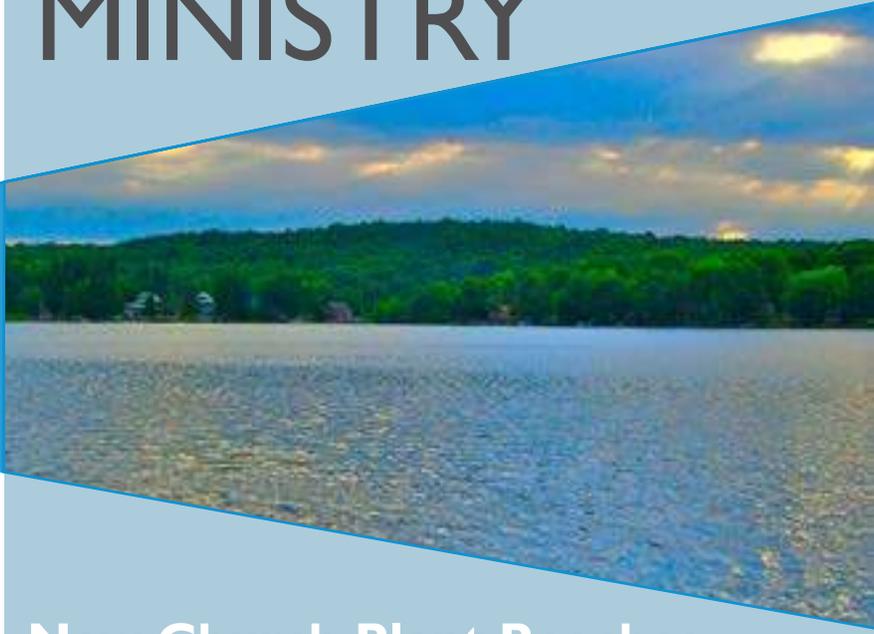




MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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New Church Plant Reaches Diverse South Kansas City

By Britney Lyn Hamm

Church planter Blake Fortner never planned on becoming a lead pastor, much less the lead pastor of a church in his home city. After two years on the mission field in Ethiopia, personal circumstances brought he and his wife home to Kansas City in 2011. He spent the next six years on staff at [Abundant Life](#) in Lee's Summit, but his missionary heart never dissipated.

God began to stir a passion in his heart for the international mission field that lay in his own proverbial backyard: a passion to reach the internationals living in Kansas City. Along with that passion came a hunger to equip other believers to recognize and pursue their calling to reach their own communities.

As Fortner connected others who shared the same passion, the vision unfolded for a church plant in South Kansas City – a diverse yet largely unreached part of the city – that would make disciples who are making disciples in their community. In January of 2018, Abundant Life sent out Fortner and his copastors to plant [Three Trails Community](#) in [South Kansas City](#), which runs from approximately 150 Highway to the Waldo neighborhood and 71 Highway to State Line.

Their pastor/staff team is made up of a racially and age-diverse group, a visible representation of one of their goals. They want to be a church “without an adjective,” as Fortner puts it, “not the white church, not the black church, not young, not old, not hip, not new.”

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For the past year, Fortner and his fellow leaders have invested in their core “nucleus” of 30-40 people, seeking to instill in them a biblical understanding of their identities as Followers, Disciples, and Apostles of Jesus, a paradigm which shapes everything they do. “Every believer has an Ephesians 2 purpose, a good work for which they are called,” he says. “Our job as pastors is to help them see that purpose, equip them, and get out of the way.”

“**Our job as pastors is to help them see that purpose, equip them, and get out of the way.**”

Their Sunday service, which will open to the public in January, includes 10-15 minutes each week highlighting what it looks like to live on mission through the stories of various members. “You are what you celebrate,” Fortner cautions. “If all you talk about is what happens on Sunday, that sets a precedent.”

The Genesis 1 precedent of being created in God’s image “calls us to reign and reproduce,” he says. “We focus a lot in the American church on the reign part – how to have a good marriage, how to parent well, how to steward finances. But we often stop there. We don’t push people to pass those lessons on to someone else.”

Fortner and his fellow pastors model the very things they are calling their people to live out by intentionally investing in their own spheres of influence. “You are what you reproduce,” he says. “We are members first, pastors/leaders second. If we expect people to serve and be on mission, we need to be as well. As a pastor I can do a lot of that on the clock, but I also try to do things off the clock to model that for the people.”

Though Fortner’s journey unexpectedly landed him back in his home city instead of an African village, his missionary heart has not gone to waste. God, who calls us each “according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28) for “good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do,” has prepared Fortner for good works right here in Kansas City through Three Trails Community: to make disciples who are making disciples in one of the most diverse and overlooked parts of the Metro area. “We want people going back into their community to make disciples,” Fortner says. “They are going to answer for that.”

Learn more at

<https://www.facebook.com/threetrailscommunity/>

Grace Church Suspends Service to Serve on Labor Day Weekend

By Joey Candillo

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI – Labor Day weekend is traditionally a low-attendance Sunday. This year, [Grace Church in Independence](#) started a new annual Labor Day tradition.

Instead of our weekly worship service, we spent Sunday morning serving the community. We met at the church at 9am and had breakfast. At 9:30am we prayed and divided up into teams and went out into our community to accomplish the following projects:

Project 1: Laundromat Pay it Forward. We went to 3 local laundromats and offered to pay for people’s loads of laundry, which opened up fruitful conversations.

