



2

New Partnerships

We have recently entered into new partnerships with Colorado Springs Grace Brethren Church and Uniontown (PA) Grace Brethren Church for the purpose of revitalization.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

It is with great honor that the Charis Fellowship has received Assist Church Expansion as a National Organization for our family of churches. Since 2017, under Nathan Bryant's direction, we have worked to build a team of leaders and coaches who will enable us to accomplish our mission of helping our fellowship be an expanding movement.

endorsement of Assist by the Fellowship Council does not mean that our role and methodology is exclusive for the Charis Fellowship. But we hope it does communicate that we are a trustworthy and competent partner for churches that dream of multiplying their ministries and churches that are looking for a new way to have a new day.

The Charis Fellowship has many great teams and organizations doing the work of church planting and church revitalization. This en-



5

5 Years for Assist

This year we celebrate our fifth year as a ministry in the Charis Fellowship. Read Nathan Bryant's comments on the last page of this newsletter.





OSCAR CHAVEZ CALLED AS NORWALK PASTOR

The Norwalk Grace Brethren Church (CA) agreed to partner with Assist in March 2021 for the purpose of revitalization. The Norwalk church has had some seasons of very fruitful ministry in its past, but recent years have been less productive. The culture of the Norwalk community has changed significantly over the past two decades and the church has, in some ways, lost pace with that rapid change. Recognizing the need to refresh their vision and develop a new strategy for effective ministry, the elders called upon Assist to help them identify a new lead pastor and begin a process of revitalization.

After an 11-month pastoral search, Norwalk has called Oscar Chavez as their new lead pastor. Oscar has more than 25 years of experience as a church planter and catalyst for hispanic ministry in the U.S. He has been connected to the Charis Fellowship in various ways for more than 15 years.

“Grace Norwalk is thrilled to have called Pastor Oscar Chavez to be our Lead Pastor this past February. With a desire to develop new leaders and reach our community (which is 75% Hispanic) with the gospel, Pastor Oscar is a great addition and will help to make this possible. We are excited to watch the Lord move as we continue through 2022.”

- Tim Lansing, Elder

CONTRAST CHURCH GRAND OPENING



Pastor Trey Gilmore would likely tell you that planting a new church during a pandemic was probably not the best of timing, but that’s exactly what he and his Contrast Church team accomplished. After serving as a resident at Movement Church (Columbus) and Three Creeks Church (Gahanna, OH), Trey and his team began public services in October of 2020.

Shortly thereafter, they acquired rights to a property that would eventually become a full-time ministry center in the Grandview community of Columbus. Long waits on HVAC equipment and other supply-chain shortages set them back longer than ex-

pected. But on December 21, 2021, they held their grand opening at the new location.

“Contrast had our grand opening in our new space 12-12-21. We had two full services, with over 150 people present. Since then we have seen great growth, people plugging into community, and also we have had dozens of opportunities to be light in the community of Grandview.”

- Pastor Trey Gilmore

Keep this new church in your prayers. Learn more by visiting: www.contrast.church



SPRING 2022 BOOTCAMP BALTIMORE, MD

One of our primary methods of helping church leaders and their teams revision and refresh their approach to ministry is through our Assist Bootcamp experiences. Our church planters also bring their teams to develop their future ministry plans.

Bootcamps are 3-day intensive events where our team provides guidance and coaching while church planters and church revitalizers lead their teams through a series of exercises to determine the next best steps for their churches. These events are open to any churches in our fellowship as well as churches that may be considering joining the Charis Fellowship.

The past two years, due to COVID restrictions and the subsequent challenges, we held only a few sporadic in-person and virtual bootcamps with varying levels of participation. In April of this year we held our most fully attended bootcamp since 2020 with seven different churches participating. We held the bootcamp at a hotel near Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Some of the churches in attendance were Church at the Well (Towson, MD church plant), Rosemont Grace (Martinsburg, WV revitalization) and Clinton Grace Brethren (MD).

Pictured Below: Church at the Well, a new church plant in Baltimore, MD. Dayne Carraway, Planter. Wade Rininger, Coach.



NEW FLORIDA NEIGHBORHOODS

For the past several years, Assist has been working with a trio of churches in Florida to help them find a new day. Grace Church in Sebring, FL had already been working towards the revitalization of churches in both Ocala, FL and Lakeland, FL when Ben Russell was called to step into the role of lead pastor, replacing the venerable Dr. Randall Smith. It became an optimum time for the Sebring church to review and refresh its own vision and ministry strategy.

As the three churches worked together to develop a cooperative vision and ministry philosophy, they rebranded as Neighborhood Church; a name chosen to always keep in mind their mission to invite their neighbors to follow Jesus.

Neighborhood Sebring hosted an outdoor Easter sunrise service where they had 12 new families join them, including a number of neighbors from a retirement community who drove their golf carts over for the service. Sounds like Florida, doesn't it?



NEIGHBORHOOD
CHURCH SEBRING



NEIGHBORHOOD
CHURCH OCALA



NEIGHBORHOOD
CHURCH LAKELAND



A S S I S T
CHURCH EXPANSION

Helping Our Fellowship Be an Expanding Movement

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In 2017 when I first imagined the future for Assist Church Expansion, it was impossible to know how much the whole world would change in a five-year span. It is remarkable how rapidly the local church has been required to pivot, adjusting to political, social and pandemic-related disruption. But the one thing that has not changed - and will never change - is Christ's mandate for the church to make and grow disciples. There is nothing that gives me more motivation to face and fight the challenges we collectively find ourselves up against.

In 2017, I was a one-man operation with hopes of building a team that could make an impact for our Fellowship in church planting. Five years later, we are a team of 15 with a wide array of gifts, talents and experiences doing far more than just church planting. We are excited about the way the Lord has brought this team together and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the churches in our family.

In 2022, we look forward to two of our church partners completing their revitalization process. Rosemont Grace (WV) and Grace Church of Aiken (SC) will both celebrate their new future in September of this year. In the same month, we will welcome a brand new church, as Church At The Well will launch in Towson, MD.

The five exciting years of ministry we have had would not have been possible without all of our prayer partners and financial supporters. To you, we are so grateful. We pray that you know how much your contribution to our ministry has meant, not just to us, but to the countless people in communities across the US and Canada whose lives will be impacted by our fellowship's increased gospel footprint.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he give us many more years of ministry together.



Nathan Bryant, Executive Director

