

**Church Planting In Nebraska
Gretna Baptist Church Plant
Roger and Sheryl Ridley**

pastor@gretnabaptistchurch.com
www.GretnaBaptistChurch.com

2009 February Report

Dear friends and prayer partners,

February certainly began differently than I expected. I went to the hospital for the third time in 14 months for a heart procedure and received a third stent. Although the procedure is relatively simple, and I did not miss a Sunday of ministry on any of the three occasions, it does affect a person's schedule. I will be in rehab three afternoons for three months, and the hearing surgery has been postponed for at least 6 months. At that time I will go through all the necessary tests again to see if I can have the surgery. This month I will meet with the heart doctor. He will tell me what I can expect over the next year. I will also meet with Dr. Little at Baptist Church Planters for advice about future church planting plans. I will let you know what decisions are made in next month's report.

One goal Sheryl and I had was to get all our medical bills from last year paid off by this spring. Praise the Lord, this was accomplished in February! Of course, now we will need to go through the whole process again, but are happy we can start with a clean account rather than adding to an already existing stack of bills.

On the second Sunday of the month we were pleased to have a Baptism Service. An adult woman and a young man were baptized. There were a number of family members present which provided a great opportunity for sharing the gospel with their public professions of faith.

Our midweek Kids Club, held an Awards & Games night on February 18. We had 33 children and 18 adults present. There were a variety of games for the kids, pizza for everyone, and then the awards for Bible memory, journal keeping, service, inviting friends, and attendance were given out. It was encouraging to see the excitement of the kids, and to know God's Word is being placed in their lives.

On Sunday, February 22, we had our annual Friends Day Service. People were encouraged to invite their friends and many did. The message was on the friendship offered by Jesus in John 15. Following the service we enjoyed a chili luncheon and were joined by folks from Chalco Hills and Good Shepherd Baptist churches.

The February 22 service of Chalco Hills Baptist Church went well with an attendance of 42. With help from Campus Baptist Church in Ames, Iowa, they distributed about 2200 invitations door to door. This was the final monthly service; they have now begun weekly services and Bible discussion groups. Pray for Pastor Barfknecht, the team members, and growth between now and the Easter Service. We have committed an average of 20 people a week through Easter with hopes of seeing a core group established.

This month I read two books and would recommend them both: (1) *There Really Is A Difference*, by Renald Showers, published by the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. This provides an easy to understand description of the seven Bible dispensations, and explains the differences between Covenant and Dispensational theologies. (2) *Pastor and Deacons*, by John Hartog II, published by Trafford Publishing. This provides a clear explanation of the Biblical qualifications, roles, and relationships for the office of pastor and deacons.

Our attendance was hurt some this month by weekend snow storms but we are grateful to continue with good numbers; two were over 100 and a third was close to it. I continue to teach on Dispensationalism in Sunday School, the Visions of God in the Worship Service, the Books of the New Testament in the Sunday evening service, and Prayers of the Bible on Wednesday nights. Our attendance averages for February were: Sunday Morning Prayer – 11; Sunday School – 55; Worship Service – 98; Evening Service – 32; Mid-Week Service – 31; MOPS – 32; Men's Prayer Breakfast – 11; Kid's Club – 36.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and friendship which have enabled us to carry out God's calling in our lives.

With a HEART for church planting,
Roger and Sheryl Ridley

Our Vision Statement: To plant traditional Baptist churches, which preach and practice the timeless Word of God, without compromise but with compassion, ready and willing to reproduce themselves.

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