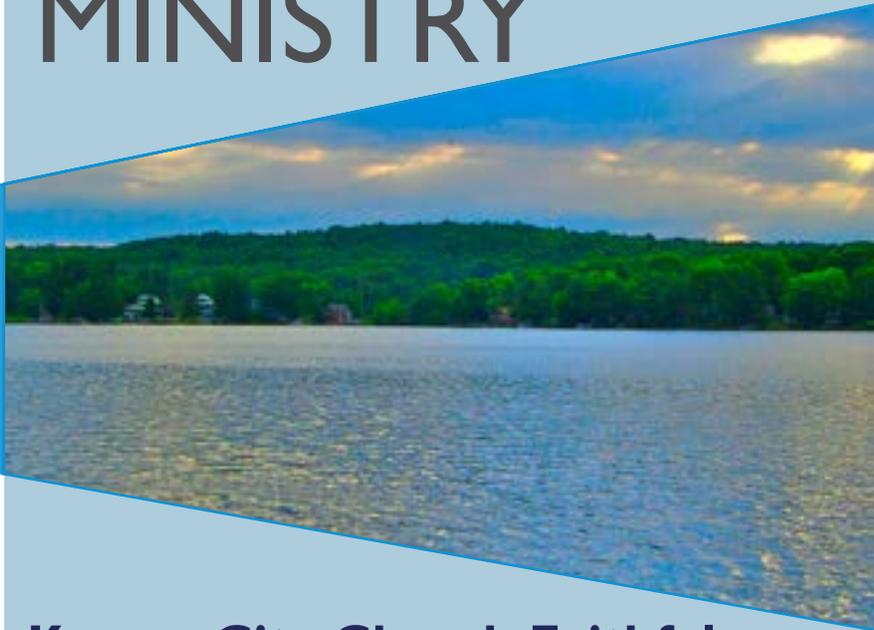




MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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Kansas City Church Faithful Amid Violence and Crime

By Vicki Stamps, Reprinted by permission from [The Pathway](#)

United Believers Community Church in Kansas City was planted in 1997. "We were planted on the worst street," Darron Edwards, senior pastor, said, "surrounded by lots of violence and crime." Edwards reported that the church faced a history of adversity. "We stayed faithful to the Gospel," he said, "and we were community oriented. Love for the community is still the fabric of our church."

United Believers hosts a Back to School Blast. "We serve thousands of students from all over the area," Edwards said. "We partner with the Kansas City Chiefs to supply students with school supplies."

WE WERE PLANTED ON THE WORST STREET, SURROUNDED BY VIOLENCE AND CRIME.

According to Edwards, the church grew the most from 2002-2007. "We grew from a small band of worshippers to more than 500. We are always involved in the community, make Jesus big, and we love people."

Currently, United Believers is partnering with [Prison Fellowship](#) to plan a sports clinic. "We plan to work with about 200 kids who have a parent in the penal system. We will have members of [Kansas City Chiefs](#), top student athletes and celebrities conduct the clinic sessions."

VANCOUVER UPDATE

Victor Thomas, [The Point Church](#)

Serve Week was a success! From July 9th to 13th we were blessed to partner with four churches, North Richland Hills, Emmanuel Baptist, [South Haven Baptist](#) from Belton, MO, and First Baptist Friendswood, to further His Kingdom!

Each day was fun filled and God led! We ran three different kids sports camps in two different locations. We held a Southern/Texas BBQ, Outdoor Movie Night, and Gardening Workshops! Each opportunity allowed us to love on the people of this city in unique ways and we are so grateful to God for it!

Below is some information about the week. There are some amazing stories and photos as well!



Southern/Texas BBQ

This BBQ was the kickstart for our July Wednesday Night BBQs and it was incredible. A huge shout out and thanks to NRHBC for the amazing food.

This was a great relationship building opportunity and the food and fun was amazing. Over 100 people came out! Many of the kids attending the camps came out with their families too. We also had a few of our Muslim friends dancing during the line dancing, as well as some of the city officials and their families come out for the food and fun!



Sports Camps!

Our camps included 50 kid athletes across the soccer, multi-sport, and half-day Baseball camps! Games, skills, and Bible stories made for busy days!

Everyday we got to see God do many wonderful things!

Each night at debrief with the teams, members reported "how most kids have never heard the a story of Daniel or about the Bible". A reminder about the lostness that is in this city. We had other athletes state "Wow, what a God who loves me more than numbers of hair on my head!"

Other team members shared about kids who had never heard that Jesus loves them. Each day, going over a story from the book of Daniel and during the sport activities, we got to share that love with them.

God opened many doors to build relationships with these children, their families, and the cities where we hosted the camps.

Gardening Workshops

The lovely TJ Wierenga offered her time for TWO gardening workshops while she was up here for Serve. We had a great turn out for both! It offered great one-on-one time to chat and do life with people through the practical skills of gardening. They were also invited out to our Shrek movie night.

We also had some amazing members from South Haven and Emmanuel Baptist help put up a fence around the [Simon Fraser University](#) community gardening plots and it looks amazing!



Shrek Night

Our end of week event was the movie! We had over 120 people! We packed up lots of bags of popcorn and gave out juice before the event. At sun down we projected the film onto the big white tarps already up for campus construction. God worked through every opportunity this week and we are so grateful to be a part of it!



