



IMPACT



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859.727.6522



Genesis ~ Exodus ~ Leviticus ~ Numbers ~ **Deuteronomy** ~ Joshua ~ Judges ~ Ruth ~ 1 Samuel

Honor your father and your **mother**, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16 (NKJV)



3001 Riggs Avenue ~ Erlanger, KY 41018 ~ 859.727.6522

Jim's Journal

You've heard and read some of the statistics...nationally that somewhere between 80-90% of churches in America are plateaued or declining. This also holds true with a similar study Lifeway did among Southern Baptists. The number of baptisms in SBC life is at its lowest in 6-7 years, even internationally, fewer baptisms were recorded than in a decade. While in Kentucky, our churches are moving against that trend in attendance and Baptisms, we are still looking at an entire generation (between the ages of 12-24) that is 90%+



“unchurched” (meaning they do not regularly attend an evangelical, Bible-teaching church). That 12/24 window numbers close to a million in Kentucky alone, which means we have 900,000 students among that range that are yet to be reached! A Barna Research Group 2014 study cited five compelling reasons church engagement and attendance continues to decline, especially among millennials and younger. I share these along with my personal insights.

The church is irrelevant, the leaders are hypocritical, and leaders have experienced too much moral failure. It is absolutely critical that the church foster a culture of integrity that is beyond reproach, an authenticity that cannot be questioned, and is a community that's loving, grace-filled, and welcoming (especially to those who are lost and far from God). Jesus indicated that it would be by our fruit that others would recognize us...there has never been a time that this has been more true or more needed! Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness...you get the idea...

God is missing in the church. There are an ever-growing number of people who claim to be searching for God and indicate they aren't finding Him in the organized church (fruit simply not evident). If someone were searching for God, would they find Him in your church?

Legitimate doubt is prohibited. It is very difficult to have honest conversations in many churches, especially if one is honestly expressing doubt. In more moderate churches truth is relative, so there is ambiguity and lack of any foundation. In more conservative churches questions are often dismissed or given trite answers. Churches need to welcome questions and be open to having conversations with those who doubt instead of dismissing them.

People aren't learning about God. A portion of this is that Christians have developed their own insider language, “church-speak.” The longer we are “INSIDERS” the more our language is unfamiliar to “OUTSIDERS.” Christ-followers/teachers/pastors need to speak with clarity and show how the truth of God's Word is applied to every day life and that it is shown in our expression of faith in love and service.

They're not finding community. The Barna Research Group in another study points out that despite an epidemic of loneliness in our culture, only 10% report finding “community” in a church. If there is ANY PLACE that should be a place where LOVE IS SPOKEN, it MUST BE the church! I firmly believe that if churches really loved the way Jesus loved, we would not have ANY empty spots in ANY of our churches period.

So, what does this mean to us? Churches that want to really impact lostness will be a place where leadership is authentic and transparent; a place where people can feel a real sense of connection and community; and a place where doubts and questions are listened to and answered by speaking the truth (God's Word) in LOVE! No one should be able to do real community better than the church. At the heart of our faith is a relationship with God, with others, and ourselves. Churches that create a sense of healthy community will be magnets to those lost and searching of all generations.

Jim's Journal (Continued)

The church must also be a place that listens, engages with people and their messy lives, and where people can GROW! Finally, the church MUST BE ABSOLUTELY MISSION FOCUSED! The center of our mission is Christ. While most organizations naturally drift toward an insider focus, churches must resist this and root this out at all costs! A church that is focused on the mission of Jesus will NEVER become self-obsessed. Those that get away from the mission are marked by self-obsession. I am convinced it is a huge contributing factor to why churches are not growing.

Pray with me that our churches will be absolutely sold out to our mission, that we can reflect these qualities listed, and that we NEVER be satisfied until we are reaching people in our communities!

