



# MISSIONS & MINISTRY

## Over 300 attend October 11 Annual Meeting

Not since the last time an Annual Meeting was held on a Sunday have we seen crowds like this. This year there really was something for everyone at the meeting held at First Baptist, Raytown.

A Missions Fair and a Children's Missions Rally began at 5:00 PM, followed by the annual business session at 6:00. A combined Worship and Missions Celebration capped the evening along with a Youth Worship/Concert featuring the band Starlit Platoon.

People began arriving to set up for the Missions Fair at 3:30, and both of our Disaster Relief ministries were front and center. The Mobile Feeding Unit was in the front parking lot preparing hot dogs for the children's rally, and Brian Mills from Heart of Life Church in Garden City

had the Chain Saw Unit trailer parked right by the front door of the church.

When you entered the church, you were greeted with the BR-KC display and then could view over 35 tables spread throughout the hallways highlighting various church plants and ministry partners of the Association.

Fifty-three churches had representatives present for the business session which was held in the Atrium (Fellowship Hall) of the church. One hundred and thirty-two people registered for the session with an estimated forty visitors who didn't register.

The messengers discussed and voted on the 2010 budget, the VISION 2020 Master Ministry Plan and the Administrative

Committee's recommendation to sell the Mission Center. All three proposals passed after some discussion and one amendment to the Master Ministry Plan. The messengers were nearly unanimous in their approval of all three items.

Dr. Bob Roberts of Northwood Baptist Church near Dallas, Texas inspired us by sharing what he sees God doing around the world and here at home. He spoke after a time of worship led by the FBC, Raytown Choir and Praise Band and a combined Gospel Choir made up of singers from several of our African American Churches. The AZ-U-R Band closed after Dr. Hammer gave a challenge to fulfil the plans of VISION 2020.

*(See related stories on page 3.)*

*"We envision a network of healthy Baptist churches partnering together to transform lives and communities through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home, in North America and around the world."*



## Church plant immersed in Kansas City's diversity

By Brian Koonce – This article first appeared in the September 1 issue of "The Pathway." It has been edited to fit this space.

Damon Horton dreams big. Horton is a Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC) church planter and the pastor of Truth Bible Fellowship, a congregation that began last September in northeast Kansas City. Though they haven't "gone public" yet, the church baptized seven last month – more than most churches will all year.

"And there's five more on deck," Horton said. "The Lord has definitely showed us grace in the past 11 months. We started with a core team of about 20, and now we're well over 100 in attendance every Sunday." The church will "go public" in May of 2010.

"He's a brave young man," said Ben Hess, MBC state church planting director. "It's a dangerous place, and he's taking the light of the Gospel into a dark part of Kansas City where Satan is trying to demonstrate his power and authority. It's not going to be a church that hides behind the walls. It's a church that's going to be taking the Gospel outside the walls."

"This neighborhood is run by (organized crime) and international street gangs," Horton said. "Very few churches are engaging with the community and offering the true, biblical Gospel."

The church is located in a diverse place. In the six neighborhoods surrounding the church's current meeting place, there are 70 ethnicities represented and more than 60 languages.

Horton said he has received personal invitations from principals at each of the local public schools in the area, offering their facilities for a church service, or inviting them in to lead a rally or mentor some of the children.

"It's a real opportunity to reach the kids before the gangs do," he said. "That's a real answer to prayer." And the church isn't stopping there. They have long-range plans for a Christian school/Bible academy, GED and life skills classes. The congregation is less than a year old, but they already have a vision to plant more churches.



"There's a greater need than just the northeast corner of the city," Horton said. "We want to be a church plant that plants churches. Rather than have 1 church of 2,500, why not 10 churches of 250? To saturate the area with solid theology and a heartbeat for reaching people?"

All this before they even have a permanent place to meet. Truth Bible Fellowship had been meeting at Milestone Gym on 12th Street in Kansas City, but now they are meeting in Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, a move which gave them access to a baptistry, and prompted their first baptisms last month.

"Seeing that happen really cemented a lot of things for us," Horton said. "The youngest was a 9-year-old girl. It was really beautiful."

Horton said finding a permanent facility that will allow them to continue Bible studies, premarital counseling and membership classes is on the top of his prayer list. [In the] last six months the size of the church has quadrupled.

Horton jokes that he is doing things backwards from the normal church planter. He struck out with a core group before ever seeking funding from the MBC or partner churches, only coming around to that after the church began to take off.

"All glory goes to God," he said. "It's definitely the Lord because I could have never thought of anything like that."

