

# MIKE, LYNNETTE & HUNTER

"The Crosses - Taking the Cross to Missoula, MT"

## BABY STEPS!

Greetings from Missoula, MT! There are some exciting things that are happening out here in the West. God has been faithful in growing Redeeming Grace Baptist Church. It has been a slow and steady growth. I liken the process to watching our son make small steady changes. Our son Hunter turned 4 months old on April 30th! (Time flies!) He is in the stage of being able to bear weight on his legs, have fairly good control of his head, push himself up while doing "Tummy Time," starting to giggle, etc. I enjoy to see the small changes that happen from week to week. It is the same way with this church plant out here; progressive changes that happen over time.

One of the exciting things that is happening with the church plant right now is that we are in the beginning stages of moving forward to rent a permanent facility. As I have mentioned before, commercial space is very expensive out here. We have come across several spaces that are between 1300-1500 sq. ft. that run \$1500-\$2500 a month, plus the additional fees on top of that. We were attempting to stay area specific to the hotel we currently meet in. There is not an Independent Baptist Church in that area of town, let alone any other church. We could not find sufficient space for a decent price. We then started looking all over Missoula for a space to rent, basically a transition space for us. I was on my way to meet with an individual and saw a sign that read, "Space for Lease or Sale" with a phone number to call. I called the number and the gentleman that answered the phone questioned me about my cell phone number being from Clarksburg, WV. I explained to him that we moved out here last year and that my phone number was still a WV number. He then continued to tell me that he had graduated from the Dentist School at WVU. What a divine appointment! I then told him that we are looking for a space to rent for the church plant. Come to find out, he has a warehouse space available that he is using for storage. The blessing in all

### Contact Info:

2200 Great Northern Ave.  
Apt. A31

Missoula, MT 59808

(304) 627-8387

michael.cross@abc.edu

### Sending Church:

Landmark Baptist Church

Pastor Ken Shiflet

1514 Harrison Ave.

Elkins, WV 26241

(304) 636-6229

### Support:

**\*\*Please send all support checks to Landmark Baptist Church\*\***

Make Checks Payable to:  
**Landmark Baptist Church**

Memo Line:  
**New Church Fund**



### **Missoula, MT Facts:**

---

Population of Missoula:  
**70,000**

Population affiliated with any religion: **28%**

28% "Religious" Breakdown:

- **9% Catholic**
- **4.5% LDS**
- **3.71% Lutheran**
- **1.36% Baptist**
- **9.43% Other**

### **"Fun" MT Facts:**

---

- Glacier National Park has 250 lakes within its boundaries.
- Montana's name comes from the Spanish word mountain.
- Butte, MT was home to motorcycle daredevil "Evil" Knievel.
- Montana has a larger population of cattle than people, 2.5-1.
- Montana has no general sales tax.

this, financially he does not have to rent it out but he is willing to move the items in the building out so we could have a space to meet. Another blessing is that he is willing to work with us on a price! I asked him how much it would cost for rent and his response was, "What can the church afford?" Obviously not much being a church plant. He informed me that he didn't want to name a price that we could not afford because both of us would be in trouble. Currently we are paying \$400 a month for the hotel to lock it down for Sunday Mornings. I then threw the number \$700 a month and he did not see a problem with it. No lease agreement has been signed yet, but we are in the process of working towards that goal.

There are going to be some costs to get into the place. There is a room that will have to have a ceiling put on it for the children. We are going to have to rip a portion of a wall out for our entrance. One of the blessings is that we have a guy in the church that is very knowledgeable in construction and has agreed to oversee the small projects that have to be done to move in. Rather than hiring it out, we will be able to complete the projects ourselves. Other costs that we are looking at to move in are the cost of chairs, pulpit, small PA system and other small items I am sure we have not thought of. The people of the church are really excited about the move to a permanent place.

We ask for prayer for the upcoming move. It is an exciting time yet nerve racking time. This will be a step of faith this local body will take. We also ask that you pray for the people to take ownership of the church plant. In the upcoming weeks I am going to preach a Sunday morning series on the church which will include our financial responsibility and service responsibility to the local church, as well as missions outreach both here and abroad.

We want to thank you again for your continued prayer and financial support for Redeeming Grace Baptist Church!