



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARTLAND CHURCH NETWORK

A VERY GOOD PLACE TO START AARON HOUSEHOLDER, AMS

*Let's start at the very beginning
A very good place to start
When you read, you begin with A-B-C
When you sing, you begin with Do-Re-Mi*

Yes, yes, yes. A-B-C. Do-Re-Mi. That's good for music. But, when one becomes an Associational Mission Strategist. Where does one start then?

History? Since 1958. Churches? Now 71 around the region. The Gospel? That changes lives. The Great Commission? That commands us to win disciples. Cooperation? Of our independent churches. Partnership? What we do best. Purpose? To start, connect, support churches.

Each a very good place to start. But, in my mind, and, because of my heart: **You are the very best place to start.**

You. Sisters and brothers in Christ. Fellow workers. Pastors. Leaders. Members. Bondservants. Disciples. Christ-followers. Friends.

You are the very best place to start.

"What are you most excited about?" Dozens have asked that about this new role. My answer is always, without hesitation the same, "The people." Without you, an obedient follower of Jesus, we would have no churches. Without you, an active disciple, we would have no association of churches.

To be called to serve you is humbling.

I am humbled by the blessing and support of Melanie—a wife of noble character, charm, and beauty—and my three, incredible children—Seth, Mary Elizabeth, and John Mark.

I am humbled at the privilege to have served my beloved Southview Baptist Church family in Lincoln for 16 years. Their patience and grace with me and their love of my family are gifts.

I am humbled to follow my friend and mentor, Mark Elliott. And now, I stand on Mark's shoulders—thankful for all he has built with you—as we look ahead together.



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OKLAHOMA MISSION TEAM

UPCOMING EVNETS

I am humbled by your prayers and loving support in my calling, your participation in your local church, your cooperation in our association. Thank you.

I am humbled to serve you—brothers and sisters in Christ—and your churches on purpose and for the Great Commission. If only I could get to know you all right away.

I am humbled to consider all our exceeding and abundant God has ahead for us as we grow Christ-followers, grow churches, and grow our association. Together.

I am humbled—after 33 years in the ministry—by God's call to begin this new chapter with you. **You are the very best place to start.**

Love in Christ,
Aaron

START

EACH ONE, PLANT ONE

SOWER CHURCH SENDS OUT CHURCH PLANTING COUPLE

For the first time in the church's history, Sower Church in Lincoln is sending out a couple to plant a church. Pastor Mike Whitney has led the thirty-eight-year-old church for the past ten years. Under his leadership, the church has grown, bought, and remodeled a building, changed its name, merged with a sister church, and intentionally equipped leaders for the harvest. The first fruits of that labor are Derek and Shannon Rempe who will be moving to Highland, Kansas.

Derek came to Christ through a collegiate ministry at Kansas University led by Dan Coke who is now on staff at Sower. The Rempes met at KU, where Shannon was on the swim team. After graduation, they followed Dan to Lincoln where they worked in a collegiate based church plant that later merged with Sower church. With their son and a new baby on the way, the Rempes will be partnering with NorthRidge Church. It is led by Network Pastor Charlie Robinson who has been with the church for almost thirty years—first as the youth pastor, then senior pastor, and now as the network pastor. Its vision is to “Reach and Equip People for Christ without Borders.” The new plant in Highland will be NorthRidge's sixth location. The original church was in Sabetha, KS and now there are churches or new plants in Seneca, KS, as well as Falls City, Humboldt, and Peru, Nebraska.



Charlie Robinson, Dan Coke, Derek and Shannon Rempe, and Mike Whitney



“REACH AND EQUIP PEOPLE FOR CHRIST WITHOUT BORDERS.”

Pastor Charlie gave the charge at the Sunday morning worship/commissioning services on March 27th. Using three primary passages, he commended the church's heart of compassion for Highland, a small community that needs a faithful gospel witness, and for their willingness to send out one of their best couples into the harvest field (Matthew 9:36-38). He spoke to the reality that every believer is gifted and called by God and should be willing to go when He calls (Isaiah 6:8). Pastor Charlie pointed out that the great commission calls us to prioritize making disciples, which simply means helping one another be more like Jesus (Matt 28:19-20). He closed by stating that this mission is the same for all of us: everyone, everywhere, all the time engaging others. He pointed out that being a Christian isn't a one-day a week event we attend, but a lifestyle we live day-by-day.

Following the message, the church elders laid hands on and prayed for Derek and Shannon. For additional information on Derek and Shannon you can go to: <https://sowerchurch.com/2022/03/introducing-highland-ks-church-plant/>

SUPPORT

EACH ONE, REACH ONE

SPRING BREAK DESTINATION: OMAHA “BEACH?”



