

2020 Leadership School Graduation

The Hopewell Network provides a training school for leaders in partnership with Dove Global Leadership and Ministry School. We have seen people of all ages with a leadership call on their lives go through this school and continue in their ministry callings. People can attend the school through live classroom, livestream, or an online on-demand video version.

On May 9, we graduated 52 students, but because of COVID-19, we had to do it virtually. Brian Sauder, Director of Leadership Training for DOVE International and Pastor Joel Kolb, Pastor of Spring City Fellowship, led the online graduation ceremony. Pastor Lester Zimmerman, apostolic leader of the Hopewell Network, gave the commencement address.

The fall term begins Friday evening and Saturday, September 11-12, and you can join any time during the school year since each month is a separate module and theme. If you are interested in pursuing the leadership call on your life, or want to sharpen your skills as a leader, you can register at www.dcfi.org.

By Pastor Lester Zimmerman



HOPEWELL NETWORK STATESIDE CHURCHES

- **Freedom Path Church**—Akron, PA—Pastor Jim and Cathie Kearsley
- **Good Shepherd Community Church**—Reamstown, PA—Pastors Allan and Rebeca Yoder
- **Hope of the Nations Christian Center**—Reading, PA—Pastor Angelo and Teresa Sarna
- **Hopewell Christian Fellowship**—Telford, PA—Pastors Curt and Anita Malizzi
- **Hopewell Church**—Elverson, PA—Pastor Gary and Maria Buck
- **Hopewell Community Church**—Pottstown, PA—Pastor Bruce and Terri Mulberry
- **Iglesia Restauracion Divina**—Reading, PA—Pastors Fredy and Dignora Melendez
- **Immanuel Christian Fellowship**—Manheim, PA—Pastor Paul and Marla Blank
- **Kingdom Life Ministries**—Hesston, KS—Pastor Scott and Wanda Miller
- **Living Hope Fellowship**—Forksville, PA—Pastor Scot and Phenny Magann
- **New Freedom Church**—Church Hill, MD—Pastors David and Laci Patterson
- **Petra Church**—New Holland, PA—Pastors Lester and Erma Zimmerman
- **Rockville Fellowship**—Belleville, PA—Pastor Harold and Vonnie Sharp
- **Spring City Fellowship**—Spring City, PA—Pastors Joel and Karie Kolb
- **Tierra Prometida (Spanish)**—Hagerstown, MD—Pastors Linker and Luz Sanchez

HOPEWELL NETWORK INTERNATIONAL CHURCHES

- **The Lord's Sanctuary Churches and Ministry**—Kenya—Pastor Patrick and Nancy Thuo
- **Grace Assembly Family of Churches**—Haiti—Pastor Lesly and Bernadette Bertrand
- **Agrupacion Familiar Cristiana**—Mexico—Pastor Gerardo Bravo and Fernanda Urena
- **Rays of Peace**—South India—Pastor Mark Jayakumar
- **City Lights Churches**—Thailand—Pastor Nacho and Merrilee Barrera
- **Grace Charismatic Ministers Network**—Ghana—Pastors John and Dorothy Boateng

Streams

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOPEWELL NETWORK OF CHURCHES

OCTOBER
2020

Leadership Transition at Petra Church

While on sabbatical in 2010, Pastor Lester Zimmerman heard the Lord saying he was to prepare for transition in 10 years. This began a long process of planning and preparation for when Pastors Lester and Erma would hand over the leadership of Petra Church to the next pastor. After 38 years of leading the church, they realized it was time for the next generation of leaders to step up and lead.

The Britton Consulting Group helped the church walk through a discernment and search process. Pastor Brian Coles has been affirmed as the next Senior Pastor at Petra. Pastor Brian and his wife, Tracy, are



currently serving as Petra Student Ministries Pastors. Prior to that they served as youth pastors in New Jersey. They graduated from Valley Forge Christian College, and have three young children.

