

DECEMBER

IMPACT



NKBA Staff

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

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

Anita Hornsby ~ Editor
ahornsby@nkbaptist.org

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

Jan Marler ~ TOUCH 500
Coordinator
jkmarler@gmail.com

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)

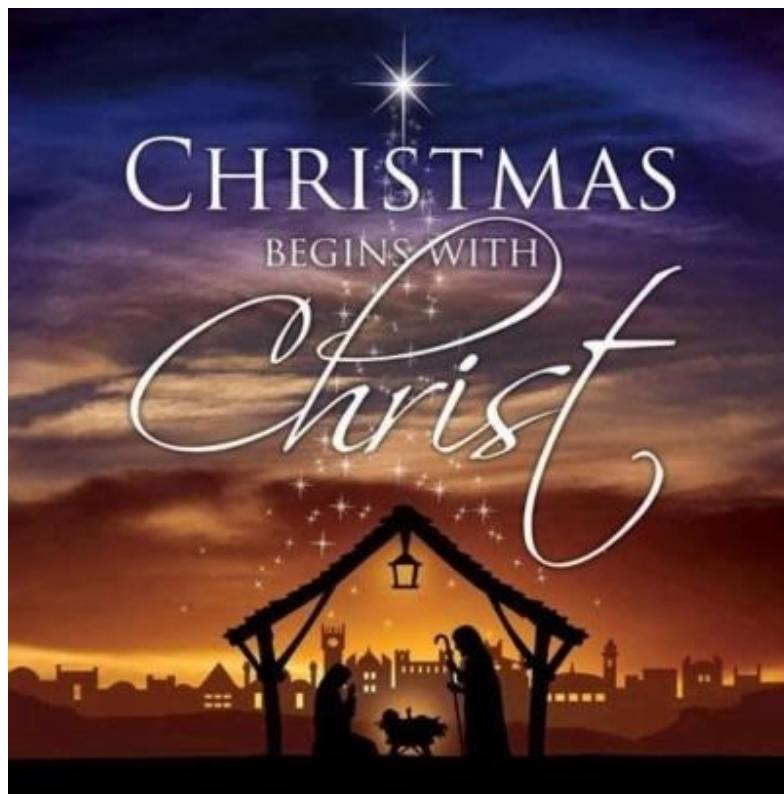


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Matthew ~ Mark ~ **Luke** ~ John ~ Acts ~ Romans

¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Luke 2: 10-14 (NKJV)



3001 Riggs Avenue ~ Erlanger, KY 41018 ~

Jim's Journal

The holidays and a NEW YEAR is upon us (Where did 2015 go??)! As I reflect on our work together for Christ in NKY, my constant prayer is that God would help me and help our pastors and leaders to develop healthy churches. We live in a day where a "one size fits all" mindset simply does not work. Every church can't be EVERYTHING to EVERYONE! Each one of our 75 churches has its own history, style, and personality. Some are rural, some are urban, some are suburban. So what does a HEALTHY church look like? Here are a few ideas that I found from a favorite author of mine, Dan Reiland. Look at this list and see how you would evaluate your church. Then, as the New Year approaches, consider doing a re-visioning of your church field. As your DOM, I have personal experiences from 39 years of ministry as well as other resources from the KBC and SBC to help each church make the next step forward to becoming healthy. I'm praying that we see no more zero's in our baptism numbers and that each church takes another step forward toward reaching outside their church to reach their community.



An authentic love of God and for people. Loving God, loving people, making disciples is the motivation for ministry in a healthy church. What happens in so many churches is that "the pursuit of God can easily get crowded out in the work of God. We have to be intentional."

An unrelenting dedication to reach people for Jesus. It's so easy for any church to become so BUSY in doing good things that it crowds out the GREAT things God wants to do as we accomplish our Jesus mission in our communities. We must introduce people to Jesus intentionally by the way we live, love, and serve! "This will manifest itself in three things: new guests attending on a regular basis, salvation, and baptisms. Again, NO MORE ZERO's in our baptism numbers! This does not reflect an unrelenting dedication to reach people for Christ.

