



FRONTLINES

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Renewing our families, our communities, and our world by bringing faith and life together in Christ.

UPDATE FROM THE KATY GOSPEL PROJECT

BY NATHAN COTTON

I have always considered Katy, Texas, the greatest city in the world. I know that's odd for some, but not for me. I love this city and the people who live here. In the summer of 2013 I began thinking about what it would look like to start a new church here in Katy.

One of the first questions I had to conquer for myself was, "Does Katy even need another church?" I remember getting into this conversation with my brother as we drove down to our local gym a mile from my house. We didn't conclude our conversation because honestly we didn't have any answers. However, something happened while we were at the gym that hot Tuesday afternoon that not only answered my question, but also changed the direction of my life forever.

The gym was packed with all kinds of people. I remember looking around thinking "I wonder what church these people go to?" So I began to ask. And over the next couple weeks I spent half of my time at the gym working out, and the

other half talking with people. I would always sneak in spiritual things to test the waters trying to figure out where they were spiritually. "Do you go to church?" "Are you religious?" "Have you ever visited such and such a church here in town?" Or my personal favorite, invite someone to do something on Sunday, and see if church was on his or her schedule.

What I learned was that a very high percentage of people at my gym didn't go to church or even remotely care about spiritual things at all. I then took my observations and compared them to the larger city of Katy context. I was very surprised to find a vastly high amount of unreligious people in the total population. I felt I had found the answer to my question, "Does Katy need more churches?" Yes, Katy needs a lot more churches.

The reason the question took me so long to answer was because I was looking at the wrong data. There are a lot of large successful churches that God is blessing in our city, and praise him for that! However, when we look only at those

churches' success, its easy to conclude, "Katy's fine, we don't need any more churches." However, as I was doing this, I was missing the copious amounts of people that are slipping through the cracks. It was in that moment of clarity I resolved to plant a church to reach those individuals, and a few weeks later the movement of the Katy Gospel Project was born.

The mission of the Katy Gospel Project is to "connect every person in Katy to Christ, community, the city, and the world." My vision is to start a church planting movement over the next 20 years, planting 20 different transitional multi-site congregations with the full intention of having each site particularize into its own church.

The sites we are looking at planting inside are all gyms in the Katy area. Katy, Texas, finds it's community largely in the fitness realm. So instead of reinventing the wheel and creating an additional community for people to belong to, we are intentionally bringing the

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *We will elect new Elders and Deacons at a Congregational Meeting in October.*
- *Please continue to pray for our members who have been impacted by Harvey's flooding.*
- *Adult Sunday School is looking at the book of Luke this fall.*
- *God is good. Let us give thanks for his provision.*

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PRESBYTERY MEETS IN SAN ANTONIO

BY GENE COVER

Carter Sanger, Allen White, Jonathan Tucker, Linda and Gene Cover traveled to Hope Church in San Antonio for the fall Presbytery meeting of Gulf South Presbytery. Tom Masterson is the pastor there. Hope Church stepped in to host this meeting when Harvey fouled up plans to hold the meeting at Christ EPC in Houston.

Teaching Elder Raymond Tear did such a thorough and entertaining job of summarizing the events of Presbytery during his Thanks and Reflec-

tions report, I thought we'd just use his report to summarize the meeting:

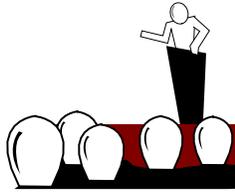
Special thanks go to the Congregation, Session, and, yes, even the Pastor, of Hope Church for hosting Presbytery on such short notice. Everyone at Hope Church did a fine job in making presbytery's meeting enjoyable and fruitful; especially the ladies who lent such a gracious and helpful air to the whole undertaking.

Presbytery conducted the usual, routine business of approving minutes, dissolving

Administrative Commissions, seating corresponding members, welcoming first time attenders to presbytery, hearing first and second readings of proposed changes to Presbytery's Standing Rules, and appointing members to the Standing Committees. New members were elected to various working committees of Presbytery, though some vacancies remain to be filled at a later date.

