



Update from Tracy and Renee Haines

Assisting Grace Community Church in Chestertown, MD

Bringing you up to date!

Many years ago when I was single in the late 1980's, I spent a year helping plant a church in Istanbul, Turkey. Since then I married Renee, raised a family with her, finished seminary, and just recently retired from Verizon after twenty-seven years. Now that we are empty nesters, we believe the Lord is calling us to help plant a church, much closer this time, in Chestertown, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Istanbul is near the ancient Biblical port of Troas where Paul received a vision of a Man in Macedonia asking for help (Acts 16). Paul concluded that God wanted them to cross the Aegean Sea and preach the gospel there. God has shown me today that there is a desire for help in Chestertown, Maryland. This means I will need to cross the Chesapeake Bay to preach the gospel there.

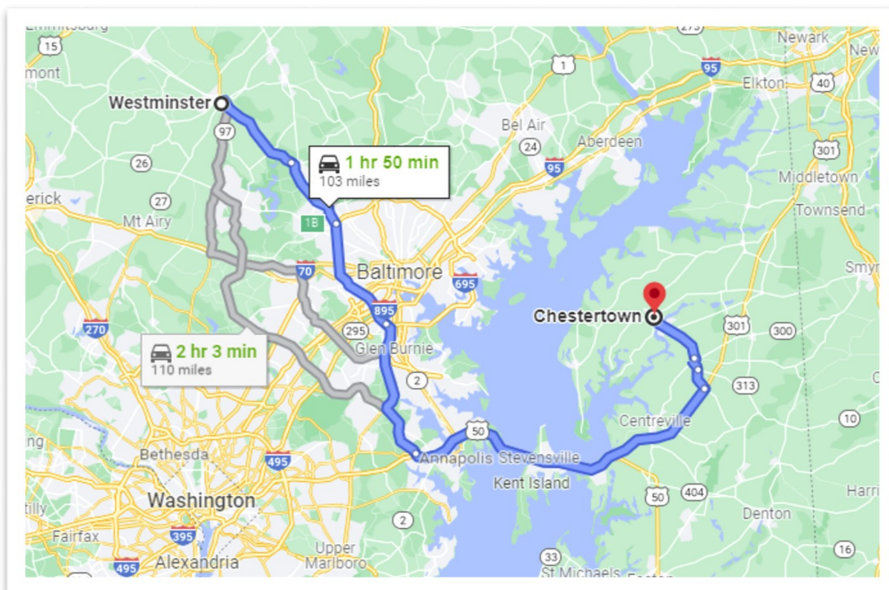
How did this happen?

About five years ago as I was finishing my last seminary class at Reformed Theological Seminary in Washington D.C., I began seriously searching for a ministry I could join that was in line with my gifts and abilities and was also doctrinally compatible. To make a long story short, I discovered the Bible Fellowship Church, a reformed denomination in the mid-Atlantic area. I found this group of churches not only to be serious about God's word, but they also emphasized evangelism, discipleship, and growing new churches through their church planting department, Church Extension Ministries.



Renee and Tracy Haines

After going through the application process with the denomination, I learned there was a need for an Assistant Church Planter at Grace Community Church which is the first church of the denomination in Maryland. Here is a map showing Westminster, where we now live, and Chestertown.



Grace Community Today!

Our church has a name: Grace Community Church. It is rare among church plants in

that it already has its own building with worship sanctuary, multiple classrooms, and kitchen. James and Mindy Reff and their four children have been there several years laboring even through some difficult COVID days. There has been an ongoing youth archery ministry for a couple of years. A youth ministry recently started. Each Sunday morning an adult Sunday School class is held and a worship service that averages 30 people. There is a midweek service. There is an administrative team in place as well as a Transitional Leadership Team consisting of elders and pastors from other churches. Once Grace Community develops its own elders, this team will be disbanded.



Church Planter James Reff with his wife, Mindy, and their four children

In the Near Future!

After our daughter Rachel moves to Georgia to attend Covenant College, all five of our grown children will be in different states. Then, Renee and I will move to Chestertown. Our goal is to help this church graduate from church plant status into a self-sustaining church. Renee plans on working part-time somewhere in the community and will use her gifts of hospitality, service, and mercy as always. I will be sharing some of the preaching on Sundays, developing adult Bible studies and small group ministry, outreach in the community, and assisting James where needed.



How can you support us?

First and foremost through prayer. Here are some current needs:

- To find housing in the Chestertown area, whether renting or buying
- For Renee to find good part-time employment
- For James and I to learn to minister together in harmony
- For spiritual growth of the believers already at Grace Community.
- For outreach in the community to bear fruit.

Secondly, until Grace Community Church is financially self-supporting, outside help will be needed. Would you consider supporting the work financially? A support response card is included in this mailing. You can also give online at ChurchPlantingBFC.org/Donate.

Thank you for your prayers and support for us in this new venture.

In Christ,

Tracy and Renee Haines

Find out more about Church Extension Ministries at ChurchPlantingBFC.org