



GTChurch Newsletter

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*The mission of GT Church
is to be a lighthouse
to the community
and to send beams of light
all over the world*

Service Times

Sunday - 9a traditional
Sunday - 10:45a contemporary



GT CHURCH

From the Pastor

I believe God wants His followers to be extraordinary. He wants us to stand out...be a light in the darkness. This is my vision for GT Church. Recently, I was reading John MacArthur's book: *Twelve Ordinary Men*. He points out how, in Matthew Chapters 8, 9, and 10, Jesus shares leadership responsibilities with his disciples. Our Lord chose ordinary men and trained them to become extraordinary leaders. There are four natural progressions in their training. First, they simply followed Jesus. These followers grew as they listened to and learned from His teachings. A fundamental principle of discipleship training is that you cannot be trained as a leader if you are not interested in learning and following. In other words, it is difficult to lead others if you have not first learned to follow. How can you lead if you do not understand being led? Second, there must be commitment. When Jesus called these men, they left everything to follow him. You cannot be extraordinary if you fail to commit. If there is absence of self-sacrifice, there is absence of service. There is a connection between dying to self and service to God and for God. We are living in the most self centered society since the days of Noah. Jesus showed His followers the virtue of true servant leadership. Commitment to something greater than self gain is the key to becoming a servant leader like our Wonderful Lord. Third, there is internship. The Twelve had experiential opportunities and were privileged to spend premium time with Jesus, being mentored and taught by Him. Think of it. How would you like to be mentored personally by the Son of God? Such education and experience can not be obtained in Seminary. It is through the process of internship that their character was shaped and their destiny fashioned. The final step of extraordinary leadership is empowerment for specific service. This is primarily the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus instructed His followers to stay in Jerusalem until they received the dynamic power from the Holy Spirit so that they might fulfill the Great Commission (Acts 1:8). These were ordinary men. It was the power of the Holy Spirit that made them extraordinary. The lesson here is God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things so that He can be glorified. John MacArthur says, "God's favorite instruments are nobodies, so that no man can boast before God."

MISSIONS

"...that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

Romans 9:17



GT Church supports Missionaries Paul and Becky Hancock. Metro Detroit these days has the fourth largest resettlement of Middle Eastern refugees in the U.S. In fact, the east side of nearby Dearborn is 97 percent Arab Muslim. Missionaries Paul P. "Trey" and Becky Hancock, Assemblies of God U.S. missionaries serving with Intercultural Ministries, know these numbers well. They've answered God's call to bring the love of Jesus to this unique population. Hancock, 64, and his wife, Becky, live in Dearborn, where they connect with Arab Muslims.

Hancock says God planted the seeds of his call during his teenage years in Birmingham, Alabama. During the early 1970s, Hancock says the revival that swept high schools in that city spurred him to reach across cultural barriers.

While in Dearborn for cultural training in 1987, he says God called him to reach Arab Muslims. In 2000, Hancock started Springwells Church in Dearborn. The church keeps a constant stream of ministry activities going to reach Arab Muslims: drama, Royal Rangers, kids programs, and park outreach events.

The church sits less than 10 minutes away from the Islamic Center of America, in the heart of a neighborhood that's 97 percent Muslim. "Jesus said, "I want you here." So we're here," Hancock said. "And what better place in the whole wide world to find people that don't know Jesus, that need him and need what Jesus has to offer."

"Right here; we're not making it hard for them to come to the Lord," he continued.

The church began meeting in the Hancocks' home in 2000, more than a decade after the pastor and his family first arrived in Dearborn to minister to Muslims. Hancock says he heard the call of God while in Dearborn receiving cultural training. "And just walking and just praying, got down to about right here, right here at this very spot, and the Lord spoke to me and said, "If you're going to learn about these people, you've got to live with them," he explained to CBN News while standing in a neighborhood on the city's south side. "And I thought, "Whoa! That didn't come from me. I knew who that was; it was really clear; it was really distinct, and it was a prompting from the Holy Spirit. And I said, "Okay, Lord."

