



More History Than You'll Ever Want or Need

BUT IS IMPORTANT TO HELP US UNDERSTAND OUR JOURNEY
(SOMEDAY THERE'S BE PHOTOS)



AN INTRODUCTION

KINGDOM IMPACT THEATER is a Chicago-based ensemble of theater missionaries who uses theater, music and oral interpretation of scripture to introduce to message of Gospel of Christ to people who wonder, and bring those who know Christ into a deeper understanding of Him.

Kingdom Impact Theater, also known as KIT, was founded by Michael & Vikki Myers, professionals in the Chicago theater community, who merged their acting and writing talents with pianist Garlan Garner when they met at a worship service between their sister churches.

KIT is committed to entertain and educate and not deviate from the word. Their motto is, "The best script is Scripture." We're glad we got the KIT. Please welcome Kingdom Impact Theater.

A PRE-RAMBLE

1987 – Michael and Vikki meet in a theater bar through a mutual friend in Chicago. He is smitten. She is dating the mutual friend.

1988 – Michael calls Vikki to appear in a staged reading of one of his scripts. He has the wrong name and number.

1990, Spring – Michael is appearing in an all-male theater show in Chicago; Vikki is appearing in an all-female theater show in Chicago. Her cast comes to see his cast. She is smitten. Neither is dating.

1990, Summer – They start dating. Michael doesn't realize it.

1990, Fall – Vikki cast in "From the Mississippi Delta" at Chicago's Goodman Theater.

1991 – Michael & Vikki continue dating. Michael doesn't realize it.

1991, Fall – Michael directs his first play in Chicago, "Victims," at Organic Theater. Vikki cast in two shows in Kansas City. Leaves Chicago.

1992, New Year's – Michael & Vikki enter "Season of Concern:" Are we dating?

1992, Spring – Vikki returns from Kansas City. Michael starts dating Vikki. Vikki doesn't realize it.

1992, Easter – Michael asks Vikki on date to last option: church

1992, June – Michael receives Joseph Jefferson Citation for directing "Victims;" upstages himself by proposing to Vikki from the stage.

1993, April – Michael & Vikki marry but can't dance at Elk Grove Baptist Church, yet become members there anyway.



A HISTORY

1994

Fall

Elk Grove Baptist Church **Pastor Norm Anderson** asks Michael and Vikki – professional actors, recently married and new members of the church -- to create something he has long-wanted to do: present a brief live theater piece to support his sermon for the church's fall community outreach. They improvise a scene, "**Friendship through the Ages,**" transitioning from friends at birth through age 90 in 5 minutes. A seed is planted.

Pastor Norm redubs Michael "Mike," reviving the handle of his youth and interchangeable identities.

High school students at the church ask if Mike and Vikki would **sponsor a student drama ministry**. **Assisted by family and youth pastor Mark Clem**, Mike writes proposal to Christian Education Board for blessing and budget underwriting. Proposal assures that theater elements of scene study, character development and script memorization will be applied to Scripture study and Biblical application as discipleship tools. The motto, "**The best script is Scripture,**" emerges. **The Elk Grove Baptist Theatre Ensemble** is born.

Because of lack scripts, Mike begins writing scenes based upon sermons, scriptures and Sunday school classes. Creates his first "**Writing Bible**" with scene notes and ideas penned in the margins.

Ensemble begins **Sunday afternoon rehearsal outreach** learning basics of theater, improvisation and writing; starts rehearsing for all-church Christmas cantata.

1995

Spring

The Ensemble readies its first performance outside of EGBC as Mike and Vikki prepare for their **first mission trip**, to Tijuana, Mexico. Mike writes **five Vacation Bible School scenes based** upon the wordless book gospel outreach. He writes the scene in English; has them translated to Spanish by niece **Carla Brown**. They learn enough Spanish to perform the scenes. Neighborhood kids flock to them, speaking in Spanish. Mike learns head-nodding as second language.

Fall

Ensemble presents first original scene, "**Streetwise Lamentations,**" for Friendship Day; expands to include interested adults and to accommodate requests from other EGBC ministries for special performances other than Sunday mornings.

Vikki appears in "**A Raisin in the Sun**" at **Rockford Theater and Madison Repertory Theater**. Stage manager **Kalai Tailhook** offers invitation to attend a Christian theater ministry conference, the first connection between professionals and theater ministries.

EGBC Ensemble creates original staging for Christmas Cantata, "**Love's Pure Light.**"



1996

Spring

The drama ministry begins learning the process of playwrighting by adapting psalms into contemporary scenes. The outgrowth is **“Celebration in Psalms,”** an Easter season presentation of psalms performed as monologues, adapted as scenes, and interpreted through song by the church choir. Audience response requests a repeat performance the next spring.

Mike continues adapting scriptures into theater scenes, completing a draft of a full-length play, **“The X-Trial,”** a view of the crucifixion, resurrection and Second Coming scene through the lens of modern television reporting. A staged reading is presented as part of the Saturday Series at the Chicago Dramatists theater in Chicago.

Mike and Vikki attend a regional theater conference in Wisconsin sponsored by **Christians in Theater Arts**, an introduction to the breadth of Christian scripts and like-minded artists across the country.

