

News of hope for a people of mission

CITY *Alive*

SUMMER 2014



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Our Mission

RESTORING THE CITY TO GOD BY DEVELOPING AND LINKING PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND CHURCHES.

SUMMER MINISTRIES LET THE SON SHINE IN AT HOPE ALLIANCE AND METROALLIANCE CHURCHES



Did you know 71 percent of Christians in the U.S. are introduced to the faith before age 14? As a result, the phrase '4/14 Window' has gained popularity, referring to four to 14 year olds, which is the time when many people are most open and receptive to spiritual and developmental input.

BHITC and its partner churches leverage this opportunity during the school year through ministries such as literacy and tutoring programs, which are an effective first step in connecting families to urban churches and addressing educational needs. While school is out for the summer and tutoring programs are on hiatus (for a little while longer), BHITC partnered with two area churches to continue sharing the hope of Jesus with children through creative and fun-filled programs this summer.

Summer camp reinforces reading and resisting peer pressure

'Keep Calm and Do Good Under Pressure' was the theme of this year's summer reading camp at **Hope Alliance Bible Church** in Maple Heights. During the week-long program, 20+ kids enjoyed reading and scripture-based activities focused around the theme of how to handle peer pressure well.

“The children might not get nurturing, love, or even a hot meal at home,” says **Leslie Motton**, the camp’s director, who has been involved with the summer camp at Hope Alliance for the past four years, “but they are bringing home Christ’s light into the darkness. We are teaching them to take back confidence and take back that they’re important,” she says.

The summer reading camp, which had 100 percent attendance all week long, is based on sharing the message of Jesus with the kids. “There is no better feeling than knowing you are being used by the Lord,” says **Ronald Morrison**, Pastor of Hope Alliance Church, who, along with his team, taught and showed the love of Christ to the kids all week.

Neighborhood outreach to children fuels new church plant

MetroAlliance Church, a church partner of BHITC’s located in Cleveland’s Ohio City neighborhood, hosted a summer outreach program called Metro Kids each Saturday throughout the summer as part of its future church plant at Family Ministry Center. An average of 30 children attended each week and participated in outdoor and indoor activities such as art, reading, sports, music, dance, drama and singing while also learning about Jesus through the Bible.

“This summer, relationships have begun with new families in the neighborhood because of the Metro Kids summer program. We’re continuing to work with the kids, and we’re excited about the possibilities it presents us to appropriately follow-up with families and build into the families in the neighborhood,” says **Juri Ammari**, Pastor at MetroAlliance Church.

A total of 60 children pre-registered for Metro Kids, and of those, only five had any prior church connection. “The opportunity is vast for the Church to impact whole households by reaching kids,” says Juri, who reports this year’s Metro Kids participants are already asking about next year’s summer program.

Please join BHITC in continuing to pray for the Spirit to move in these neighborhoods!



Fall brings the need for more tutors and children’s volunteers!

BHITC is seeking at least 50 new tutors by September at its five tutoring sites, located on Cleveland’s east and west sides. New after-school and evening programs could be a new weekly mission and service opportunity for you! To learn more about tutoring opportunities, contact Amy Mitchell, BHITC’s Director of Ministry Engagement at 216.281.4673 or amy@buildinghopeinthecity.org.

BHITC PARTNERS WITH DONOR AND ENTREPRENEURIAL REFUGEE TO HELP LAUNCH NEW CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER



In a time when many media outlets seem deaf to the things of God, one Nepali man heard His call to get involved and use media to bless his community – both locally and across the globe. **Rev. Ganga Diyali**, a refugee from Nepal and a pastor at **Samdan Nepali Church** in Cleveland Heights, heard God's call to use his business and writing skills to start a Christ-centered, Nepali-language newspaper, and a short time later, has already published the second international issue!