It took Hancock five years before he saw his first converts in Dearborn - five Arab-Muslims who accepted Christ at a Bible club held in his home. However, Hancock is convinced that many Muslims in Dearborn already believe in Christ, yet are afraid to say so because of the high cost of conversion.

Hancock is overjoyed when Muslims accept Jesus. "It lights my fire, man," he said. "When they say yes to Jesus, it's an amazing thing. It's an amazing thing, especially after they get baptized because that's when they're saying to the world, "I belong to Jesus." In ministering in this area, spiritual warfare is definitely involved. For example, Hancock says in the last decade, more than a dozen churches in the Dearborn area have been sold to Muslims and turned into mosques.

On one former church now known as the American Muslim Center, the cross has been removed from the steeple. On another, an Islamic House of Wisdom sign has actually been placed over the cross on the steeple.

Still, Hancock knows the Muslims who purchase the churches are not the enemy. "I'm not fighting them cause I want them to come to Jesus," he explained. The pastor looks forward to the day he learns many Muslims have responded to the Gospel message through his ministry. "I hope when I stand in front of the Lord that there are thousands standing behind me that I had no idea that were listening," Hancock shared.



A Ministry for Children and Youth

The vision of GT Church is to be a lighthouse in this community and to send beams of light out around the world for the cause of Christ. We recently advanced this vision by investing in Christian Outreach Center. GT Church had the honor of donating a 25 passenger People Mover Van to the Pinellas Christian Outreach Center. This van will be used to pick up underprivileged children in our community for ministry. Christian Outreach Center has been ministering to children in Pinellas County for over 20 years. Their mission is simple: to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to needy children and their families by ministering both to physical and spiritual needs. This van will be used weekly to fulfill this mission for the Glory of God.



*Pastor Tim Marshick
of Christian Outreach
Center*



GT Church people mover finds a new home at the Christian Outreach Center



Reverend Terrell (Terry) Raburn currently serves as the Superintendent of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God and facilitates the management of the district with its various ministries and leadership responsibilities that incorporate assisting approximately 1,400 credentialed ministers and 350 churches. As Superintendent, Terry also oversees the District Office staff and the daily workload of the various departments, assists district ministers with problems and is always on call for emergencies across the peninsula. Terry and Athena travel to churches weekly to minister, dedicate facilities, and serve the people of our district in any capacity needed.



He represents the Fellowship nationally and overseas while serving as Chairman of Southeastern University, a member of the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God, and is a board member for Real Life Children's Ranch, Native American University and American Bible Society for life. Among the Superintendent's many assignments, he also sits on the Board of Directors for the Church Extension Plan Group and speaks at conferences and councils in the U.S. and internationally.



Terry earned a Master's degree from Southeastern University and a degree in Political Science, Sociology, and Anthology from the University of Alabama. He also has a background in Communications, in Radio Broadcasting and News Reporting for the Beirut Daily Star.

Terry and Athena are both ordained ministers in the Assemblies of God, and Athena holds a degree in Business Administration. Together the Raburns authored the story of their missionary journey in the Middle East, *Under the Guns in Beirut*, and a discipleship book for teens, *Starting Blocks*, and numerous articles for publications and periodicals. In 1990, Terry began serving as the National Director of the Divisions of Church Ministries in the General Council Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. Responsibilities included Youth, Chi-Alpha, Speed the Light, Women's Ministries, Missionettes, Men's Ministries, Royal Rangers, and Light for the Lost, Music Department, Sunday School, BGMC and Christian Education. During his tenure, Raburn facilitated the development of programs and church educational materials and represented the Fellowship in travel and on many boards. In 1996 Terry Raburn became the Superintendent and Home Missions Director of Peninsular Florida.

Reverend Terry Raburn is a fourth generation preacher whose grandfathers on both sides of his family were pioneers in Pentecost, as well as Charter Members of the Assemblies of God in the Florida and Georgia districts. Terry's mother and father were church planters and pastors in the southeast.

