



# IMPACT



## NKBA Staff

**Jim Woolums ~ D.O.M.**  
jwoolums@nkbaptist.org

**Lori Orne ~ Office/Financial  
Administrator**  
lorne@nkbaptist.org

**Harold and Martha Pike ~  
Ministry Assistants**  
mp12836@gmail.com

**Jan Marler ~ TOUCH 500  
Coordinator**  
jkmarler@gmail.com

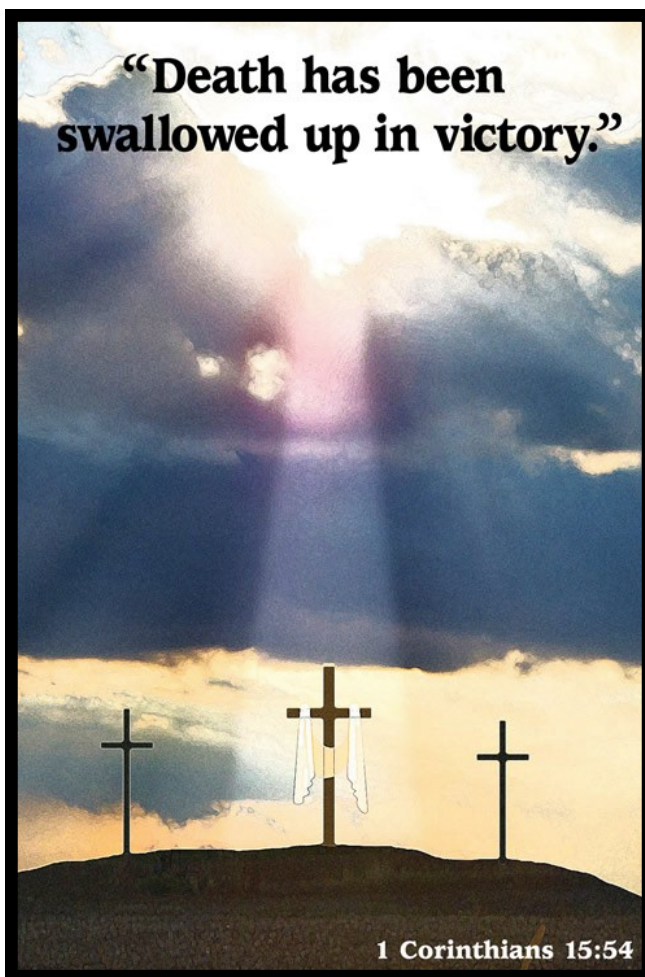
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859.727.6522

**“Death has been  
swallowed up in victory.”**



**1 Corinthians 15:54**

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-57 (NIV)**

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



3001 Riggs Avenue ~ Erlanger, KY 41018 ~ 859.727.6522

# Jim's Journal



In a follow up to my March newsletter article blog “WHY MORE PEOPLE DON'T MEET JESUS AT YOUR CHURCH.” I'm going to seek to write each month for the remainder of 2017 about instilling a “**WHATEVER IT TAKES**” mentality in our churches. Be advised that whenever I highlight or use that phrase, I am talking about all that is within the boundary of Scripture. I can tell you now, that you are not going to agree with everything I write...but I DO promise you that each word will be prayed over intended to challenge the church to **BE CHRIST** in the communities where you serve.

I've cited many times a Lifeway study that indicates that 8 out of 10 of the approximately 4000,000 churches in America are declining or have stopped growing/plateaued. Ground is still being lost despite the pace for new church plants (which ARE seeing growth in reaching people who are unchurched). SO, if this is true...what can we do? **WHATEVER IT TAKES!!!**

I have always been a student of trends and in this case it is studying what do churches do that ARE growing versus churches that are not? Let me first say this and say it clearly, **Scripture and experience are clear: 1) God intend that living things grow. 2) God causes true growth to happen. 3) God works through people to accomplish His mission, to cast vision for the future, and to disciple people for His glory. 94% of churches aren't growing as quickly as the communities they're in.** Now, let's talk about the tension of what growing churches are doing today (Thanks to Dr. Thom Rainer, Lifeway, Dr. Ed Stetzer, Rich Birch, Carey Nieuwhof, and Brandon Kelley for these insights). These are NOT in order of priority.

**1. Staff Led, Elder Protected Governance Structure.**

Look at the statistics across America and you'll discover that growing churches have very few congregational votes. They voluntarily limit voting to the development of an annual budget, on the appointment of leaders who oversee the work of the churches (committees, teams, staff), calling a senior pastor, and on anything that has to do with adding debt, sale/purchase of property. These congregations have one-two “business meetings” per year. These churches are staff led or led by a team of Scriptural Elders (Acts 14, I Timothy 3, 5, Titus 1, 2) instead of purely congregationally led. I know this isn't always an easy transition for churches to make, but it is a clear principle in looking at churches of all sizes that are healthy and growing today.

**2. Courageous Leaders Who Pray Boldly And Take Bold Action.**

Church leaders shouldn't JUST be PRAY-ers they should be DO-ers. PRAY and OBEY for there's no other way.

