



*Investments With Eternal Value*

# VALUE LINES

GRACE BRETHREN INVESTMENT FOUNDATION

MARCH 2017

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## MINISTRY IN THE INNER CITY

Urban Hope Training Center was started in October 1998 by CE National as a ministry training center in inner city Philadelphia, PA for short-term ministry teams, with the goal of establishing a local church in West Kensington neighborhood through raising up indigenous youth to lead the new church. The mission of Urban Hope is two-fold: 1). Reaching the urban family through children and 2). Training believers in cross-cultural urban ministry.

In 2007 Urban Hope Community Church officially began meeting as a church with about 35 people, and the church has continued to grow through outreach programs for youth and their families in the community. Currently, 160 children and teens are impacted weekly through outreach programs, around 120 attend mid-week small family groups, and around 175 attend Sunday morning celebration services. Since the beginning of this year, fourteen have made first time decisions to follow Christ.

In 2016 the Training Center had over 1,000 people visit, representing at least 30 different churches, four colleges, three Christian schools and a group of medical students through the Summer Medical Institute.

Living in an urban context has multiple challenges and sometimes something as simple as 'parking' can become problematic and even a barrier to ministry. So when an adjacent piece of property with several parking spaces and parking garages became available, Urban Hope moved quickly

to purchase. "With the help of Grace Brethren Investment Foundation (GBIF), we were able to effectively consolidate our ministry campus," says Jesse DeBoest, Financial Director of CE National. "Up to this point, we often had to arrange for offsite parking of our ministry teams. Now we have secure parking for our guests."

"We praise God for the many opportunities we have to train individuals through ministry experiences with the focus always being on living on mission where you are and raising awareness of the needs in urban areas," says Jason Holt, Director of Urban Hope. "Ministry teams are exposed to a broad range of ministry opportunities while they are at Urban Hope. They live in the community, in dorms that we provide for housing, conduct prayer walks, learn how to share their faith, and minister to the needs of the Puerto Rican community. Groups are also exposed to ministry with the homeless living on the street and in shelters. We also introduce them to ministry among other ethnic communities including Chinese, Cambodian, Laotian, Vietnamese, African American, Italian, Polish and Irish."

GBIF is glad to come alongside CE National/Urban Hope and provide financing. "We're excited to see what the Lord continues to do through Urban Hope, as leaders are trained in our Fellowship," says Ken Seyfert, President and CEO of GBIF. "We hope that this recent acquisition furthers the impact and reach of Urban Hope."



## E-NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

We are excited to announce the release of our semi-annual newsletter via email. You can now read Valuelines on your phone, computer or print it on demand. If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, please head over to our website at [www.gbif.com](http://www.gbif.com). The online services tab has instructions to sign up. We use MailChimp for distribution so subscribing is safe, easy, and secure.



## UPDATE ON MINISTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

Grace Brethren Investment Foundation continues its longstanding track record of contributions to numerous ministries with the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (FGBC). With a successful audit recently completed and 2016 year-end results finalized, the Board has approved contributions totaling \$726,955.

The majority of these contributions are given to ministries that focus on church planting and leadership development within our Fellowship. "We are thrilled to share generously and re-invest our earnings into ministries strengthening the Fellowship," says Ken Seyfert, President and CEO. "Our desire is that these contributions ignite ministry throughout the FGBC and impact generations to come."

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Grace Brethren Investment Foundation would like to officially welcome two new board members: Keith Michael & Carlos Tellez. Both Keith and Carlos have agreed to serve a three-year term beginning 2017.



### CARLOS TELLEZ

Carlos was born and raised in Colombia, South America. He has been involved in church planting in Colombia and Honduras and is currently leading a church-planting effort among multi-ethnic English-speaking young adults in Atlanta, Georgia in cooperation with Encompass World Partners,

Grace Church of Greater Akron, and GBIF. Carlos served at Grace College as the Director of Global Initiatives and later served as the Dean of the Chapel and Global Initiatives. Carlos holds an undergraduate degree in church planting from the Sembrar Institute in Colombia, an MA in Intercultural Studies and an MDiv from Grace Theological Seminary, and is currently working on his PhD in Intercultural Studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Carlos is married to Emily, and they have four children: Sara, Lucas, Julian, and Mateo.



### KEITH MICHAEL

Keith graduated from West Virginia University with a BS in Business Administration, with a concentration in marketing and a minor in communication. Keith works for the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Senior Level Program IT Manager, and serves as a Medical Administration

(MSC) Officer at the 167th Airlift Wing in the West Virginia Air National Guard. Keith is a member of Rosemont Grace Brethren Church in Martinsburg, WV, and serves as Vice Moderator on the church board. He is married to Jessica and has three children: Morgan, Reed, and Cordell.



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