

Calendar of Events

- 06/02 Day Camp Training
- 06/11-14 Day Camp
(Broken Bow)
- 06/17 Father's Dinner
- 06/18-21 Day Camp (Apex)
- 06/25-28 Day Camp
(Hastings)

Inside This Issue

Update from Pastor Luther	1
Aaron's Story of Hope	2
Partnership in Action	2

Bible Study

— 11am-12:15pm Saturday

Men's & Women's

Groups

— 9am Sunday

Worship Service

— 10:45am Sunday

A Word from Pastor

Dear Ministry Partners,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! This is my prayer for you, "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him." (Ephesians 1:17)

I am praying that same prayer for all our churches, including Bridge of Hope. I have been becoming more aware that those who worship on Sunday and those who profess Christ as Lord really don't have a

relationship with who they profess. Jesus says it like this, "not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the ones who do the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' Then I will announce to them, '**I never knew you.** Depart from me, you lawbreakers!'" (Matthew 7:21-23)

The most interesting thing to me in that passage is that there is no relationship between Christ and the lawbreakers. There are a lot of professing Christians who don't have a relationship with Christ, but have knowledge of him through other people, like their parents, pastor, friends, or other family members. There are those who are not secure in their faith, some doubt that they are even going to heaven, and still others have a belief that they must work their way into heaven. These are some of the things I have discussed with people throughout my travels the past three months and it has been an eye-opener.

The Bible teaches us that, "whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31) We glorify God by praising, giving thanks, obedience, reverence, and service because of who He is and what He does. So, to glorify God is tied with the knowledge of God (*revelation of God*), knowing God personally (*response to God*), and knowing God's promises (*results from God*). Jesus makes this declaration, "and this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

So, for the month of June, we are gearing our preaching and teaching toward getting to know God, theology. In July, we will be teaching and preaching on Christ, christology; in August we will be studying what is our mission, missiology, and then in September, getting to know the Church, ecclesiology. It is very important that we help our congregation to know the God of creation and how to respond to him in service, prayer, and worship. Please be praying for our humility to allow the Spirit of God to use us in educating and introducing our congregation and others to the God of the universe.

As always, thank you for your continual prayers and financial support. Both are desperately needed!

All for His Glory,

Pastor Luther C. Eatman Jr.





Aaron's Story of Hope

It feels like I had spent my whole life looking for the church God wanted me to be part of. I would attend a new church for a while, then gradually or suddenly quit showing up. That was hard on Kari and Max. They always wanted me to go to church with them as a family. I experienced two separate feelings while cycling through churches.



The first feeling was that I just had not been going to the right place. Sometimes my reasoning was pretty solid! Not every church practices sound doctrine, and not every church was created for the purpose of bringing others to God, or strengthening that relationship. Other times my reason for disappearing probably had more to do with me. I just felt nothing at the churches I tried. They did nothing wrong, but I felt a nothingness. Eventually it felt like another work day. I was glad when church was over, not feeling like I got much out of it, just one more of life's responsibilities. Eventually I would make the decision to relieve myself of that responsibility.

The second feeling I would experience is an absence. Something was missing when I did not go to church. I'd try to tell myself I was my own church. That was never going to work! KJV Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name there I am in the midst of them." Oh man, I made a pathetic one-man church! So much of the Bible is about how we treat each other, and to think I could take the others out of church was foolishness on my part. I was not growing in my relationship with God. I was stagnate, and I could not talk my way out of that feeling of absence.

So I found myself bouncing back and forth between the feeling of nothingness, and absence. I'd give up, then try again. The cycle continued. One day after having "given up again" for a couple of months that feeling of absence was powerfully strong! It overpowered the feeling of emptiness. I went to church with my family that day. God meant for this to happen, and He meant it to happen on that specific day!

It was no ordinary Sunday for this church. They were having a variety of guest speakers who were talking about their ministries. One of those guest speakers was Luther. He talked about his own life experiences, the miraculous change God had made in his life, and what his ministry today is all about.

As I was listening to Luther, a strange spark of hope and excitement came over me. Before he was done speaking I had already made up my mind that I had to give this Bridge of Hope a try! I was serious! I waited for my chance to speak with Luther instead of just trying to get out the door quickly as usual. I did not use words like hope and excitement. I didn't mention that I was a lifelong church hopper. I told him I was going to his church the next time he had service, and asked him when the next service would be. I thanked him for his message that day, and told him I would see him next Sunday.

Bridge of Hope quickly became family to me. I have never experienced so much love from a church, and never had so much love for a church! When I talk with people, it's a real conversation. When I hug someone, it's a real hug. My ears can hear the messages from our Pastors and guest speakers and those messages mean something to me. When we praise God, I praise God! When I sing, it's for God! When I smile, it's because I have Joy! If something prevents me from attending a service, I'm disappointed instead of quietly relived! I look forward to each Sunday, and the value it brings during the week. I am currently going through a career transition, and it's probably going to prevent me from coming as regularly as I use to for a time. I can't wait for that time to pass. I value Bridge of Hope so very much!

Partnership in Action

One of our goals as a church is that we form partnerships with other churches, organizations, and individuals. As you come alongside us, we long to come alongside you. This month, we were honored to have the opportunity to send our pastor, director of transitional housing, and a house manager to Hastings, Nebraska to talk with Horizon Recovery, a treatment center there. The connection was made through the partnership with Hastings E-Free and the center had an interest to make a move from a secular to Christian program. Our leaders were able to drive up and provide counsel on qualifications, structure, discipline, longevity, and financial support. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share our experiences and possibly help others in their journey. If there are ways we can come alongside you or your ministry, please let us know!

Praise & Prayer Requests

Praise:

- 60 kids signed up for camp
- Served BBQ at Grant
- Redevelopment of Outreach Ministry
- Safe travels for Luther and Lanita
- Transitional Housing staff met with counterparts in Hastings, NE
- Received loan for new parking lot and part of roof!

Prayer Requests:

- 5 Weeks of Day Camps
- Preparation for Challenge
- Continued Discipleship for Cold Weather Shelter Guests
- Growth, Development & Reorganization of Our Leaders & Programs
- Raising Support for Terry & Bev

Bridge of Hope

Community

Church

1925 N 11th St.

Kansas City, Kansas 66104

Phone: (913) 499-6741

Fax: (913) 621-7227

Email:

cbridgeofhope@kc.rr.com

Website:

www.bridgeofhopekc.org

