

Flourish CHURCH



LAUNCHING APRIL 12, 2020

— "A MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH PLANTING CHURCH" —



I AM KURT

CHURCH PLANTER

Kurt Owens was born and raised as a preacher's kid in the central city of Milwaukee. As a youth, he was involved with gangs and by the age of 22, was a successful drug dealer. After a near death experience, he gave his life to Jesus and would later become an ordained minister. In 2005, he planted his first church in the central city of Milwaukee. In 2016, he led the launch of a north side multi-ethnic ministry initiative for epikos church. He and his wife Dee-Dee are the proud parents of 5 adult children and the proud grandparents of 10.

EDUCATION

- **B.A. in Business**
from Concordia University
- **M.A. in Christian Ministry**
from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary
- **Ed. D in Organizational Leadership (ABD)**
from Grand Canyon University.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

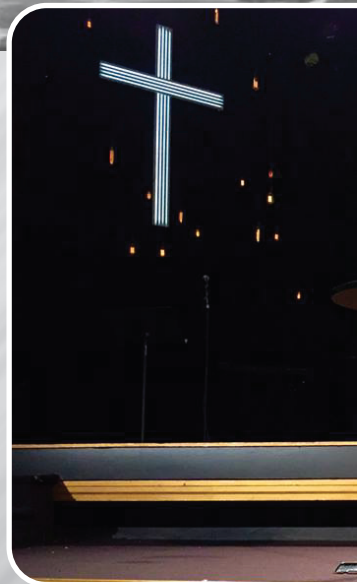
- ✓ Board member of Community Warehouse and Partners in Hope
- ✓ Board member of Pathways High School
- ✓ Member of Steering Council of Aurora Health Care
- ✓ Founder and president of Bridge Builders, a neighborhood development organization
- ✓ President of the Milwaukee Declaration, a group of multi-ethnic pastors from southeastern Wisconsin who stand as one in promoting racial unity within the body of Christ.



MY STORY



In spite of being a pastor's kid, I felt as if I was doomed to hell. I never understood why I had to beg God for acceptance, so I gave up and turned to the streets of Milwaukee. As a successful drug dealer, my peers more than accepted me. I wore the best clothes, drove the best cars, made a ton of money, and simply purchased acceptance and validation from others. Nevertheless, my lavish lifestyle also made me a target. I was robbed three separate times, but it wasn't until the last robbery at gunpoint that I truly began considering life after death. As the gunmen demanded I kneel down, I figured I only had enough time left to ask God to forgive me, which I did. Surprised I was still alive, I then promised God if he got me out of that particular situation, that I would change my life. In a strange twist of fate, the gunmen did not pull the trigger and instead demanded I lead them to the money. Though they had already robbed me for the drugs, they also wanted money. Therefore, I led them to the upper porch of my home and reached underneath the bannister as though I had money hidden there.



SPARED BY GOD

All in one swoop, I flipped my body off the porch while landing on my shoeless feet. While there is no reasonable explanation of how that was possible, God not only heard my plea but spared my life that day. I was forever changed! From that day forward, I was determined to keep my vow to the Lord. I completely turned away from my life as a drug dealer, and took a job working as a delivery driver for a pharmaceutical company making \$7.50 an hour. How ironic is that? I was still delivering drugs but this time it was legit and for a lot less money. This was my first life lesson in humility! Consequently, a young White guy (my boss) took a keen interest in me and began teaching me the business. He brought me into the warehouse, and from there, into the front office. He taught me everything there was to know about the business and within 15 months.



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**I VALUE MULTI-ETHNIC MINISTRY
BECAUSE I AM THE PRODUCT OF
WHAT CAN HAPPEN THROUGH
MULTI-ETHNIC RELATIONSHIPS**

”

- Kurt Owens

I had worked my way up to the top of that branch. A couple of months later, I was promoted to our corporate office in Jackson, MS. Unbelievably, in a period of 18 months, I had gone from being a street thug dope dealer to running 13 branches nationwide; albeit, with no college education. By this time, I knew God was at work in my life. Soon after arriving in Jackson, an older White gentleman knocked at my door. He said he wanted to share the Gospel. I remember him asking me “if you were to die tonight and sat at God’s door, what would you say to him in an effort to get in?” I said something along the lines of my good outweighing my bad. However, he informed me that salvation had nothing to do with what I had done in life. He then shared with me Romans 10:9, of which I had never heard. That night, I tossed and turned wondering how that scripture could be true in spite of all my imperfections. Tears flowed like a well spring when it finally hit me. If this scripture was true, then I had been saved since the age of 9 years old. That night, I came into the knowledge of my salvation. Ironically, the moral of my story is the two most important life moments came through multi-ethnic interaction. I value multi-ethnic ministry because I am the product of what can happen through multi-ethnic relationships.



