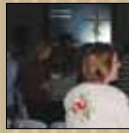




Vintage Faith in  
Manhattan, Kansas  
PAGE TWO



New location  
planted for River  
Ridge Church  
PAGE THREE



Thriving church  
plant in Monterrey,  
Mexico  
PAGE THREE



Meet the Pastor:  
Brent Knox  
PAGE FOUR



# CHRISTIANITY IN *action*

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2009

## CHANGING LIVES



### **BOB & PATTY HIBBING**

*Patty and I arrived at the foot of the cross from different angles.*

I was a pretty happy kid growing up, but found emptiness in considering the future, and found a clear sense of guilt

within myself, which drove me to put my faith in Christ for forgiveness. Patty, on the other hand, grew to be an angry child, frustrated with oldest-child responsibilities. When her father took her to an Andre Cole performance, and the gospel was shared, she prayed a sinner's prayer with Andre, trusting Jesus to give her peace in the midst of her turmoil.

We met through being in the same small group. Our 27-year journey together has required the Word of God! My work, in particular, has been a crushing load much of the time, but the result of going to God for wisdom and promises has built such a trust in His goodness that hope and confidence are now what I experience as my norm.

Our work is not done. We have desired to be an active part of "going and making disciples" for as long as we've been part of the original Ames Great Commission church. Our kids are five of them, and we have other disciples here in Ames, too, but we sense it's time for us to obey the call to "go." In May, 2010, our youngest child will graduate high school, and within a matter of days we will embark on a church plant to Decorah, Iowa.



### **JAY MARTIN**

*Dr. Jay Martin decided to put his medical training to use in figuring out a new model for providing long-term care to impoverished people.*

He recognized that caring for the poor has always been a command for the church, but can be challenging

for many reasons. In 2004, he formed Total Health, a medical charity that partners with local churches in Central America and serves as a model in developing long-term care programs that maximize resources available and benefit those in need. Total Health has already helped thousands of people in Honduras and Nicaragua. Patients receive basic health, dental, and eye care along with all of their medications. At the same time all patients receive spiritual care at every visit, whether it is to hear the gospel or for mature believers to be disciplined.

There are many Great Commission churches working with Total Health. Martin's family (son Jacob, daughter Elizabeth, and wife Roberta) also work for the ministry and often travel to Central America. If you have questions or would like to support this ministry you can reach Dr. Martin by email at [jaymartin@totalhealth.org](mailto:jaymartin@totalhealth.org).



An infant receives care at the Total Health clinic.

# MISSION USA

## NEW CHURCH PLANTS

### RIVER RIDGE CHURCH: TEAYS VALLEY, WEST VIRGINIA

By Chad Cobb

*River Ridge Church in Charleston, WV planted a second location in Teays Valley, WV in August 2008 with a plant team of 70 people.*

Teays Valley is a bedroom community approximately 30 minutes west of Charleston, which afforded us a chance to pursue a unique ministry model. River Ridge Teays Valley was started as a second location instead of a stand alone church. There were some apparent advantages to pursuing a “one church in two locations” model.

First, it allowed the leadership team to maintain continuity and have more opportunities to work together. Mark Lowe and Chad Cobb provide the day-to-day leadership of the second location, but have offices at the Charleston

building to be more fully involved in the overall ministry of both locations. Secondly, from a financial stewardship standpoint, it provided an opportunity where resources could be pooled and shared (e.g., administration, office space). This arrangement has worked very well.

It was amazing to watch God move through other churches to support the church plant during the plant phase. The plant team met for three months prior to “going public,” and during that time, a second church plant that was using the same building for a Saturday evening service allowed full use of their sound system and stage.

Also, fellow GCC church Grace Point Community Church graciously donated a trailer and supplies for storing



Worship at the new River Ridge location

our “church in a box.” The first “open” service was held in November at a local elementary school, where we saw 170 people join us! Since that time, God has been at work in this community and has continued to bring in new families that are being discipled.

### VINTAGE FAITH: MANHATTAN, KANSAS

By Rick Whitney

*Our Vintage Faith team now calls Manhattan, Kansas, and K-State home—and it’s feeling like home. We are encouraged in the Lord.*

We bought a church building! We can hardly believe it. Here we are, probably one of the smallest flocks in our movement and we thought we would be renting for awhile. But instead, we bought a building. God has provided financially through many amazing circumstances and gifts from our people and our sister churches. Thank you brothers.

Recently we had several spring break outreach teams come in and serve our community. People got saved.

I was encouraged by my brother Rory’s boldness when a young guy walked by our church and Rory said, “Hey, nice tattoo.” He replied, “Thanks. I created it. It’s a cross.”

Rory asked, “Does it mean anything to you?” And he replied, “It used to.”

Rory could see in this 20 year-old face that he had been partying pretty hard. So he asked, “Are you tired of partying?”

He replied, “Yeah, how’d you know?” A tear rolled down his cheek. People need the Lord.