Pastors Lester and Erma are the founding pastors of Petra Church. In 1983, Petra began as an outreach of the Hopewell Church in Elverson. Over the years, the church has grown, prompting three building programs. Many ministries were added, and the church has had a strong focus on local and Global missions. The church continues to grow, and it is a good, healthy time for pastoral transition.

So, on Sunday morning, January 3, 2021, the mantle of leadership will be passed on to Pastor Brian Coles as the new Lead Pastor of Petra Church.

Pastors Lester and Erma will continue to attend Petra and be involved in the church and community. Pastor Lester will not be retiring, but giving more time to leading the

Hopewell Network into its new season ahead.

The Hopewell Network office will remain at the Petra Campus, as well as the monthly leaders' meetings and annual conference. Petra will continue to serve as the Apostolic Center of the Hopewell Network.



Pastor Lester looks forward to having more time to invest into the network, nationally and internationally. He has a special interest in seeing more churches planted as well as resourcing the network leaders and churches. He also hopes to do some more writing in this new season.

Hopewell Summer Camps 2021

Camp has a way of rekindling that first love, via a five-day "incubation" at Tel Hai Camp, while immersed in the Word, the Spirit, his presence, and the love of God, with God's people. Let's look toward 2021! www.hopewellsummercamps.org

News from Around the United States Network

Many blessings to our Hopewell family from **New Freedom Church in Maryland!** We have been having Sunday morning services outside under a tent since April. This has been a blessing to all who attend. God has led us in this direction, so we are able to assemble with very few restrictions. We are also doing Facebook Live. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement, and know that we are praying and believing God for his best in your churches and ministries! - Pastor David Patterson

Hope of the Nations, Reading, PA - Hope of the Nations resumed sanctuary gatherings on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. We have been enjoying a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit and the sweet Presence of God with an average attendance of thirty. The messages are video recorded with no livestreaming. We have a Wednesday evening prayer meeting. Michael "Guerty" Guertin was here for a mini-camp, and the children all received rich ministry in the Word and Holy Spirit. - Pastors Angelo and Theresa Sarna

Kingdom Life Ministries of Hesston Kansas is happy to be a part of the Hopewell Network and gives God all the glory due his name. In January, God led KLM to intercede for every county in Kansas. Kent Henry, of Carriage House Ministry, led the way. Over 30 counties a weekend were covered in prayer. The coronavirus postponed the completion of the task. Kansas has been declared "Holy Unto The Lord." - Pastor Scott Miller

Hopewell Community Church, Pottstown, PA - Hopewell Pottstown is delighted to have returned to their building for our worship services. The church family has shown a beautiful

love for God! In addition, our church is reaching our community with food and help to some of the victims of the Ashwood Apartments fire. God is good! - Pastor Bruce Mulberry

Greetings from **Hopewell Christian Fellowship in Telford!** Our church family sends greetings and has weathered through the COVID storm gracefully and with God's presence and guidance. We started with livestreaming only, but now have returned to full in-person services and children's ministries. We are setting our sights ahead and looking to the Lord Jesus to lead us into the rest of 2020 victoriously. - Pastor Curt Malizzi

Here at **Freedom Path Church in Akron,** God has been able to use this season for his glory. During this pandemic, we have seen our church family reaching out to one another, praying, and building each other up. When Pastor Jim was hospitalized with COVID-19 and his family quarantined, our church leaders and volunteers stepped up and continued the Sunday services, visitations, and pastoral care. God is growing our church with many new digital followers. We have become a first century church in the twenty-first century. Praise the Lord. - Pastor Jim Kearsley

Less than a month after my being installed as pastor at **Spring City Fellowship,** churches were shutting down because of COVID. This church has been through some serious setbacks over the last few years, and what we have is a small but dedicated remnant. We began livestreaming, and some people continued to attend at their own initiative. Over the last few months our congregation has grown, and in-house

attendance is back to what it was before, with some watching online. Overall, our reach has expanded through this time. This crisis has forced us to adapt in a way that is meeting a need in our community. - Pastor Joel Kolb

