



IMPACT



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

*Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. **Romans 6:3-5***

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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Jim's Journal



You have heard me quote that somewhere between 80-90% of churches in America are either plateaued or in decline. This is true regardless of size, denomination, style, or geographic location. The bottom line is that churches are simply not moving in the right direction when it comes to growth.

The Unstuck Group has research that says churches in America are only baptizing around 5% of their weekend attendance on average annually. In other words, a church of 500 is seeing an average of 25 people take the step to profess their faith in Christ and follow Christ in baptism. We had 22 churches reporting NO baptisms. Surely by God’s grace and our intention we can baptize over 500 people in an area where 68-85% of those living in our counties are unchurched, lost, and searching for God.

We CAN do better and WE MUST DO BETTER!

Paul Alexander, from the Unstuck Group identifies **FIVE BIG REASONS WHY MORE PEOPLE DON’T MEET JESUS AT YOUR CHURCH.**

- 1. CHURCHES ARE INSIDER FOCUSED.** You’ve heard/read me say that most churches in America make decisions based on who they are trying to keep, instead of who they are trying to reach (Andy Stanley). THAT is the definition of INSIDER focused. Churches are some of THE most change resistant groups anywhere! Our practices, preferences, ministries, the language used, and the way we spend our money demonstrate we care more about people who are already in the church as opposed to people who have still not met Jesus. I’m concerned that we have salved our conscience by giving to world missions (which IS vital) but have totally neglected our own backyard (our JERUSALEM). It is impossible to deny the declining baptisms over the past 10 years.
- 2. LACK OF INVITATION.** Many people never say “YES” to following Jesus because they aren’t given the opportunity to do so. While a majority of churches talk about Jesus, fewer and fewer churches are INTENTIONALLY sharing the GOSPEL and giving people an opportunity to come forward and say “YES” to following Jesus, both IN our services and more importantly when we are ON MISSION IN OUR COMMUNITIES.
- 3. CHURCH HAS BECOME UNINSPIRING.** Too many churches have taken the most incredible, inspiring, and life-changing news about Jesus and the hope of forgiveness, freedom, peace, and redemption, and turned it into an academic conversation. Facts don’t change lives. We must not be afraid to FEEL our FAITH...CELEBRATE our FAITH...and let our FAITH MOVE US...sometimes to tears...sometimes to lift a holy hand...people in today’s world need to see and want to be a part of something that has REAL POWER and changes lives! Jesus changes lives.
- 4. PEOPLE ARE EMBARRASSED TO INVITE THEIR FRIENDS.** Many are embarrassed that our facilities look like the 1980’s or earlier...they are afraid that their lost friends will not be welcome and will be treated poorly...they’re also afraid the music will be dead and the sermon will be boring.

THE CHURCH HAS FORGOTTEN ITS MISSION. Church is not for Christians. It doesn’t exist for the people INSIDE the church. The church exists for people who don’t yet know Jesus.

You may not like this list, but it is true. It simply doesn’t have to remain true. The local church proclaims THE ONE WHO IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD...JESUS! May we repent of our coldness, and choosing our preferences/comfort over the mission of Jesus. Pastor Josh Butler said, “Our problem is not that we’re reaching for God while He refuses to be found, rather God is reaching for us while we’re clutching our idols.” OUCH...

...BUT GOD...

Following Him,
JIM

LIGHTS OUT!
A Northern Kentucky Community Event

23BLAST

BASED ON AN INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

First Baptist Church of Bellevue, KY
332 Prospect Street
Bellevue, KY 41073
www.firstbaptistbellevue.org

Saturday March 4th, 2017
6:30PM

Come to see a FREE MOVIE, *23 Blast*, based on the life of Travis Freeman. Bring your sports teams, youth groups, college groups, and anyone else to hear about this incredible true story from Travis himself! We'll bring the popcorn!

Sunday Morning March 5th, 2017
10:40AM

Come to the First Baptist Church of Bellevue, KY to hear Travis Freeman explain how he refused to let blindness stop him from achieving his dreams, an incredible testimony about overcoming adversity.

REACH Evangelism Conference
March 27 & 28 at Severns Valley Baptist Church
Visit kybaptist.org for more information and to register

“Do the work of an evangelist”

2 Timothy 4:5

REACH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
MARCH 27 & 28, 2017

SEVERNS VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH | 1100 RING ROAD, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701

KENTUCKY BAPTIST
DISASTER RELIEF
TRAINING
2017

www.kybaptist.org/drtraining

Ordinary People
Doing EXTRAORDINARY Things



NKBA Night of Worship
Monday, March 6
6:00 p.m.—Business Meeting
7:00 p.m.—Celebration in Worship
Burlington Baptist Church



Steve Ayers

Our spring meeting will be held at Burlington Baptist Church. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with our business portion of the meeting for Executive Board members. We will finish the meeting with a time of celebration and worship. Music will be provided by Burlington Baptist and members from NKBA churches. The speaker is Steve Ayers, Pastor of Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green, KY. Hillvue Heights has led the KBC in baptisms for more than a decade. Come join us for a night of worship!

NKBA
VBS Preview
Saturday,
March 25
Hebron Baptist
3435 Limaburg Road
Hebron, KY 41048
9:00 a.m.—Noon



“LifeWay’s VBS 2017 turns your kids into Galactic Starveyors! As kids focus their telescopes on the marvels painted in the sky by the Creator, they will discover the wonder among all wonders— that the God who created everything there is—the knowable and the unknowable, the visible and the invisible— wants a personal relationship with them! Invite your kids into the clubhouse and show them the God who is over the moon in love with them.”
The program includes breakout sessions, snacks and special giveaways!

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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Address Service Requested

**Mark Your Calendars
Upcoming Events**

- March 6 —Pastors’ Conference, 10:00am, Mercy Ridge Church, Dry Ridge
- March 6—NKBA Night of Worship/Meeting, 6:00pm, Burlington Baptist
- March 15 —NKBA Marketing Team, 10:00am, NKBA Office
- March 25—NKBA VBS Preview, 9:00 am, Hebron Baptist Church
- March 27 & 28—Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church
- March 30—Barnabas Group, 8:30am, NKBA Office

