



# Outreach Newsletter

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Board of Outreach North America

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## From the Director

*Dr. Ken Priddy, Director of Church Renewal*

Church Renewal is not an event in a church; it is not a program, a seasonal initiative, a weekend retreat, or a series of revival services. Church renewal is a change of culture and the embracing of a new perspective as to what the Church should be and do. This change of culture matures into being a fresh, new lifestyle for a church that is ongoing and that carries no expiration date. Ironically, this fresh, new lifestyle is actually the intentional return to a very old lifestyle, that of the original church as seen in Acts 2:42-47 and Ephesians 4:1-16; in short, that of a biblical New Testament Church.

You might object, "Wait a minute! We're already a biblical church and yet we're struggling!" Are you, really? This is not meant as a judgment, but more as an observation. The Great Awakening has come and gone, but perhaps today it is time for a Great Wake-Up Call. Our churches are led by sincere, committed leaders who desire to serve God well and to see His church blossom and grow. However, the primary mission of the church should be that of Jesus Christ as stated in Luke 19:10, **"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."**

**Yet, it seems that the typical church sees its primary mission as shepherding and serving the found.** Most churches are very ineffective at outreach and evangelism- the essence of seeking and saving!

Church culture must permanently change and renew to bring the Church into alignment with the mission of Jesus Christ. Congregations do not exist to serve themselves; they exist to serve God through search and rescue of God's lost, and, by the grace of God, bringing them to His family estate, the Church.

Simply hoping that churches get turned around is not a strategy but wishful thinking. Outreach North America has resources to provide your church leaders with the training and coaching to make a difference. Three years ago, ONA began to provide the TurnOut Solution Seminar to lead into 2ND WIND (a comprehensive approach to renewal). 2ND WIND has matured into its current form, HIGH M-PACT Revitalization. ARP churches in several Presbyteries have committed to renewal through the ministry of ONA. Status quo might be comfortable, but if your church is in plateau or decline, status quo must give way to HIGH M-PACT. ONA stands ready to serve you.

Please contact Ken or the ONA office to find out how to bring renewal to your church.

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## Renewal at Redeemer

*By Rev. Bill Slattery*

*Redeemer ARP Church, Moore, SC*

Redeemer is a young and busy church. So why are we involved in the 2ND WIND program? We saw ourselves drifting into a pattern and wanted to reverse that drift.

We believed that we were neglecting our evangelistic purpose. The session approved a vision team to study Bible passages, pray for wisdom, and identify ways we need to change as a church. We realized that functionally we were committed to worship and discipleship but were lacking in evangelism. We began studying our community and saw needs that matched the strengths of our church. For example, the average family in our area is a double-income, too-busy family with two or three children; they are nominal Christians, and beneath the appearance of stability, family relationships are tense and troubled—perhaps even hostile. Families know they need help, and we have that help.

How can we help? We have three ministries that could serve our community well: *The Kid Zone*, an after-school program for elementary grades; a middle school youth group; and our

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# 2ND WIND Brings Growth and Professions of Faith



By Rev. Bryan Bult  
Greenwood ARP  
Greenwood, SC

We began the 2ND WIND revitalization process two years ago and have spent a lot of time planning.

Now we are beginning the exciting but challenging implementation phase.

Along the way, we are unquestionably becoming more outreach-minded. One of our more exciting developments is a burgeoning college ministry. We believe God has placed us near three colleges because he wants us to minister to college students. We have started a college Sunday school class and have a covered dish meal once a month after worship for the purpose of forming relationships with them. It is an opportunity not only to provide a “home away from home” for students, but also for our congregation to fellowship. Though the college students began as a group *to whom* we minister, they are becoming more of a group *with*

*whom* we are ministering. Several have joined our choir, taught Sunday school, and assisted with events.

We also believe God has placed us across from Greenwood High School because he wants us to minister to high school students. In an effort to meet students, we hosted our first tailgating event before a game last fall. A band played worship songs on our front lawn while we served hotdogs and baked goods to approximately 60 people and interacted



with them. We followed up with a second tailgating party at the Greenwood High campus a month later. These have been significant ways for us to say to our community, “God is interested in you.”

We have also become more intentional about how we interact with guests. It has occurred to us how crucial first impres-

sions are. We are discussing practical ways of making our building more guest-friendly. Meanwhile, we are steadily growing in our warmth and genuine interest in newcomers.

Contact the ONA office for a free brochure:

**Helping Guests Connect with Your Church.**

It is an example of a four step system to help you retain guests.

Finally, we have implemented a Fellowship Group ministry that is both deepening relationships among members, and providing another “open door” through which to reach out.

We praise God for the addition of several families to our congregation in the past two years. Among these, we are particularly thrilled at **two professions of faith in Jesus Christ. This is a modest number, but it is an encouraging sign that the Holy Spirit is active.** We pray to see many more in the coming years as we seek to befriend our unchurched neighbors and introduce them to our Lord who came “to seek and to save the lost.”

## ...Redeemer

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monthly Parenting Workshop. These ministries had, until recently, focused primarily on our own church members. Now we are looking for ways to “turn out” to lost families. One of the strategies we are considering is to offer these ministries and youth events at various locations in our community. We hope that these will provide contacts with unbelievers and lead to conversions.

Perhaps the biggest challenge in learning to “turn out” is making the mental shift from an inward to an outward focus. It sounds simple, but many simple changes are hard to do and demand a major shift in priorities— such as staying on a budget or on a diet. To reach our community, we must move our focus outside of our church building and outside of our comfort zone and into our community. We must make it our business to talk to lost people about the Gospel. That is our vision. We pray that, by God’s grace, Redeemer will help many sinners to be rescued and learn to live for Christ.

