

REVITALIZE REFRESH RESTORE



Helping our Fellowship become
a movement by the year 2030.



WINTER 2020 / ASSIST CHURCH EXPANSION

COVER IMAGE: ORRIN AND KARA WITT, CURRENTLY SERVING AT GRACE CHURCH IN SEBRING, FL, WILL BE LEADING A TEAM TO RESTART THE CHURCH IN LAKELAND, FL. [SEE PAGE 4]

CONTACT

—
150 S Highway 160
Suite 8-330
Pahrump, NV 89048

T: 855.444.4510

FOLLOW

—
facebook.com/assistcx
instagram.com/assistcx
twitter.com/assist_cx

ONLINE

—
hello@assistcx.org
www.assistcx.org

DONATIONS

—
PO Box 3216
Monument CO 80132

ASSIST CHURCH EXPANSION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nathan Bryant



We launched Assist Church Expansion in 2017 with a vision of helping the Charis Fellowship become a movement by the year 2030. We define a movement as a demonstration of 5% annual growth, year over year.

A long-standing commitment to church planting in our fellowship has contributed to more than 110 churches being added to our family over the past 20 years. Unfortunately, during that same span, we have seen close to 150 churches either close or withdraw from the fellowship. This is not necessarily a unique problem for the Charis Fellowship, as many other church groups and denominations are facing similar challenges. But as our ministry is dedicated to the growth and multiplication of the Charis Fellowship, we realize that we will never become a movement through church planting alone. We must also be dedicated to the health and well-being of our existing churches.

There are dozens of churches in our fellowship that may be in danger of closing in the next 3 - 5 years. There are many others that have grown stagnant and evangelistically ineffective in their communities. The profiles and stories you will find in this newsletter are of some of our churches that have decided to do something about it. We are grateful to have the opportunity to partner with these courageous leaders as they lead their churches through refresh, restart or revitalization.

We invite you to join us in celebrating and praying for these congregations.

Nathan Bryant
Executive Director
nathan@assistcx.org

ALTOONA, PA

Grace Fellowship Church - Juniata Campus | www.gracefellowship.online



Mark Lingenfelter, Senior Pastor and Matt Plott, Juniata Campus Pastor

VISION REFRESH & REVITALIZATION

Assist has been working with Pastor Mark Lingenfelter for the past two years to develop a multi-campus strategy for Grace Fellowship in Leamersville, PA. The goal has been to establish a mission, vision and strategic plan for his campus that is reproducible at the campus in Altoona, PA known as the Juniata Campus.

Pastor Matt Plott joined the Grace Fellowship team in 2019 to serve as the campus pastor at

Juniata, where he will lead a revitalization effort and implement the Grace Fellowship strategy for effective ministry in their separate community.

The two pastors attended the Assist Bootcamp in November 2019 to put finishing touches on their plan. Pastor Matt is building a Vision Team at Juniata which he will bring to another Bootcamp in 2020 to prepare for the next phase of their revitalization.



BOWLING GREEN, OH

CHURCH RESTART

Eric and Christina Holtrop joined the Charis Fellowship in 2019 to lead a church restart effort in Bowling Green, Ohio.

In the shadow of Bowling Green State University, the Holtrops are currently ministering to the small Grace Church congregation while also building relationships in the community to develop a core team that will resemble a church plant. They are in the early stages of this challenging work, so we ask for your prayers and encouragement.

Stay up to date and follow their progress at:
www.bowlinggreen.church

NEW PASTORS

Revitalization Placements

One of the most important aspects of a church revitalization is the calling of a pastor with the leadership gifts to guide the church through transition.

As Assist partners with Charis churches in revitalization and restart, we conduct national searches to help identify the man that God will call to lead the church.

Church revitalization is not for the feint of heart. It requires a clear calling, commitment and endurance. We are pleased to welcome two new pastors to our revitalization projects:



Timothy Wilmetti, M.Div.
Pataskala Grace Church - Pataskala, Ohio

Pastor Tim is new to the Charis Fellowship and excited to be a part of our family. His wife, Ashlie, grew up at the Ashland Grace Brethren Church, where Pastor Dan Allan leads. Pastor Dan will serve as a mentor to Tim while preparing for his Charis Ordination. Tim also serves as a chaplain in the United States Army.



Andrew Leasure, M.Div.
Rosemont Grace Brethren Church - Martinsburg, WV

Having most recently served at the Grace Brethren Church in Aiken, SC, Pastor Andrew and his wife Katy will join the Rosemont church in early 2020. Andrew is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and received his Master of Divinity at Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, IN.

EPHRATA, PA

Grace Church Ephrata | www.ephratagrace.org



REVITALIZATION

For more than a year, Pastor Brad Gromis has been leading the Ephrata Grace Church through the process of developing a new strategic vision for evangelism and discipleship in their community.

In spite of some personal health setbacks, Pastor Brad and his Vision Team have made significant progress towards establishing a clear, new direction for the church. Their goal is to relaunch the church with a fully-implemented plan within the next year.

FT MYERS, FL

Villas Grace Church | www.villasgrace.com

REVITALIZATION

Pastor Matthew Niemier has been at the helm of Villas Grace (formerly Ft. Myers Grace Brethren) for almost three years. As is the process with all Assist projects, Pastor Matt has built a Vision Team and attended multiple Assist Bootcamps where they have collectively listened for God's direction about who they will reach in the Villas community of Ft. Myers and how they will effectively do so.

With a clear vision and strategy developed, Villas Grace will aim to relaunch into their community in the fall of 2020.



HARLEM, NY

New Generation Community Church | www.newgeneration.nyc



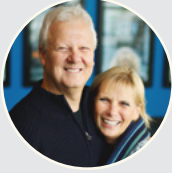
RESTART

For the Charis Fellowship to have a healthy, reproducing church in New York City would be a dream come true. And Pastor Laban Reeves and his team in Harlem are still dreaming, planning and praying that God would bless them with the right people and a great location for restarting the church that was once known as New Horizon.

Please pray for this effort, and most specifically, that a core team would solidify so that they can move to the next phase in their restart plan.

ASSIST CHURCH EXPANSION

MEET OUR TEAM



TED & ELISE ADOMANIS

Director of Finance
& Administration



MARK ARTRIP

Director of Recruitment
& Church Planting



BART BLAIR

Director of Communications
& Project Coach



PHILIP BRYANT

Director of Development
& Project Coach

LAKELAND, FL

Lakeland Grace Brethren Church | www.lakelandgrace.org



“God is calling us to Florida. We didn’t see it coming, but we know that God is going to do something really great. We have to follow what He’s called us to do.”

- Kara Witt

RESTART

The Lakeland Grace Brethren Church was started in the 1980s. At the time it was a very rural community. But over the past 20 years, the community has grown up around it, making for exceptional outreach potential.

For the past several years, as it has been in serious decline, the church has been under the care of and has functioned as a campus of Grace Church in Sebring.

Pastor Orrin and Kara Witt joined the team at Sebring for the purpose of bringing leadership to the Lakeland Church. In 2019, the elders at Sebring entered into a partnership with Assist and officially named Orrin as the Restart Pastor.

The Witts will remain in Sebring until mid-2020 and will then relocate to Lakeland to begin building a team to restart the church within two years.

OTHER REVITALIZATION & RESTART PROJECTS

Ocala, Florida - Pastor Michael Lockstampfor

Medicine Hat, Alberta - Pastor Weston Lundgren

Lanham, Maryland - Pastor Eric Smith