

MISSIONS & MINISTRY

The Newsletter of The Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association



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Annual Pastor/Staff &
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BETTER TOGETHER

By Brian Grout, Associate Director of Missions

Twelve years ago, God called us to serve at Beverly Hills Baptist Church (now The Church at Three Trails) in Independence, a church in our association that was near death. I will be honest, when God called us, it was an obvious call and yet there was a hesitancy and worry about our future. After all, I was going to be taking a near 60% pay cut. We were also moving to a new community where we knew nobody, plus we had three kids from ages 7 to 1 year. I had dreams of grandeur that God would grow our church quickly and then I would move on to bigger and better things, however God had something entirely different in mind.

The first meeting I ever had with Dr. Hammer he asked me if I "burned the ships." He then asked me if I was committed to here or if I would give up when it got tough. I was completely committed to what God had called me, but I didn't realize what all was ahead and how valuable relationships and partnership were going to become in my life and the life of our church.....

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GEORGE LIELE: AMERICA'S FIRST MISSIONARY

By Gregg Boll, Executive Director of Missions

As I write this article it is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. I believe from several years of lived experience that, as believers and the church, we live wiser, more meaningful lives when we have a firm grasp of history and a proper interpretation of the people and events that came before us. Whether we know about Savonarola, the Anabaptists, Richard Baxter, William Carey, David Brainerd, or Dietrich Bonhoeffer, our lives are enriched, and our faith is encouraged to hear about the faithfulness of great saints of the faith who have gone before us. We could write several pages on the light Martin Luther King shined on the racial inequity of our nation. I was invited to speak at the Blue Springs MLK Day Celebration last year. The more I read about MLK, the more my admiration and respect grew for him. He catalyzed a movement that forced the nation to take a collective look into its soul and embrace long overdue principles that started the nation on a slow march towards justice and liberty for all.



However, in this article I want to introduce you to a lesser-known hero of the faith who overcame great difficulties and persecution to preach the gospel, plant churches and strengthen churches; I am referring to George Liele. This freed Georgia slave is one of the unsung heroes of the Kingdom for his passion and perseverance during a time when it was most unwise and unsafe for a black man to speak out or draw attention to himself. He lived by the motto of “woe unto me if I preach not the gospel”. (I Cor. 9:16)

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PASTOR/STAFF & SPOUSE APPRECIATION BANQUET



WITH COMEDIAN AND VIRAL SENSATION
JARON MYERS!

THE ATRIUM AT CONNECTION POINT
10500 E 350 HIGHWAY, RAYTOWN

MARCH 7TH, 2025 AT 6:30PM

[RSVP FOR PASTOR APPRECIATION HERE](#)

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calendar of events