Ganga, who spent 17 years in a refugee camp before arriving in Cleveland four and a half years ago, shared his vision to start a newspaper with BHITC's **Brian Upton**, who says he was inspired by Ganga's passion for Christian media and his level-headed approach to building a sustainable subscription base for the newspaper over time. "Ganga had already worked out how to get the newspaper into the hands of thousands of Nepalis in America

and beyond," he says. "He had lined up writers, received quotes from printers, figured out postage requirements and more. He just lacked access to a little start-up capital to get the ball rolling."

Upton took the idea to **David Bowers**, Director of the Ohio District – Lutheran Church Extension Fund, a long-time supporter of BHITC and pitched it on Ganga's behalf as a new and unique way to invest in urban ministry and social enterprise. The result was a generous micro-finance grant to fund phase one of his business plan – a Christian Nepali newspaper.

The monthly newspaper, titled **Christian Platform**, includes news and content that glorifies God. "We are writing about God's activities to inspire and motivate the Nepali-speaking people," says Ganga.

It's currently distributed to 150 Nepali churches in the United States, and continues to expand. The first issue was also distributed in Canada and Australia; distribution for the second issue expanded to Nepal, India, Bhutan and Norway. The next steps for Ganga and his small editorial team include eventually publishing the newspaper bi-weekly, translating it into both English and Nepali and creating Christian radio and online content under the **Christian Platform** label.

"We want to bless the Nepali community through media," he says. "Nepal is a very poor country, where many kids are living on the streets. From the profits we make selling the newspaper, we are supporting pastors and building churches in Nepal because we want to reach them for the kingdom of Jesus," says Ganga.

There's no better mission than that!

You can follow the 'Christian Platform' by liking them on Facebook and by searching for their video content on YouTube.

Are you interested in social enterprise and other micro-financing opportunities in partnership with BHITC? If so, contact Brian Upton at brian@buildinghopeinthecity.org to learn more.



Nepalis worship at Rev. Diyali's church - the Samdan Nepali Church - on Cleveland's east side

LIVING IN COLOR – A PREVIEW TO BHITC'S 2014 CHURCH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: Q & A WITH REV. MIKE CHONG PERKINSON



Rev. Mike Chong Perkinson, Speaker, Author and Lead Pastor, New Heights Church in Boise, Idaho.

On September 18, BHITC welcomes authors and speakers, **Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah** and **Rev. Mike Chong Perkinson**, as the keynote speakers for its annual Church Leadership Summit at Bay Presbyterian Church. This year's event, titled **Living in Color**, will be a day focused on developing greater cross-cultural competence among church leaders.

We interviewed keynote speaker Rev. Mike Chong Perkinson, asking him to share some of his hopes for this year's Church Leadership Summit!

Q: What can people expect to hear from you at Building Hope in the City's Leadership Summit?

A: Leaders that truly lead for transformation, lead from a platform of hope founded upon and fostered by relationships. This hope is founded in three relationships: my relationship

with God as Father, my relationship with myself and my relationship with others. This leads to transformation of situations and societies for the benefit of the people in light of His Kingdom.

Q: What would you tell someone unsure if this is the conference for them?

A: If you have a heart to see individuals, families, neighborhoods and our society transformed into what God intended it to be, a place where love is dominant and helping each other is the norm, then you need to come be a part of this dialogue/conference.

Q: What's the one takeaway you'd like people attending the event to leave with?

A: We transform neighborhoods, cities and societies from the inside out. We always reproduce who we are, so it behooves us to know who we are and live into that reality so that God is honored with our lives, so that others experience His healing Shalom, and His Kingdom finds full expression in all that we are and do. This inside/out transformation starts with me and where I live and moves from there to my neighbors, etc.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say about the work God has called you to and the message He's called you to share?

A: I long to see people become all they were meant to be in Christ, living to the full God-possibilities that lie within them, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit as masterpieces of the loving artisan of the universe who has made full restoration of His image in us through Christ (Eph. 2:10).

Want to hear more from Rev. Mike Chong Perkinson along with Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah? Register today for the 2014 Church Leadership Summit, **Living in Color**, on our website at www.buildinghopeinthecity.org.