By God's grace, **Hopewell Church in Elverson** is doing well. We have successfully transitioned into a new rhythm of ministry as a result of COVID-19, which includes a Thursday night "masks only" service and two Sunday morning services with social distancing standards in place. Our church community has been very receptive to these (and other) changes, and continues to respond to the work of Christ through both on-campus and digital ministry. This fall we will be specifically focusing on prayer for our communities, our nation, and our world. We are grateful to our great God for his leading, grace, and presence! - Pastor Gary Buck

2020 has been a year of revelation and launching in many ways at **Immanuel Christian Fellowship in Manheim.** Last year the leadership team embarked on a journey of discovery where a new vision, "All People Passionately Pursuing God," and mission, "Connecting People with God and Equipping Them to Share His Love and Power," were birthed. During the shutdown we caught vision to update our auditorium and set up livestreaming, which has enhanced our worship experience and helped us reach new people. We are encouraged to see many people in our congregation step into a greater understanding of their true identities in Christ. - Pastor Paul Blank

News from Around the International Network

Haiti, Grace Assemblies - For more than one month and a half we have not had electrical power in Croix-des-Bouquets, but It is a great joy for me this morning to write to you and report what God is doing in Haiti among our network.

By the grace of God we are fine; all our pastors and churches also are fine. Since July 12 we have started worshipping again in our main sanctuary according to the new government order. We praise God for that, but we are still under the COVID-19 restrictions in our public services.

The school and universities reopened in Haiti. Our orphanage home is working well for the boys, as well for the staff. Because of the COVID-19 problems, we do not plan to do any major gathering in our network for this year until it is under control.

Thank you for your prayers and efforts for us in Haiti, and on behalf of all the Grace Assembly pastors, I thank you for your help to them. May the God of Israel continue to bless you and keep you safe.

General International Update

The International Hopewell Networks are having challenges as a result of the shutdowns caused by the pandemic. Even as they endure those challenges, they are praying for the church in the USA, especially the churches in the Hopewell Network.

The shutdown meant that churches across the networks had to shut

down for many months. Many are still unable to open. The primary churches in most of the networks have set up livestreaming for those who have access (the networks in Kenya and Haiti were unable to do so). Even with livestreaming, many families did not have access to it.

In the rural areas and villages church members connected in small prayer groups in homes and in the church facilities. In Kenya the network pastors are now permitted to gather for 90 minutes each month. The Bible School in Ghana has resumed on a limited basis. Nacho Barrera is using social media to connect with and continue to equip the leadership team in Thailand.

The schools and children's homes have also been affected. The schools in Kenya and Uganda were shut down which created an additional economic hardship for the ministries in those networks since they still need to pay the teachers but no longer have tuition income. The children's homes in India also had increased government restrictions and needed to add new dormitory space for the boys during a time of decreased resources.

Our brothers and sisters in the



rural areas and villages are struggling with daily needs, such as basic food supplies. In larger population areas, many have lost their jobs and struggle to buy food and pay their rent. All of the networks have invested in the distribution of food through their churches. They are also trying to find ways to support their pastors, who have lost both employment income as well as financial support from their congregations.

Travel between the USA and the countries where we have networks has been restricted. None of the international apostolic leaders will be able to travel to the USA for our annual Network Conference. The International Apostolic Leaders Gathering has also been canceled for this year. Allan and Rebeca Yoder have not been able to visit any of the networks since March of this year, and may not be able to for some time. We are using social media options to stay connected, but long to restore the personal connections!

Patrick Thuo (Kenya) said: I feel the Lord is seeking our attention, so he has disrupted our programs, schedules, and plans so that we may slow down or sit still and listen to his voice.

John Kayima (Uganda) said: The Lord is ready with new wine and is just waiting for new wineskins which will carry his glory on earth.

Food distribution in India