## Missional Church Conference

November 10-11, 2009  
Haven Baptist Church  
3430 Hutton Road  
Kansas City, Kansas 66109  
featuring

**Eric Swanson**, Leadership Network and co-founder of Good Cities, and

**Jonathan Dodson**, Pastor of Austin City Life Church, Austin, TX.

Cost \$25

More info and register at  
[www.missionalnetworkweb.com](http://www.missionalnetworkweb.com)

## Cross Creek leaders minister in Guatemala

Last June, Ray and Vickie Gurney of Cross Creek Baptist in Oak Grove traveled to Guatemala for a mission trip with Steve Reed, Overland Park and Rex and Debbie Kelly, Burwell, Nebraska. The team has a longtime relationship established with Cesar and Elva Gonzolez, Nationals of Guatemala dedicated to winning Guatemalans to Christ.

While in Guatemala they worked with children and families doing crafts and teaching Bible stories. They also showed the movie "Fire Proof" at a church and ministered to couples.



They lived with the locals and discovered the differences in their lifestyles. When it was time for lunch at one school, the ladies started an open fire in a cooking area and took three live chickens out of a bag and prepared them for the meal. Vickie even showed the women that she knew how to wring a chicken's neck. She said, "You could see that the women approved of the action, and we were accepted in their village."

The Gurneys will be making future trips to Guatemala. If you would like to join them or find out more about the trips, call the church at 690-0019.

### Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News

Loren Hutchinson, Editor  
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## Messengers approve Master Ministry Plan

Messengers to the BR-KC Annual Meeting gave overwhelming approval to a Master Ministry Plan designed to guide the work of the Association for the coming years. The Plan is the culmination of a year-long strategic planning process begun in 2008.

In December of last year, an Evaluation Planning Team was formed that conducted interviews and surveys of church staff and laity. They also gathered demographic data on Jackson and Cass counties in order to determine current and future trends.

The results of their work was passed to a Strategic Planning Advisory Group in April. This group, made up of nine pastors, interpreted the data and arrived at a Vision Statement (see front cover), some key values and five broad objectives for the association's ministries. They then led in a one-day planning retreat where goals and action plans were developed around the five objectives. The objectives are:

- Gospel Outreach
- Resourcing Churches
- Assisting Community Transformation
- Church Planting
- Equipping Leaders

An amendment was made to the document to change the wording under Assisting Community Transformation. The amendment changed the wording to reflect that we would be "ministering" to schools rather than "partnering" with them. Copies of the plan are available online at our web site, [www.blueriver-kansascity.org](http://www.blueriver-kansascity.org).

Ministry Teams will be formed to address the goals under each objective. These teams are open to anyone who has a passion for the objective. Contact the Mission Center if you would like to serve on a team.



## Mission Center to be sold



The Baptist Mission Center which has housed the Association staff since 1987 will be placed up for sale as soon as the Administrative Committee enlists a realtor to handle the transaction. Messengers to the Annual Meeting heard a report from the committee that explained the rationale for selling the Center. In 1987, the Association had a staff of nine, plus plans

were under way for the ACTS Television Network to occupy the lower level offices and generate programming from a TV studio in the building.

Today, the Association has three full-time staff and simply does not require a 14,000 square foot building to house staff offices. While the building is free of debt, it still requires around \$30,000 per year in operations and maintenance. It is possible to lease a 2,000 square foot office space for what it costs to maintain the building.

### *A Kingdom Asset*

If leasing costs the same as owning, why sell? The Mission Center has been appraised at \$1.4 million dollars. If it brings that amount, the Association would net around \$1,300,000 after realty fees and expenses. That money will be invested to generate income for ministry estimated to be as much as \$50,000 per year while still holding the principal intact. It was the feeling of the messengers that the Association could no longer justify tying up that amount of capital in order to house a three-person staff.

When an offer is tendered, the Administrative Committee will review the numbers, and if they believe it worthwhile, will bring a recommendation to the Executive Board for consideration. Pray for a quick resolution to this need.

## 2010 Budget approved at \$448,678 (with conditions)

Messengers of the Association approved a conditional budget for 2010. The addition of a staff member for the last six-months of the year was built into the budget, but will only be implemented if giving during the first six months demonstrates the ability to finance the position.

An Associate Director of Missional Outreach would add \$45,149 to the budget for the last half of the year. This would be a full-time staff member who would develop and facilitate our churches' intentional mission strategies, community transformation efforts, church planting, mission partnerships and projects, and provide related equipping needs among our churches. If funding is not available for this position, the budget will stand at \$403,529, a 2% increase over 2009.

### *New budget structure*

The 2010 budget also had a new look in that it was designed around the five objectives of the Association's Master Ministry Plan. Under that structure \$35,305 was budgeted for Gospel Outreach, \$16,100 for Resourcing Churches, \$3,900 for Assisting Community Transformation, \$18,000 for Church Planting and \$7,300 for Equipping Leaders.