Many members of Presbytery have requested to be excused, likely due to relief and recov-

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Hope Church did an outstanding job of hosting Presbytery on three-weeks notice.

“ALL THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY IS DONE IN SMALL GROUP SETTINGS.”



Extending Grace Team voted to use some of its missions funds to help support the Katy Gospel Project, the Cottons' church plant.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY GENE COVER

Hurricane Harvey succeeded in putting some of our plans on hold for a period while we took care of more urgent matters. Several of our members were directly affected by the flood: John & Debi Barrett, Ben & Adika Colston, Jim & Susie Kolesar, Sandy Nesbit, and Mark & Lee Williams. Obviously this event has seriously interrupted their lives, and we need to stand in prayer for them as they work their way through the maze of recovery activities.

For our devotional during the monthly meeting, Carter summarized the church's main objective as “making disciples, seeking and saving the lost, and equipping the saints for the work of ministry.” As a conclusion to our

reading of Deep and Wide, Carter commented that one large church in the east has only worship and small groups. All the work of the ministry is done in small group settings. Bible studies are done in small groups, Sunday school is done in small groups, women's ministry is done in a small group, etc. The elders and deacons will be studying Simple Church by Thom Rainer next.

As we found at this time last year, our finances are improving – see finances box elsewhere in this newsletter. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

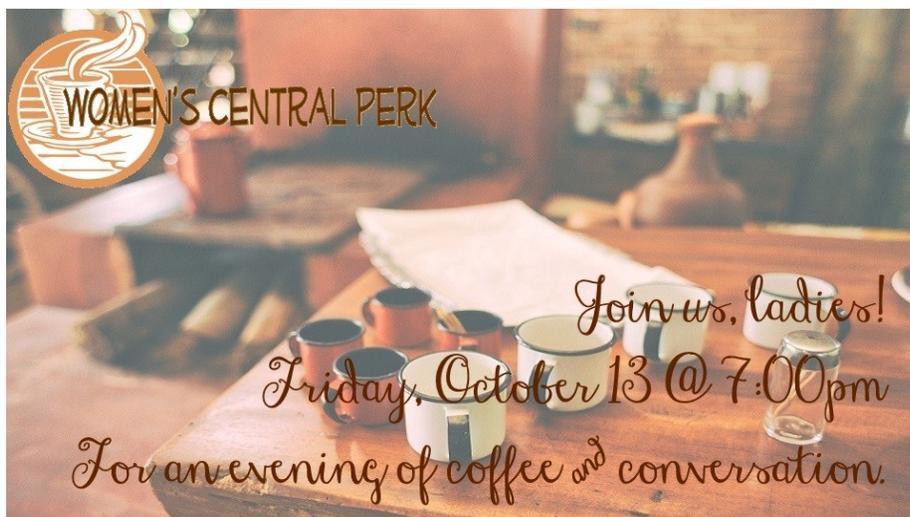
The deacons are finishing up plans and bids for new signs around our campus. The signs will be simple, and one will replace the Mason Road sign which was destroyed by

an auto accident. We have found that a high percentage of visitors find us through our website, and so we think simple signs are all that is needed.

The Extending Grace team has recommended and Session approved the use of some of the surplus missions funds to support the Katy Gospel Project church plant that Nathan and Alisa Cotton are organizing.

The Officer Nominating Committee has created its short list of nominees and will be contacting candidates soon to determine their interest in serving our congregation.

Please stay in prayer for your church leaders and for growth in our numbers so that we can assist our church plant.



HEART-TO-HEART OFFERS NEW RELATIONSHIPS

The Heart-to-Heart Mentoring Ministry will begin its new season on Sunday, October 1, at 3:00 p.m. We'll have an Informational Coffee at Loren Torregano's home to explain the ministry and give those interested in participating a chance to sign up. It is open to any women—married or single—who is a member or frequent visitor to Cornerstone.