The new home of Vintage Faith

# INTERNATIONAL

## ACTS 1:8 PLANS AND SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

*Acts 1:8 (NASB)*

This year, each church filled out an Acts 1:8 plan for reaching their city, state, country, and world. The plans were far-reaching and creative, including: trips to Haiti and Nepal, starting a multicultural church, reaching out to low-income senior citizens, ministering to juvenile offenders, Happy Clubs, and an annual Rocktoberfest. Ask your pastor what your church's Acts 1:8 plan is and how you can help support it.

Many summer mission trips/programs are designed to support the church's

Acts 1:8 plan. For example, "Leaders in Training" is an 11-week-long evangelism/church planting experience designed to help equip and prepare the next generation of spiritual leaders and church planters. This program will help kick-start a church plant in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Go to the GCC website at [http://www.gccweb.org/gcc/conferences/09summer\\_missions.asp](http://www.gccweb.org/gcc/conferences/09summer_missions.asp) to see a list of Summer 2009 mission trips and projects sponsored by churches in GCC.



## A CHURCH IN BLOSSOM: MONTERREY, MEXICO

*By Sergio Handal*

*Since we officially started our church services in Monterrey, Mexico in September 2006, God has just blessed us immensely.*

We started with all the families that moved from Honduras and just a couple of Mexicans. Now, we have a large, growing number of people exceeding the number of missionaries that started the church. This fills us with joy and commitment. The environment we live in on Sundays is a festive one. During the week, our small groups nurture the need of relationships and Bible study and the work ahead of us makes our heart beat faster.

We finished our first year with an attendance of 60 people and this year we pray God would bring 225 people into our church. Therefore, the need to move to a larger place is a mandatory one. For us numbers are not the most

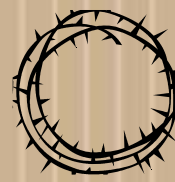
important thing because we understand that behind every person that walks through those doors there is a story. We also pray we would double our small groups in town and double the number of leaders. This is something that makes us really happy: to see how the Mexicans are starting to get involved in leadership as they have embraced the vision of the Great Commission. There are currently four friends from Mexico who are already involved in leadership.

This is a task greater than ourselves. We can only accomplish it with God's strength and help. Please pray for us so we may always follow God's lead, trust in His provision and lead His people in this wonderful country, full of challenges and opportunities. The story of the church in Mexico is being written now and we want to make sure we do our part. If you want to follow some news about our church, please visit [www.mtychurch.com](http://www.mtychurch.com) for the latest updates.



Sergio Handal, pastor of the church in Monterrey, Mexico





# INSIDE GCC

## CONFERENCES

PASTORS CONFERENCE: JUNE 22-24, 2009



This year's conference, at the Doubletree Hotel in Chesterfield, MO (near the St. Louis airport), focuses on pastors and upcoming leaders. **THIS MEANS YOU!** Save \$30 if you register by May 1.

Why do we devote ourselves to preaching and teaching? Why do we start and pastor churches? Why should we continue to give

ourselves and our resources to this great missionary effort over the next 20, 30, or 40 years? The answer is simple: changing lives.

At the 2009 Great Commission Churches Pastors Conference, our focus will be evangelism—sharing the gospel; preaching the good news of Christ; telling the world about Jesus, His death on the Cross, His resurrection, and His coming again to earth.

## MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION: BRENT KNOX



Life verse: John 15:7-8

Wisdom: Never stop growing, changing and developing. Examine your life and then develop new goals that push you farther and harder. The goals should be seen in your schedule. Someone famous said, "The unexamined life is not worth living."

From an ordinary student at Iowa State University, Brent (pictured here with his wife, Mary) is now the co-founding pastor of Evergreen Community Church. Evergreen is a unique multi-site church of about 2200 people at five locations in the Minneapolis area. Its innovative practices have modeled a fresh approach to reaching the unchurched and also pioneered the cutting-edge multi-site phenomena currently occurring across the country. Brent is also a regional director for Great Commission Northlands.

## CHANGED LIVES

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



*"We proclaim not ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as your bondservants for Jesus' sake." 2 Corinthians 4:5*

Paul's life had been changed from being a selfish person to one who was a bondservant for Jesus' sake. A bondservant in Bible times was a person who, from a heart of love, voluntarily gave himself to be a slave to another.

As a movement of churches we aspire to follow Paul's example. Because Jesus died for us, we now make Him our Master, resulting in a life of serving others for Jesus sake. Husbands and wives laying down their lives for each other. Parents and children considering each other more important than themselves. Church members giving up their "rights" to serve each other. And pastors serving church members and fellow pastors as bondservants for Jesus' sake.

Being part of a "band of brothers" is critical to seeing God's purposes fulfilled in our lives. That is precisely what Great Commission Churches is all about—people banding together to serve others for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Will you—for the sake of the Lord Jesus—lay down your life for your brothers and sisters in Christ?

