**APRIL** 2016

## You are God's Beloved Sons and Daughters!

For the past 15 months this message has been burning in my heart and I have been sharing about our belovedness to God the Father everywhere I have been invited. The deepest longing of the human heart is to know that we are beloved to God! This is our core identity: Beloved! This is the epicenter of our life of prayer and core to the prayer movement in our city. Knowing in the depths of my heart that I am delighted in by God draws me to pray with greater faith and passion. Growing deeper in this verse has been life changing:

"Let the beloved of the LORD rest securely in Him, for He shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between His shoulders." Deuteronomy 33:12

Download the Life of the Beloved prayer guide: www.citywideprayerkc.com

#### Mobilizing Fervent Prayer: SEEK GOD for the CITY 2016



At the beginning of 2016 several pastors expressed a desire to pray for 40 days with other churches. We hosted several pastor leader lunches to invite churches to use a powerful 40-day prayer tool titled Seek God for the City. In all, 51 churches responded and we

purchased and distributed 6,200 prayer guides across the city. TOGETHER we prayed 40 days from Lent to Palm Sunday. These prayers were very impacting and we concluded the journey with two Celebration Prayer Worship gatherings at Paseo Baptist and Colonial Presbyterian on Wornall. This was an extraordinary season of prayer!!!



Colonial Presbyterian



There is a measurable longing in the hearts of numerous pastors and leaders for their ministry to become an authentic house of prayer. We have developed resources and a pathway for these leaders to take their teams on a journey into deepening prayer called the Culture of Prayer



Paseo Culture of Prayer Commissioning of Leaders

Church or Ministry. We have had a wonderful response from groups who are on the journey with us. These past few months we have served leadership teams from Paseo Baptist Church, Indian Creek Community Church and the Sending Project. God is doing a wonderful work in the hearts of these ministries.

### Village Fire Pastor Leader Gatherings



Overland Park Village Fire

We currently have 11 village fire gatherings across the metro where pastors and leaders gather frequently each month to deepen friendships across denominational and racial barriers, we pray fervently for our communities and the nation, and we find every way possible to collaborate and partner in mission! We are launching our 12<sup>th</sup> village fire this Spring in the south Kansas City area. This new village fire will be involved in serving the Center School District and reaching out to families in need in that local area. Pray for US!

## National Day of Prayer – May 5, 2016



Citywide Prayer Movement will help facilitate approximately five regional National Day of Prayer locations across the metro on the First Thursday in May (May 5, 2016). Our city and our nation is desperate for a great movement of God's Spirit to bring revival and spiritual awakening! Please mark your calendar and gather with us. God promises to hear and answer our prayers. These locations will be in Platte City, North Kansas City, South Kansas City, Olathe Courthouse and Lee's Summit City Hall. There will also be other NDP gatherings. Times and locations will be published on our website and at www.nationaldayofprayer.net.

#### Elevate KC Coalition – WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

Along with several of our team, I continue to serve on the servant executive team of Elevate KC. We now have catalyst teams serving to address four Giants of Injustice: Fatherlessness, Human Trafficking, Education Challenges, and Racial Healing. These giants can only be defeated as we serve our city together and mobilize powerful focused prayer. Join with us as we cry out to God to see our city impacted for the gospel.

"May they be brought to complete unity..."

Jesus in John 17:23 NIV

# National City Advance & 24-7 Prayer North America

I have been invited to serve on two national teams: City Advance and the 24-7 Prayer North America Team. I have been invited to speak to national and city leaders at two recent conferences held in Portland, OR. I am basically sharing the local KC story with our values and mission. You are a part of this amazing God-Story! Thank you for your prayers and involvement.





Speaking at 24-7 Prayer North America and consulting with Young Emerging 24-7 Leaders

# **Caring for Kids**

I continue to serve our new CFK Executive Director, Nancy Mitchell, and the CFK team. We currently serve in 114 public schools with high levels of poverty in seven school districts. Over the past three years we have mobilized 158 churches, approximately 100 businesses and nearly 1,000 volunteers. I am so deeply encouraged to see our team help the local church engage in the public square and to become a part of the solution to education challenges. We will begin serving in our 7<sup>th</sup> district (Center School District) this spring. We are seeing wonderful measurable outcomes from connecting caring communities with these under-resourced schools.



Dr. Carpenter, Hickman Mills Superintendent, explains the district's vision at CFK Roundtable.

## You Can Make A Difference!



If you would like to be a Personal Prayer Partner and receive frequent updates and reports for prayer, please contact me. We rely on God to work through you to provide for our financial needs as our team serves the gospel transformation movement in our city. It seems that our nation is going through a great shaking, and I am convinced that mobilizing prayer, building unity in our city, and serving underresourced kids are the most desperate needs of this hour. We are so grateful for those of you who are able to give to this ministry with your gifts. As the Lord leads, please consider becoming a financial partner or send a special gift.

Thank you for your friendship, prayers and faithful partnership!

Pastor Gary and Barbara Schmitz

Executive Director