Following the coffee, women will be paired for their six-month commitment to get to know each other and help each other along the road of faith.

Our Kick-Off Night will be Friday, October 6, when each participant will meet her Mentor/Mentee and the Prayer Warrior who will be supporting them along the way. Dinner will be provided for the Mentors at 6:00 p.m.,

and the Mentees and Prayer Warriors will join the group at 7:30.

Please plan to attend the coffee on Sunday to learn more and sign up. If you cannot attend the coffee but would like to participate, see Linda Cover to get a profile card, or contact her.



The new season of Heart-to-Heart will begin Sunday, October 1.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

😊 **And the winner is...**

The winner of August/September's Candy Game is Miss Jane O. Her guess of 100 pieces of candy was the closest to the actual count of 102 without going over. Congratulations, Jane! She will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon and all the candy in the jar.

Be sure to submit your guess

for October's Candy Game... and be **sure to write clearly and include your FIRST & LAST names.** To encourage our kids to read the *Frontlines* newsletter, winners must ask Mrs. Kutzer for their prize.

Sad Note: There was another person who guessed 101 and would have won – but they did not list their first and last name...just initials. There

were also lots of entries with no name listed.

😊 **Get to know our Childcare Workers:**

Question of the month – What is your favorite hobby?

- Ms. Ann – Shopping
- Ms. Kinsey – Playing in the park with family
- Ms. April – Reading
- Ms. Carol – Crafting and gardening

PRESBYTERY MEETING IN SEPTEMBER IS A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR THOSE ATTENDING



Two new pastors were approved and three men came under care of Presbytery as candidates for ministry at this meeting.

“...DR. DUNCAN’S TALK AND SERMON CAN BE FOUND ON HOPE’S WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.HOPEISREAL.ORG /EVERYDAY HOPE/SERMONS.](http://www.hopeisreal.org/EverydayHope/Sermons)”

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ery work in storm afflicted areas. Many smaller churches from The Valley were able to send Ruling Elder Commissioners to this meeting since it was so much closer for them than usually happens when Presbytery convenes.

Presbytery’s Facilitators, though by their own admission lacking any authority, nonetheless had their say. Thank you Henry Beck and Bob Vincent.

An important video message from General Assembly Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Jeff Jeremiah was viewed summarizing actions of the GA meeting in Sacramento.

Following that, Teaching Elder [*pastor*] Kory Duncan, and Moderator TE Alan Trafford added specific comments about some of the areas suffering from hurricane Harvey and the attendant flooding of lower-lying, downstream areas, giving special mention of the efforts of EPC congregations and other local churches to provide aid and comfort. They both agreed that congregations wishing to send work teams could make a big impact in Lake Jackson over the next few weeks, so please contact Alan Trafford if you are interested in making the trip.

Presbytery approved the reclassification of First Presbyterian Church of Ingram, soon to be renamed Ingram Evangelical Presbyterian Church, from transitional

member to full member of Presbytery pending reinstallation of Pastor and Ruling Elders. We also heard some wonderful testimonies from Hope Church members about how that congregation and its ministry had made an impact on their lives.

EPC World Outreach also addressed Presbytery with video and live speakers detailing some of its work and the need for eleven more workers in multiple vineyards worldwide.

Presbytery was blessed to hear twice from the Rev. Dr. Ligon Duncan, Chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary. First, he gave a talk about the nature and challenges of the cultural shift that has occurred in the last 40-50 years in the USA with some suggested implications and strategies for the church in its call to minister in such a time as this.

Second, while joining in worship of the Living and True God, he preached a sermon from 1 Kings 19 that offered great comfort and encouragement to the afflicted and discouraged, while highlighting the goodness of our Lord and God towards His servants. Recordings of Dr. Duncan’s talk and sermon can be found on Hope’s website: [http://www.hopeisreal.org/Everyday Hope/Sermons](http://www.hopeisreal.org/EverydayHope/Sermons). There are two sermons, and you are encouraged to listen to his insightful comments on ministering in today’s culture

and hear encouraging words for those laboring in the ministry.