The remainder of the budget was \$44,050 for Administration, \$273,628 for Personnel and \$50,395 for Operations. The Book of Reports, which includes a copy of the budget is available online at our web site, [www.blueriver-kansascity.org](http://www.blueriver-kansascity.org).

## Churches asked to "Pledge the Vision"

The VISION 2020 goals are an exciting look into the ministry of the Association. As with any plan, it is necessary to count the cost. In the coming weeks, information will be sent to the churches of the Association explaining the vision and asking them to "Pledge the Vision" in formulating their 2010 budgets.

There will be challenge goals set at \$9,000 and \$5,000, but also a goal simply asking each church to agree to increase Associational giving by some amount. A \$100/mo. increase by every church would net \$149,000 for local missions. Please prayerfully consider what your church can do to further the Kingdom locally.

## News from the churches

**Birchwood Baptist Church**, Independence is seeking a part-time Children's Ministry Coordinator. This position (20 hrs/week) requires an individual with a passion for children and the ability to coordinate programs for children, birth through 5th grade. If you are interested in this opportunity to serve, please email your resume and cover letter to Associate Pastor John Young: john@birchwoodchurch.com.

COLMANblue will be performing at **Club D-Mask-U's** on November 6th and 7th. Club D is a non-smoking, non-alcoholic Christian nightclub featuring live Christian music, but also features a full-service cafe plus game rooms for all ages. Doors open at 6:30 and the music starts at 7:00 PM. Tickets to this event are \$10 and are available in advance by calling 816-525-7999 or 816-550-0144 or at The Christian Bookshelf in Lee's Summit. Kids under 12 accompanied by an adult are free.

**Grace Point Baptist Church** is seeking a part-time Youth Director who loves teenagers and who has a passion to see them come to Christ, lead a mid-week ministry for teens and coordinate with the youth Sunday School ministry. Interested persons should send a resume to Grace Point Baptist Church, Attention: Youth Director Search, 10415 Chestnut Drive, Kansas City, MO 64137.

**Beverly Hills Baptist Church**, 31st and Crysler in Independence will host a Gospel Concert on November 20th. The concert begins at 7:00 PM and ends at 9:00 PM. Performing will be Sam & Pam Simmonds and Dan Quesenberry. A love offering will be taken up between the performances. Following the concert there will be light refreshments in the fellowship hall. For further information contact Jean King at 224-0804.

Dr. Robert Collins will be leading his 63rd tour of the Holy Land March 1-10, 2010. Seats are limited. If you have questions or would like a free color brochure, please email Dr. Collins at: 19661964@att.net or call at: 816-228-3459.

**Grace Point Baptist Church** surprised their pastor, Kirtes Calvery, on September 27th with a celebration marking his 30th year of ministry at the church. Former

members and staff were present to help "roast" the pastor. Congratulations Kirtes!

**Blue Valley Baptist Church** is sponsoring *Abundantly More*, a women's conference featuring Lysa Terkeurst, best-selling author of 12 books, including *What Happens When Women Say Yes to God*. The conference will be held at The Embassy Suites on the Plaza January 15-16. Registration is \$100 until December 20 when it will go up to \$125. Go to [www.bluevalleybaptist.org](http://www.bluevalleybaptist.org), or call Jackie Bostick at 913-400-3130 for more info.

**First Baptist Church, Raytown** will hold

an International Missions Emphasis on Thursday, November 5, 9:45 AM to 12:00 noon in their Fellowship Hall. A covered dish luncheon will be at 12:00 noon. All are welcome to attend.

**Tree of Life Church** needs a 7 or 15 passenger van donated to help transport people to their services. They have several candidates who will be baptized soon, and all of them are without transportation. A van is needed to help these new Christians come to church. If you or your church can provide this need, contact Pastor Jerry Akins at 816-797-0748.

### September 2009 Financial Report

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Beginning Balance		(\$18,797.62)
Receipts from churches	\$26,013.51	\$278,977.93
Other Income	0.00	552.25
Total	\$26,013.51	\$260,732.56
Less Expenses	(32,969.53)	(270,656.83)
Balance as of 9/30/2009	(\$ 6,956.02)	(\$ 9,924.27)
Budget \$394,334.00 Annual	\$32,861.18 Monthly	\$295,750.62
Budget Receipts + other income		279,530.18
Receipts compared to budget	94.5%	(\$ 16,220.44)
Budget Receipts + other income as of 9/30/2009		279,530.18
Total Expenses as of 9/30/2009		270,656.83
Receipts over Expenses		\$ 8,873.35

### Calendar

November	December
2 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer	8 Mission Center Christmas Open House 10-2
7 Media Library Workers Mtg.	24-Jan. 1 Office Closed
26-27 Office Closed (Thanksgiving)	(Christmas/New Year Break)
29-Dec. 6 Season of Int'l. Missions	