Over the past 45 years, Bob and Beverly Roberts have served as Youth Pastors, Senior Pastors, and Foreign Missionaries with the Assemblies of God. The message of their hearts is rooted in the Word of God communicating God's heartbeat for those who have yet to hear the message of the Gospel.

The Roberts' missions experience consisted of 14 years as missionaries to the Philippines. While serving in the Philippines, Bob oversaw numerous ministries that included the director of Asia's Little Ones, an Assemblies of God holistic ministry for the children of Asia Pacific and director of ICI, International Correspondence Institute.

In 2020, Bob stepped down as Senior Pastor of New Life Christian Fellowship in Grand Blanc, Michigan where he served for 20 years. He presently remains on staff at New Life as an associate pastor overseeing missions and other ministries. He also teaches *Introduction To World Missions* at Northpoint College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

One of his greatest joys has been to serve on the Michigan District Missionary Board that approves all future missionaries for the Assemblies of God from Michigan.

Bob studied at Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, North Dakota, Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, and APTS, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary in the Philippines.



GT Dinner Club

Saturday, February 12; 5 pm - Billy's Stone Crab: 1 Collany Rd, Tierra Verde, FL 33715

All are invited to enjoy a great evening of fun, fellowship and great food at Billy's Stone Crab restaurant in Tierra Verde. Call the church office to reserve your spot.

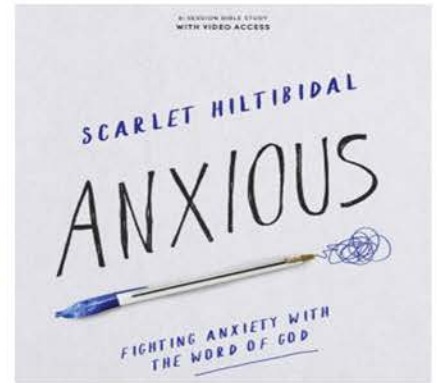
"We want you, our guest, to escape with us to a place where we all slow down and enjoy the beauty of the watercolor skies with a favorite beverage, meal, and person. Billy's is a place where you can feel like you're on vacation, whether you live 500-miles away or just down the block."

Billy's Stone Crab and Seafood Restaurant and Bar - where every day is a celebration of natural beauty and great food."



GT Women - Tuesday 10 am - starting February 15
Anxious - Fighting Anxiety With The Word of God

There are many reasons to worry. And one reason not to. We live in a broken, sad, scary place where there's plenty to be anxious about. But true peace comes when we learn to hold God's Word up to what worries us. There, we learn we can't fix ourselves; we can't protect ourselves. Instead, the Bible tells us we can rest knowing that Jesus walked into the broken, sad and scary places to rescue us and love us. This is an 8-week Bible study. Refreshments will be served.



GT Church is sending a missions team to Kenya, Africa from April 25 - May 5 to work with **Connect With A Child** ministry. Pastor Helms will be training Kenyan pastors during the trip, and the rest of the team will be supporting the ministry in various ways. The church will hold a fish fry to support this missions trip in March. Check the church calendar for the date.



Village to Village Orphanage

Connect with a Child children's homes are constructed in the form of small, vibrant communities we refer to as villages. The village setting is representative of a familiar traditional dwelling for many ethnic groups in Africa.



Building Schools Project

Since 2016, Connect With A Child decided to be involved in Building a high School in Siaya to help change the lives of hundreds of thousands of children across Kenya. With the help of many we have made progress.



Water Project

For the 1.1 billion people in the developing world who lack access to safe water supplies, water is a very precious commodity. Pure water is needed for drinking, irrigation for gardens, hygiene, food preparation and many other aspects of daily life.

Prime Time Senior Adult Ministry

Fellowship Hall

Join Pastor Ken & Susan Pippin for Prime Time. Prime Time is a Senior Adult Ministry for anyone age 55 and above. Food, Fellowship, Worship and the Word. Join us every Thursday @ 9:30am.



