

FAMILY CHRISTIAN CENTER

A Foursquare Church

Rescue, Restore, and Release – Luke 4:18-19

2728 North King Road

Toledo, OH 43617

(419) 885-HOPE (4673)

www.aroundthefamily.com

We are a Foursquare Church. Foursquare is a Pentecostal denomination that believes that Jesus is our Savior, Jesus is our Baptizer with Holy Spirit and Fire, Jesus is our Healer (Burden Bearer), and Jesus is our Soon Coming King. This is represented by the symbol below.

This being said, we are a church that is well suited frankly for the spiritually desperate. We are a church that is not ashamed to declare that a life is lived best if we deny ourselves pick up our cross and follow our savior (Matthew 16:23-25).

Family Christian Center (FCC) is also an intimate gathering on a great mission. We are a family of believers that dreams and moves in faith. Our mission statement, Luke 4:18-19, Rescue, Restore, and Release flavors our personal and church life. What does Rescue, Restore and Release mean? To be rescued means to be free from the clutches of sin and death, restored is to have a growing relationship with and the mind of Christ, and to be released is to participate with the Holy Spirit to contend for broken lives and souls. Our mission is lived through five overall vision statements: Strengthening the family; local evangelism; church unity (inter-denominational); international missions; and leadership development.

The above mission and vision statements are lofty and idealistic. Often when pursuing lofty goals people, churches and organizations can become so driven that they forget to enjoy the journey as they chase the goal. We are fortunate that we have a great reminder not to fall into that trap. The reminder is in our churches name – Family Christian Center (FCC). We believe and take literally what the Lord spoke in John 17 as he prayed for His Church. He wants us to be one. We believe if we remember that we are in God's family first this will allow us to dream and pursue our church and personal goals and desires with full hearts, praise on our lips, joy, and laughter. Our Men's, Women's, Youth, and Children's Ministries are extremely active. Our Church calendar is full with bible studies and social activities.



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Our passion to spread the Gospel takes form in both personal relationships and conducting bible studies within communities. Over the last eight years, we have answered a special calling to bringing the Gospel into Manufactured Home Communities. The culmination of our efforts is typically reflected in conducting Bible Studies either in homes or in the community center. Additionally, we supplement these weekly activities with summer activities consisting of community wide picnics and special events for the family and children.

We contend for church unity by allocating a certain percentage of our budget to support other ministries. Additionally, we have active relationships with both Sylvania area and Springfield Township Churches. Our Springfield Township efforts are led by our Youth Pastor, Samuel Rogers. Pastor Samuel can often be found on a Sunday at WPOS' facility participating in "Avalanche". Avalanche is a multi-church outreach for area youth.

International Missions is integral part of our Church life. Over 25% of our church has participated in an international mission trip. We do missions a little differently than others. Our goal is to always support local churches in pursuing their God given mission and vision. This being said, we have strong church to church relationships in India (over 20 years), Jamaica (7 years), Haiti, Canada (Toronto and soon Quebec), and Cuba. Starting this fall, we will begin exploring new relationships in the Francophone World. In fact, we are training the next generation of Francophone missionaries via our French Children's Bible Study that takes place on Saturdays.

The last word of our motto is Release. We believe we are a Church that should inspire and equip people to pursue their God given vision and ambitions. We affectionately call these pursuits, holy endeavors. We believe these holy endeavors take many forms, such as: new churches; ministries; businesses; careers; and other activities that may be less visible but equally significant.



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Although the church is 60 years old, there is a youthful exuberance that permeates our church culture. Our youthful outlook is not age dependent although fifty percent of the church is 18 years old or younger. As you can see from the picture above, our children and youth participate side by side with the adults in every aspect of our church family's life. We do have a very active church van and bus (3 vehicles) ministry that enables us to pick up unaccompanied children and families to attend our Sunday celebration and other activities.

It is at this point that it is fitting that I share my story of what role FCC played in my life.

In 1994, after serving eight years in the U.S. Air Force, I moved from Los Angeles, CA to Toledo, OH. On the surface it appeared that I was beginning my new life as a civilian. But the fact of the matter was my life was in shambles. I came to Toledo with a heavy and wounded heart wondering what I had done to myself. It was in our lovely city that I found FCC and its glorious mission of Luke 4:18-19, Rescue, Restore, and Release. Little did I know, I would become the Rescue, Restore, and Release poster child. Although I was able to keep my professional life moving forward, my personal life was in tatters. Over the course of ten years, after numerous struggles, and I say this with all sincerity, and only by the power of the Holy Spirit, I was finally able to grab hold of Galatians 2:20 and confess and declare, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved and gave himself for me." I encapsulate this scripture in my spirit, heart, and mind by saying to myself and others – Abandon in Christ. I learned this phrase from Oswald Chamber's book, My Utmost for His Highest. My grip on this Galatians 2:20 sometimes slips, but I will not kid myself or others regarding the Gospel, Jesus our Savior calls us to abandon ourselves and get lost and found in Him.

I cannot tell you how happy it is to know that Jesus is the God of many chances. The things I thought were lost forever; he has brought them to reality. 2004 will always be a year that will be dear to me. It was in 2004



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that the Lord blessed me with a beautiful and wonderful bride, the former Heather Hartranft, a son, and a home; it also was in 2004 that Heather and I were asked to lead the saints that make up Family Christian Center. I often express to our congregation that it is a pleasure and a joy to be their Pastor.

If you would like to learn more about Family Christian Center, we invite you to visit us online at www.aroundthefamily.com, e-mail – pastorbeau@aroundthefamily.com, or call us (419) 885-HOPE (4673).

