



IMPACT



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I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. *1 Corinthians 3:6-9*

John ~ Acts ~ Romans ~ **1 Corinthians** ~ 2 Corinthians ~ Galatians ~ Ephesians

To receive this newsletter by e-mail or to receive the News Blast, contact the NKBA office (859.727.6522 or e-mail lorne@nkbaptist.org)



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Jim's Journal



With Easter upon us, my mind has been drawn to the question that I am so often asked, "What causes some churches to grow and others NOT?" There are a lot of different ways to approach that, but ultimately, I find the basic distinction is a loss of mission...churches are designed and designated by the Savior to "seek and to save that which is lost"...to "make disciples." The local church is one of the only missions on the planet that exists for the sake of its non-members. I believe churches have forgotten why they exist.

The truth is, there is a "gravitational pull inside almost every church to sacrifice the church's mission by catering to the church's members" writes Pastor/Author Carey Nieuwhof. As a pastor, you can't ignore the needs of your members, but all of Scripture indicates clearly to us that the BEST way to become spiritually mature is to stop focusing on YOUR needs and begin focusing on CHRIST and OTHERS! My friend L.D. Campbell, minister of the First Church of Christ in Burlington, Kentucky once remarked to a woman who complained she wasn't being fed, "It's time to take off the bib and put on an apron!"

Simply put, churches have become more focused on INSIDERS than OUTSIDERS. How can you tell? Here are a few suggestions that Nieuwhof gives:

- 1) LONG announcements. If they are longer than 3 minutes, then you are probably geared more to insiders than you realize.
- 2) Trying to get everyone to do everything. Practically speaking most people can only do one or two things beyond regular attendance, Bible Study, and giving. If you want most people in your church to do nothing, keep suggesting they do everything.
- 3) SAVED SEATS. Nothing says church is for insiders quite as loudly as "you can't sit in my seat."
- 4) INSIDER SPEAK I find that Christians often have a language all their own....If somebody has to learn code to join your church, you likely won't have many people joining your church. We need to consider OUTSIDERS and talk clearly and talk the same way at church we do on Monday at the office, or while shopping at Kroger. Our challenge INSIDE the church is to REDUCE the human barriers that keep people from Jesus, not to erect new ones. Being weird doesn't mean you're being faithful. It just means you're being weird.
- 5) MUSIC that lacks GUTS. Every generation has a heart song. Sometimes it is style, but often it is more substance and genuine passion. In an attempt to please everyone in a church many church leaders please no one and the outside world is left with the impression that we simply don't care about them.

Continued on the next page

Jim's Journal continued,

My hope is that we just stop and consider some of these elements. Not to argue, but to genuinely reflect, is our language, our music, our surroundings reflective of the "WELCOME HOME" that God wants people to feel and sense? WE need to be doing everything within our power to make sure that from the way we keep our grounds, to the signs we put out, to the way people are greeted, to the elements and language of our services to help people find their way back to God. THAT is what really matters, not our preferences.

Following Him,

Jim

**Pastors' Round Table
Tuesday April 3, 10 a.m.**

With **Rick Howerton**, Author and Small Group and Discipleship Specialist at LifeWay Church Resources.

Rick will meet with us at the NKBA office to discuss small group and discipleship issues.

Contact the NKBA office to register, 859-727-6522 or lorne@nkbaptist.org.

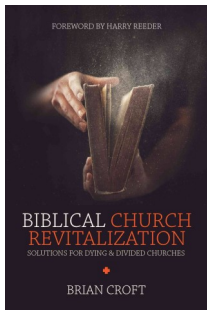


**Pastors' Round Table
Thursday May 10, 10 a.m.**

With **Brian Croft**, Senior Pastor of Auburndale Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky and Founder of Practical Shepherd.

Brian will be discussing his latest book, **Biblical Church Revitalization: Solutions for Dying and Divided Churches.**

Contact the NKBA office to register, 859-727-6522 or lorne@nkbaptist.org.



**Worship
Powerpoints**

A staff member at one of our NKBA Church's has felt the Lord's call to create a new venture named Worship PowerPoints. With his many years of PowerPoint designs plus creating PowerPoints for his church starting in 2006, he desires to help churches in our association enhance their worship experiences with exciting Announcement and Pastor-led PowerPoints programs. His services include, PowerPoint design, training to use PowerPoints in worship, assistance in procuring and setting up monitor systems and church website design. Please go to www.worshippowerpointsky.com and consider the services he offers. You will also find his contact information there.

A staff member at one of our NKBA Church's has felt the Lord's call to

"Walk Across America"

Rick & Jane McKinney
Sunday, April 8, 2018
6:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Highland Heights, KY



On Sunday evening, April 8th, Rick and Jane McKinney will be sharing about their 2006 "Walk Across America." The presentation will include pictures, videos and stories from their 2770-mile prayer-walk from Los Angeles, CA to Washington, D.C. The couple walked every step together as they shared the message of Jesus with thousands of people along the way. This is not only a great story but a great motivator and encouragement for followers of Christ to "do something" for the cause of Christ. All churches are welcome to join us for this special presentation at First Baptist Church Highland Heights.

2018 Week of Prayer for Associational Missions

May 20, 2018 through May 27, 2018

"Partner With Someone Missional Somewhere"

"...come over into Macedonia, and help us"

Acts 16:9

The NKBA will be sending more information with specific prayer requests in late April or early May. In addition to prayer, the NKBA is asking each church to collect a special offering on May 27th for associational missions. This offering is committed to the 2018 KY Changers visit to Northern Kentucky in June.

Our KY Changers financial need is \$40,000. This will cover the materials and supplies necessary for the project homes and food for the adult and youth crews. Your support of this offering would be greatly appreciated by the homeowners in our communities being served by KY Changers 2018!



Don't Forget

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering



100%

of your gifts to the
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*
supports North American missionaries.

NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 Million

North American
Mission Board

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING

Northern Kentucky Baptist Association

3001 Riggs Avenue
Erlanger, KY 41018-3045
April 2018

Address Service Requested

**Mark Your Calendars
Upcoming Events**

- April 1—Easter Sunday
- April 3—Pastors’ Round Table, 10am, Rick Howerton, NKBA office
- April 5—Ministry Wives Fellowship, 6pm, NKBA office
- April 26—Barnabas Prayer Group, 8:30am & 7:00 pm, NKBA office
- May 10—Pastors’ Round Table, 10am, Brian Croft, NKBA office
- May 28—Memorial Day Holiday, NKBA office closed
- July 9—NKBA Summer Meeting, 6:30pm, FBC Walton

