

# IMPACT



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*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish,  
and it will be given you. John 15:7 (NIV)*

Matthew ~ Mark ~ Luke ~ **John** ~ Acts ~ Romans ~ 1 Corinthians

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



It's difficult to imagine that 2018 is here, but it is! As your lead follower, there are some simple things that I am praying and working toward with our churches. It is out of concern for our vast lostness in the area (between 68-85% unchurched in the greater NKY area) and the decline of many churches. The evangelistic deterioration of churches across North America has been a reality for decades. THE most recent statistics from LifeWay indicate that 65% of churches are declining or plateaued, which means 35% are growing. That's good news, right? Well, only 7% of these churches are growing through conversions. Sheep shifting (church members moving from one church to another does not ultimately count in making Kingdom advancement, **OUR MISSION IS TO REACH THE LOST and MAKE DISCIPLES!**

The ways that we turn these statistics and our churches around is through prayer (utter dependence on God) and our faithfulness in intentionally sharing Christ with people to lead them to faith and discipling them in the Word/faith so that they will lead others and they will lead others and so on...that is the simplicity and exponential nature of discipleship.

Here is our reality. We are a nation of small churches; over 61% average fewer than 100 people. In Southern Baptist Churches in Kentucky around 70+% of our churches are 100 or less in attendance. The smaller the church, the greater the rate of decline in attendance. The life expectancy for many of these churches is 10 years or less.

Churches that are challenging these statistics (7% of churches) are growing through conversions and are intentionally evangelistic. Evangelism doesn't happen unless the church is intentional about it. I believe there is hope for any church and pastor seeking to turn things around evangelistically, no matter the size! The turnaround starts with leading one person to Christ and equipping others to do the same.

As we begin 2018 we have a couple of events directed toward this end. The first is the 3 Circles Training: Turning Everyday Conversations Into Gospel Conversations at the NKBA office on two consecutive Saturday mornings, January 6 and 13, from 9AM-NOON. Andy McDonald, from the Evangelism Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and our own Josh Skipper, Campus Minister at NKU and Regional 12/24 Strategist will be leading us. You **MUST REGISTER** by January 4 by calling the NKBA office at 859-727-6522 or emailing Lori at [lorne@nkbaptist.org](mailto:lorne@nkbaptist.org). **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** (though there is no cost). This is designed to help jump start putting simple tools in the hands of your church members so that they can share Christ!

Secondly, I am asking **ALL** our churches to join together in 40 Days of Prayer for the lost in our region. Beginning Wednesday, January 24 and ending Sunday, March 4 our 74 churches (I hope **ALL** of them) will be praying together for the lost of our communities and coming together on March 2-3 (Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 PM) for a Spiritual Awakening Conference at Burlington Baptist Church. We will have great music from churches across our region and will be led by one of the best young preachers in our state, Sam Schmidt, Senior Pastor at Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville, KY. Check out our Facebook page, Northern Kentucky Baptists for more information. There you will find prayer lists, devotionals, and other resources available for small groups to study and join us as we reclaim our area for Christ.

Jim's Journal Continued on the next page



### Jim's Journal Continued

**"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked (selfish) ways, I will hear from Heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14.**

**Pray with me as we join together hand in hand and heart to heart and seek the face of God as we commit as His people to faithfully share the Good News in 2018!**

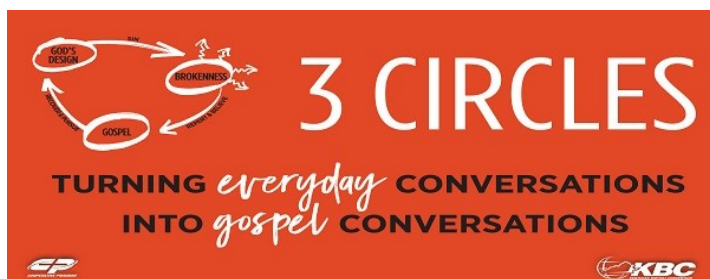
Following Him,

*Jim*



#### Church Security Workshop

This will be taught by Kentucky State Police officers from our region. Registration will be \$10 and will include a continental breakfast, lunch and materials. Two hours will be spent in training and two hours will be spent in LIVE SCENARIOS to help you prepare for REAL LIFE situations. This is open for ALL churches and leaders. This should be attended by church leaders and those who would serve on security teams within our churches. Call Lori at the NKBA office, 859-727-6522, to register.



#### 3 Circles Evangelism Training On two Saturdays, January 6th and 13th 9:00 a.m. to Noon, at the NKBA office

Each church that attends will receive a free training kit. Contact the NKBA office to register or register on our website at the "Registration" tab. In the "comments" field, please include the name of the training for which you are registering.

#### Pastors' Round Table

**Monday, January 8, 10:00 a.m.**

Our featured speaker is Rob Patterson, KBC Regional Consultant for the North Central Region. Contact the NKBA office to register, or register on the NKBA website on the registration tab. Please include the name and date of the session you wish to attend.



**Rob Patterson**



#### Coming to Northern Kentucky!

**June 16-22, 2018**

**Kentucky Changers** is a ministry that provides middle and high school students with the opportunity to serve their community in the name of Christ. The students, along with adult volunteers, provide exterior home improvement and maintenance for qualified homeowners. KY Changers makes a life impact on everyone involved!

#### We are asking your church to get involved!

What can you do the help? Many things, including:

- ♦ **Register your youth** to serve that week. Any number of students in your church can participate!
- ♦ **Be an adult volunteer** to assist the work teams. Men and women with construction skills will teach the students the skills needed to complete the project..
- ♦ **Host a crew** of 10-14 at your church on Sunday morning for Sunday School, Worship, and a lunch. After lunch you will go with the crew to visit the homeowner and prayer walk the area. Monday through Thursday, your church will provide sack lunches to the jobsite and stay for lunch and devotion. (Lunches for all crews will be prepared at a central location.)
- ♦ **Provide funding** for materials! It costs between \$1,000-\$1,500 per home and we expect to do 20-30 homes in Northern Kentucky. Every church can contribute something, and every dollar matters!.
- ♦ **Apply to receive home repair assistance.** Call or email the NKBA at [nkychangers18@gmail.com](mailto:nkychangers18@gmail.com) for an application.
- ♦ **Pray.** We need your prayers! We need someone from every church on our prayer team. Contact Lori at [lorne@nkbaptist.org](mailto:lorne@nkbaptist.org) or at the NKBA office and sign up for our KY Changers prayer updates!

You will be hearing more about the KY Changers event. In the meantime, please contact the NKBA office for more information or for a homeowner's application for assistance. Applications are due by December 31, 2017.

Contact [www.kywmu.org/changers](http://www.kywmu.org/changers) to register your youth or to register as an adult volunteer. Thank you!

**Northern Kentucky Baptist Association**

3001 Riggs Avenue  
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*January 2018*

**Address Service Requested**

**Mark Your Calendars  
Upcoming Events**

- January 1 — New Year’s Day, NKBA Office Closed
- January 2 —NKBA Office reopens, Happy New Year!
- January 6 & January 12—3 Circles Evangelism Training, 9am, NKBA Office
- January 8 — Pastors’ Round Table, Rob Patterson, 10am, NKBA Office
- January 24—40 Days of Prayer Begins
- January 27—Church Security Workshop, 9am-2pm, South Side Baptist Church

