



# IMPACT



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**Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.**  
Hosea 10:12 (NIV)

Lamentations ~ Ezekiel ~ Daniel ~ **Hosea** ~ Joel ~ Amos ~ Obadiah

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## Jim's Journal

As you read this, I hope you will be praying for the fall meeting of the NKBA and will plan on attending, October 16, at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence. The afternoon session begins at 3:00 PM, dinner around 5:30 and the evening session, featuring our guest speaker, former two-time President of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Senior Pastor at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, Dr. Fred Luter. It will be a great time of worship! DO NOT MISS THIS!!!

I've written on this before, but it is heavy on my heart today...over 4400 churches close their doors each year in America. In my role as your lead follower I have a very strong bias toward seeing churches grow and flourish. My role in ministry has always been that of a builder. The real KEY I have found in churches that make a COMEBACK and those who don't and go on to close is that they rediscover the mission of the church (given by Jesus). That is my prayer daily for each of our churches and pastors. If you want things to change, you must make changes. Period.

The world in which we live is increasingly dark and the local church is a beacon of light, reflecting the light and life of the resurrection power of Jesus. JESUS IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD! We cannot hide it under a bushel...or under our preferences....or our traditions...

Author/Pastor Carey Nieuwhof has written 5 good reasons a church should close it's doors if it doesn't want to change. Here they are with my commentary:

- 1) The Real Mission is Lost. When all your energy is spent on just keeping the doors open, paying the utilities and you are no longer concerned more about those who are lost and far from God around you in your community, it may be time to stop. It's understandable that people/churches go into survival mode. BUT, if that is where you choose to stay, you are losing focus on the mission for which you were created. IF SURVIVAL IS YOUR MISSION, YOU'VE LOST THE MISSION AND THE END IS NEAR.
  
- 2) The Church Cares More About Itself Than The People It's Called To Reach. This is a sad state. When churches are SO consumed with the preferences of their members that they have no heart for their non-members... while the church is one of the few organizations on the planet that exists for the sake of it's non-members! I visit churches where it is apparent that they thought Jesus said we should focus on the 99 FOUND SHEEP and IGNORE THE ONE THAT IS LOST! No matter how many times I read that story, I simply cannot understand the story any other way that to think if everyone in your town or city went to your church except one single person, you're called to abandon everything until that one person is reached. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN INTERPRET this story (and the other two that are paired with it in Luke 15). How about if you had four kids and only three made it home for dinner, no parent in their right minds says, "oh well...75% is good enough!" NO!!!! You forget dinner and everything else, call the police, send out search parties and no one sleeps until the missing child is found! When a church ONLY cares about its members, it's a good sign it's lost its soul. If Christians didn't rest until every person was reached, more people would be reached. AMEN?
  
- 3) Its Members Hate The World. Morals and values are shifting and we live in a post-Christian culture, where as followers of Jesus we are in the distinct minority. It's led a lot of Christians to behave as though they hate the world. Have we forgotten THE most quoted verse, JOHN 3:16? "For God SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE." If God SO LOVES THE WORLD WE DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO HATE IT! You can be frustrated with it, not agree with it, but not hate it. It's REALLY HARD FOR SOMEONE TO BELIEVE YOU LOVE THEM IF IT'S CLEAR YOU DON'T LIKE THEM.

