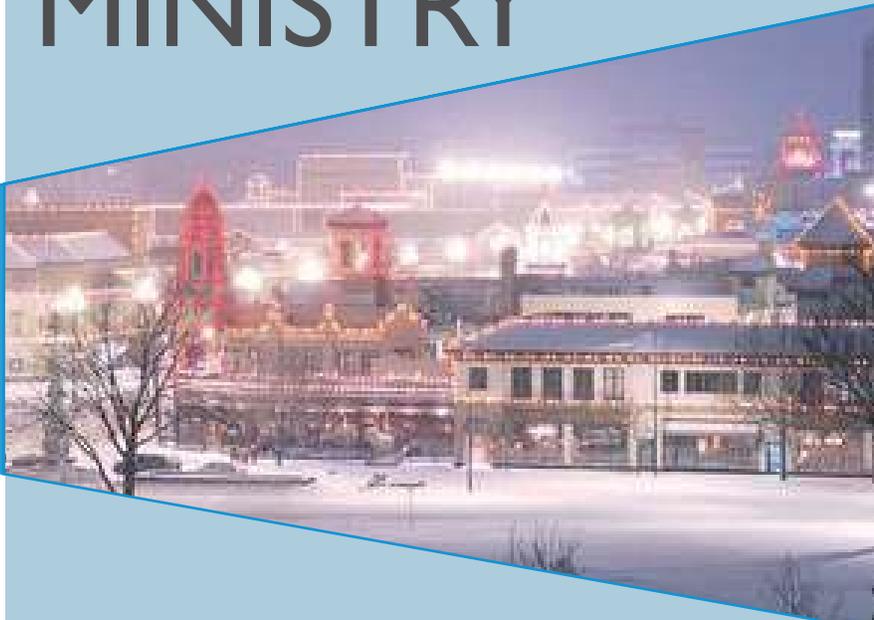




MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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A publication of the
Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association
www.blueriverkansascity.org

Restoration House 5th Annual Hope Now Freedom Gala

What do Patrick Mahomes, cowboy auctioneers, snow storms, the Missouri Attorney General's Office, a television news anchor, and Plaza lights have in common? The 5th Annual Restoration House of Greater Kansas City Hope Now Freedom Gala at the InterContinental Kansas City on the Country Club Plaza.

Despite the extensive snow, the Chief's January 12 home playoff game, and power outages throughout the city that kept a number of people from attending, the Gala had 400 in attendance and raised \$200,000 to help victims of human trafficking. In the afterglow of the Chiefs victory, autographed and framed jerseys of Tyreek Hill and Patrick Mahomes were auctioned off for several thousand dollars.

Though not having electricity at home, Loren Halifax of Fox 4 News made it to the Gala to be Emcee for the evening, and former Gala honorees Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler and Russ Tuttle of the Stop Trafficking Project forged their way through the snow to support the Gala, while Christine McDonald, author of the book Cry Purple, made it across the state to help headline the evening.

This Gala's Honoree was Emily Russell, Executive Director of the Human Trafficking Task Force of the Missouri Attorney General's Office. After receiving the Cry Purple Award, annually awarded to someone or

Continued on Page 2



Emily Russell receives the Cry Purple Award from Dr. Hammer while Steven Robinson looks on.

some organization for outstanding efforts in combatting human trafficking, she shared her personal story of how God called her to this effort.

After Ms. Russell's speech, a powerful video of trafficking survivors helped by Restoration House played to the visibly moved crowd.

Over 300 women have now received services or referrals for aid by Restoration House since the doors opened in May of 2015. Four of those victims receiving restorative, comprehensive services to aid their healing were featured in the video testimony.

Other highlights included Restoration House announcing that the Home for Minor victims



New President Geoffrey Arbuckle with wife, China.

of human trafficking will open in May of this year, and also introduced their new President, Mr. Geoffrey Arbuckle.

Thank you to all who came, supported, donated and served!



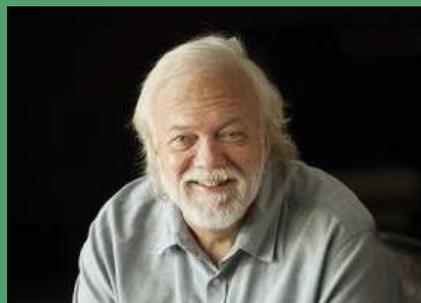
Learn more at restorationhousekc.com

Revitalization Cohort Continues to Support Local Pastors

During 2018 we were blessed to have pastor, mentor and kingdom builder Dan Southerland leading our monthly meetings. The Revitalization and Leadership Cohort is a monthly meeting that BR-KC provides for any pastor or staff who desire to improve their leadership skills and to effectively lead a church to kingdom growth in the midst of the current culture we find ourselves. Pastors desperately need encouragement and they need to hear the experiences of other pastors. The Cohort is an opportunity to "sharpen your axe" so that you are facing ministry challenges with a healthy perspective and finding fulfillment in your ministry.

