

Church Planting In Nebraska  
Gretna Baptist Church Plant  
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2009 June Report

Dear friends and prayer partners,

During June, I began new studies in the adult Sunday School class and the Sunday Worship Service. In Sunday School, we are looking at a survey of Bible Prophecy, especially focusing on key events yet to occur in the future. In the Sunday morning Service, I have been preaching through 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude. The title of the series is Standing Tall in Difficult Times. I have also been sending the lessons out by email to those interested. The response has been great.

On Wednesday Night, June 10, we concluded our Kids Club for the school year with hotdogs, games, and awards. There were 36 in attendance. During the summer months we are continuing to offer a children's program with Bible Stories, crafts, and a snack. We asked for volunteers to cover the summer months. It is great to see a number of different people stepping forward to help with this important midweek ministry.

We received 5 new people into church membership in June. These new members come out of 2 new families that have been attending the church. This has been an encouraging trend. New members have been added monthly over the last quarter. We are very excited about God's working in people lives. I am working with three more adults wanting to join during July.

I had the pleasure of attending the Annual Bible Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches in Elyria, Ohio on June 22-26. Dr. R. Showers and Dr. K. Bauder brought challenging messages on dispensational truths of the Bible. There were also a variety of practical and theological workshops. The opportunities for fellowship were especially appreciated.

Much of June involved preparations for outreach ministries we have scheduled in July. Next week, July 6-10, we will have Vacation Bible School. The Youth Group of Hagerman Baptist Church in Waterloo, Iowa is coming out to help us. We plan to distribute 1500 invitations on Monday, July 6. We hope to have 75 children attend. Please pray good attendance, good ministry, good weather, and good decisions among the children.

July 17 and 18 is our annual Gretna Days Outreach. We will have a Church Open House on Friday, July 17. Parking cars on our church property for the community fireworks program has always been a fun opportunity for community outreach during Gretna Days. We will also hand out refreshments as people wait for the fireworks to begin. On

Saturday, July 18, we will participate in the Annual Gretna Days Parade. Our Parade Float will be a large "gift package" promoting God's Stimulus Package of Salvation. We will hand out balloons to the kids with our website, and invitations to the adults to attend church on Sunday, July 19. The morning message will be a follow-up to the Parade Float concerning "God's Stimulus Package". Pray that our efforts will attract a good number of visitors wanting to learn more about this special gift.

Chalco Hills Baptist Church has now been meeting weekly for four months. Eight families continue to make up their core group. Pray for Pastor Barfknecht as he leads the church plant, and for the others involved. They are giving significant attention to evangelism throughout the summer months. We rejoice with them over recent visitors.

I read two books this month: (1) *Missional Church*, edited by Darrell Guder, published in 1998 by Eerdmans. Much of the writing in recent years about missional ministry cite this book. Written from an ecumenical perspective, the writers seek to establish a biblical ecclesiology of the church. The church is not about programs or the pragmatism of recent church growth methodology, but about being on mission. I appreciate this emphasis. (2) *The Multiplying Church*, by Bob Roberts Jr., published in 2008 by Zondervan. This is a book about church planting but rather than just planting one church it encourages the bigger strategy of multiple church plants, and seeks to plant the dream of a church planting movement in the United States and globally. As a church planter and facilitator of multiple church plants, the writer has good insights to share.

Our attendance averages for June were: Sunday Morning Prayer – 9; Sunday School – 36; Worship Service – 77; Evening Service – 15; Mid-Week Service – 23; Ladies Night Out - 14; Kid's Club – 25. With summer vacations and some illness going around, our attendance has shown a drop in June. At the same time we have been encouraged with new and returning visitors. A positive indicator has been a healthy increase in giving from an initial drop after starting the Chalco Hills Church Plant.

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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