



IMPACT



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James ~ 1 Peter ~ 2 Peter ~ **1 John** ~ 2 John ~ 3 John ~ Jude

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)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **1 John 3:1**



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3001 Riggs Avenue ~ Erlanger, KY 41018 ~

Jim's Journal



The vast majority of churches in our country aren't making an impact in their communities. In fact, 94% of churches are losing ground against the population growth of the communities they serve. Most church leaders get into the ministry because they dreamed of reaching people and seeing them grow closer to God. That was certainly my heart, but while "in the weeds" of ministry, it's very easy to lose your way as you try to move your ministry forward. My friend Rich Birch (@Richbirch) recently identified EIGHT mistakes that many churches may make in 2016.

Worrying about keeping rather than reaching. Do you live in fear of whom you might lose rather than focusing on the people who you aren't reaching yet? Your church is a lighthouse for the message you proclaim. Get obsessed about reaching people. Pray about it, talk about it, meet about it, do stuff about it. Reaching people is at the core of what God is calling your church to do.

Under-investing in the next generation. Across a multiplicity of styles, strategies and theological stripes, one of the common traits of churches that are growing and making an impact is that they invest heavily in kids and student ministry. Is your church spending enough in this area? Jan Marler and the Touch 500 team stand ready to help your church engage and begin reaching this important age group.

Playing it too safe. When was the last time you did something risky? In order for our churches to take new ground, we need to do new things ... and some of them are going to involve risk.

Your next steps are non-strategic and unclear. Lots of churches don't have an "attraction" problem, they have an "assimilation" problem. They only retain a very small percentage of first-time guests. The main reason for this is they don't have clear and strategic next steps for people.

Not caring for the community. If your church was to close tomorrow, would anyone notice? Engage your people in meeting practical needs in your community.

Jack-of-all-trades pastors. Rather than looking for ways to give away responsibility and raise up other leaders, we hold too tightly to our roles and responsibilities. The direction of Ephesians 4:11-13 is clear: church leaders are to build up and equip the people. That ability helps a church to grow.

Treating the teaching lightly. At the core of every church of impact is relevant, engaging, challenging teaching/preaching in the weekend service. The styles may be different but the commitment to providing a quality, thoroughly Biblical teaching experience is universal.

Not having fun! We have the "good news" and it should generate joy in people's lives. Can I be honest for a moment? A lot churches aren't exactly joy factories. In fact, we seem to be known more for what we're against than what we're for. Fun is shorthand for communicating grace to a fallen world. It points to a God who loves people rather than an angry judge looking to wipe out folks. Lighten up and find a way to inject some joy into your church experiences on a regular basis.

Stop Saying Size Doesn't Matter. Stop Justifying an "Insiders" Mindset. Stop Giving Growing Churches the Stink Eye. Stop Convincing Yourself that a Small Huddle is More Faithful Than a Big Crowd. Start Reaching ... not just keeping. Start Listening to the Culture to Find Points of Connection with Gospel. Start Making Friends with "Outsiders". Start Praying for Spiritual Awakening in your church, our Association, our Nation. Mark your calendars for February 26-27 for our second Spiritual Awakening Conference at Erlanger Baptist Church. Plan to attend and bring others!

I want to be a part of the generation of leaders that sees the statistics turn around. Who's with me?

walking with Him,

Jim

PRAYER BOOT CAMP

Basic Training for a Life of Prayer

Friday, February 19, 8:30-4:30, Springboro Baptist Church

Sponsored by Lifeway Christian Resources and based on the book *The Battle Plan for Prayer* by Stephen and Alex Kendrick, developers of 'War Room'. Cost is \$10.00 and includes book, resources to lead a boot camp experience, light lunch and refreshments.

If you submit your receipt to the NKBA, we will reimburse the cost of attendance. Registration deadline is February 15.

"Prayer is not about prayer, it is about a Person— God himself." *The Battle Plan for Prayer*

Minister of Children Youth and their Families Full-time



This position will oversee the strategic vision for Children's and Youth Ministries (nursery through high school), work with pastor to integrate family-oriented discipleship and parenting initiatives throughout the

church, and help to cultivate community development across generational lines. Applicants should send resumes to Robert Miller, Search Team Committee Chair, via email to YouthSearchTeam@fbccs.com by March 1.

Moore Activity Center

Your church is invited to bring your 1st through 6th graders to participate in our Children's Ministry Day Event.

Saturday, February 13
10am—1 pm

The day includes:

- 2 different mission projects
- A Missionary sharing experiences
- Opening and closing activities
- Lunch

Cost is \$4.00 per child and adult to cover the cost of lunch and mission project items. Please bring one adult supervisor for every 5 children you bring. In addition, we ask that for every 5 children in attendance you also bring 1 case of water, a bag of individually wrapped candy, and 5 non-perishable items for the food pantry (or \$5 per person and we will purchase the items).

For more information contact Amy Wilhelmus at the Moore Activity Center, 859-261-2300 or macmissions@aol.com.



Spiritual Awakening Conference 2016



"Standing Strong"

Friday, February 26—6:00 to 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 27—6:00 to 7:30 pm

Special Guests



Paul Chitwood
Executive Director
KBC



Rod Ellis
Worship Pastor
Woodburn BC

In addition, Stephen Sawyer (Art 4 God) will be creating a beautiful piece of art in each service that depicts Jesus Christ. A copy of the completed piece will be given to the churches that bring the most Friday and Saturday night.

New Hope Center Volunteer Opportunities

New Hope Center is a life-affirming pregnancy care center that has been partnering with the Christian community to express love, compassion, and mercy of Jesus Christ for the past 26 years.

New Hope Center's mission is to strengthen families by being a guiding light of strength and care for families with pregnancy related concerns, encourage sexual abstinence for unmarried persons, and provide emotional support for post abortive women. Volunteers are critical to New Hope's ministry. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available including training for men and women interested in counseling those facing unplanned pregnancies. For more information, or to register for an upcoming class, please call **Denise Nevins** at 859-341-0766 ext. 14, or email dnevins@newhopecenter.com.

Next Volunteer Training Program

12 hours of classroom training

February 6, from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

February 8 and 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

228 Thomas More Parkway
Crestview Hills, KY 41017

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Stay informed about what's going on in the NKBA and in our local churches. Be sure to "like" our Facebook page, Northern Kentucky Baptists!

Northern Kentucky Baptist Association

3001 Riggs Avenue
Erlanger, KY 41018-3045
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January-February-March-April-May-June-July-August-September-October-November-December

2016 NEWSLETTER

From Our Calendar to Yours

RISK Evangelism Conference
February 8 & 9
Bowling Green, KY

Children's Ministry Day
February 13
10am—1pm
Moore Activity Center



Prayer Boot Camp
February 19
8:30am—4:30pm
Springboro, OH

Spiritual Awakening Conference
February 26 & 27
6:00—7:30pm
Erlanger Baptist Church