Project 2: Yard Work. We mowed several lawns for elderly people and a man with Leukemia.



Project 3: Tree Trimming. We trimmed trees for elderly and cleaned an empty lot next to the church.

Project 4: Trash Pickup. We cleaned and pulled weeds in the alley behind our church. Then we cleaned up trash along 24 Highway and around Chrisman High School and Ott Elementary.

Project 5: Rachel House. One group stayed at the church to put together gift bags for Rachel House, a crisis pregnancy center.

Project 6: Cookies. Teams delivered home-baked cookies to local police and fire departments.

Project 7: Kids Area. We offered childcare while the adults served – and the kids served, too! They made cards and crafts for elderly people in a retirement home in Lexington and put together a care package for military.

At noon we all met at a local park and had a church picnic while sharing about our experiences serving. It was an amazing day of serving our community!



Learn more at

www.grace-indep.com

College Ministry Update

Travis Hamm

Collegiate Impact

New Partner Training

On July 30th, [Collegiate Impact](#) hosted our first New Partners Training with representatives from 7 K.C. area churches who want to partner together with us in discipling college students. The evening included introductions of individuals and churches, training on how to disciple college students, opportunities to ask and answer college ministry questions, and a time of prayer for our colleges, the students, and our ministries.

New College Ministry

Since January, my Ministry Apprentice, Daniel Graham, has been working to launch a new college ministry at [Maple Woods Community College](#). We have celebrated one student becoming a follower of Jesus, seen a handful of students gather with a shared desire to ministering on the campus, and connected with two faculty members who want to help facilitate on-campus ministry. On Monday, September 10, this new ministry, Christians on Campus, held their first gathering. We were excited to see 13 students in attendance.

Bible Study at UMKC

In mid-September I started a men's weekly Bible Study with four UMKC commuter students. This group is a mix of believers and not-yet-believers. We're looking to God's Word to help us understand what the Gospel is and how it impacts our everyday lives. I'm praying God uses our time to equip the believers to be disciple-makers and for our not-yet-believers to put their trust in Jesus.

Carson Conover
Longview/Blue River

Bible Study at MCC

On Thursdays at 11 AM, I'm leading a Bible study at [MCC-Longview](#) with a student named Joseph as my apprentice this semester.

A Gospel Conversation

Recently, I got to spend two hours talking with a student named Ahmed over coffee. He grew up Muslim, but currently identifies as an agnostic. I heard his story and shared the gospel with him. He was very engaged, asked great questions, and asked if he could come visit my church ([LifeConnection](#)).

Core Team

Each week I meet with a core team of students who are taking ownership for their growth and ministry to their campus at [Blue River](#). We meet for a couple hours every Monday to pray, memorize and study Scripture, discuss books, leadership, and plan ministry. They've been running Challenge table events to make new contacts so we can't set up gospel appointments and start new Bible studies.

Would you pray?

If you'd like to join my text message prayer team, text PrayerTeam (no spaces) to 781-728-9542. I'll send 3-4 texts each week inviting you to pray in specific ways for college students.



OCTOBER

October 7 - Fall Semi-Annual
4:30-8:00 PM @ Second Missionary Baptist <https://goo.gl/dwzoMz>

October 12-13 - Missions Emphasis Weekend @ Oakwood Baptist Church <https://goo.gl/yQySt3>

October 13 - Spring Valley Baptist Church Garage Sale
9:00 AM-3:00 PM
<https://goo.gl/3G4hSh>

October 20 - Human Trafficking Awareness & Fundraiser
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM @ Raytown Walmart
<https://goo.gl/7fDCHM>

October 22-24 - MBC Annual Meeting
<https://mobaptist.org/annual-meeting/>

October 27 - Confident Hope Conference
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
@ Pleasant Valley Baptist
<http://pleasantvalley.org/confidenthope/>

JOB LISTING

Calvary Baptist Church Independence is seeking a part-time Associate Pastor for Youth and Evangelism.
<https://goo.gl/484qwt>



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806 W. Main Street Greenwood, MO 64034
816-623-5260 [jenniferh@kcbaptist.org]
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Celebrate With Us!

Dr. Hammer's

*Ten-Year Anniversary
with BR-KC!
at the*

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

Periodical

Fall 2018 Grant Report

Gospel Outreach	Pleasant Ridge Oakwood Baptist Impact Ministries	\$ 1,500.00 \$ 2,100.00 \$ 2,000.00
Resourcing Churches	Cross Creek Baptist Coleman Baptist Maywood Baptist Central Baptist	\$ 1,500.00 \$ 1,583.05 \$ 5,000.00 \$ 1,500.00
Equipping Leaders	Palabra Viva	\$ 1,500.00

ACT	Restoration House	\$ 3208.78
Church Planting	Pathway Church	\$ 1,500.00

2019 Grant Schedule

- 2/1 Grant applications due
- 8/2 Grant applications due

www.blueriverkansascity.org/grant



Save the date!

RESTORATION HOUSE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

**HOPE NOW
FREEDOM GALA**

JANUARY 12, 2019 | THE INTERCONTINENTAL KANSAS CITY

RSVP AT WWW.HOPERESTORES.LIFE



Join us for the 5th Annual Gala Event and VIP Social with Silent & Live Auction
Honoring Emily Russell, Missouri Attorney General's Office
VIP Social 5:00 PM
Dinner & Program 7:00 PM

For more information, contact Steven Robinson at 816-623-5260 or stevenr@kcbaptist.org