

June

IMPACT



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**As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.  
My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds,  
of your saving acts all day long—  
though I know not how to relate them all.  
Psalm 71:14-15 (NIV)**

Nehemiah ~ Esther ~ Job ~ **Psalms** ~ Proverbs ~ Ecclesiastes ~ Song of Songs

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# Jim's Journal



I am ceding my article this month to Dr. Thom Rainer, President of Lifeway Recourses, former Dean at the Billy Graham School at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and leading church strategist. I do not think there is much I can add to this succinct word to the church. I pray we will heed the call. (Personal commentary in parentheses JW)

Change or die.

That is reality for churches today.

Of course, I am not talking about Scripture, doctrine, or spiritual disciplines changing. Those things are constants, never to be compromised.

But much of what we do in our churches must change. And, unfortunately, many church members and leaders resist change. They seek stability and comfort over obedience and sacrifice.

Let's look at five key reasons why stability is bad for a church:

1. A stable church is not a church on mission. The very nature of the Great Commission means our churches should be in constant change. A church member blasted a pastor for his efforts at leading the church to reach unbelievers in the community. She castigated him because "those people are messing up our church." Sigh.
2. Comfort is the enemy of obedience. Review all the examples of obedient persons in the Bible. In every case, they had to get out of their comfort zones. Too many church members want stability because they don't want to experience the discomfort of obedience.
3. Stable churches are not reaching their communities. The communities in which churches are located are changing. Many are changing rapidly. If a church seeks comfort, it is not willing to make the necessary changes to impact the community it was called to serve.
4. Stable churches do not create new groups. Show me a stable church, and I will show you a church that is not creating new groups or Sunday school classes. Show me a church not creating new groups, and I will show you a church that is inwardly focused. The members are spiritual navel gazers.

Members of stable churches want the focus to be on their preferences. They want church "the way it's always been." They are more concerned about getting their way with music style, room temperature, and precise starting time of worship services. In their latter years, they are able to sing, "I did it my way" rather than "I did it God's way."


There is nothing biblical about a stable church. In fact, the stability is really just an illusion. Those churches that seek stability will ironically change the most rapidly toward decline and death.

(C.S. Lewis said, "The church exists for nothing else but to draw men to Christ. If they are not doing that, everything else is simply a waste of time." The time is at hand for our churches to get down to business with God like we have never done before. We must pray like we've never prayed, serve our Jerusalem like never before, and make Christ known in every way we can with an urgency that recognizes our communities are most lost now than in previous decades. Stability is not an option. Churches/Pastors/Leaders must be willing to do "whatever it takes" to reach a progressively lost and dying world to the transforming power of Christ alone!)

Following Him,

Jim

Lead Follower/Director of Missions

<div data-bbox="366 658 687 1050"><p>LATONIA BAPTIST CHURCH</p></div> <div data-bbox="717 646 1681 1097"><p><b>Pianist/Accompanist Needed</b></p><p>Latonia Baptist Church is seeking a talented pianist to play for our blended service on Sunday mornings. This person must also be able to accompany our Christmas and Easter Choirs. Skills needed include, the ability to sight read, ability to accompany the LBC choir and soloists, can read both chord charts and sheet music, ability to improvise, and working knowledge of the organ.</p><p>This position is paid weekly and fluctuates depending on what is required each week. The time requirements and payment scale are:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Morning rehearsal and service—\$50.00 a week</li><li>• Wednesday night rehearsals (off June, July, January) —\$50.00 a week</li><li>• Solo accompaniment—\$30.00 (includes one rehearsal with soloist)</li><li>• Special events/rehearsals—TBD (\$50-\$200 depending on level of commitment needed)</li></ul><p>If you are interested in this position, please contact Cassandra Patterson by email at <a href="mailto:cpatt1230@gmail.com">cpatt1230@gmail.com</a> or by phone at (606)584-6961.</p></div>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <p><b>Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting</b>—June 13-14, Phoenix, Arizona.</p> <p><b>Independence Day Holiday</b>—Tuesday, July 4, office closed.</p> <p><b>Annual Church Profiles</b>—Will be due August 11, 2017, if you need information about entering your data on line, or if you need a hard copy to complete, contact Lori at the NKBA office.</p> <p><b>Celebrate Recovery Summit</b>—July 12-14, Nashville, Tennessee.</p> <p><b>NKBA Summer Meeting</b>—Sunday, July 16, 6:00 p.m. Living Hope Baptist Church (formerly Highland Avenue Baptist Tabernacle), 1080 Highland Avenue, Fort Thomas, Kentucky.</p> <p><b>Velcro Churches</b>—Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>3 Circles Evangelism Training</b>—Monday, August 21 (Part 1) and Monday, August 28 (Part 2), 5:30-8:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Super Saturday Training</b>—August 26, Erlanger Baptist.</p>	<div data-bbox="1064 1196 1655 1348"></div> <p><b>Operation Inasmuch Kentucky</b> is a statewide hands-on missions opportunity sponsored by the <a href="#">Kentucky Baptist Convention</a>.</p> <p>The compassion-based ministry provides services to the community with no strings attached. Connecting with the community in this way builds bridges between the church and a skeptical culture, and provides Christians a platform from which they can share the love of Christ through word and deed.</p> <p>If you are interested in planning an INASMUCH Project, please attend the Northern Kentucky training:</p> <p><b>Saturday, June 24, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. NKBA office.</b> Contact Lori at the NKBA office to reserve your spot in training, 859-727-6522 or <a href="mailto:lorne@nkbaptist.org">lorne@nkbaptist.org</a>.</p> <p><b>InAsMuch as you did it for the least of these, you did it for me.—Jesus</b></p>
<p><b>OAK RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH is searching for a part time Minister of Music.</b> The position requires 10 to 15 hours per week with an annual salary of \$10,400.00. Oak Ridge is a Southern Baptist Church with a traditional style of music using the 1991 Broadman Hymnal. We are located about 8 miles south of Cincinnati on Taylor Mill Rd./ Route 16. Please send resume to:</p> <div data-bbox="554 2253 840 2383"><p>Oak Ridge Baptist Church Search Committee 6056 Taylor Mill Rd. Covington, KY41015</p></div>	<div data-bbox="1024 1973 1695 2433"><p><b>NKBA Golf Outing</b> <b>Thursday, June 8</b> <b>Hickory Sticks Golf Club</b></p><p><b>Proceeds Benefit C.A.R.E. Ministry, Alexandria, KY</b></p><p><b>8:00 a.m. Registration, 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start</b></p></div>



**Northern Kentucky Baptist Association**

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

**Address Service Requested**

**Mark Your Calendars  
Upcoming Events**

- June 5 —Pastors’ Roundtable, 10:30am, NKBA Office, Speaker Todd Gray
- June 8—NKBA Golf Outing, 8am registration, Hickory Sticks Golf Course
- June 13-14—SBC Convention, Phoenix, AZ
- June 18—Father’s Day
- June 24—Operation INASMUCH Training, 9am, NKBA Office
- June 29—Barnabas Prayer Group, 8:30am and 7pm, NKBA Office
- June 29—Missions Development Committee, 10am, NKBA Office