Reconvening on Saturday with worship of her God, Presbytery entered a Concert of Prayer led by the moderator and members of the worship team from Hope Church.

Presbytery heard from and examined TE Richard Colquitt and TE Sean Martin with the usual probing questions and uplifting responses and approved their seating as members of Gulf South. Sean Martin will continue an out-of-bounds call to the Human Coalition, a pro-life organization. Richard Colquitt will serve as Assistant Pastor at Christ EPC in Houston, with primary responsibility for shepherding.

We celebrated the past ministry and the ongoing service of our brother and colleague TE Tom Johnson. We heard from the ladies about the good work of the Women’s Ministry.

Ladies attending this meeting were treated to a challenging talk by Mikie Bellis from Christ EPC in Houston. Her message was based on Revelation 12, and she warned everyone not to listen to “the dragon’s whispers.”

Everyone attending the ladies’ meeting received a copy of the beautiful anthology Becoming: Story, which includes contributions from some EPC women.

NEWS FROM THE FURIERIS

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Writing to you with an update from our family is a much anticipated event, because we miss you so much, and think of you often.

Before we go on, I wanted to encourage you, as you now live through the aftermath of Harvey. We were so concerned for your safety! We prayed and followed the news closely. We continue to pray for all of you and particularly for those in our church family who have been most affected. We love you so much!

We want to encourage you, but we are the ones who are being blessed by you. We observe you taking care of one another, and showing Katy and the world that there is a foundation upon which we can build our lives that is unshakable. Cornerstone's response to such a great disaster is glorifying God. God has called you for this. He is faithful, and he will sustain you until the end, until the day we see Jesus face to face. May the Lord continue to bless your

efforts and multiply your strength during the recovery from Harvey. We cannot be there with our bodies, but we are there in spirit (Colosians 2:5).

Now for a quick overview of our affairs. Allison started tutoring at the Classical Conversation Co-op. I am so proud of her! If you know Allison, you know this is definitely outside of her comfort zone. During the summer, as she was preparing to become a tutor - including a trip to Houston, by herself with the children, to participate in a homeschooling training event - I was taking Biblical Hebrew. It was exhausting, but well worth it. 8 weeks, 10 hours of work per day, and at the end I could translate large portions of the Hebrew Old Testament. Very exciting!

The summer flew by and another academic year has begun. We are now less than 18 months away from graduation. There is a lot to be done between now and then, particularly concerning the ordi-

nation process, so please keep this in your prayers.

This has been a good season for Leora, Jimmy, Asher, and Silas. They have grown and blossomed through new experiences. They have had unexpected opportunities to be introduced to new skills, such as theater, tennis, and piano.

More and more we learn to love Westminster Presbyterian, our church here in Vicksburg. They are taking very good care of us, and we are trying to serve them as best as we can. This fall we have started a class for parents and are going through Shepherding a Child's Heart. We also started teaching the Children's Catechism to the children with the Cornerstone Catechism Chant, developed right there at Cornerstone! Exciting times in Vicksburg.

We are coming by this next weekend! We cannot wait to see you and worship our great God with you.

Love,
the Furiervis

“WE OBSERVE YOU TAKING CARE OF ONE ANOTHER, AND SHOWING KATY AND THE WORLD THAT THERE IS A FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE CAN BUILD OUR LIVES...”

BRIDGES HAS SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Regular Events

UH Hangout continues through October on Wednesday evenings (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.), and the Impact Bible studies on Friday evenings (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.). Both are at the University of Houston Baptist Student Ministry building.

Professional Mentorship

If you are interested in being

paired with a student and meeting with them a few times about interview skills, how to find a job, how to write a resume, how to network, etc., please email james.bartlett@cru.org for more details. Also feel free to inquire about university friendship programs.



Help is needed to coach international students on interview skills, writing a resume, etc.

