

# ΙΜΡΑCΤ NKBA

# "Death has been swallowed up in victory."



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



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jím's journal

I was deeply impacted by an article my friend Dr Dan Reiland wrote and want to share it with you! I love the local church...warts and all!

Why Leaning into the Beauty and Power of the Church, at its Best, Matters

When you think of the church, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?

To a large degree, your answer has a dramatic impact on how you lead, perhaps even on how you

pursue God.

I love the Church, even with its flaws.

That's the two-sided tension. God is perfect; we are not.

The Church is imperfect, so there will always be problems to solve, but if we're not careful, we'll only see the problems because, as

leaders, it's our responsibility to solve them.

There are problems to solve, and as leaders, we must solve them. However, we must also lift our eyes above the problems to see the beauty and power of the church at its best, to remember where we are headed and why.

We tend to see what we look for and focus on, so it's important not to allow human imperfection to blind us from the beauty of the

Church as God designed it to be.

The source of beauty in the Church is the eternal nature of God's unending love and Jesus' selfless sacrifice for our redemption.

We see the beauty in things such as:

Grace

Compassion

Forgiveness

Generosity

Sacrifice

Kindness

The source of the power in the Church (the body of Christ) is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father sent in Jesus' name. (John 14:26)

We see that power in action through things such as:

Spiritual wisdom far beyond our own.

Transformation to new life

Answers to prayer

Communities, cities, and countries impacted for good

Miraculous intervention

#### See the Church as God intended:

<sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the

heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him

we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:10-12

As you read through the five points, take a moment of reflection for two things:



What are the areas in which you can thank God for His presence and power in your church?

What one area might your church step up for an even stronger ministry?

Jim's Journal, continued

1) In its purest form, the church seeks nothing for itself.

When you see the church as Jesus sees it (The Father's love, redemption, unified community, and hope), you know the potential. You see only problems when you see the church through conflict, hurt, disappointment, or even cynicism.

The nature of God's love and the example of Jesus' life seeks nothing for self. That may seem way out of reach for us, yet, that is our example.

Let's look at an obvious and practical illustration.

No one is ever charged a fee to enter the church's doors for a regular weekly worship service or any of the core ministries it offers. Instead, it's a gift to all who seek a deeper walk with God.

As Christians mature, many give sacrificially so the ministry can continue to change lives, with no strings attached. The prayer is a maturing faith, but the love and investment are unconditional.

That is a beautiful reflection of God's unconditional love, and the Church is the institution that carries that mission.

**Reflection** / **Action**: Express gratitude to God for all the things your church does, seeking nothing in return and asking Him to multiply the impact according to His will and purposes.

2) A single act of kindness in Jesus' name resonates with all of Heaven.

Few things carry more power or touch hearts more deeply than a simple act of kindness. Your church is designed to multiply these thousands of times over.

The smallest, including unseen, acts of kindness align with the heart of Heaven. God multiplies the eternal impact of these acts of kindness when done according to His purpose and plan.

They truly carry the Gospel in a powerful way.

When the people of your church come together in a unified force to engage larger endeavors in the community, these acts of love and compassion make it possible for the world at large to see the hand and heart of God.

**Reflection / Action:** Are acts of kindness, small and large, deeply embedded in the culture of your church? What recent examples come to mind?

3) The truth of the Gospel has the power to break anyone out of captivity.

So much today holds the people we love and serve captive. Things like worry, fear, anxiety, addiction, pride, anger, greed, and the list goes on.

The heightened levels of sustained stress we experience amplify these conditions that can take our minds and emotions into captivity and prevent us from living the lives God intends for us.

Further, in a time when it's increasingly difficult to know who to believe or trust, we can always count on the truth in the Word of God. This casts no shadow on any specific person or idea but elevates the truth and promises of Scripture.

God's Word is a powerful "true north" gift to the Church, a gift that the Church freely offers to anyone who will listen and seeks a more meaningful life.

**Reflection** / Action: Take a moment to thank God and pray for the pastoral leaders who faithfully communicate the truth of Scripture to your church. Further, consider if there is any way to elevate this gift of truth you have to offer.

Jim's Journal, continued

4) The church is a space for peace, quiet, and reflection in an otherwise 100mph society.

As I talk with church leaders and those who attend church, more and more people are craving a way to slow down, reflect, and find peace in their daily lives. This is a tremendous and sometimes underplayed gift the church has to offer.

I'm sensing a little conviction as I write this because so many churches, including mine, also move at a very high pace. But candidly, *sometimes* that's necessary to keep up with culture enough to engage it.

However, all the more important is to provide intentional times for quiet, moments for reflection, and a spirit of peace in an otherwise hectic world.

One of the best examples is quiet reflection and prayer. A few minutes of reflection or prayer during a worship service or longer times created in other environ-

ments allow a life-changing way to experience the peace of God and the quietening of our souls in a fast-paced culture.

**Reflection / Action:** What times of reflection, quiet, and prayer do you set aside for yourself each week? How are these offered and encouraged to your congregation?

5) The power that activates the miraculous is still available today.

