



MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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Multiethnic Church Planting Center Still Going Strong

by Pastor Luis Mendoza

During one of the eyeglass clinics held this year at the International Welcome Center, a lady who seemed very excited, approached me and asked me two questions: "Where did all these people who are doing the clinic come from and what encourages them to do this?" I responded, "These people come from different Baptist Churches around the city; and the reason why they do it is because they love Christ and they want to share His love with the rest of people around our communities." Later, I learned she was from Northern Mexico, and she told me, "What you guys are doing is very commendable, you're doing this without expecting anything in return. These days almost nobody does anything without expecting something in return." I replied, "You are correct, the difference is Christ in us. As Christians the Lord compels us to help our neighbors without expecting anything in return."

This year the eyeglass clinics have been of great impact. We helped more than 300 people get their free glasses and at least 50 people made professions of faith. Some of which are already connected with some local churches. We were so excited about the local results, that with the assistance of some local churches and other organizations, we decided to conduct a clinic in Mexico City. This clinic was also a great success. More



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than 1,000 people attended and 247 of them made professions of faith. A local church that we are planting in Mexico is doing the follow up with these new believers.

Another emphasis was to help families understand the culture where we live. Many people who have just arrived are unaware of the educational and legal system of the United States. For that reason, we defined the most important areas in which people should be trained; and we invited specialists in each area to come and train others. Many families were blessed through these trainings. Afterwards, they felt better equipped to deal with certain specific situations in their homes. We are grateful to all the specialists who made time to share their knowledge with the families that attended.

After conducting a survey with all international pastors in the Kansas City area and beyond, we learned a good group of them felt alone and without the possibility of having fellowship with one another. From that moment, we decided to have pastoral meetings with them. In these meetings we worship together, encourage one another, pray for one another, find different ways we can exchange resources and material and we provide some specific training. With the assistance of some local leaders, this year we had the possibility to

train several pastors in the area of how to prepare and preach biblical messages. These trainings have been of great value

to pastors, considering the reality that many of them do not have seminary training. It is very encouraging to see that in every meeting we see larger participations of pastors and leaders.

These gatherings have also helped us find leaders with skills and gifts to plant churches. With the assistance of BR-KC and local churches, Orlando Blas has started the process of planting a new Hispanic Church in the Lee's Summit area. Orlando, who is originally from Guatemala, has been part of a church planting team in his country, has developed and trained leaders in the past and is certainly willing to help us develop this new church plant. We ask for your prayers so Orlando and his team can make an impact among the people group he is ministering to.

I would like to express our gratitude to the churches of BR-KC for allowing us the opportunity to minister to the different people groups represented in the city. Your prayers and support are essential. Thank you!



Introducing Faith Baptist, Lee's Summit

by Pastor Joshua Martin

Faith Baptist Church was started in 1955 as Ridgewood Baptist Church and later was changed to Faith Baptist Church in 1967. It was founded by Pastor Robert Glover who started the church and was the pastor for over 40 years. Our church mission statement is based out of Ephesians 4:12 "For the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

As a Pastor, I would say that the heart of what we do obviously revolves around our times of preaching and teaching of God's word, but next to that would be our small group ministry. Over the years we have seen our small groups be the means in which God has brought us closer together as a church and allowed us to dig deeper into the message our church hears on Sunday. We have certain events throughout the year that focus solely on outreach into the

community; these include our VBS, trunk or treat and our wild game dinner that continues to grow year after year.

I did not grow up in a Christian home and was born to two parents that were still in high school. I was blessed to have grandparents that had recently come to Christ and they took me in and spiritually invested in me. Going to Christian camp in the summers at Camp Chetek, in Chetek, WI, God began to show me through the preaching of the gospel that I needed a personal relationship with Him, and at the age of 16 I received Him as my Lord and Savior. God then directed me to train at Northland Baptist Bible College where I met my wife Heather. My wife is from the Weston, Platte City area and after graduation I moved to Missouri. In 2003 we were married and now have three children, Caleb (14), Grace (11) and Isaac (8).

I was working as a carpenter and attending seminary, when a

classmate told me of a church where he was an assistant pastor in Lee's Summit called Faith Baptist Church. We attended for a short while until we purchased a home in another town and moved away. After a few years this friend contacted me to let me know he was taking a pastorate in Kansas and wanted to know if I was interested in becoming the associate pastor at Faith. We were voted on in February of 2008 and served for a year as the associate/youth pastor. When the pastor retired one year later, the church voted for me to be their senior pastor.