GT Youth

Youth Center

Church Youth Group Services Thursday Nights! Middle School and High School Students Time: 7 – 8:30 PM. You can expect FREE FOOD, FUN, and FRIENDS. The whole point of ReaLife is to live life to the fullest. This means having a relationship with the Creator, being part of a healthy community of people, and focusing on serving others rather than ourselves. Come join us in making a difference!



GT Kids

Fellowship Hall

GT Kids is an exciting environment where children grades K-5th, grow physically, mentally, socially and most importantly, spiritually! We provide a path each child can follow as they mature in their walk with Christ using stories, learning games, puppets, characters and much more. Join us Sundays @ 9:30am.



Apologetics

Our young adults meet the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at Pastor Heath and Shannan's house. Apologetics is all about defending the Christian faith through facts, science, scripture, and more.



All Church Fellowship Dinner

Fellowship Hall

Join us each Wednesday night for a home cooked meal from Sister Martha O'Dell. We serve from 5:30 until just before classes begin at 7 PM.



Royal Rangers for Boys

Room FH-1

The focus of Royal Rangers is to help boys develop into young men who have the skills to make good sound decisions, strong moral character, exemplify leadership skills and are founded in the Word of God. Clubs meet every Wednesday night at 7PM and are geared to meet the boys at their individual levels while encouraging them in their physical, emotional and spiritual growth.



Girl's Ministries

Class Rooms

Girls Ministries is a program developed for girls ages 3-12th grade. Each club is designed to meet the needs of girls at their individual levels. All the clubs meet Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at GT Church. Please check out the individual club information and find the group designed with you in mind.

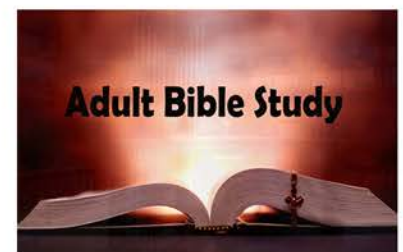


Adult Bible Study

New Bible Study: Core Values

Each Wednesday Night at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

The Bible teaching about Christian core values is pertinent and necessary for every believer. Values are deeply held beliefs that help guide the follower of Christ in their behavior and decision making. It forms the culture of any family or organization. The United States had these Biblical values sown into its formation. These values are the foundation of all our laws. Today, the enemy would have us abandon these Biblical values and embrace more worldly values. Worldly values include wealth, power, pleasure, revenge, fame, vanity and status. These are the most important things to people who perceive no power or purpose beyond themselves. Worldly values promote jealousies, resentments and conflicts among people in accordance with the purposes of Satan. The values taught in the Bible are often the opposite of worldly values: Faithfulness, Honor, Integrity, Respect and the Sanctity of Life are values taught in the Word of God. Christian values promote peace and good will among people in accordance with the purposes of God. We will never achieve perfection in this life, but those people who strive to obey God often find a sense of joy and peace that no worldly rewards can match! Join us in this in depth study of Core Values that will help us fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives.



Prayer Meeting

Sanctuary

We are a people who believe in the power of prayer, and as such, we want to take an opportunity to come together weekly where we can intercede for our children, grandchildren and students, as well as their parents and guardians. We will also be lifting up our pastor, staff and church family. If you are unable to join us in the sanctuary on Tuesday mornings, please know we covet your prayers wherever you may be. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Men’s Ministry Breakfast

Fellowship Hall

GT Church Men’s ministry meets for breakfast the 3rd Saturday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast is served at 8 am, and a time of fellowship and encouragement follows. Join us as we discuss the issues confronted by Godly men in an ungodly culture. Men of all ages are invited. Bring your friends and your sons!



Beauty for Ashes

Bible Study Room

All ladies are invited to a time of spiritual refreshing with an emphasis on prayer and worship. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call 727-323-5017.

Is. 61:1-3 “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and ... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”