SUMMER 2014

living in
color

Equipping church leaders for the beautiful challenge
of America's poly-ethnic future

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**CHURCH
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT**
.....

Featuring
Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah and
Rev. Mike Chong Perkinson

Thursday, September 18
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Bay Presbyterian Church,
Bay Village
\$25 per person, advance registration only

Save your spot for this important event by registering online at
www.buildinghopeinthecity.org or calling Lesa at 216.281.4673.

CITYSERVE 2014: GIVING OUR CITY A HELPING HAND...OR 1,000 HANDS!

SEVENTH-ANNUAL CITYSERVE EVENT EXPANDS REACH INTO NEW COMMUNITIES AND CHURCH PLANTS

By Robert Fenbers, BHITC Summer Communications Intern



The mission was clear for nearly 500 volunteers who came together on May 3 for BHITC's seventh-annual **CitySERVE** event – to serve the Lord and bless the city in a BIG way – 1,000 hands big! The city-wide service event, conducted in partnership with Lutheran High School West, took place at 40+ sites across Cleveland, where volunteers dedicated the day to cleaning, painting, planting and sewing love into the city.

“CitySERVE volunteers gave a total of more than 4,200 hours this year. We were able to not only serve many returning sites where we have built strong relationships, but this year, we also had the opportunity to bless a number of new church plants and ministries in the city, as well as the communities of South Euclid and Slavic Village,” says **Amy Mitchell**, Director of Ministry Engagement.



The photos and testimonies that follow represent a portion of the work done as part of CitySERVE on May 3 across the city of Cleveland.

In Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood, volunteers partnered with church planter **Tony Loseto** to bless **Estabrook Recreation Center**, a community facility where Loseto has been able to initiate many growing partnerships over the past year:

“Through CitySERVE, we were able to help out and give back to this recreation center,” says Loseto, who serves as a Pastoral Apprentice at **Gateway West Church**. “CitySERVE allowed us to continue building relationships with the community and the recreation center itself, instead of just using their resources and facility,” he says. Under Loseto's charge, CitySERVE participants cleaned the pool area, removed weeds, planted flowers and even took down an old damaged ceiling.

At **Cleveland Kids in Need**, a non-profit organization which provides free school supplies to teachers of students in need, nearly two dozen CitySERVE participants sorted



The CitySERVE volunteers at Cleveland Kids in Need

through thousands of books that were donated to the organization. "In Cleveland's schools, you will find many children who do not have a single book in their home. With this free book giveaway, each student was able to take home two books for the summer," says **Tammi Davis**, Volunteer Coordinator for Cleveland Kids in Need. "The volunteers from CitySERVE were a tremendous help!"

Rob Plain, Pastor at **Mount Calvary Lutheran Church** in Cleveland, says CitySERVE had a personal impact on

him and his church this year. "Sometimes it's hard not to get down as a pastor of a small church with limited funds, especially when it seems like no one else really cares. It's a lonely feeling. Thank God for people like you that care. God bless you all," he says. CitySERVE volunteers painted the church steps and railings, as well as cleaned up the outside grounds of the church.



A very special
thank you
to these
supporters of
CitySERVE 2014:

David & Missy Beckman
David & Bonnie Cook
Frank & Velma Duesing
Ehab & Abeer Farag
Peggy Forni
Norelle Gress
Jack & Mary Ann
Katzenmeyer
Paul Keiper
Fred & Sheila Kressierer
Lowe's – Fairview Park
Craig & Simone Nielsen
PPG Industries
Ruth Pieplow

Ohio District –
Lutheran Church
Extension Fund
Jane Roth
Raymond & Lori Schilling
Kurt & Bootsie Schuster
Wally Senney
Alan Steffen
Suzy's Soups
Thrivent Financial, Medina
County Chapter
Thrivent Financial, South
Cuyahoga County
Chapter
Bob & Rose Wendt

CLEVELAND CHURCHES LEAD NEW APPROACH THAT TACKLES POVERTY

Open Table launches this summer as BHITC's latest tool for effective congregational ministry



"We're beginning with relationships – that's where it's going to start," says **George Hoover**, congregational coordinator for Open Table, along with his wife **Suzanne**, at **Bay Presbyterian Church**, one of the area's first churches to partner with Building Hope in the City (BHITC) to launch Cleveland's first Tables this summer.