What miracle are you asking of God right now?

Miracles can be large or small, but they involve something only possible with God.

Anticipating miracles from God grows your faith and the faith of those you serve. The hope of a miracle piques the interest of those who do not believe, and experiencing miracles increases the spiritual momentum of your church.

The supernatural is a realm often misunderstood, but it's the realm of God. Therefore, we must lean in, learn, and allow God to do all He desires to see His purposes unfold.

We are invited to ask for miracles in our own lives, but we can also pray that God would unleash the miracles He already has in mind!

This is an incredibly powerful gift the Church has to offer through God's kindness and grace.

Reflection / Action: Are you telling stories of the miraculous in your church? Remember, miracles can be large or small. How are you supportive of this process?

#### Your Lead Follower,

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#### **NKBA DOM Search Committee Update**

The NKBA DOM Search Committee has met to assess and update the DOM job description. The team officially posted the revised job description. Resumes are coming in from many prospective candidates. Your search committee is prayerfully considering applicants with a goal of presenting a recommendation in the very near future.



#### NEW HOPE CENTER

# SATURDAY, MAY 14 • 2022

Registration begins at 9:30 and the Walk starts at 10:00 at Pioneer Park and Pendleton County Fairgrounds. For more information, or to register, visit the New Hope Center Events page at <u>Givingforhope.com/events</u>. More information will be included in the NKBA May Newsletter.

## Fort Mitchell Baptist Church Ladies Retreat





Burlington Baptist Church took our first team to Western KY last week. We were able to stay at Zion's Cause Baptist Church and redo a gutted mobile home. We are planning on taking a team each month (May-Sept). We had a few churches mention they had some people who would like to go help. We would be glad for anybody who would like to go to contact Burlington Baptist and let us when they would like to go. We plan on taking both week long trips (Mon-Fri) and long weekends (Thurs - Sat) based on people's availability. To see the Kentucky Today story on this project, visit this link. To contact Burlington Baptist Church, call 859-586-6529 or Email: bbc@isoc.net.

**Burlington Baptist Church Work Crew** 





Cold Spring, KY 41076



# NKBA Budget Income by Church January—March 2022

Church	Total	Church	Total
01 Anchor	448.05	44 Latonia	1,001.61
02 Ashland Avenue	1,342.90	45 Licking Valley	2,305.00
04 Beechgrove	683.00	46 Living Church	450.00
05 Belleview	3,615.94	47 Living Hope Baptist Church	600.00
06 Bellevue, FBC	75.00	48 Ludlow, FBC	965.00
07 Bethesda Community	0.00	49 Macedonia Missionary	0.00
08 Big Bone	3,196.60	50 Madison Avenue	0.00
09 Brooksville	1,042.85	51 Main Street	1,169.02
10 Bullittsburg	722.00	52 Mentor	1,740.00
11 Burlington	9,055.34	53 Mercy Ridge	0.00
12 Christ Baptist	0.00	54 New Banklick	2,165.99
13 Church @ Garden of Hope	0.00	55 New Reality	0.00
14 Cold Spring, FBC	2,155.18	56 Newport, FBC	0.00
15 Cornerstone	1,330.00	57 Ninth Street	0.00
16 The Cornerstone Fellowship	300.00	58 Oak Island	75.80
I7 Covington, FBC 4th Street	150.00	59 Oak Ridge	4,581.13
18 Covington, FBC 9th Street	0.00	60 Persimmon Grove	0.00
20 Crosspoint Church	346.00	61 Petersburg	1,000.00
21 Dayton, FBC	1,185.16	62 Piner	2,039.14
2 East Dayton	225.00	63 Pleasant Ridge	1,241.25
23 Elsmere	1,185.68	64 Redemption	0.00
24 Emmanuel Chapel	400.00	65 Rosedale	285.16
25 Erlanger	450.00	66 Sand Run	0.00
26 Fairlane	1,245.36	67 Second Twelve Mile	761.59
27 First Twelve Mile	1,091.33	68 Silver Grove, FBC	1,964.94
29 Florence	0.00	69 South Side	500.00
30 Fort Mitchell	1,500.00	70 Union	2,252.00
31 Fort Thomas, FBC	0.00	71 Visalia	906.00
32 Good Shepherd Korean Church	400.00	72 Walton, FBC	3,417.08
34 Grace Independence	36.92	73 West Covington	750.00
35 Grants Lick	1,555.01	74 Woodhaven	0.00
36 Hebron	2,751.89	75 Zion Chin Baptist	0.00
37 Hickory Grove	0.00	TOTAL	\$ 68,256.71
38 Highland Heights, FBC	1,201.39		
39 Highland Hills	0.00		
42 Kento-Boo	300.00		

95.40

43 Kenton

Northern Kentucky Baptist Association

3001 Riggs Avenue Erlanger, KY 41018-3045 April 2022

Address Service Requested

### Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Events

May 2—NKBA Spring Meeting, 6:30p, Christ Baptist Church

May 8—Mothers' Day

May 30—Memorial Day, NKBA Office Closed