A crystal-clear vision with a strong supporting strategy. Good leaders provide vision. Your vision is what makes your church unique and contains that "fire in the belly" that brings sacrifice, passion, and momentum." Good leaders provide next steps in a strategic plan on how to reach our communities for Christ.

Spiritual leaders who develop a leadership culture. The best leaders always develop other leaders. Those leaders also encourage, inspire and empower others to serve! Developing a leadership culture requires consistent and diligent effort to systematically invest in those who lead. Developing is more than equipping (training for specific ministry tasks); it is about pouring into the leaders so they become "bigger, better and stronger" people.

A passionate pursuit of spiritual maturity. A healthy church never waters down the scriptures, or backs off on biblical values, and always speaks the truth in love. Gossip and politics are minimal and grace abounds. Perhaps oversimplified, but in essence, spiritual formation is the journey of becoming more and more like Jesus. We never arrive, but we can always make progress.

A joyful commitment to serve and care for those in need. Jesus has much to say about those who are poor and in need. We may not be able to help everyone, but we can always help someone. I believe that a healthy church makes an impact in its own hometown community by serving those who can do nothing for your church, and maybe will never attend.

A generous spirit that results in financial giving. We can pray for a spirit of generosity amongst the congregation, but that spirit starts with us as the leaders. It is most uncommon for a church to be generous if its leaders are not generous. Practice generosity, teach on giving, and encourage others to follow God's prompts to give.

Jim's Journal (Continued)

I look forward to working with you, your pastors and leaders to BLESS our communities through intentional intercessory prayer, through listening to people, to God, and to His Word, to engage with people outside our church walls, by serving them at the point of their need, and sharing the story of how Christ has changed our lives and how He can bring NEW life to them!

Pegge and I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a GREAT NEW YEAR! OUR BEST DAYS ARE AHEAD!

Your Lead Follower,

Jim Woolums

Piner Baptist Church

Piner is looking for a secretary/receptionist for the church office approximately 24-28 hours weekly. Need someone with great phone and people skills, excellent computer skills, especially Excel and Windows 8. If interested, contact Joe Cochran at 513-314-2466, email him: joeacochran@hotmail.com or send inquiry to Piner Baptist Church, 15044 Madison Pike, Morning View, KY 41063.

**First Baptist Church of Silver Grove
Singing Puppet Christmas Tree**

The Kids Clubhouse children (Grades 3, 4, and 5) will be presenting the Singing Puppet Christmas Tree on December 6 at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to this presentation by our children.

**Mark Your Calendars
Upcoming Events**

- December 1: 6PM – Pastor and Staff Christmas Dinner—Hebron Baptist Church
- January 19: 10AM – Leadership IQ Network, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, featuring Dr. Don Whitney (SBTS) on “Demonstrating Dependence on God” and Dr. Churck McAllister, “Willing to Take a Risk.”
- January 28 & 29 – Shepherding the Shepherd Conference for Pastors and Wives, KBC, Lexington, (limited scholarships available)
- February 8-9—RISK Conference (Evangelism), Hillvue Hts. Church, Bowling Green, KY
- February 26-27—NKBA Spiritual Awakening Conference, featuring Dr. Paul Chitwood, Erlanger Baptist Church, Friday and Saturday evenings, Time TBA.
- March 7—Dr. Shane Garrison—*Building an Intergenerational Church*, 9 am-3 pm, NKBA Office
- March 7—Spring Executive Board Meeting, 7 pm at First Baptist Church of Ft. Thomas

Northern Kentucky Baptist Association

3001 Riggs Avenue
Erlanger, KY 41018-3045
December 2015 Issue

Address Service Requested



January-February-March-April-May-June-July-August-September-October-November-December

2015 NEWSLETTER

From Our Calendar to Yours

NKBA Pastor/Staff Christmas Dinner
December 1
Hebron Baptist Church
6:00 pm



Christmas
December 24-25
Office Closed

New Years
December 31-January 1
Office Closed