BHITC introduced **Open Table**, a national ministry model for transforming the lives of people in poverty through the power of relationships, to Northeast Ohio area churches, organizations and agencies earlier this year. Now, four Tables have launched, thanks to the pioneering support of **Bay Presbyterian, Cuyahoga Valley, Gateway West** and **Trinity Lutheran churches**. The Tables, consisting of six to 10 members each, meet weekly and act as a team of life specialists, encouragers and advocates for people in poverty (referred to as "Brothers" or "Sisters" on the Table). Church members, together with the individual or family being helped, establish goals, develop an overall life plan and implement it.



George and Suzanne Hoover, Congregational Coordinators for Open Table at Bay Presbyterian Church

Suzanne Hoover says it was Open Table's distinctly different approach that drew her to serve. "This ministry shifts the church's approach from a transactional mentality to one focused on the power of relationships. It's not about giving them things – that's the beauty part of it. It's about combining the many resources that a church brings to the needs of a community," she says.

This shift is exactly what resonated with other area churches, pastors and members. "I instantly loved Open Table when I first heard about it," says **Dan Ghramm**, lead pastor of **Gateway West Church** in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood. "I fell in love with

it because it's just church folks who can sit at a table an hour a week and use whatever [social] capital they have to help a Brother or Sister," says Dan, whose church, through a five-year partnership with Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center within The City Mission,

now has the privilege of referring women who have transitioned out of the center to be some of the first Sisters to benefit from a Table.

Since BHITC hosted the Open Table Exploration event back in January, it has worked with churches, local agencies and representatives from the Open Table national center in Phoenix to conduct necessary screenings, receive coaching and begin selecting candidates, who in addition to coming from Laura's Home, are also coming from Next Step Shelter Care and Independent Living, a ministry of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, designed for young adults transitioning out of the foster care system.

"Young adults transitioning out of the foster care system are in a fragile place in need of caring relationships," says Suzanne, and statistics prove this to be true. By age 24, nearly 60 percent of males, who are former foster care youth, have been convicted of a crime, more than two-thirds of the young women have children and overall, almost a quarter were homeless at some point after leaving foster care. "Through Open Table, we'll be able to give these young adults know-how, such as how to write a monthly budget, manage an apartment, secure employment, and my hope, is that they also come off those Tables with a stronger faith in Jesus," says Suzanne.

There's no question about the potential Open Table has to impact our community's approach to poverty, including those of us inside the church. "The key word is change," says George Hoover. That is, change for everyone involved. "As important as it is to restore hope for Brothers and Sisters on Tables, the people on the Tables will be changed, as well. Our volunteers are seeing firsthand what it's like working alongside people very different than them. When our hearts are changed like that, we can bridge the gap between our different worlds and lead Cleveland in being a stronger community," he says.

If you'd like to learn more about how to get involved with Open Table in Cleveland, either as a volunteer or a church partner, contact Amy Mitchell, BHITC's Director of Ministry Engagement, at 216.281.4673 or amy@buildinghopeinthecity.org.



Congregational coordinators and table members from the first four area churches attended training in June prior to launching Northeast Ohio's first tables!



Shannan McEowen, from the Open Table national office, led the June training for 40+ table members.

VIBRANT CITY COLLECTIVE

BHITC's New Planned Giving Society Lays A Foundation for the Future



"They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations." - Isaiah 61:4

Creating a vibrant city has long been a vision of BHITC's since its founding 11 years ago. "Vibrant" describes a city full of life and energy, reflecting the population of people within it, who live with joy, hope and fulfillment in Jesus.

