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GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES

CHRISTIANITY IN

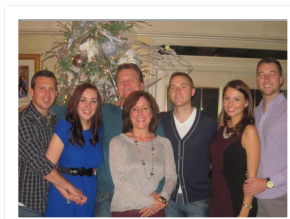
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## CHANGING LIVES

### LIVES CHANGED FOREVER

By: Janet Homan Fillhart



*Over two decades have passed since I walked through the doors of Linworth Road Church (a GCC church), for the very first time. The worship band was playing "He will make a way where there seems to be no way," and I wept. They were tears of joy because for the first time in my life, I felt the love of Jesus embrace my heart and I knew I was home.*

I was a single mother of three young children. Linworth stepped up to the plate and loved, counseled and equipped us to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Over the years, we were able to serve the homeless community, teach Sunday school, and start an outreach in our home for the youth at my children's school. I am amazed that at such a young age, the kids were able to reach out to their campus and change lives for Christ. Many of the current young leaders at Linworth were affected by those Wednesday nights at "The Homan Fun House" (later called the Exchange). My two sons are currently serving as leaders at Linworth's daughter church, Awaken in Columbus, Ohio.

Two other opportunities developed. First, was Divorce Care which I helped to lead. Another ministry that was birthed from Divorce Care was the Single Mom's Ministry. Giving hope to the hopeless is what we are called to do, and through the love of Jesus Christ we can all be "Jesus with skin" to people.

We are so blessed that, through Linworth, we have been shown an unfathomable kind of love, equipping us to do things that we can only do through Christ's strength.

### 40 YEARS WITH OUR GOD

By: Steve and Fran Miller



*After being married in 1973, we lived in Manhattan, KS for 11 years, reaching students at Kansas State University. In 1985, we moved to Maryland to unite with other families to reach a community with the gospel. The "Steve Miller Band" grew to its present number of 10, and we began to wonder who has any time or energy left to reach a community! And the answer: GOD!!*

After 10 years of meeting in different public schools, God opened up a building in Clarksville, MD, where we have a more "permanent" presence in that community. Members of our church are spread out in five different counties. We encourage them to team up with those who are close geographically. As we've been more intentional with this strategy, several groups of couples and singles have started meeting and "doing life" together in their local communities.

Another routine I (Steve) have started is meeting with the men, on Sunday mornings, who are leading these small groups. Frannie spends that time every Sunday co-leading a women's time.

One precious time for us is going to the Faithwalkers Conference with our children and grandchildren. We are grateful for this conference as it reminds us of why we are here and allows our children to hear the messages that we heard when we were their age.

We will celebrate our 40th anniversary this year, and we can honestly say that God has richly blessed us. We are thankful for the impact that having unity with other Great Commission saints has had on our lives.

# MISSION USA

## NEW CHURCH PLANTS

### REACHING THE NATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

By Tim Grunditz

*Bill Bright (founder of Campus Crusade for Christ) once asked a room of leaders, "If every Christian was doing what you are doing, would the world be reached with the gospel in this generation?"*

This spawned a wave of amazing and inspirational lives passionately serving Christ. One of GCC's founders, Herschel Martindale, was one of those in that room.

Two years ago, my family along with a few others from my church began reaching out to the Chinese population on the University of Minnesota's campus where there are about 3,000 Chinese students. Eighty percent of them will return to their homeland having never stepped foot into an American's home. This moved my family and me. We thought that this has to break the heart of God. There are many closed countries around the world that you cannot legally go to as a

missionary. Instead, these governments are sending their best and brightest to our universities to get an education, and as believers we often fail to meet their needs and show them Jesus.

So, my wife and I took action. We started by inviting Chinese over for dinner and offering rides for them to run errands. Most of them had never heard the Gospel. We then began to have them live with us for short periods of time while they got their feet on the ground here in the states. This was an amazing opportunity for my family. The Great Commission has always been our mission, but it was difficult to practically do anything together as a family. Reaching out to the Chinese was the perfect fit. My little girls bring so much joy to the dear Chinese, which paves the way for us to discuss family, faith, and parenting.

Recently, a group of 13 Americans birthed a House Church to focus on reaching



Tim and his wife Kathy

the Chinese. The Lord began to move in our new friends' hearts, and they began coming to Christ and getting baptized.

Over the past year and a half, we have had ten students live with us. About 125 different Chinese have been through the door of The East house, and by God's grace, five have come to Christ. God is doing an amazing work.

For more information on reaching the nations from your own back yard, please email me at [tim@rockthechurch.com](mailto:tim@rockthechurch.com).

### PLANTING REGENERATION CHURCH: CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

By Dustin Hinton

*In 2012, talks became very serious about planting a new church in Cedar Rapids, IA. Under the guidance and leadership of New Life Community Church, three men decided to take the lead on this journey. With God's help, a team was formed, a service was held, and lives have been changed.*

In early 2012, I had been talking and praying with Tony Cook, about the possibility of planting another church in Cedar Rapids. We eventually approached the New Life pastors, about the idea, and they saw it as a great opportunity.

After much prayer and discussion, the pastors urged us to start building a team. One tremendous blessing was the addition of Sandy Pumphrey to our leadership team. After a couple of months of meeting with various people and families, we had a solid team of 34 adults and children.

In October 2012, Regeneration Church held its first service in the New Life building. It was an exciting time. One of the first hurdles was filling all of the various needs to facilitate a service. Everyone quickly stepped up, taking on one or more roles. In the few months we have been meeting, we have seen encouraging spiritual growth in our saints, and 6 baptisms.



