

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH DEVELOPER'S CALL FOR NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The first ABCD call for 2007 is to support the ministry and mission of one of our newest church plants, New Life Christian Community Church in St. Louis Missouri. In May of 2006 a group of people came together, led by, Reverend Henrietta Brown, for the purpose of studying the Bible. The question was, 'How do I live a Christian lifestyle, without fear of contradiction and in the face of an unchristian world?' Over a year ago, when the Regional Church Planting Council reviewed the written narrative of this church planter -- we all "knew" that portions of that narrative had to be a part of the call letter for this New Church Plant. The following excerpts are a part of Rev. H. Brown's testimony about the ministry and vision of New Life Christian Center!



"Several weeks after the adult Bible study began I started a youth Bible study held on Thursday evenings. The youth, ages 13 – 18, expressed an interest in learning the Bible on their level and in a way that is relevant to their young lives. And so this youth Bible study is composed of study in action – we utilize tools and resources such as current movies, books of interest to them, and outings including food and fellowship in the park as a backdrop to make meaning of how God's Word is relevant to the everydayness of our lives. These resources are used to help the youth make the connection with God beyond the Sunday morning worship and Wednesday Bible study experience.

These last few months of coming together, sharing God's Word with both youth and adult, have been exciting. I am eager to continue God's work and look forward to us beginning Sunday worship services. The Lord has called me to begin a new work – a new church start. The vision that God has given me for the new church finds its foundation in John 10:10b: "...I have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly".

The life offered us by God through Jesus is one of love, peace and wholeness. Beyond a more abundant life blessed with things – fine houses, a wealth of friends and family, and good standing in the community – God invites us to find abundant life in Him. The new church start seeks to bring light to the fact that God is present with us at all times and we can embrace a newness of life found in Jesus Christ. Through powerful preaching and teaching of the Holy Scriptures and mission activities such as literacy and other social needs programs, this new church start hopes to reconnect what God has created with His intended purpose of our use of it. Unfortunately, we have disconnected some fruitful aspects of life and labeled them 'secular'. God created the world and everything in it, and then He declared that it was good. He then entrusted us to care for it and use it for His purposes.

As God meets each of us where we are, calling us to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, He encourages us to continue together in the preaching and teaching of His Word, to commune with Him in prayer and to remain in fellowship with one another. However, many long to be in fellowship with God and with the faith community, eager to partake in the preaching and teaching of God's Word, but feel excluded for one reason or another. As the church, essentially the voice of God, we are placed in the position to meet people where they are and point them to Christ. The truest sense of church on the local level is a community of diverse people embracing unity in Jesus Christ. This is the mission of the new church start."

Now almost a year later, New Life Christian Community Church has a small faithful worshipping community as well as two ongoing Bible Study groups. The youth component of New Life continues to grow stronger and the congregation remains faithful to their vision of reaching people for Jesus Christ!

The gift you give today will make it possible for American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region to continue sharing the love of God and Jesus Christ in and around the South-side of Saint Louis in partnership with this new congregation and planter. You are invited to send your gifts of support today!

**Send your check in the enclosed envelope today!
ABC-GRR POB 3786 Springfield, IL 62708**

If you want more information regarding New Church Planting in the Great Rivers Region through the ABCD program please contact the GRR Regional Office for more information.217-726-7366