BHITC's new Planned Giving society – **Vibrant City Collective** – binds together Christ followers who share that same vision and are taking steps to ensure our city is vibrant, not only today, but for years to come.

The Vibrant City Collective is a group of BHITC supporters who have made committed planned gifts to the organization or those in the process of doing so. Planned gifts support BHITC's mission endeavors into the future, as opposed to needed gifts that support its current (annual) operations, and they allow donors to make a much larger donation than they could otherwise make from annual income.

Rev. John & Mrs. Patricia Eiwen have already joined the Vibrant City Collective. "My wife and I have chosen to make the Vibrant City Collective part of our estate plan because we believe that reaching the city for Christ will continue to be extremely important for many years," says Rev. Eiwen. "Thus, the leadership provided by Building Hope will likewise be critical for the foreseeable future," he says.

To make a planned gift often requires careful decision making – usually done in partnership with a financial advisor or legal counsel – thus the term "planned," as they are more sophisticated ways to support BHITC. Types of planned gifts vary greatly and can include: bequests (naming BHITC in your will or estate plan), beneficiary designations (such as on insurance policies) and charitable gift annuities, as well as contributions of non-cash appreciated assets, such as securities or property.

"Many people's lives here [at Zion, Rev. Eiwien's church in Akron] and in Cleveland have been touched by the variety of outreaches that Building Hope has initiated," he says. "Planned gifts make it possible to continue to support the groups that you care about even after you have gone to be with the Lord," says Rev. Eiwien.

For more information about the Vibrant City Collective or guidance with considering a planned gift, contact BHITC's Brian Upton at 216.281.4673 or brian@buildinghopeinthecity.org.

VOLUNTEERS GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP AND INSPIRATION

Volunteers and staff came together on a beautiful summer night at Lakewood Park to collaborate and hear how God is at work in the city across BHITC's ministries. The evening began with fellowship and food, followed by a fun activity to depict each person's role within BHITC and ended with a devotional.

Enjoy a few pictures from the gathering, and if you're considering volunteering with BHITC, take the first step and attend one of our Building Hope 101 sessions. Visit our website for the training schedule and to sign up at www.buildinghopeinthecity.org.



REFUGEE MENTORS: HELPING OTHERS THROUGH THEIR STRUGGLES AND ONTO A HEALTHIER FUTURE



When refugees are resettled to the U.S., they bring with them a wide variety of experiences, ranging from suffering extreme persecution to being born in a refugee camp, and never experiencing first-hand the dangers that led their parents to flee their native country years before. Language skills, resiliency and abilities vary as well, and while some refugees adapt very quickly to their new environment, others struggle significantly, which was the case with **Prashna** (not her real name), a refugee from Bhutan.

To these hurting people Jesus is sending His people. That's BHITC's message and the focus of many of its refugee-related ministries.

Although Prashna arrived in the U.S. more than two years ago and has done her best to keep moving forward, her caseworkers identified the need to provide Prashna and her family with added support. She had been plagued with unresolved medical issues, which were only exacerbated due to her lack of transportation to follow-up appointments and limited English skills.

Thanks to funding recently received from **Community West Foundation** and **Wheat Ridge Ministries**, BHITC, along with other partnering organizations, have been able to provide added support for people like Prashna. That help includes partnering refugees with volunteer mentors who are willing to help address medical and social concerns. Prashna and her family were teamed up with **Mary Smith** (not her real name), a refugee mentor and retired nurse, to provide extra help and encouragement to them.

Mary began meeting with the family once a week, focusing on getting Prashna to her appointments, ensuring she has necessary medications, completing a series of address changes following the family's recent move, assisting with English skills and helping Prashna guide her children through a new culture.

"Since meeting the family in January, she has improved significantly by just having someone who is committed to helping her move forward," says **Eileen Wilson**, BHITC's Director of Refugee Resettlement Ministries. "She [Prashna] has been able to attend her necessary

Thank You!