KATY GOSPEL PROJECT: A DIFFERENT WAY OF PLANTING CHURCHES

"I FELT I HAD FOUND THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, 'DOES KATY NEED MORE CHURCHES?' YES, KATY NEEDS A LOT MORE CHURCHES."



The gym has proved to be a great place to start spiritual conversations.

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Gospel to existing communities. In much hope that God will move, and those who are estranged from the Church, or who hate the Church will become passionate, and transformed by the grace to be found in Jesus Christ alone.

We have assembled a launch team, and while we are very small, I feel as if God is doing some really big things. We are planning on launching Palm Sunday 2018 at our first location, BONA Fitness, here in Old Katy. I have been developing a possible second and third location, so that we should be ready to launch those as early as 2019. That would give us 3 sites in 2 years, for the price of 1 church plant. We will be 1 church meeting in 3 locations. Until then our launch team has been meeting every Sunday night to prepare for our launch Palm Sunday.

We have been studying the parable of the prodigal son, as well as going over logistics as a launch team. Here is just a sample of the way God is using the Katy Gospel Project in one of our newest Launch Team Members, Bo:

"Unless you know me personally, you would think I'm a prodigal son or the 'younger brother' I left the church after 15 years of ministry, I vowed to never be involved in organized religion again because of

the pain I personally put people through. Also, the pain I endured leaving that church. I realized what I had become, and it broke my heart. I called many people to ask for forgiveness for any damage I had done to them in the name of 'God.'

I've visited many churches since 2010, and if I saw anything that reminded me of where I came from, I left. It's hard because no church is perfect, which I understand... I didn't know how to explain what I was looking for, but now I do. The book Prodigal God has been eye-opening and describes me exactly during my ministry years as an 'older brother.'... This is the church I have been longing for, and I get to be a part of the foundation."

-Bo

When I think deeply about the church plant, honestly I get afraid. Never in my life have I been so dependent on the generosity of fellow believers and God himself. Many nights I have tossed and turned, thinking, "This is stupid" "or "What in the world am I doing?" And I wish I could say God always intervenes and takes those thoughts away, but he doesn't. Most of the time he allows me to wallow in my own self-pity, but at the same time he is always there.

When I heard Bo says those things out loud to our group about our group and how God was making himself more known to Bo than ever before, it was as if time stopped. My eyes filled with tears, and my heart jumped out of my chest. It was as if God had walked into the room, just for a moment to remind us, especially me, he is moving in Katy, Texas, and he is using the Katy Gospel Project.

If you are interested in finding out more specific details about the church, planting, or how you can get involved, feel free to contact me 832-309-6487. The church has always existed on the generosity of believers, and we are no different. We are always looking for partners willing to consider how they can be involved in a church planting movement. If you would like to inquire about how you can become a praying, financial, or even a launch team partner contact me, and we can talk about that.

Blessings,
Nathan Cotton

KIDZ CLUB LAUNCHES OCT. 11

Kidz Club will begin its fall program at The Gallery apartment complex on Mason Road on Wednesday, October 11, with a pizza party and registration. Our regular meetings will follow each Tuesday through November, from 4:00—5:15 p.m.

Kidz Club aims to reach children who are living in the apartments with the gospel—using Bible stories, a memory verse, a fun application, music, and some refreshments. It is focused on those from Pre-K through 5th grade. This fall we will highlight some events from the book of Judges.

Come and help with planned activities or just hang out with the kids. There is always a need for “house parents” who greet the kids as they arrive and sit with a group during the lesson rotations. If you are willing to be a substitute, that would be great, too.

We will be handing out fliers as the kids walk home from school on Tuesday, October 10, announcing the beginning of this session, and it is always fun to see the kids again after the summer. We could use help for about 20 minutes then.



Please contact Evelyn Saugier to volunteer or for more information.

Let's all commit to pray for this ministry and that many

children will be excited to come to Kidz Club this year.



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*Seeking to renew our families,
our communities, and our world
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