Church Faithful Amid, cont. from Page 1

A local school, Ingels Elementary, is happy that they are active in the community. The school awarded the church "Volunteer of the Year for Community Service."

"Our church is less than five minutes from the school," Edwards said. "Most of the students are underprivileged and we are working with the school to improve their lives."

WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS

Transform.

Edwards listed some of the projects that the church does for the school. "We do teacher appreciation lunches; we furnish school supplies; several of our men serve as hall monitors, as well as provide security for after-school programs," he said.

Another partnership with the Kauffman Foundation works to improve the lives of students. "We wrote a grant to Kauffman for parenting classes to reach people and it was accepted," Edwards said. "We are using the Word of God to present tips on raising children. The Foundation provides \$25 gift cards to present to the parents who attend the classes."

"What we are trying to do is transform," he said. "We want to not be so broad," Edwards continued, "we want to be narrow and focus on just a few programs."

In addition to the focus on Ingels Elementary, United Believers works with [Hospice House](#). "We provide dinner and spiritual assistance to the patients and the families," Edwards said. "The house has 35 rooms of terminally ill patients and when loved ones come to visit, they are thinking about the patient and not what they are going to eat. We provide dinners and just stay out of the way. We want them to know love and we make Jesus big."

The third focus of the church is discipleship. "We are doing intensive discipleship," Edwards said. "We are not called to make numbers, but we are called to make disciples. Our goal is to make 100 men and 100 women disciples and have them disciple others. We are using the books, Kingdom Man and Kingdom Woman by Tony Evans, as our study. We have commissioned more than 50 people already."

THAT'S OUR THEME -

Discipleship.

ANYWHERE, EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME.

Edwards reports that people are being discipled at Starbucks, in classrooms, on Facebook Live and on conference calls.

"That's our theme," Edwards said, "Discipleship anywhere, everywhere, all the time."

This story first appeared in [The Pathway](#), newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Vicki Stamps is a contributing writer for The Pathway.

events

SEPTEMBER

September 3 - Office Closed

September 6 - [Pastors' Prayer Luncheon](#)

Noon @ Southview Baptist

September 20 - [Human Trafficking Training Event](#)

6-8p @ FBC Grandview

September 22 - [WMU Unshakeable Pursuit Leadership Event](#)

9-11:30a @ FBC Blue Springs



Empowering Ministers with Essential Skills in Public Speaking:

A FREE 5-week course led by Wayne Geiger (Doctoral student at MBTS)

<https://goo.gl/forms/ieLjbKmlvjctGDGo2>

Missouri Baptist Children's Home Presents:

Apple Festival 2018

Saturday September 8th, 2018

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

First Baptist Church Raymore

58 Highway & South Washington Street

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Britney Hamm, Editor

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Saturday September 15

Periodical

Wornall Road Baptist Church
400 W Meyer Blvd,
Kansas City, Missouri 64113

4-6 PM: Live music & food trucks
on the front lawn

6-8PM: An evening with Balsam
Range

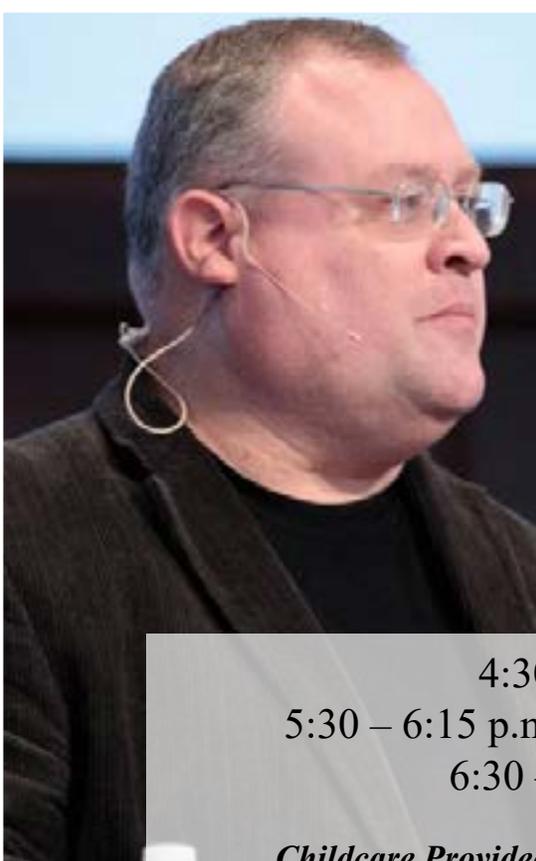
Proceeds benefit The Restoration
House's Home for Minors

TICKETS:

www.brooksidebluegrass.com



7th Annual Brookside Bluegrass Festival with Balsam Range



Celebrate With Us!

Dr. Hammer's *Ten Years of Faithful Service* to BR-KC!

Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 7th, 2018

4:30 pm -8:00 pm

at

— *Second Missionary Baptist Church* —

5111 Harry Truman Drive,
Grandview, MO, 64030

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Business Session

5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Ministry Fair with Food and Fellowship

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Worship Celebration

Childcare Provided! Contact 816-623-5260 to reserve your child's spot.