SUMMER 2014

This newsletter was produced at a very low cost to BHITC, thanks to the generosity of **RE May**, which donates printing expenses.

The result is a newsletter publication that looks far nicer than BHITC could afford otherwise. To learn more about this organization www.remay.com.

doctor's appointments, understand how to do her physical therapy exercises, participate in her ongoing health plan and is on her way to being able to resolve her physical issues," says Eileen.

All of this, however, is only half of the story. Prasha has also been able to begin attending cultural adjustment sessions, which are facilitated by a community ambassador from the refugee's community and intended to help individuals make peace with their past and present struggles so they can begin to see a future for themselves. Many refugees such as Prashna have experienced trauma and violence while fleeing their home country, which haunts them and hinders their ability to move forward if left unresolved.

“I've learned that you just have to relax and go with the flow [when working with refugees]. Having a friend in another culture is interesting. You learn a lot from them, and this is one way I can serve as a local missionary,” Mary says.

“Prashna seems happier than when I first met her. She smiles more, she's always

patting me on the arm trying to talk to me and she complains much less of pain,” says Mary. “Her husband is very appreciative of the help, especially with the doctor's appointments. He's even been calling me 'mom' and refers to their kids as my grandchildren,” she says.

Mary's advice for those considering getting involved with refugees is to understand it's not going to be what you expect, but it's always going to be rewarding. “I've learned that you just have to relax and go with the flow. Having a friend in another culture is interesting. You learn a lot from them, and this is one way I can serve as a local missionary,” she says.

For Prashna, life is beginning a new chapter. Now that she has begun to move forward with the help of her mentor and the cultural adjustment sessions, she can look forward to the next day. Does refugee mentoring sound like something God is calling you to do? Visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org to sign up for the next refugee mentor training session!

The names in this article have been changed to protect the individuals' privacy.

SUMMER INTERNS GAIN MUCH EXPERIENCE

BHITC'S INTERNS LEARN PROFESSIONAL SKILLS WHILE BEING INTRODUCED TO GOD'S WORK IN THE CITY

By Robert Fenbers, BHITC Summer Communications Intern



Joel Gentner, left, and Robert Fenbers, right

This summer, two interns joined BHITC – **Robert Fenbers** and **Joel Gentner** – who look to use the opportunity to bring others closer to Christ and serve the needs of the city.

Robert is a broadcast journalism student at Cuyahoga County Community College Western Campus in Parma, where he is a sports writer for **The Voice** newspaper. At BHITC, he is assisting in the areas of Fundraising and Communications, focusing largely on writing articles and stories for email and print newsletters, as well as BHITC's Facebook page. Robert looks to graduate with an associate's degree in 2015 and then pursue his bachelor's degree at Cleveland State University. "I'm really excited to write and serve the Lord. This internship is definitely something I have been searching for," he says.

Joel is going into his sophomore year at Eastern Michigan University, where he is currently discerning his future plans of possibly becoming a pastor. He was influenced by the book "How to Hug a Smelly Guy" written by BHITC's previous executive director, Rev. Jeff Johnson, which led him to inquire about opportunities at BHITC. "I want to get my feet wet in different areas of ministry," he says, "so this is the perfect opportunity for me as I look for discernment in starting my own ministry." Joel is focusing his time at BHITC on summer outreach programs, preparing for a service event involving his church and volunteering throughout the city.

Please welcome Robert and Joel as you see them at BHITC events throughout the remainder of the summer, and pray for God's leading in their next steps and careers.

DEBRA GRIEST: BHITC PARTNER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

(And BHITC's 2014 Volunteer of the Year!)

In a few short months, **Debra Griest**, BHITC's Board Chair since 2009 and member since 2006, passes the reins to **Jonathan Reitz** to serve as its next Chair. Deb, who directs her own consulting business by providing executive coaching, team development and change management to companies of all sizes, has helped shape BHITC and its future thanks to her wisdom, experience and deep love for the Lord.