Fall

EGBC begins building an expanded Fellowship Hall to be ready in the spring of 1997. Executive Board gives increased budget okay to research of **creating a dinner theater** for the community as a Fellowship Hall debut.

1997

Spring

“Celebration in Psalms” is remounted as an all-church, community dinner theater for a two-night, sold outreach to dedicate new Fellowship Hall which has been transformed into dinner theater. New theater tradition. Vikki does not perform after intermission of first night; does not perform Saturday. Ordered to bedrest. She’s expecting.

As the church ministry grows (along with Vik’s belly), Mike and Vikki get the itch to perform together more regularly. While in bedrest, Vikki devises concept of two-person splinter ministry, borrowing title from Mike’s narration demo, **“Voices...with Character.”**

The KIT ensemble of students and adults, motivated by “Celebration in Psalms,” begins reading published scenes, workshopping Mike’s scenes and creating their own material to develop outreach in hopes of connecting with teens inside Elk Grove and touring the community.



Fall

Liberated from bedrest, Vikki joins to present their first two-person show, **“The 4-1-1 on John 3:16”** featuring all original scenes as EGBC’s annual Friendship Day post-service entertainment.

Attending a Sunday School class on using spiritual gifts, Mike is introduced to the idea of using talents for maximum kingdom impact. To create more distinction between the husband-wife team and the church ensemble, the drama ministry is **renamed as Kingdom Impact Theater (KIT)** concentrating on smaller outreach within the church family and among sister churches.

1998

Winter

Camille Jime Myers enters the world January 14.

Spring

The new KIT ensemble presents, **“The Culture, The Battle, The Lord,”** a theater revue comprised of published scenes, original scenes, improvisation and music.

Michael commissioned to write **Vacation Bible School curriculum** for missions outreach on Ojibwe (Native American) reservation in Nett Lake, MN, for Summer 1998.

Mike & Vikki, as KIT, perform original comedy scene, **“Garage Sale,”** to support theme of evangelism as part of **Midwest Baptist Conference** celebration banquet.

Pastor Norm Anderson writes to sister churches in the community recommending touring performances as an outreach, and EGBC Executive Board establishes Special Fund to support the ministry.

KIT debuts Michael’s original VBS program, **“Journey to the Good Shepherd’s Palace,”** a five-part serial tailored to Ojibwe Native American culture, complete with study guide, at Nett Lake, MN. Commitment to create two additional VBS over the next two years.

Fall

Vikki takes on administrative duties with EGBC worship ministry, scheduling presentations for KIT and Voices...with Character.

KIT tours **“The Culture, the Battle, The Lord,”** at two Midwest Baptist Conference churches.

Voices... presents Thanksgiving reader’s theater in Waukegan.



1999

Winter

KIT continues touring “The Battle, the Culture, the Lord” in Chicagoland.

Michael and two ensemble members attend **Lillenas Publishing Music & Drama Conference** in Kansas City. Networks with Christian theater artists across the nation. Michael studies comedy writing with **Martha Bolton**, former church secretary who became staff writer for Bob Hope and Phyllis Diller.

Summer

“Biblemania,” five-pro wrestling themed Bible stories tailored for Ojibwe students, the second of the Nett Lake VBS Trilogy, premieres in Minnesota.

Michael attends **Karitos Worship Arts Conference**, beginning relationship with Karitos director Bob Hay, audio producer Joe Wright and other Chicago professionals and ministry leaders.

Fall

Mike and Vikki present their first on-site workshop, **“So, You Want to Start a Theater Ministry, Huh?”** for the adult and teen drama ministry at Waukegan (IL) Community Church, sharing the techniques and resources used in creating Kingdom Impact Theater at EGBC. This workshop marks the introduction of Mike and Vikki presenting alone under the KIT banner.

KIT performs, **“Think Thanks About His Love,”** a Thanksgiving drama revue of original and published scenes with music.

2000

Spring

Original KIT ensemble of students graduate from high school.

Summer

Nett Lake VBS Trilogy concludes with **“The Search for the Missing Messiah,”** a parody of black-and-white film noir and TV police programs. All elements of the show – costumes, set – are in black, white and gray.



2001

Spring

Pastor Norm announces retirement. Pastor Mark prepares to leave. Oversight responsibilities of drama ensemble transferred to worship ministry.

Mike and Vikki attend **Lillenas Publishing Drama Conference for more networking**. Mike meets a Chicago-area neighbor, actor and web designer Thomas Leo, who decide to stay in touch. They found the **Christian Theater Network (CTN)** to provide on-going fellowship, resource and prayer support between industry professionals and ministry arts leaders. CTN begins hosting quarterly fellowship gatherings at area churches, publishing period newsletter.

Vikki writes her first solo women's ministry program, **"MOM: The Maker of Memories,"** combination of performed short stories, monologues and song, beginning collaboration with accompanist Garlan Garner, member of sister church Bellevue Baptist in Chicago. "MOM" becomes first touring program, premiering in Washington, IL.

