



MISSIONS & MINISTRY



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Fellowship Church Experiences What Can be Done Together by Pastor Chris Williams

It was June of 2014, **Fellowship Church in Greenwood** had been in existence barely 2 years. There was a dream of something more emerging from this church replant. Together we were ready to move beyond what we could see, and believe God in order to experience what could not yet be seen. We began to take seriously Jesus' words so we put a plan in place to love our neighbors. Those in the pew and classes next to us, those who lived in close proximity to our building, our community and those who lived closest to us in our neighborhoods. Today we call this our *Live to Bless* philosophy.

In those early years we were not seeing many people coming to faith, we were not seeing Jesus transform lives, but we believed that we could. As a church we decided to anticipate what Jesus would do if we did the work of His disciples, love one another, deny self, obey the scriptures and follow His example. And slowly, what we couldn't see or really even fathom, began to become our reality... People coming to faith, baptisms, marriages being restored, and lives changed became a regular occurrence. We were enjoying some fun, fruitful amazing days.

Then in 2018, we again were ready to move beyond what we could see in terms of Jesus working in our church and community to what we believed He could do, and would do in



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other communities. Together, we stepped out into a new God adventure...to follow His leading in to church revitalization, to pay forward what Lenexa Baptist had done for us. We were unified around the dream that Jesus would do in other communities what He had been doing in our community. We had no idea how this would be achieved, when this would take place or in what city.

But God...we trusted He had all the details worked out, and we would wait upon His timing. About this same time, Jesus was working in the lives of another people across town. The great folks of **First Baptist Church of Raymore** were believing God for more, they too had a dream of a move of God, they too were thinking outside of the box, they too were holding things loosely because their main motivator was getting the gospel to people in their city.

December 2018 rolls around and the phone rings. God was moving and preparing. It was First Raymore on the phone. This phone call was the Almighty God uniting two groups of His people, taking two separate dreams for more, and making



them one. God was making something that seemed so impossible to us individually, that for it to become a reality, we must unite as one.

Today we serve the High King on the Great Throne who has unified a dream that two congregations were given and formed it into one dream.

Together... we dreamed of a church so engaged in loving one another by living out the one another statements that people would be drawn to our Christ because of the way we cared for one another.

Together...we dreamed of a church that people were drawn to because of the way we served our community.

Together...we dreamed of a church that made people sit up and take notice because of the way we lived scripture.

Together...we dreamed of writing a new story for the Church. Today we are one church in 2 locations serving for the good of the city, the glory of Christ and the salvation of all awaiting His direction and opening for our next God-adventure.



Introducing Grace Fellowship, Blue Springs

by Pastor Roger Freeman

Grace Fellowship started in the home of Roger and Mary Jo Freeman in December, 2007 with a handful of people. Our mission statement comes from Matthew 28:18-20, to reach people with the Gospel and grow them into faithful followers of Jesus.

Grace spent four years meeting at the YMCA in Independence; then the next five years in various rented facilities. **FBC Blue Springs** allowed us to meet in their Youth Facility for a year, and then we met back in our home. With fifty-five people attending, it was certainly challenging! More than half have been saved while here at Grace. The Lord assured us He had a place for us, we needed to just wait!

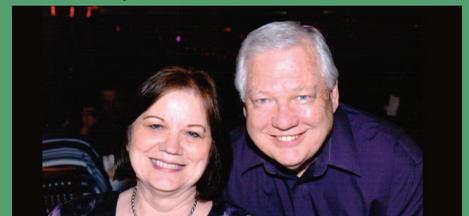
Gordon Chrisman, Pastor of **Celebration Community Fellowship Church**, and I were acquaintances, having both been on staff at Kansas City Youth for Christ. We saw each

other while waiting for jury duty in downtown Kansas City. God was at work. Gordon shared that he was considering retiring from the church and was interested in Grace taking over the building and the loan. In the months that followed we prayerfully came to a process to make the transition. When Celebration learned of Gordon's decision to retire almost all left. In January 2019 Grace Fellowship members joined Celebration Church and I became the new Pastor. Just this last month we changed the name of Celebration to Grace Fellowship Blue Springs.

The world needs to see real Christians, living out the commands of Jesus in their daily lives. Dallas Willard, author and uncle of my wife Mary Jo, challenged me personally to have a systematic discipling process in our church. For too long we have focused on making converts and have not made disciples, leaving the world to ponder at the inconsistencies

and lack of Christian character in our churches. I have strived to emphasize the development of godly character as the mark of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Grace Fellowship uses a process we call Life Builders to mentor and disciple our members. Life Builders has four steps, each taking a year to accomplish, that involves reading the Bible, praying, studying lessons, memorizing Scripture, and ministering to others. Our goal is to bring a person to the place where they are able to feed themselves spiritually and mentor others.

We have spent most of this year remodeling and repairing our new home and are reminded of Jesus' words in John 4:35, "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."



Horn of Africa Ministry Expands

by Nicole Brown (edited with updates)

Two trips were made to the Horn of Africa in 2019. Unfortunately, a third trip was cancelled due to heavy spiritual warfare and everyone agreed the team should stay put until the Lord made it clear when we should return to the Tigray region. As you read this article, a team of 5 are finishing up a mission trip in Ethiopia. Please pray for Jim and Nicole Brown, Rick Bellew (**The Gathering Church**) Randy Messer (**FBC Oak Grove**), and Ed Newsome (**United Believers Community**).

Last January, Pastor Randy was able to teach in the Bible college as well as preach and baptize in Sherraro, a new church plant. What a fantastic time of celebrating and praising the Lord! On our current trip, Pastor Randy and Ed are again teaching in the Bible college in Shire.



Wonderful work is continuing in the region like the child sponsorship in the towns of Shire, Sherraro and Adi Hageri. Our local team in Shire is distributing food to widows that are so poor they do not even have a door to protect them where they lay their heads at



night. Most do not receive any help from any of the churches.

Also, the team is visiting patients in the hospital. Because the hospitals expect families and outsiders to help with patients, (for example, if they cannot eat solid foods, the nurses advise families to bring fresh juices) we provide support for those with no family.



One of the banks that we are doing business with have offered classes to some of our sponsored children's families. It is a course on how to run their own business (for example raising and selling chickens). The interest in these business classes has been very good. They are happy to receive a hand up and not a hand-out! We are excited to see what the future has in store for these families that now have a different outlook on life.



The refugee children in camp Shimelba are learning Tae Kwon Do thanks to a company by the name of FHE (Food for the Hungry Ethiopia). They provide free lessons three to four days a week as well as

news & events

FEBRUARY

February 7 - Appreciation Banquet see back page for more details

February 7 - Grant Requests due

February 13 - Revitalization Cohort Church at Three Trails

MARCH

March 7 - Associational WMU Mtg Connection Point

March 7 - DR Training Connection Point

March 12 - Revitalization Cohort Church at Three Trails

JOB OPENINGS

Check out all job openings at blueriver-kansascity.org/job-board/

soccer lessons and teams. This provides self-discipline, protection and something positive to be a part of and look forward to for the kids in the camp.

We are always praying for the Lord's perfect will for the refugees of Eritrea as well as the local Ethiopians that work closely with each other. We are forever thankful for being a small part of this incredible ministry.

Learn more at <https://blueriver-kansascity.org/partnership-ministries/horn-of-africa/>



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



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>

SAVE THE DATE

April 26

Spring Semi-Annual Meeting

Fellowship Church
Greenwood

Details Coming Soon

SAVE THE DATE

May 29 & 30

Pastor and Wives Marriage Retreat

Led by Dr. Richard Marks of the RelateWell
Institute

Details Coming Soon