



August 2007



Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. So much has happened in the past two months that I am going to do my best to share the "big picture" and would invite you to check our blog: overflowcommunity.blogspot.com for even more details or just give me a call...nothing beats a real conversation! In the past two months, our family took a 10-day vacation to rest and recharge and were so blessed by the extended time together. A wise person had told us during this time that this was necessary in order for us to be filled up and to "have something to overflow with". They were correct and we entered into late June and early July with a clear vision and passion for what God has called us to be and do with Overflow Church. That is, to "live as a Christ centered movement for all people that overflows boundaries and transforms our region and beyond" or simply put, "God pours in, and we pour out".

With this vision burning within us, we have spent the past month watching God open incredible doors within the communities of Benton Harbor/St. Joseph. To give you an idea of the amount of time spent on networking this past month I thought, this snapshot might help:

Networking in July

- 4,557 miles traveled
- 250+ phone calls
- 150+ information packets emailed/mailed
- 100+ emails sent
- 42+ personal meetings
- 2 local church visits
- 1 vision and mission unfolding
- Many new relationships formed...
PRICELESS



Dawson turns one this month!

"May the God of hope fill you with all JOY and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

Contact Us



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In July, we have clearly seen God at work in so many areas as we have encountered: community members ready to join Bible studies in the fall; community leaders receptive to our vision and sharing their support; local churches, family and friends beginning to support Overflow; and local businesses desiring to partner with Overflow as we get started. It has truly felt like an “overflow” of God’s activity this past month and I would like to share this one very significant highlight:

During the past couple of weeks we have spent time with the Orchards Mall management team in Benton Harbor and have discovered new friends and a location for Overflow Church to begin! We have been received with open arms and have been given the opportunity to have a ministry “office” space in a retail storefront in the mall, as well as availability to the community center to begin our Bible study groups in September. We are amazed at this opportunity to connect with the community in this way and look forward to meeting daily in a space that serves the entire region and has a shared desire to bring people together. God is a God of the impossible!

As we look ahead, we would like to let briefly answer any questions about the financial needs of Overflow Church. Overflow Church is being sent by the Wesleyan Denomination as a community church and has received 40% of the annual budget from our network. The remaining 60% of funds allocated and approved by our District Board, are to be raised through our network of family, friends, and local churches. Overflow Church is a non-profit organization and is administratively equipped now for this next stage of support raising. We would ask that you prayerfully consider a giving commitment, over the next year or two, to Overflow Church as we continue to move forward with God’s guidance and provision for this church plant.

** For scriptural references in support of this kind of ministry giving and support, please see 2 Corinthians 9 & 11.*

Current Support Needs

- Prayer:
 - We are still looking for “prayer team” members to continually keep Overflow and our family supported
- Giving:
 - We would like to ask you to consider joining us in one of the following ways:
 - Overflow regular support commitment
 - Overflow support gift
 - Overflow current need of \$3,000 towards the renovation and preparation of our new ministry space in the mall to be opened in September of 2007
 - Physical mall ministry space needs:
 - Two desks
 - Bookshelf
 - 1 LCD projector
 - Wood flooring or tile
 - 1 computer monitor & speakers
 - 1 couch for lounge area
 - Paper cutter & general office supplies

- People:
 - We want as many as possible to join us September 23 from 3-5pm for our Overflow “Day of Prayer & Praise” event. Location: Orchards Mall
 - We are praying for those called to join us, though travel or relocation, to help launch Overflow
 - We are looking for any possible contacts or leads you may have in the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph region

Next Steps & Special Events

- August:
 - Support raising with friends, family, and local churches who want to partner with us in starting Overflow Church
 - Preparing the Overflow Church ministry space in the Orchards Mall for its opening in September. Help is needed with painting, flooring, signs, office equipment and supplies, etc.
- September:
 - Overflow “Life of Christ” Bible Studies start Sept 5th
 - Weekly Studies: Wed 7pm & Sun 4pm in the Orchards Mall Community Center
 - Day of Prayer & Praise, Sunday, Sept 23 from 3-5pm at the Orchards Mall. This is a foundational day of prayer and praise for the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph region and we invite everyone to join us!
 - Brian begins part-time work at South Shore Athletic Club as a fitness and tennis coach providing a small income and a great opportunity to meet members of the community.

Getting Involved

Email brianbennett121@gmail.com or call 269.861.4497 to join our prayer, launch, or support teams.

Support may be sent to:

Overflow Community Church
PO Box 732
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Prayer Requests

- That our home in Battle Creek will sell and that God will direct our house hunting in Benton Harbor
- That our family will experience God’s grace and peace during this busy season
- That God’s provision will continue, doors will continue to open with people in the area
- That God will provide us with diversity from day one with Overflow
- That God will use Overflow to truly impact the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph region with Jesus’ love and message
- That God will use the ministry space & Bible studies in the mall

Thanks for being a part of Overflow Community Church! We could not do it without you.

Brian, Cindy, Hannah, and Dawson Bennett



Overflow Church “General Fund” Support Sheet

* Please include this form with your support.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Yes, we/I would love to stand with you in support of planting *Overflow Church*.

_____ We/I will faithfully pray for you, your family, and your ministry.

_____ We/I will financially support your ministry*

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
___ \$25.00	___ Monthly
___ \$50.00	___ Quarterly
___ \$100.00	___ Semi-Annually
___ \$250.00	___ Annually
___ \$500.00	___ Special Gift
___ Other \$ _____	

We/ I would like to help with the physical needs of your ministry space at The Orchards Mall by donating:

_____ Cash Gift of \$ _____ toward furnishing your ministry space.

_____ Actual item of _____ for your ministry space.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

*NOTE: Please make your monetary gifts payable to *Overflow Church*. All gifts are tax deductible. Mail to *Overflow Church*, PO Box 732, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. Receipts will be issued to you in compliance with IRS guidelines on a quarterly basis unless otherwise requested.



Day of Prayer & Praise

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Sunday, September 23, 2007

3:00-5:00pm

Orchards Mall Community Center (Entrance 4)

1800 Pipestone Rd.

Benton Harbor, MI 49022

For more information: brianbennett121@gmail.com



On-Site

Day of Prayer & Praise
Sunday, September 23



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