The Regeneration church plant team.

In March 2013, God blessed us with an opportunity to meet in a local Community Arts Center. It is furnished with chairs, lighting, a sound system, and a full service kitchen, at a rate of \$120 per month! Praise God for answering prayer! We are all excited to see what He does next with our church.



# INTERNATIONAL



## CLUELESS FOLLOWERS

By David and Amy Cato

*In 1999, we went as high school students on a mission trip to Romania. At the time we were clueless that in one day we had each found our future mission field, marriage partner, and home! After several more 3-4 month trips in Bucharest, where we volunteered in schools, youth groups, and orphanages, we both independently realized we loved Romania, but needed more training.*

David entered a three-year Bible school in Texas, and Amy studied for a B.A. in Intercultural Ministries while participating in ISM (International Student Ministry) at a GCC church in Kansas. At school, David wrestled with God, sensing he must surrender his desire to go to Romania long-term.

On summer breaks, David ran a discipleship camp in Romania. He saw God miraculously provide staff, finances, and campers. After several years, he knew God was giving back his vision to live in Romania and plant churches. Amy came to help staff a camp in July 2006.

We were married in May 2007 and moved to Romania one month later. Though wanting to plant churches, we realized God wanted us to help at a local church and continue summer camps. Recently, after five years of prayer, God confirmed that it was time to join GCE (Great Commission Europe) and move to the central university town of Brasov.

We are involved in a church, have started a Bible study with unbelievers, and are asking God for believers to join the new church plant team. We have learned that faith means surrender, waiting, and



David and Amy Cato with their children.

moving only when God says, “go!” We are just the happy (often clueless) followers, wanting to pursue Christ, and enter into His gospel plans.

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## MONTERREY UPDATE

By Sergio Handal

*Great things are happening in Monterrey. Through a vibrant church, new small groups are being started in other parts of Mexico! This year, by God's grace, we will be starting new small groups in Queretaro, Oaxaca and Veracruz.*

Team members, located in those areas, are meeting with neighbors and coworkers trying to establish solid relationships and looking for opportunities to serve and lead them to Christ.

Our church in Monterrey is a great blessing. It has been growing steadily for the past 5 months. New people are coming every weekend and more small groups are being formed all over the city, catering to different interest groups and ages. The leaders have a great desire to multiply. This has enabled us to start new

endeavors and to offer opportunities for new leaders to influence and reach out to more people. Our slogan of “...being a church for the unchurched,” seems to be paying off as many people have been drawn into our community.

Through the many blessings, we still ask for your prayers for our leaders as well as the people in our city who are lost and want to know God in a more meaningful way. Because of the growth we're experiencing, we have to consider the possibility of starting a 3rd service or expanding our seating capacity. Please pray that God would lead the way in experiencing and managing growth.

We look forward to seeing and experiencing what God has planned for our church in Monterrey.



Sergio and his family.



GREAT  
COMMISSION  
CHURCHES

NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION TODAY

# INSIDE GCC

## GCC PASTORS CONFERENCE

JUNE 17-19  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Did you know that each and every one of us has a unique, special and critically important role in the history of the world? Did you know that you are as significant and as important to God's plan as Esther or John the Baptist? "How?" you ask.

Join us for this year's Great Commission Churches Pastors Conference and discover the impact we can have when we "Just Sow It!"



## MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION: DOUG BROWN



Doug and his wife Sharon.

Sharon and I have been married for 35 years. We have six children from the ages of twenty-two to thirty four. We also currently have nine grandchildren. I have had the privilege of planting two churches and of serving as a pastor at Lee's Summit Community Church in Kansas City for twenty-five years.

Since 1991, I have been involved with missions to various places in Asia. In 2006, I helped form SALT (Strategic Asia Leadership Team) with a team of GC Pastors. Our purpose is to catalyze and coach churches, and other partners, to the world of Asia through missions, healthy leader development and church planting. As of January 2013, after 25 years of pastoring Lee's Summit Community Church, I shifted chairs from my lead pastor role to founding pastor in order to focus full time on Asia mission development ([www.e3leadershipgroup.net](http://www.e3leadershipgroup.net)).

**Favorite Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:1 NASB *"You therefore my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."* This verse has influenced me since I was a young believer in Jesus Christ. Grace is not only how we are saved but it is also how we are to live the Christian life day by day. To be strong in grace means that I not only acknowledge my weakness but like the Apostle Paul, in humility, boast in them. This kind of grace is found in only one place — in a real relationship with Jesus Christ Himself.

**Advice:** Preach the Gospel to yourself everyday and believe it and then go and preach it to the lost.

## THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



*"Thanks be to God who always leads us in His triumph in Christ." 2 Corinthians 2:14*

Everyone likes to win. We all like to be successful.

As believers in Jesus Christ who desire to advance the gospel, an important question is this: How do we define success?

According to the verse above, we are automatically successful if we are believers in Christ. Christ is leading out in His eternal and

glorious triumph. And we as His followers are right there with Him in this victory march.

So what does God call on us to do now? Simply share the message of Christ. Don't worry about the visible results. Just sow it... and let God grow it!

In the history of the church believers have had this perspective towards "success." They simply "succeeded" in sharing the gospel... and they trusted God with the consequences. As a movement of churches, join us in this victory in Christ. Share your faith today. Just sow the message of the love of Christ... and let God do His marvelous work.



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