

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



DIVINE CONNECTION BUILDS FAITH & GIVES CLEAN WATER

John Mueller, pastor at Sonlight Church in Angola, Indiana, wanted to engage his church in international missions and mentioned it to a fellow pastor at the annual conference last year. The friend recommended Healing Waters International. Healing Waters is committed to bringing clean water to communities around the world and helping to end the global water crisis. When John met their representative at the conference, he made a divine connection that would change lives in Haiti and in 3 midwestern churches.

After the conference, Healing Waters contacted John and Sonlight's elders to discuss a target site in Haiti. When the representative told the group that they wanted to provide clean water in Belle Anse, the group witnessed a divine connection. The church already partners with Belle Anse to provide meals and much more through A Step for Haiti. For a year, the program founder, Greg Rathburn, a Sonlight member who works in Haiti, had been praying for a water source

for the village. By partnering with Healing Waters, Sonlight Church could provide the water source, a filtration system, and hygiene training, but the cost would be double the amount of most Healing Waters projects, at \$34,900. However, they knew that this connection had been orchestrated by God.

Believing that God had connected them to the project in Haiti, they reached out to two other churches, Pine Hills Church, Kendallville, Indiana, and The Remedy in Reading, Michigan – churches that already supported the ministry. In November, 2018, Sonlight committed their annual Harvest Offering to the project, raising \$15,500, the most they had ever raised during the same time period. The Remedy, a 3-year-old church plant, contributed to the project in December, and Pine Hills Church, Kendallville, another 3-year-old church plant, contributed in February, 2019. Together, the two churches raised the remaining amount needed to bring water to Belle Anse.



Fort Wayne Area Worship Teams Build Unity

In March, 9 Fort Wayne area worship teams from various churches met to foster a community of worship that transcends each individual church. They began meeting last year after Tyler Nickols of Brookside Church and his brother, Craig, of Harvest Fellowship came up with the idea. The brothers reached out to their friend, Jordan Applegate, at Pine Hills City Church, and the three worship leaders brought their teams together to learn from one another and build community.

During the quarterly gatherings, the worship teams spend time socializing and worshipping together. Then, they divide into their respective areas--vocalists, drums, guitars, keyboards, etc. An experienced worship musician who can develop people and answer questions leads the breakout session.

When Tyler's worship team needed more electric guitarists, he asked God to bring more musicians. Within a couple of months, God brought 3 more guitarists. During the following worship gathering breakout, Dontae Harris from Pine Hills Church, was able to work with the electric guitarists on accompanying worship, helping to continue to grow the team. He explained the best part about worship teams gathering together: "As children of God, we aren't supposed to keep our best tricks of the trade close to our chest, so to speak. We are to share them without worry if other people are ahead of us."

Grace Church Launches Pastoral Residency

When Caleb McClarren graduated from college, he accepted a residency with a church in the Detroit, Michigan, area. During his time as a resident at Cornerstone Baptist Church, Roseville, he became a more experienced pastor. As he reflected on his training, Caleb said, "From the way I pray, to lesson planning, to preaching, to people care, there is hardly a day that goes by that I don't reference the time that I spent as a resident." Today, as the student ministries pastor at Grace Church, Morton, Illinois, he is training the next generation of pastors by hosting their first student ministries resident, Alex Bode.

When Grace decided to launch a pastoral residency, Caleb developed the requirements and job description, and they posted the opening at several colleges. Now, Alex, a graduate of Boyce College in Louisville, Kentucky, has already completed his first year at Grace, and they have asked him to stay on for another year. While he works closely with Caleb and leads the middle school ministry, Alex is being trained in all areas of pastoral ministry.

Eventually, Grace Church will send Alex out to serve a local church, equipped and experienced. Caleb summarizes his passion for the program by saying, "I want to play a part in sending men out to make disciples and to lead churches for the long haul."