**3. A Genuine Heart for the Lost and Desire to Embrace the Mess.**

The gravitational pull of human nature is toward SELF, NOT TOWARD OTHERS. Growing churches aren't just conscious of the lost, they pursue them and are ready to take on the messes of life they may bring. Inward-focused churches are dying churches. To pursue the lost will often require church members to give up preferences/traditions on the altar of “**WHATEVER IT TAKES!**” “When your preferences keep unchurched people from the promise of Christ, it's time to change your preferences (Nieuwhof).”

**4. Engaging, Gospel-Proclaiming Preaching.**

Preaching in growing churches engages people on multiple levels (spiritual, intellectual, emotional) and is a tool to proclaim the Good News of Christ. “Preachers who can't that “Good News” to the unchurched will speak to an ever-shrinking crowd because one day only unchurched people will be left (Nieuwhof).”

**5. Children's Ministry that Kids Don't Want to Leave.**

This goes far beyond fun and games, but those are a part of it. Imagine kids being in an environment that allows them to understand God's love for them while being invested in by caring adults who partner with parents to disciple them!

**6. A Clear Path to Guide Guests to Become Regular Attenders.**

Develop a clear and easily identified path to help guests make a “next step” to get connected at your church.

**7. Leader Development and Empowerment.**

**EQUIP THE SAINTS (Eph. 4:11-13)!** Scripture tells us to do it, but what does this really look like? Leadership development is something we know we need to do, but so many are at a loss when it comes to practically doing so.

**8. An Intentional Small Group Strategy (that MAKES DISCIPLES).**

This can be Sunday School, small groups, life groups, discipleship groups, whatever your church's small group strategy is called, these groups MUST be about teaching the Word of God and LIVING out a Christ-centered life together in COMMUNITY. “People are more connected than ever but feel more disconnected than ever (Nieuwhof).” You must have a clear strategy to “make disciples.”

**9. A Clear Path to Guide Regulars to Become Members.**

To me, church membership is more than just agreeing with a church's beliefs and showing up on Sunday's. It's about GENEROSITY...in serving, investing, and being a part of Christ's mission.

Continued next page

**Jim's Journal Continued**

10. Shareable Church Communication that Inspires and Informs.

Too many churches do a poor job of communicating past Sunday morning. We can and **MUST DO BETTER!** Whether it is updating a website, starting a website, using Facebook, or other social media, or simply making a printed newsletter available in digital form.

As your Lead Follower, I am going to do all I can to provide opportunities to equip your churches/leaders to become more effective in each of these areas. **Our BEST DAYS ARE AHEAD AS LONG AS WE DO WHATEVER IT TAKES** to bring a lost world to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

Following Him,

**Jim**

**Ladies Simulcast Event**  
**Saturday, April 8th**  
**10:00am-5:30pm**

Featuring  
**Priscilla Shirer**

**\$20 before April 2**  
**\$25 at the door**

**Main Street Baptist Church**  
11093 Alexandria Pike | Alexandria, KY 41001  
859-474-3106

**Purchase tickets starting March 12**  
at Main Street OR online @ [sievechurch.org](http://sievechurch.org)  
\$2 convenience fee for tickets purchased online



**Lunch & Refreshments**  
**Silent Auction**  
**Coffee & Tea Bar**

**NEXT LEADERSHIP IQ EVENT**  
**Monday, April 24th, 2017 @ FBC Richmond**  
**(425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, KY 40475)**  
**10:00-12:00 pm. Lunch will be provided**  
**Hosted by the Tates Creek Baptist Association**

**LEADERSHIP IQ**

**Featured Speaker: *Dr. Richard Blackaby, Blackaby International Ministries***  
**Register Today at [office@cknb.org](mailto:office@cknb.org) or (859) 254-7747**

**NKBA Ministry Wives Fellowship**  
**Thursday April 6th, 6:30 p.m. at the NKBA Office**  
**Please join us for dinner and fellowship!**



**An Evening of Worship**  
*with Kentucky Baptist Women's Chorale*

First Baptist Church  
Walton, Ky.  
May 7 @ 6:30 p.m.



**KENTUCKY BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING 2017**  
[www.kybaptist.org/drtraining](http://www.kybaptist.org/drtraining)

Ordinary People  
Doing **EXTRAORDINARY** Things



**NKBA Disaster Relief Training**  
**Saturday, April 8**  
**9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**  
**Hickory Grove Baptist Church,**  
**Independence, KY**

This training includes both Phase I and Phase II and prepares the individual to volunteer to meet Disaster Relief needs. To register for the training, visit the Kentucky Baptist website at <http://www.kybaptist.org/kentucky-baptist-disaster-relief-training-2017,1455>.

**Northern Kentucky Baptist Association**

3001 Riggs Avenue  
Erlanger, KY 41018-3045  
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**Mark Your Calendars  
Upcoming Events**

- April 4 —Pastors’ Round Table, 11:00am—1:00 pm, NKBA Office
- April 6—Ministry Wives’ Fellowship, 6:30pm, NKBA Office
- April 7 & 8 —Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Hickory Grove Baptist
- April 8—Disaster Relief Phase I & II Training, Hickory Grove Baptist
- April 8—NKBA WMU Leadership Training, 10:00am, NKBA Office
- April 9—Palm Sunday
- April 14—Good Friday
- April 16—Resurrection Sunday
- April 24—Leadership IQ w/Dr. Richard Blackaby, 10:00am, FBC Richmond, KY