Over the past year we have discussed several pertinent topics together, including how the pastor can manage his own family

life, emotions and spiritual life in order to stay in ministry for the long haul. We have addressed burn out in ministry, how to avoid it and how to deal with it if you're already experiencing it. We have had conversations about the merits of attractional verses missional ministry and looked at several models of ministry that are bearing fruit and reaching the lost and unchurched in our



To learn more about Dan Southerland, visit <https://blueriverkansascity.org/tag/dan-southerland>

current culture. Dan has shared about kingdom movements in the Kansas City area and beyond that are succeeding in reaching people and making disciples.

We want our pastors and churches in BR-KC to know that Dan is available to meet with them for one-on-one consultation upon request at no cost to them. Again, we strongly encourage all of our pastors, staff or interested lay leaders to join us for our monthly meeting on the second Friday of each month (except for December) at **The Church at Three Trails** in Independence from 10 – 11:30 am. Lunch is provided by the Association.

For more information about the Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, call Gregg Boll at 816-623-5360 or email greggb@kcbaptist.org.



Haiti Home of Hope: An Evening of Hope

by Jerry Tharp, Pastor Lone Jack Baptist Church

Where can you find 45 boys and girls, the vast majority of whom arrived malnourished and diseased, today, smiling, studying and on the road to having a healthy life? Pignon, Haiti, at the Haiti Home of Hope. Haiti Home of Hope Inc. exists to help curb the despair of some of the boys and girls who live in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere (according to a 2018 CNN report). The children, oftentimes babies, almost always come to the home malnourished and diseased. Through love, prayer, and a healthy diet, many of the children respond and even begin enjoying life. Not all of these children's stories are success stories, there are some tragedies too. In the spirit of representing our caring Heavenly Father who is a "Father to the fatherless" (Ps. 68.5), Bill and Jennifer Campbell, and more recently, Will and Heidi Frazier and their daughter Alana, serve their Lord by caring for the "least of these" (Matthew 25.40). In the name of the Father, these families, and many others who give in multiple ways, seek to influence, both spiritually and physically, those whom God brings their way.



While the task is never-ending, one of HHH Inc. goals is orphan prevention. This is accomplished by employing local Haitians and empower-

ing them with the finances to care for extended family members in need. It is a small start, but it is a start. The Haiti Home of Hope campus includes several buildings that are scattered on a two-acre property that houses two missionary families, a boys' and girls' dorm, a kitchen and dining facility and a cleaning station for lots and lots of laundry. The children are educated in local schools and tutored when necessary.



Presently, we are seeking to raise funds for a needed Solar Panel project. A sister mission organization has designed a system specific to our needs and will install it for us too. God has already brought in \$27,000, which is just over half of the amount needed for the hardware, shipping, and customs. An Evening of Hope is planned for Thursday, February 28 for individuals or churches interested in participating.

Those interested in learning more about Haiti Home of Hope can visit our website at haitihomeofhope.org. Also, if your church or mission's team are looking for someone to speak about ministry opportunities contact Dr. Victor Borden at **Red Bridge Baptist Church**, or Jerry Tharp at **Lone Jack Baptist Church**.

news & events

FEBRUARY

February 1 - Pastor/Staff/Spouse
Appreciation Banquet,
7pm @ **Connection Point Church**

February 7 - Urban Pastors Prayer
Lunch
Noon @ **Mt. Nebo MBC**

February 8 - Revitalization Cohort
Noon @ **Church at Three Trails**

Night to Shine KC
6pm @ Union Station

February 14 - Pastor's Prayer Lunch
Noon @ **Raintree Community**

February 21 - Pastor's Prayer Lunch
Noon @ **First Peculiar**

MBC Student Ministry Lunch
Noon @ Jose Peppers, Briarcliff

February 28 - Pastor's Prayer Lunch
Noon @ **Carlisle**

Visit <https://blueriverkansascity.org/calendar> for more details on events

JOB LISTINGS

Calvary Baptist in Independence is
seeking a
part-time Youth Minister.

To submit or find a position, visit
<https://blueriverkansascity.org/churches/>

Join us for An Evening of Hope!



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Britney Hamm, Editor

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A special 'Thank You' to everyone that submitted pictures for the gala after our photographer was forced to cancel due to weather!

Hope Now Freedom Gala in Pictures



Auctioneers from the Pine Dell Posse (above) got the crowd excited to bid and give generously (below).



Former Honorees, Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (left) and Russ Tuttle (right) help as spotters along with our Event Sponsor, Ron Finke (middle) during the auction.



Honoree Emily Russell speaking after the Chief's win.



NIGHT to Shine
 SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW** FOUNDATION™

February 8, 2019 ~ 6pm
 Union Station

Register at <http://n2skc.com>

An unforgettable prom for people with Special Needs.

Save the Date
Spring Semi-Annual Meeting
 Sunday, April 7, 2019
 5 p.m.
 FBC Raymore
 More details to come!