At Faith Baptist, our desire is to reach our community with the love of Christ and see that love reproduced in the lives of others.



People Teams Update

by Andrew Huesing

"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). The treasure of the Gospel and all the effort of the People Teams ministry is contained in and passed on by weak and fragile people (myself included). At the end of the day, the only thing that lasts are the lives that God transformed and the faith that they pass on to others. I have little control over what anyone will do with Jesus and even over my own life, but this fragility of ministry makes us trust all the more in the God who does the work, transforms lives, calls and sustains those involved, and raises up disciples to carry the torch into the future.



That is why I am excited to see people grow in their faith and begin to pass it on. After a couple of years in working with the Congolese teen guys, they have been taking some opportunities to share their faith with others. In August, we took a week-long mission trip with seven teen guys to Clarkston, GA. Each teen worked to pay for his trip doing different projects: home remodeling, selling scrap metal, and car repair. Although most of our initial contacts did not pan out, the LORD altered our travel plans to lead us to a church in a multicultural neighborhood where we could sleep and serve. The teen guys led worship, shared their stories of fleeing as refugees, did yard work,

and shared the Gospel with other Africans in Atlanta. One teen sought out his extended family members to be able to tell his cousins about Jesus. Pictured below is the group sharing with a rich Tanzanian businessman in a restaurant. They spoke with Hindus, atheists, and Buddhists as well for the first time. One of the students led another on the trip to the LORD. It brings great joy to see these guys passing on their faith and taking the lead in ministering to their own people with the language and culture gifts God has given them. We continue to meet one night a week with them for soccer, Bible, and being among the lost in KC.

Each week, the Horn of Africa teen girls group continues to meet. They have completed many Old and New Testament stories and are approaching the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Recently, the volunteers sensed a spiritual darkness over the group and one commented that Satan fights the Gospel going to the unreached groups because he knows that his end is near when they accept it. Pray for the plans for two more girls groups and another guys group.

With the Horn of Africa teen guys, we still do basketball weekly. Some attended a Christian camp this summer led by New Hope Baptist. I'm grateful for volunteers who are involved in the lives of the



news & events

JANUARY

January 1 - Office Closed for the New Year Holiday

January 9 - Revitalization Cohort Church at Three Trails

January 20 - Office Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday

January 25 - R|H Hope Now Freedom Gala @ Olathe Embassy Suites see back page for more details

FEBRUARY

February 7 - Appreciation Banquet see back page for more details

February 7 - Grant Requests due

February 13 - Revitalization Cohort Church at Three Trails

teens as we try to discern those who are spiritually hungry and take every opportunity to share Jesus and find teachable moments.

I am excited to report that two Muslim women have accepted Jesus in the past couple of months. One with a sister ministry and the other has been attending one of our Association's churches. Pray for their next steps of baptism and discipleship and for perseverance and commitment to Jesus in spite of any persecution from family. This is a great encouragement for those who have been faithful to spend time with Muslims over the past few years for the sake of Christ's name. Pray that those coming to Christ will be willing to be introduced to other former Muslims so that an underground church can form if it is God's will.

The door is always open for churches in BR-KC to help with evangelism projects, door-to-door surveys, Bible distribution, combining your youth group with a youth group from an African church for worship and fun, or any other creative way we can plug you into ministry cross-culturally. Contact Andrew at kcpeopleteams@gmail.com if you would like to discuss it.

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Grant Application Now Available
Due February 7th. Apply online at
blueriver-kansascity.org/grant/



RESTORATION HOUSE

FREEDOM GALA

01.25.20 • OLATHE, KANSAS



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

January 25, 2020

5:30-6:30pm VIP Social
7-9pm Gala Dinner & Live Auction
9:30-11pm After Hours

Embassy Suites by Hilton
10401 S. Ridgeview Road
Olathe, KS 66061

For ticket and sponsorship
information, visit
[https://restorationhousekc.org/
events/freedom-gala/](https://restorationhousekc.org/events/freedom-gala/)



Rik Roberts is a Nashville-based comedian providing 100% clean comedy. Rik keeps his humor relevant and easy to relate to. With over 20 years of stand-up comedy experience, you are guaranteed to laugh out loud in between the "aha" moments.

Enjoy a night of great food, fellowship and fun!



BR-KC BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL

PASTOR/STAFF & SPOUSE APPRECIATION BANQUET

FEBRUARY 7, 2020
7pm—9pm

CONNECTION POINT
ATRIUM, RAYTOWN

FREE EVENT
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Registration required at <https://appreciationbanquet2020.eventbrite.com>