

New church now meets in McCloud

>> by **Chris Doyle** Associate Editor

MCLLOUD—The call began in February this year for Shawn Crawley. God wanted him to pastor a church plant, which is now a new congregation called Covenant Hope Fellowship.

Crawley, a 10-year Mission Service Corps missionary with the North American Mission Board, was a member of Shawnee, Immanuel, which was instrumental in starting this new church. Immanuel Pastor Todd Fisher met with Russell Cook, director of missions for Pottawatomie-Lincoln Association (PLBA), about a community in McCloud where a church recently disbanded and deeded its property to the association.

Cook said 16,000 people live within a five-mile radius of the church building's location, and all churches within that radius were reaching less than 20 percent of the population. As PLBA and Shawnee, Immanuel worked together to begin a church plant, God was moving among people, including Crawley and his family, to serve in this new church.



PHOTO: CHRIS DOYLE

Russell Cook, director of missions for Pottawatomie-Lincoln Association, prays while people gather around Shawn Crawley, blue shirt, pastor of McCloud, Covenant Hope Fellowship.

"We are very excited to do this," said Crawley at a recent open house for Covenant Hope Fellowship. "God has put together an incredible team of gifted, loving people. Some of them live geographically close; some of them were ready to do something different, and God called all of them about the same time."

On Sun., July 26, Shawnee, Immanuel commissioned 22 people to go establish Covenant Hope Fellowship. The church was launched on Aug. 2 with 117 people in attendance.

During June and July, several projects were done to repair and refurbish Covenant Hope's building, Cook said. Campers on Mission served a full week putting new siding on the education building. Many volunteers from different churches and a core group from Shawnee, Immanuel invested many hours preparing for the Aug. 2 launch.

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