THE PROBLEM

The church planting scene in central city Milwaukee is fairly problematic and serves as an indictment on both the Black and White church. Subsequently, one would be hard pressed to find any Black churches raising up and supporting church planters outside of a multi-site situation. In contrast, while White churches plant churches in the central-city, there is a disconnect when it comes to embracing the central city context; and having a fair representation of multi-ethnic leadership and decision making. Unfortunately, the suburban cookie-cutter approach applied to a central city context commonly ends up in a failed church plant. In many cases, these plants include a church planter that is a transplant instead of an indigenous minister empowered to further the kingdom in a central city context. In other cases, and much like the Black church, a White church may forgo an autonomous plant altogether; and instead, only add an additional site to their number. Consequently, without the presence of contextually appropriate bible-based church plants, more people in Milwaukee are leaving traditional churches and transitioning to nothing. Further exacerbating the problem is a growing demographic of central-city residents who have completely lost faith in the church altogether due to either personal experience or negative perception. Additionally, other doctrines such as the Black Israelites are beginning to take up residence in Milwaukee. Without the infusion of new gospel centered churches being planted in the context of the central city, the gospel will be under heavy attack in Milwaukee. Currently, options could be much better when it comes to a contextually appropriate, bible based, multi-ethnic, central city church.

THE SOLUTION



“PLANT **FIVE** CHURCHES IN THE NEXT **FIVE** YEARS”

In conjunction with Central City Church Planters, Uflourish will plant five churches over the next five years. Be that as it may, and in an effort to address the lack of church planting in Milwaukee, a culture of church planting among the Black church community in partnership with White suburban churches must be built.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

- ✓ Create new assessments best defining the characteristics needed for a central city church planter.
- ✓ Build strong central city church planting network
- ✓ Create urban/suburban church planting partnerships
- ✓ Plant churches that plant churches
- ✓ Identify and equip indigenous central-city church planters.
- ✓ Establish a contextualized funding model

MISSION

To be a gospel centered, multi-ethnic, church planting church built on the pillars of missions, faith, work, and economics

WHAT'S THE GIST BEHIND THE FOUR PILLARS

The gist of our mission is to build out ministry in a way where we don't add another thing to the lives of our people but rather, we seek to be a part of what is already happening in the lives of those we serve. Therefore, we intend to embrace the local mission efforts that already exist in our community. We will explore how we can best support our brothers and sisters doing parachurch ministry sitting in our pews. Additionally, our desire is to see the faith community equipped with a biblical theology of work and economics so we might contribute to making a sustainable impact on human flourishing in our community. How we think about work and economics combined with our faith could be the impetus for innovative ministry impacting Milwaukee with the gospel.

CORE VALUES

- ✓ BIBLICALLY CENTERED TEACHING
- ✓ DIVERSITY
- ✓ AUTHENTICITY
- ✓ VULNERABILITY
- ✓ CHURCH PLANTING
- ✓ THE UNBELIEVER
- ✓ LOCAL MISSIONS
- ✓ LIFE GROUPS & COMMUNITY
- ✓ UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
- ✓ HUMAN FLOURISHING

DISCIPLESHIP



STEP ONE:

We invite people to FAITH in Jesus.

STEP TWO

We invite people into FELLOWSHIP.

- Worship
- Life Groups
- Community

STEP THREE

We inspire people to FOLLOW the teachings of Jesus.

- Grow in the knowledge of the Word
- Grow in application of the Word
- Grow in bearing fruits of the Word

STEP FOUR

We inspire people to FLOURISH.

- Flourish in their Faith
- Flourish in their Missional impact
- Flourish in their Occupational impact
- Flourish in their Economic impact

VISION

“
Flourishing People
Planting Flourishing
Churches
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FAQ

1) What type of teaching will be employed?

The teaching model at Uflourish Church will include multi-ethnic team teaching centered on expositively preaching through entire books of the bible.

2) What style of worship can I expect?

The worship style to be employed at Uflourish will be a unique blend of authentic worship from two or more cultures. An example would include an authentic mix of K-Love and contemporary gospel.

3) How long will the service last?

The typical worship service of Uflourish Church will last one hour and 10 minutes.

4) How will the church be involved in local outreach?

Positively impacting the spaces we occupy will be key to who we are. We intend to be at the forefront in serving and partnering with organizations already doing great things in our community.

5) What will be the dress code?

There will be no official dress code to abide by. Feel free to dress comfortably as you attend our services.

CONSIDER FOUR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- ✓ **PRAY**
- ✓ **GIVE SACRIFICIALLY**
- ✓ **JOIN LAUNCH TEAM**
- ✓ **JOIN BEHIND THE SCENES**



For more Information

Email: info@uflourishchurch.org

Phone: 414-526-0191 or visit us at uflourishchurch.org

LAUNCHING

EASTER 2020

GREEN TREE PREP (FORMERLY WEBSTER)
AT 53RD AND GREEN TREE RD