Jim's Journal continued on the next page



<p>Jim's Journal continued,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u><b>Preserving The Past Is More Attractive Than Embracing The Future.</b></u> I talk to a lot of people who see the past with rose colored glasses. When all of your excitement is about the past, you haven't got much of a future.</li> <li><u><b>The Money Isn't Remotely Tied To The Mission.</b></u> When funds are low, everything becomes about keeping the lights on and the drive is about preservation, not purpose. Many churches are dying, BUT they have CASH IN THE BANK...or sit on valuable real estate. It's a great irony that there are SO MANY CHURCHES WITH MONEY AND BUILDINGS BUT OFTEN HAVE NO PEOPLE, AND CHURCHES WITH PEOPLE OFTEN HAVE NO MONEY AND NO BUILDINGS!</li> </ol> <p>The NKBA has had one church close (Oakland Avenue) in my tenure and we turned it over to a church plant (Redemption). The story of that church is still being told...I hope this becomes a universal trend as the mission of Jesus continues to be our focus!</p> <p>Pray with me that our churches would be ON MISSION TOGETHER FOR JESUS!</p> <p><b>Following Him, JIM</b></p>	<div> <div> <div>NKBA Pastor &amp; Staff</div> <div>Leadership IQ</div> <div>October 16, 2017</div> <div>9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.</div> <div>(breakfast and lunch provided)</div> <div>Hickory Grove Baptist Church</div> </div> <div> <div> <div>Featuring Dr. Fred Luter, Senior Pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA and past president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Pastors and staff, please contact the NKBA office to register for the leadership IQ.</div> <div>  <div>Dr. Fred Luter</div> </div> </div> </div> </div>
<div> <div> <div>Pastors' Round Table</div> <div>October 2, 10:00 a.m.</div> <div>NKBA Office</div> </div> <div> <div>Our speaker is Brian Dodd, author, blogger, and church stewardship and leadership consultant. You can see more about him on his website <a href="#">Brian Dodd On Leadership</a>.</div> <div>Brian's topic will be <b>"Building a Spirit of Generosity in the Local Church"</b>.</div> <div>Please contact Lori at the NKBA office (phone 859-727-6522 or email <a href="mailto:lorne@nkbaptist.org">lorne@nkbaptist.org</a> to register.</div> </div> <div>  </div> </div>	<div> <div>  <div> <div>NKBA Fall Meeting</div> <div>October 16, 3:00 p.m.</div> <div>Hickory Grove Baptist Church</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Our speaker is Dr. Fred Luter, Senior Pastor Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA.</div> <div> <div>To register your messengers, go to our website, <a href="http://www.nkbaptist.org">www.nkbaptist.org</a> and click the "Registration" tab at the top of the page. Be sure to include your church name, a valid email address, the total number of messengers you are registering, and the names of your messengers in the comments field.</div> <div>Please join us for this night of worship and celebration of the work God is doing in the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association churches, missions, and ministries. We look forward to celebrating with you!</div> </div> </div> </div>
<div> <div> <div>Volunteers Needed</div> <div>Baptist Convalescent Center</div> <div>120 Main Street, Newport, KY</div> </div> <div> <div>The BCC is in need of volunteers to assist with their Sunday morning worship service. Volunteers are needed to play the piano in the chapel during the service. Volunteers are also needed to transport patients to the chapel before and after the service. All volunteers will need to be at the BCC at 9:00 am on your Sunday of service. If you are interested in assisting with this important ministry, please contact Debbie Mullins at 859-547-9131.</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Remember the Christmas Backpacks!</div> <div>The NKBA is collecting backpacks for children in need in our area. The backpacks you fill will be given to the children, along with a gospel presentation. Visit the KBC website for more information at <a href="http://kybaptist.com">kybaptist.com</a>, or call the NKBA office.</div> </div> <div>  </div> </div>

**Northern Kentucky Baptist Association**

3001 Riggs Avenue  
Erlanger, KY 41018-3045  
*October 2017*

**Address Service Requested**

**Mark Your Calendars  
Upcoming Events**

- October 2 — Pastors’ Roundtable with Brian Dodd, 10am, NKBA Office
- October 16 — Leadership IQ with Fred Luter, 9am, Hickory Grove Baptist
- October 16 — NKBA Fall Meeting, 3pm, Hickory Grove Baptist Church
- October 24 — WMU Association Meeting, 6:30pm, Pleasant Ridge Baptist
- October 26 — Barnabas Prayer Group, 8:30am & 7pm, NKBA Office

