

Building Bridges in the “Burgh” and Beyond

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is a city of bridges. With a total of 723 bridges, it has more than any other city in the world except Venice, Italy. The metro-area has a population of 2.3 million people. There is much religion in the area but very few people have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord (less than 5% claim to be evangelical Christians). The “Burgh”, as the locals affectionately call Pittsburgh, is made up of 1,600 boroughs, or neighborhoods, each having their own distinctive ethnic and religious characteristics. Throughout the city, you will find over every hill and every bridge, a neighborhood different from the one through which you just traveled.

Four Kentucky Baptist associations are working in partnership with one another and fellow believers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to build bridges into these boroughs and into the lives of individuals and families in order to share Christ and start new churches! Kentucky Baptists in Lynn, Nelson, Oldham-Trimble, and Severns Valley associations are needed to make this three-year effort a success. The goal is to help church planters, their families, and the Baptist Association of Southwest Pennsylvania start churches in areas where many people perhaps have never even heard the gospel in a meaningful way. This is more than a “one and done” type experience. We want to establish long-term relationships that will have a meaningful impact on all parties involved. We are attempting to push back spiritual darkness by cooperating with, encouraging, and equipping local believers as they start these new churches. In time, we want to see these new churches start other new churches so people everywhere can hear the gospel of Christ and experience His love.

Therefore, Pittsburgh is strategic not only because of its influence in the region, but also because of the possibilities to build bridges into a much bigger area. Pittsburgh was once known as the gateway to the west. What if God is now turning it around and is saying, “I am making Pittsburgh a gateway to the northeast and beyond”? What if God wants to make Pittsburgh into a place where the gospel crosses a multitude of bridges into countless regions and lives?

There are many ways to become involved in the Pittsburgh/Central Kentucky Partnership. Please see the information listed on the inside of this brochure for some suggestions of how individuals and churches can participate in this partnership.

It Starts in Kentucky

The Pittsburgh/Central Kentucky Partnership is part of *Go Metro USA*, a church-planting effort among Kentucky Baptist associations across the commonwealth. Through *Go Metro USA*, groups of four to seven associations in Kentucky come together to assist church planters in urban areas outside the “Bible Belt”. Other partners in this effort include the Kentucky Baptist Convention, North American Mission Board, other state conventions and associations, local churches, and church planters. In this particular partnership Lynn, Nelson, Oldham-Trimble, and Severns Valley associations were drawn together. After much prayer and discussion (which included a brief “Vision Trip” in January 2011), Pittsburgh was selected for this *Go Metro USA* Partnership.

Over its three-year span there will be many opportunities for Kentucky Baptists to participate in this partnership. Making an eternal difference in the “Burgh” will involve a deep reliance on God, a strong commitment, and the establishment of a long-term and healthy relationship (based on caring and support) between Kentucky Baptist churches and our partners in Pittsburgh. **This initiative helps congregations as they seek to follow the words of Christ in Acts 1:8 to “be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”.** Please consider praying, giving and going to your “Samaria” through *Go Metro Pittsburgh*.

What's Next?

Contact the office or the director of missions at one of the associations listed below or the Missions Growth Team of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to find out more about this partnership or the *Go Metro USA* emphasis. You may also visit www.kybaptist.org for free downloadable resources.

Go Metro USA is made possible, in part, through contributions by Kentucky Baptists to the Cooperative Program.

Lynn Baptist Association - (270) 325 - 2221
Nelson Baptist Association - (502) 348 - 0146
Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association - (502) 225 - 9449
Severns Valley Baptist Association - (270) 765 - 4023

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