Summer

Mike directs, **"Confessions of a Teenaged Christian,"** a revue of published and original scenes by EGBC students backed by the student ministry band as dinner theater outreach.

Fall

Vikki presents, **"Give Thanks,"** a Thanksgiving touring program.

2002

Winter

Christian Theater Network expands, debuting new website, online newsletter, blog and resource bank.

Spring

Mike debuts **"The X-Trial,"** as a Sunday morning Easter-season production at Elk Grove Baptist Church.

Through a CTN connection, Vikki commissioned to create, **"Faith, Hope and Love: Women of History,"** playing 12 women whose faith inspired world-changing events, as educational outreach for Streamwood, IL., Park District.



Fall

Under the outreach auspices of KIT, Mike and Vikki begin two-year relationship with **Tent of Meetings**, a quarterly Saturday afternoon outreach to Catholics overseen by **Fr. Dimitri Sala**.

Mike writes "**Christmas Thru the Ages**" for the EGBC Christmas program,, the final KIT ensemble program as an Elk Grove Baptist Church ministry.

2003

Summer

Church drama ministry becomes seasonal as Mike begins staff position as **Worship Coordinator** at Elk Grove Baptist Church under **new pastor Greg Gertz**, utilizing theater and film industry production and organizational techniques to worship presenters and church structure, including creating annual worship training workshops and Sunday School worship classes for lay members.

Vikki Myers, Carla Brown and Michelle Perez form a trio to fill-in and lead Sunday musical worship at Elk Grove Baptist Church. The idea of a reprise presentations are bandied about.

2004

Vikki, Carla and Michelle form the musical ensemble, "**Chosen**," under the auspices of KIT and begin presenting at churches, women's conferences and community venues. Named later changed to "**Chos3n**" (pronounced Chosen 3) because of duplicated name with another group.

Vikki creates, "**Journey to Joy**" a semi-autobiographical music monologue.

As the church drama ministry ceases regularity, Kingdom Impact Theater is continued as the official title of the performance work of Mike and Vikki Myers, concentrating on presentations to churches and paraministries as requested.

2005

Vikki commissioned to write "**True Gifts: Stories of Birth and Renewal**" as a Christmas program, beginning the foray into multi-media and solo ministry.

Mike performs in "**Since Africa**" at Chicago Dramatists then ceases **Actors Equity** performances to concentrate on ministry.



2006

Mike & Vikki tour his original musical revue, **“It’s Christmas, Dear,”** in Chicago.

Pastor Greg retires. Mike assumes more staff duties in interim, including redesigning church website and writing weekly sermon supplement called, **“Worship Wonderings,”** for the bulletin.

2007

Vikki begins writing and conceptualizing **solo music album**, collaborating **with Garlan Garner** and **producer Luciano Azevedo**.

KIT creates its first website.

2008

Initial tracks of **Vikki’s CD** recorded in U.S. and Sao Paulo Brazil.

Mike begins new role as **Pastor of Development and Training** at Elk Grove Baptist Church; **receives license as Minister of the Gospel** through auspices of Converge MidAmerica (nee, Midwest Baptist Conference). Begins creating theater-based leadership training seminars for small churches.

2009

Vikki establishes KIT as a sole proprietorship.

2010

“I Just Want to Thank You, Lord,” Vikki’s CD, debuts in August.

Mike creates, **“Impact Melodies Publishing,”** with Vikki and Garlan and become members of **ASCAP**.

2011

Carla Brown moves to Texas to begin teaching career creating new voices to join Chos3n.

2012

“Freedom Song” is commissioned and debuts as an African-American History Month program at Christian Theater Tabernacle in Roselle, IL. Subsequent shows are requested.

2013

Vikki asked to present at **Sandy Cove Conference Center** Red & Green Christmas program with Sharon Jaynes and Gwen Smith.



2014

Vikki invited to be **main presenter** and devotional speaker at Sandy Cove, anchoring a weekend KIT holiday tour in Potomac Park, VA, and Silver Spring, MD.

Vikki debuts her **Christmas CD featuring**, "The Christmas Song Gospel."

2015

In response to Banned Books Week, Mike and Vikki create, "**The Bible: 26690**," a reader's theater piece by two actors telling the story of the 66 books of the Bible in 90 minutes.

2016

Focus of Kingdom Impact Theater expands beyond performance to include ministry training and publishing. Because of the change from simply performing, the word company name is changed to **Kingdom Impact Theater Ministries**.

Deacon Garlan Garner, musical accompanist, arranger, set designer and sound engineer, is invited to be third partner because of his financial expertise and spiritual insight.

2017

Mike's season as an **associate pastor at Elk Grove Baptist Church ends**.

KIT Ministries begins **broadening its connections** base as Mike presents theater-based leadership workshops through Iron Sharpens Iron, Focal Point Ministries and WFX Reach; and begins writing as regular contributor to WFX Worship Director Online.

Mike and Vikki, aggressively pursuing to assist church artists and leaders elevate their presentation gifts and organizational structures, redefine Kingdom Impact Theater Ministries as "**an ensemble of theater missionaries**," focusing on on-size sharing the structures and resources learned since 1994 with small and mid-sized churches.

TO BE CONTINUED