

January

I M P A C T



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

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make **all things new.**" And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Revelation 21: 5(NKJV)



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Jim's Journal

10 Convictions I Have About the Local Church

A few months ago I heard Perry Noble (Pastor of New Spring Church {SBC} in Anderson, SC) talk about his convictions about the local church. I believe Jesus has entrusted HIS MISSION to the local church, to make disciples, to seek and to save that which is lost. That means that the local church carries the message that JESUS is the HOPE OF THE WORLD! I want to partner in helping ALL our churches to engage in this mission like the eternity of many depend on it. I'd like to present Perry's convictions and add some personal commentary.



“Jesus never intended for the church to be a group of isolated, self righteous and angry people. In the past, the church spent so much time debating with people over social issues that we forgot to love people like Jesus told us to. We have to remember that we will reach way more people through conversation than condemnation.” I believe that great storytellers have the opportunity to change the world, one life at a time, one story at a time. As followers of Jesus, we must teach people how to share their story about how Christ has changed their lives! AND we must TELL THE STORY OURSELVES! DAILY!

“If churches do not learn how to reach people on their mobile devices, we will soon not reach them at all.” Churches need to leverage technology. Look at this website provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention (www.tellyourstory.today). This is a tool that any church can use. Call your NKBA office, and we will help your church engage by helping you set up a new website, a Facebook page, or whatever platform you choose! Note also our NEW revamped (finally!) web page. (www.nkbaptist.org) We will continue to add info helpful to our churches.

“It’s not a lack of prayer that is holding most churches back; it’s a lack of preparation. We need to prepare for messy people to actually show up and not ask them to leave because they do not have the appearance of perfection.” This does NOT mean that PRAYER is not vital...IT IS! We need to position ourselves to be blessed by starting ON OUR KNEES! This is the first step toward solving the issues before us, but our prayers must also lead us to ACTION. Prayer is not PASSIVE, but ACTIVE! (Go to www.pray4everyhome.com and become a prayer partner for those who live around you.) Get your church to become a partner and REALLY begin to PRAY for those God has placed around you to reach! And don’t expect lost people to act like anything but lost people, ok? It’s messy...and a part of the process!

“Churches that do not invest heavily in students and children will disappear in the next decade or so.” The NKBA has invested significant resources over the past few years to help build stronger ministries to children in our churches. Take advantage of Jan Marler and a great TOUCH 500 team who will come and assist ANY of our churches to better reach children/families in their areas. The next emphasis is the 12/24 window, which is where we need MUCH work! Between the ages of 12-24 we must do a better job of winning, discipling, and equipping young men and women to become disciple-makers who make disciple-makers!

Jim's Journal (Continued)

“Seminary will become less and less relevant because most Christian educational institutions are focused on how to reach people in the 1970s.” This is a hard one for me to swallow as a former professor, but I’m not convinced (as we look at the results over the past 10-20 years) that our institutions are producing the world-changers that are needed. We must be able to ENGAGE our culture! Know your area. I have secured demographic studies for each NKBA church for a 1-3-5 mile radius around your church. I’m ready to help each pastor/church begin to strategize HOW they can best reach their area with the Gospel! Pastors need to disciple and train the present and future generations to LEAD! More on-the-job training with young people in the 12/24 window will be the BEST way to prepare people to do and lead ministry in the future...give them a role NOW! Disciple them and let them lead!

“There is not a one-size-fits-all discipleship model. Different people grow in different ways.” Discipleship is NOT a program; it is a process of leading people to a saving knowledge of Christ, and helping them to develop an intimacy with God through prayer, study, building of community, and acts of service. This process prepares them to pour into someone’s life that they have led to Jesus. We need to help people take a next step to Jesus and then another one after that... I stand ready to help our churches develop effective NEXT STEPS!

“The church's emphasis needs to be on STARTING to follow Jesus and not STOPPING the list of sins we single out.” While it is absolutely true that we preach a Gospel of repentance without hesitation, we also need to let the Holy Spirit and God’s Word convict and change the hearts of people. Our role is to pray for, share, engage, serve, and tell our story of life-change through Jesus alone! As followers of Christ, we need to point to the MERCY SEAT and recognize there is only one who is able to sit in the JUDGMENT SEAT, and it is not us!

“Community is more important than reading the Bible. (The early church didn’t have the Bible for the first 300 years of Christianity...but they did have one another.)” Let ME say that the WORD of God is absolutely essential to salvation and our growth as followers of Jesus; but to get that WORD out, we need to become expert BRIDGE BUILDERS and storytellers to a lost world, not simply EXPERTS in knowledge of Scripture. Does your knowledge of scripture exceed your obedience?

“Denominations will become increasingly more like the United Nations - a group of people that talks but does not act and issues meaningless statements and warnings.” I am a Jesus follower who happens to be a Southern Baptist (by choice). I grew up in another mainline denomination that has been losing members for over 50 years, but the denomination still stands. Religious bureaucracies and systems have fed themselves so long that they can live off the fat for many years before they die. I believe that as people of the Book we need to stop talking ABOUT others and start listening TO THEM...we need to STOP condemning the sins of others while turning a blind eye to our own sinfulness. We need to walk in REPENTANCE for the sins of the church, our racism and bigotry of the past (and sadly the present in some cases) and SERVE AND LOVE people like Jesus did TODAY! Our knowledge HAS far exceeded our obedience...that needs to change NOW! As Southern Baptists, we must not make idols out of our methods, our systems, or even our heritage. Let’s learn from the past, follow Christ and move toward the future HE has in store! Our greatest days are ahead!!

In one of my favorite stories that Jesus told (the Good Samaritan) two key elements are clear: 1) Nothing happened in the story until the Samaritan got off his donkey and served somebody! 2) Jesus said we “should go and do likewise!” That may be over-simplifying the matter, but I’m a simple guy. So, excuse me while I dismount and serve somebody...won’t you join me?

Your Lead Follower,

Jim Woolams

Northern Kentucky Baptist Association

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January 2016 Issue

Address Service Requested

<p>Disaster Relief Training</p> <p>The 2016 Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief training schedule is set! Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars and join us.</p> <p>January 15-16, Beaver Dam February 12-13, Lexington March 11-12, Crestwood April 8-9, London September 23-24, Clarkson</p> <p>For more information about Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, e-mail dr@nullkybaptist.org or call (502) 489-3401 or (866) 489-3527 (toll free in Kentucky only).</p>	<p>University of the Cumberlands</p> <p>The University of the Cumberlands' Physician Assistant program needs help. They are developing clinical affiliation agreements for rotations at St. Elizabeth in Northern Kentucky. In the past, rotations have been limited to students with family/friends in the area who can house them.</p> <p>Would you or a member of your congregation be interesting in hosting a student for month while they are on rotation in Northern Kentucky? Rotations are one month in length. The clinical year begins in May 2016. If interested, contact Brad Hall at gary.hall@ucumberlands.edu or call 606-539-4187.</p>
<p>Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Events</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>January 28 & 29 – Shepherding the Shepherd Conference for Pastors and Wives, KBC, Lexington, (limited scholarships available)</p> <p>February 7—SHOEper Bowl Sunday (Collection of shoes to be distributed throughout ministry partners of the NKBA. Moore Activity Center, Care Center at Main Street, Oasis at Ninth St. Baptist, Lifeline)</p> <p>February 8-9—RISK Conference (Evangelism), Hillvue Hts. Church, Bowling Green, KY</p> <p>February 26-27—NKBA Spiritual Awakening Conference, featuring Dr. Paul Chitwood, Erlanger Baptist Church, Friday and Saturday evenings, Time TBA.</p>	