Usually, the phrase college spring break is associated with the name of some beach in Florida or Texas. For a group of college students from Oklahoma, it meant a trip to Omaha—but it sure wasn't close to any beach. Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) Director Jay Kindsvater who serves at Redlands Community College in El Reno and Oklahoma State University at Oklahoma City brought his third different spring break college mission team to the Omaha area. The last time was in 2019 when they had the privilege of doing some extra driving as we had plenty of water in the Omaha area, but still no beaches.

The team arrived late Thursday night and did prep work in the morning and passed out flyers in the community in the afternoon for a children's outreach event to be held at the Omaha Baptist Center. The Saturday outreach event supported the work of two churches (Faithful Hearts and Christ Foundation) and a ministry (Freeway) that utilize the facility. Jay enlisted the help of Dale Phillips of CareActor Ministries out of Hastings who does Christian dramatic monologues. The event wrapped up with lunch the students prepared for everyone.

They shifted to the Heartland Church Network building later in the day to serve with Freeway Ministries led by Rick and Sherri Lechner during their weekly outreach event. Sunday morning they worshipped with Pastor Shane Lester and Renewed Hope and in the afternoon they joined Pastor James Guek at First Evangelical as both churches use the HCN building where the team also stayed.

Then on Monday and Tuesday, they worked with Tanner Devereaux who serves as HCN's property manager and as a church planter intern for Way Maker Church at the HCN office building. There, the team helped paint in the preschool and children's rooms that are being renovated and then did tree and brush clean-up on the property. On Wednesday, they relaxed at Omaha's famous Henry Doorly Zoo before they headed back to Oklahoma on Thursday morning—a busy week!

As Jay reflected on the week he asked, "When's the last time you read Isaiah 9:2-7? Maybe you will need Handel's Messiah playing in the background in order to get just how wonderful Jesus is:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end; Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

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CONNECT

Rev. T. Michael Williams Installed as 27th Pastor of Historic Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

On Sunday, April 3rd, the sanctuary of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church was filled with members and well-wishers, as Rev. T. Michael Williams was installed as the 27th pastor of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Omaha. The historic church has ministered to the community for over 135 years. Pastor T. Michael served as the Evangelism and NextGen Pastor of Mt. Moriah from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021, before he began serving as pastor. Rev. Williams had previously led Risen Son Baptist Church BGC of Omaha for thirty years. In collaboration with Rev. Dr. Ralph Lassiter, who stepped into the Pastor Emeritus role at Mt. Moriah on January 1, Pastor Williams led Risen Son to merge with Mt. Moriah with the churches retaining the name and location of Mt. Moriah.

T. Michael is a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he grew up attending Mt. Olive Baptist Church with his family, and was influenced by his Uncle James who served as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. When T. Michael shared with his uncle the sense of God's calling to serve as a pastor, the advice he received was, "It's a suffering way" reflective of the role of an under-shepherd who is also willing to be a suffering servant. After moving to Omaha in 1986, Pastor Williams earned an undergraduate degree in Bible and Pastoral Ministries and a Master's in Biblical Studies from Grace University.

He is married to Omaha native Cheryl D. (Jones) Williams. Sister Cheryl graduated from Omaha Central High School, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a Master's Degree from Bellevue University. Having worked in the banking industry, she now serves as an IT Quality expert for one of the nation's largest logistics and transportation companies. Sister Williams is passionate about shaping the next generation of children and youth.

Rev. Williams shares his wife's concern for the next generation, as he served on the board of Child Evangelism Fellowship for 25 years, ten years as chairman, and twenty-two years in leadership at summer Bible camps. Pastor T. Michael has been very active in the community.



Continued Next Page

CONTINUED:**REV. T. MICHAEL WILLIAMS INSTALLED AS 27TH PASTOR OF HISTORIC MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH**

He has served on the Southeast Area Police Advisory Board, as a member of both the Omaha Public Schools Strategic Planning and the Bond Acquisition Committees, and as President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. Pastor Williams' community service was recognized when he was presented the 2016 MLK Jr. Drum Major Award from Creighton University. His years of faithfulness also opened the door to his recent election as the President of the Omaha branch of the NAACP.

The installation preacher for the service was Pastor Dwayne Hawkins, President of the New Era Baptist State Convention of Nebraska and Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church of Omaha. Words of Encouragement were extended by Rev. Aaron Householder the Associational Mission Strategist for the Heartland Church Network. The Installation Officiant for the service was Pastor Kenneth Allen of Zion Baptist Church. The Charge to the Church was given by Pastor Brian Page of Pleasant Green Baptist Church, and the Charge to the Pastor was given by Pastor Cedric Perkins of Pilgrim Baptist Church.

The installation prayer was led by Rev. Dr. Ralph Lassiter after all ministers present came forward and laid hands on Pastor Williams. Sister Carol Hooks, President of the Baptist Minister's Wives Council of Nebraska, made a special presentation to Sister Cheryl Williams.

That was followed by special presentations to the couple from the Next Gen Ministry and Elders of Mt. Moriah, and Pastor Emeritus Ralph Lassiter presented Rev. T. Michael with a new leather binder for sermon notes and a new Five Translation Bible signed by all the ministers in attendance.

