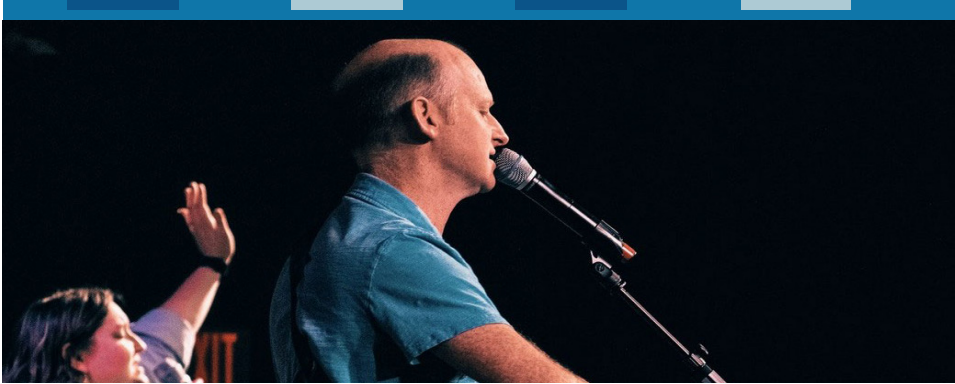


FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Grace Community Church Releases New Worship Song on Spotify

Kyle Schanbacher, the worship pastor at Grace Community Church (GCC) in Newton, Kansas, has written and released a new worship song. "Send Us Out" is an anthem for Christ followers to "live missionally," Kyle says. GCC challenges its members to follow Christ's example and gather with their neighbors, co-workers, and friends around their own tables and in their own homes. In singing this song, Kyle's hope is for people to be "inspired and encouraged as they prepare to share Christ."

"Send Us Out" was written during Pastor Kyle's sabbatical last summer. As he meditated on God's Word and sought guidance from the Holy Spirit, Kyle saw an opportunity to compose a prayer centered around reaching people for Christ. "Our songs also convey God's word; it's not just the sermon. Songs can preach to us as well. I felt like there was a need for a song like this." Based heavily on 2 Corinthians 2-5, Paul's charge is echoed in the song's lyrics - "Because we believe, so we will speak. Because of

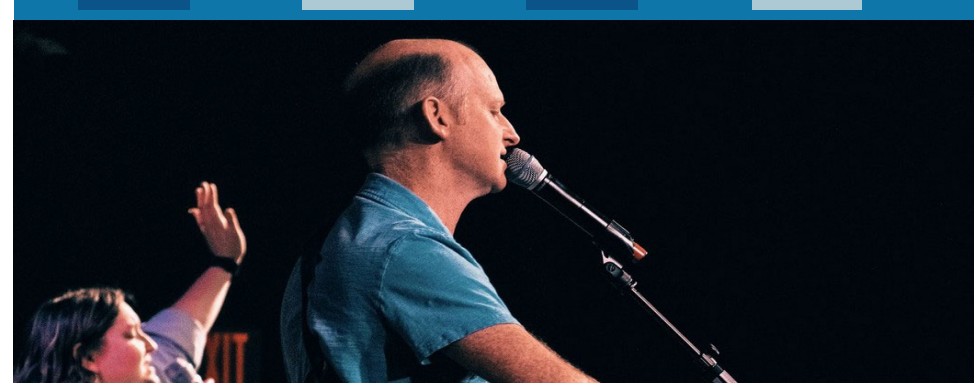
your love, the lost we will seek."

Pastor Kyle's hope is to see God's people take those words to heart and be Jesus to those around them, himself included. "I can't sing that song and not think about my own neighborhood." One of the ways Grace Community Church does this is by conducting Summer Quests each year. Similar to VBS, Summer Quest is an outreach to the community at many locations - parks, backyards, etc. This helps the church step out and connect to its neighbors, bringing truth and good news to nearby children and families. Kyle says it can also be as simple as saying hello, taking someone to coffee, being a listening ear, etc. We never know how God will use our efforts to reach others, bring encouragement, and build his Kingdom.

"Send Us Out" is available on Spotify and all other platforms. You can reach out to Pastor Kyle directly for chord charts, questions, and more information at kyle@gccnewton.com.

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FEC Offers First “Band of Brothers” Support Group for Spanish-Speaking Pastors

In April, a new THRIVE support group formed, comprised of Spanish-speaking ministry leaders. The group meets every four to six weeks for an hour on Zoom to check in, fellowship, pray together, and encourage one another in Spanish. Led by Hal Lehman, FEC Cross-Cultural Church Multiplication Coordinator, this “Band of Brothers” is a safe place for leaders to discuss the unique joys and challenges of growing their various ministries. “It turns into a rich discussion,” says Hal. “For me, the hour goes really quick.”

Pastor Hugo Reyes, originally from Venezuela, who now leads the Spanish ministry at Pine Hills Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has received a lot of encouragement after joining this group. “The fact that I get to share with other people in a position similar to mine, I immediately feel connected. Someone can closely relate to me. It makes you feel like you’re not alone.”

Band of Brothers and Circle of Sisters groups first launched three years ago and are designed to be “a next-level connection among those serving in church ministry leadership.” This level of “Soul Care” is a universal need for anyone God has called to help shepherd his flock. Now we are embracing the multicultural growth FEC has seen in recent years, like Arabic churches in Toledo and Fishers, and a Burmese church in Fort Wayne. As John wrote in Revelation 7 about every tribe and nation gathering around the throne of God, so our church body can “reflect the cultures and languages of where we are,” Hal says. “where God has placed us.”

Both Hugo and Hal hope this is the first of many Band of Brothers and Circle of Sisters groups to include leaders from a variety of cultures and languages. “I see intentionality,” Hugo says, “and my hope is that it keeps growing.”

For more information on getting involved with a Band of Brothers or Circle of Sisters group, visit: <https://fecministries.org/resources-all/soul-care-provisions/peer-support-encouragement/>.



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