Under Deb's tenure, BHITC's Board and committees took shape and she led the organization through two important strategic planning processes, building an organization which will forever bare her imprint. The staff of BHITC thanks Deb for serving as a friend, mentor and champion for God's work in the city!

We love you, Deb, and we thank God for you!



From Left, Amy Mitchell, BHITC's Director of Ministry Engagement with Deb Griest, Board Chair and Brian Upton, Executive Director at the 2014 Volunteer Appreciation Event – themed 'Hope Builders' (hence the construction hats) – where Deb was named BHITC's 2014 Volunteer of the Year.

JOIN US FOR A
NIGHT TO BENEFIT
H O P E

SAVE *the* DATE
NOVEMBER 9, 2014

LIGHT
UP **CLE!**

Hope lights up the city!

- BHITC's annual fall event moves to the new and fabulously renovated Westin Cleveland Downtown
- Join us for a sit-down dinner, entertainment and auctions
- All new this year: Bid to win unique items that are all things Cleveland! The auction features gifts from Cleveland-based companies and landmarks, in addition to spectacular baskets featuring Cleveland's many diverse neighborhoods

TRANSFORM 216 RAISES NEW LEADERS FOR CITY CHURCHES

Transform216 (T216) launched in January as a two-year process for coaching and equipping emerging, non-traditional pastors and ministry leaders in Cleveland. The ministry is a partnership between BHITC, CoachNet and the following area churches: **Calvary Reformed**, **MetroAlliance**, **Hope Alliance**, **Scranton Road** and **Trinity Lutheran**.

In July, the T216 leaders, participants and a couple guests gathered for an evening of food, prayer and building into one another's lives. Pictured here are (l to r, front row): T216 Participant **Terrance Phillips**, BHITC Executive Director and T216 Mentor **Brian Upton**, T216 Participant **Kevin Culp**, T216 Participant **James Walker**; (back row) guests **Rev. Bill Woolsey** (Katy, Texas) and **Rev. Mike Chong Perkinson** (Boise, Idaho), incoming BHITC Board Chair and T216 Mentor **Jonathan Reitz**, Pastor at Calvary Reformed Church in Cleveland and T216 Mentor **Rev. Dean Van Farowe** and T216 Participant **David Washington**.



Join these men and other area leaders for a new five-week **Leadership** study on Thursdays at 7:00 pm, beginning September 25th. Find out more and register on our website at www.buildinghopeinthecity.org.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

*Make a date with urban ministry!***Sept 13****Understanding Poverty Seminar**

Grace CMA Church

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

\$10 Registration Fee

Refugee Mentor Training

Building Hope in the City School Building

8:30 am - 12:30 pm**Sept 18****Church Leadership Summit –
Living in Color**

Bay Presbyterian Church

8:00 am - 4:00 pm\$25 per person, register online
at BHITC's website**Sept 22****Building Hope: 101 Class**

Building Hope in the City School Building

5:30 - 6:30 pm**Virtus Training**

Building Hope in the City School Building

7:00 - 8:30 pm**Sept 25****Leadership Bible Study**

Lead by Pastor Joe Abraham

Scranton Road Bible Church

3095 Scranton Rd., Cleveland

September 25 - October 23

Thursdays from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

\$25 Per Person, RSVPs Required

Oct 15**Building Hope: 101 Class**

Building Hope in the City School Building

5:30 - 6:30 pm**Nov 15****Understanding Poverty Seminar**

Bay Presbyterian Church

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

\$10 Registration Fee

Refugee Mentor Training

Building Hope in the City School Building

8:30 am - 12:30 pm**Nov 20****Building Hope: 101 Class**

Building Hope in the City School Building

5:30 - 6:30 pm**Virtus Training**

Building Hope in the City School Building

7:00 - 8:30 pm

For more information or to register for any of the above, contact Lesa Hess at 216.281.4673 or lesa@buildinghopeinthecity.org or visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org and click on the volunteer page.