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Recently, after completing their studies, she asked Kurt if he thought he should be baptized. With a simple yet heartfelt “uh-hum,” he confirmed his desire. Though his parents hesitated and postponed the decision, God made it clear that it was time.

On the day of his baptism, the church was filled with those who had witnessed Kurt’s incredible journey, from a nonverbal child on the spectrum to a young man transformed by the love of God.

The service was marked by overwhelming joy and tears as Kurt’s story was shared. His mother played a praise song she had recorded, a heartfelt offering to thank God for his goodness. As Kurt entered the water, it felt like more than just a baptism – it was a celebration, a spiritual wedding day where God’s precious child was united with Christ in his death and resurrection.

The morning was a profound reminder that our Lord is still the Lord of miracles. Kurt’s obedience to God’s plan of salvation brought honor to him and glory to God. People from all backgrounds came together to witness this sacred moment, united in awe of God’s transformative power.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
– 2 Corinthians 5:17

What a miraculous day it was—a day of faith, love, and hope renewed in the presence of our Savior.



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> *I Love My Church – Mark and Lin Ottenweller*

January 23, 2025 • Disciples Today

Mark and Lin Ottenweller have had incredible journeys of faith spanning many decades, cultures and continents. Here they share their stories of God’s faithfulness through painful losses and how the...

> *Ken Lowey: A Servant Goes Home to God*

January 29, 2025 • Roger Lamb – Boston, MA, USA

Another great servant has gone home to be with the Lord. Dr. Ken Lowey passed into eternity on January 1, 2025 after a long battle with cancer. Ken was one of my dearest friends and someone I longed to imitate. His incredible spirit of faith, joy, vision and love inspired generations of people in his family, church and...

> *God is Entrepreneurial – And So Are You*

January 28, 2025 • Christian Ray Flores – Austin, TX, USA

God is entrepreneurial, and as his image bearers, we are wired to create, innovate, and multiply. It’s in our very design. God doesn’t just create; he invests in us with purpose. The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 reveals his desire for us to use what we’ve...

> *2025 ICYFM November 7-9 in Indianapolis*

January 27, 2025 • ICOC Youth & Family Service Team

The Youth and Family Service team is happy to announce that the International Conference of Youth and Family Ministry will be held November 7-9, 2025 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Rise Church will host an incredible weekend focused on serving and leading...



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INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETIN

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A Miraculous Day in Lebanon: Celebrating Kurt’s Baptism

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teleios Conference

February 20-22, 2025
Abilene, TX, USA or online

DT Travel: Caribbean

February 23-March 2, 2025

Beloved & Dignified Conference

Online • March 28-29 2025

ICMC Europe

Tallinn, Estonia
April 18-21, 2025

Asian Discipleship Summit

Bali, Indonesia
June 12-15, 2025

DT Travel: Alaska

July 6-13, 2025

ICMC

Los Angeles, CA, USA
July 31-August 3, 2025

LA Jubilee

Los Angeles, CA, USA
July 31-August 3, 2025

DT Travel: South Africa

September 20-October 2, 2025

ICOC Delegates Meeting

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
October 22-24, 2025

January 27, 2025 • Layla Matar – Beirut, Lebanon

On a beautiful morning filled with joy and reverence, our church family in Beirut gathered to witness an extraordinary testimony of God’s love and transforming power. It was the baptism of Kurt, the first special needs child to come to our church back in 2010 as a seven-year-old with severe autism.



From the beginning, the church embraced Kurt and his family with open arms, walking alongside them in faith. Over the years, we witnessed God’s hand at work, transforming not only Kurt but also his family as they deepened their relationship with him. Kurt was not just a recipient of God’s grace – he became the catalyst for his family’s faith journey. His presence and needs were the reason his parents met God, and their lives were changed from a marriage in turmoil to a powerful testimony of God’s restoration. They now lead a special needs ministry called “The Proud Souls” ministry, helping other families like theirs to see God in their challenges. Today, almost 10 families attend church regularly, finding hope and healing through their example.

Kurt’s father led his children by example, kneeling in daily prayer. His mother clung to the powerful promise of Hebrews 4:12: “For the word of God is alive and active.” She boldly prayed that as she opened the Bible with her son, God would move in his heart. Despite the challenges, she trusted in the Lord and modified her Bible studies to meet Kurt’s unique needs.

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN
CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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