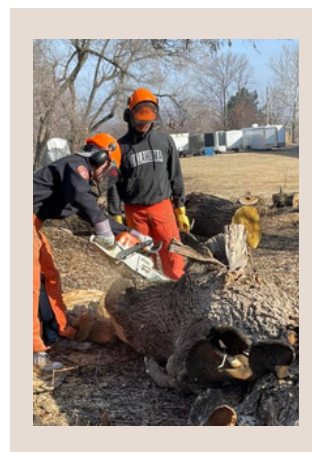
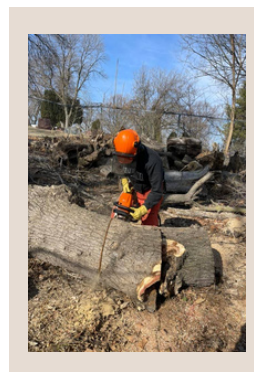
In Pastor Michael's closing remarks, he referenced the ministry theme verses of Dr. Lassiter, Proverbs 3:5-6, and then briefly discussed his, Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Pray for Pastor T. Michael as he steps into the leadership role at Mt. Moriah.

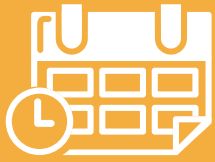
**CONTINUED: SPRING BREAK DESTINATION: OMAHA "BEACH?"**

Then Jay stated, "What I saw on our BCM mission trip reminded me He still is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace that brings light to a dark world, joy in the harvest and He's still breaking the yoke of slavery!"

On our mission trip I visited 3 growing wonderful churches: one where the youth led the service, one was with the people of South Sudan (they started 30ish minutes late and then went for 2 hours plus), and then a church with folks who knew what it was like to be homeless, living in the darkness of addictions and then meeting the Savior to walk in His light. We painted, did chainsaw work, ministered to the children, fed many, shared testimonies, worshipped with several, and all of us grew in Jesus! Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for the sweet fellowship that we have in Jesus. Thanks for the privilege to walk alongside of you as we were following Jesus."

Thank you Jay and your team for choosing Omaha's ministry field rather than a beach in balmy Texas or Florida. The Kingdom of God was blessed by your presence!





LOOKING AHEAD

Disaster Relief Training 2022

The Heartland Church Network's Disaster Relief team invites you to join us for the 2022 Disaster Relief Training Event. LifeSpring Church (13904 S. 36th St. Bellevue, NE 68123) will host the training Saturday, May 21, 2022. Disaster Relief ministers to communities in North America in the wake of natural disasters. If you are interested in joining us in this ministry, please register for this one-day training event to equip you with the skills and confidence to respond when disaster strikes.



LIFE CHANGER MISSIONS

Changing Lives One House at a Time

SIoux CITY, IA JUNE 12-18

WE ARE ENTERING THE FINAL DAYS TO REGISTER FOR LIFE CHANGER MISSIONS 2022! THERE ARE ONLY 27 SPOTS LEFT, DON'T WAIT!

Life Changer Missions (LCM) is a nonprofit missions organization that focuses on equipping and leading service teams in meeting the physical needs of others all with the aim of ministering and sharing the gospel.

In 2022 we are partnering with be partnering with Heartland Community Baptist Church to serve their local community. For more information and to register visit www.HeartlandChurchNetwork.org.





HEARTLAND CHURCH NETWORK

CHILDREN'S CAMP



JULY 18-22, 2022 • CAMP OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, LOUISVILLE, NE



Children's Camp is 5-days full of fun and Jesus! Kids will get to go swimming, play games, make crafts and hear from real-life missionaries! Parents can count on a quality, safe, and affordable opportunity that ensures your children will experience a week to remember. This camp is for children who have completed 2nd - 6th grades. Junior Leaders must be 14 and have a recommendation from their pastor.

REGISTER NOW FOR CHILDREN'S CAMP 2022! FORMS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL CAN BE FOUND WWW.HEARTLANDCHURCHNETWORK.ORG

WE ARE HIRING!

The Project Coordinator is responsible for various projects and events in support of HCN and our cooperating churches. This is a part-time, hourly position with flexible hours and some work being done remotely. Average of 20 hours per week with more hours possible as projects and events need.

The ideal candidate will live in the Omaha area and be a member of a cooperating church and have desires both to serve others and enable others to serve.

If this job isn't for you, maybe you know someone you can share it with.

Contact the HCN office for a job description or to learn more.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

- RETREATS/CONFERENCES
- CHILDREN'S CAMP
- CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April

29-30 Minister & Spouse Retreat

May

10 Northeast Pastor Fellowship

11 Lincoln Pastor Fellowship

12 Omaha Pastor Fellowship

21 Disaster Relief Training 2022

June

9 Omaha Pastor Fellowship

14 Northeast Pastor Fellowship

12-18 Life Changer Missions 2022

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