In January, Ken Priddy presented revitalization principles and tools at an Elders Retreat for Ebenezer ARP Church of Rock Hill, SC.



Above: Boyce Wilson on a coffee break with two elders



Left: Ken Priddy teaching

# HIGH M-PACT Revitalization at 208 Year Old Church

By Rev. Wayne Frazier  
Back Creek ARP Church, Charlotte, NC

Churches have a lifecycle just like people. Outreach North America is concerned not only with birth, the planting of new churches, but also the revitalization of existing churches. Revitalization must be an essential ongoing process of life. Otherwise churches die. The average church in the United States exists only a little over 70 years.

How can churches pass the baton from one generation of congregants and leaders to the next? How can we adjust to generational and community changes that are always challenging the future vitality of any congregation? At Back Creek we are facing change. Started 208 years ago, Back Creek was situated in a rural, farming community. Now our demographics have changed significantly. We are a suburban community with a wonderful mix of ethnicities including people from all over the United States and world. This community has also become dramatically younger with 75% of the people in our zip code being under 44 years of age. Another factor is a post-Christian and post-modern culture here in the United States. It used to be that new community members were always looking for a church. That is no longer true.

The good news is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is trans-cultural and trans-generational. Jesus Christ and His Word are the same yesterday, today and forever. Yet, how we apply this unchanging Gospel to a changing community and world is what Back Creek and all ARP Churches are facing.

Here is where HIGH M-PACT Church Revitalization with Dr. Ken Priddy has been a helpful tool for us. In 2009, I received the gift of a three-month sabbatical. During that time, our elders were actively working. They contacted Ken and he came to make a one-hour presentation to our elders and deacons about church revitalization. They were so impressed that this would be helpful that they committed to an all day seminar. After this, the session made a commitment to the revitalization process. We selected three elders, deacons and women to be our vision team. Each person along with me made a commitment to HIGH M-PACT Training at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte.



Each vision team member secured a prayer group to support our efforts in prayer. We earnestly pray that God's vision for Back Creek reaching this community will be etched on our hearts together. Redemptive history is rolling on. Now is the time to connect with the lost folks in our neighborhoods. **As Jesus said, "I came to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)**

The HIGH M-PACT Training gave us a quick overview of the revitalization process which includes aligning: Perception, Vision, Strategy, Structure, and People. We have completed the Perception phase which answers the two key questions: What will be discovered about ourselves? What will we do in light of what we discover? There are a variety of different characteristics that identify where a church is. **Incline** is future oriented, vision driven, and has conversion growth. **Recline** is present oriented, program driven, and has transfer growth. **Decline** is past oriented to the "glory" days, structure driven, and has no growth. These are just a few of the ten indicators that help you discover where your church is and what is necessary for a vital church.

During the Perception phase, we discovered what we already knew, but had failed to address in a comprehensive way. We made some changes in our worship service times to reach our community. This was a difficult change for some people. Ken's training has encouraged our elders to reach out to the congregation and especially those who have been distraught with the changes. We trust that this will become an ongoing biblical process in our church family. We do not want to derail the process of seeking

of God's vision due to existing conditions our church.

We are now in the process of developing a vision from Scripture that will be non-negotiable commitments guiding our church's decisions and resources. We are studying and praying about the mandates given from Scripture such as the Great Commission, Commandments, and the model churches found in Acts 2 and Ephesians 4. We also are identifying our geographical target using demographic information to identify who really lives in our community. All of this is helping us better understand how to bring the Gospel to this community.

You can see that we have only begun this revitalization process. It is a pilgrimage of faith. Yet, is that not what Christ's Church has always been- pilgrim people? Abraham, our forefather in the faith, was given promises from God in Genesis 12. He obeyed and went even though he did not know his final destination. Our prayer is that God would give us grace to obey and follow Christ's guidance as Abraham did. Our vision team is "...looking for a city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (Hebrews 11:10)

We are excited about where the Lord is leading us and that He is meeting us where we are. We are delighted to have Ken, who has worked with over 400 churches, come alongside us in the process. HIGH M-PACT Revitalization is enabling us to do the best possible for the sake of Christ's kingdom expanding in our local community. We are excited about what the Lord will be doing through this congregation in the years to come. We also realize that this is not a one-time event, but an ongoing process of revitalization necessary for any vital organism.

### Church Planting/Renewal Class at Erskine



Alan Avera (Executive Director) and Ken Priddy (Director of Church Renewal) taught a week long course at Erskine Seminary in January. 18 students (including 8 ARP) learned the important role of planting new churches and renewing existing churches in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



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### News and Notes from the Field

**Gaston Community Church in Gastonia, NC** was organized on December 6. Mark Tankersley was called as the pastor.

**Edinburgh, Scotland** Congratulations to Athole and Rosalyn Rennie on the birth of Erskine Alexander Clifford Rennie. The Rennies began work in the Leith area of Edinburgh on December 1.

**Annual Mission Developers Retreat** at Bonclarken was attended by 39 adults. We focused on the church planter as preacher. Speakers were: Dr. Zack Eswine, Dr. Mike Milton, and Dr. R.J. Gore. MP4 videos of the sessions can be viewed on the ONA website.

**Tapestry ARP Church in Charlotte, NC** held a grand reopening service on February 14 as they moved into a larger worship space.

**City Church in Greensboro, NC** was organized on February 21. Jim White was called as the pastor.

**SonLife in Jacksonville, FL** held a wedding ceremony during worship on Valentine’s Day for a couple who invited over 30 unchurched family and friends.

**Communion Presbyterian in Irvine, CA** has a local Christian Radio Show Apologist joining the church.

**Outreach Newsletter Online** is now available. Contact the ONA office to be added to our email list.

Postmaster: Return service requested

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