Walking with Him,

Jim Woolums

Part-Time Director of Children's Ministry

Union Baptist Church, in Northern Kentucky is seeking a part-time Director of Children's Ministry to be responsible for maintaining, developing, implementing and promoting a comprehensive Gospel-based ministry program for the training, evangelism and discipleship of children birth through entry into the youth ministry. The director is responsible for building relationships with children and parents/guardians of UBC and our community. There is also responsibility for providing leadership and training to leaders and volunteers working in children's ministry. Please submit resumes with references to ubcchildresearch@gmail.com or Union Baptist Church, P.O. Box 194 Union KY 41091.



Kentucky



- PRAYER RALLY DETAILS

Join Franklin Graham on
May 4, 2016
12:00 p.m.
Capitol Front Terrace Street Level
700 Capital Ave
Frankfort, KY 40601



Leadership IQ

Nick Sandefur, our regional coordinator from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will be leading a Leadership IQ event at the NKBA for pastors, staff, and interested leaders on May 16 from 6:30PM-8:00 PM. The focus of this event will be on breaking barriers of growth. Reservations should be made by either going to our website at www.nkbaptist.org or calling Lori at the church office.

Project Inasmuch



On Saturday, April 16, the NKBA hosted a *Project Inasmuch* training at Erlanger Baptist Church. Approximately 85 people participated, learning how to implement an Inasmuch event in their churches.

INASMUCH Kentucky will take place in September of 2016. It is a ministry event in which the local church serves their community with a single day of projects. We will be asking churches to schedule their service evangelism projects on the Saturday, September 10 or 17. If neither of those dates works for you, find one that fits the church's schedule. The idea is to SHOW NORTHERN KENTUCKY JESUS as a group of churches on mission!

Projects mobilize the church for sharing the gospel through "hands-on" community service.

Part-Time Youth Minister

Sand Run Baptist Church is seeking a part-time Youth Minister. If interested, contact Larry Davis at srbc.general@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Baptist Convalescent Center is in need of volunteers to help residents get to the chapel for Sunday morning service. You are only asked to do this one Sunday a month. Volunteers are needed from 9:00 to 10:00. Volunteers don't need to stay for the service. If you would like to stay for the service, it is over at 11:00, and you can help the residents back to their rooms. There are usually 50-75 people in attendance at the Sunday morning service.



The BCC is also in need of a piano player and a music leader for the service on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

If you could help in any of the areas of need, please contact Debbie Mullins at 859-547-9131.

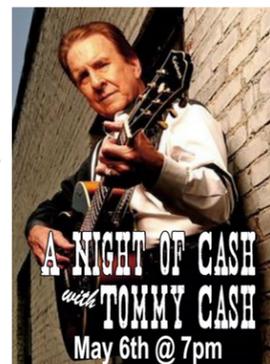
Bounce Houses

The NKBA has purchased three additional bounce houses. They must be scheduled through the NKBA office. Before scheduling them, please double-check that your church has proper liability insurance. Rental cost is \$25.



Tommy Cash Performance/Testimony

TOMMY CASH, brother of the legendary Johnny Cash will be performing at **Burlington Baptist Church** in the Activities Center. Come enjoy Tommy Cash as he sings his hit records that include: "Six White Horses," "Rise and Shine," "Gypsy Woman," among others. He will give his personal testimony, along with a special song tribute, where he sings Johnny's greatest hits. General admission tickets are available for a \$10 donation per ticket. Doors will open at 6 pm and seating is limited. Contact the church office at 859-586-6529 for tickets and info.





NKBA Annual Golf Outing

Thursday June 9, 2016

Hickory Sticks Golf Course

California, KY

Proceeds benefit CARE Mission

Alexandria, KY

\$55.00 per person by June 2

\$65.00 after June 2 & day of outing

8:00 am Registration

9:00 am Shotgun Start

Lunch from 10:00 to 1:00

Prizes

Contact Lori Orne to register your team at

lorne@nkbaptist.org

Or by standard mail to

NKBA, 3001 Riggs Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018

Include team name and names of all players

Northern Kentucky Baptist Association

3001 Riggs Avenue
Erlanger, KY 41018-3045
May 2016 Issue

Address Service Requested

**Mark Your Calendars
Upcoming Events**

- May 4—Decision 2016 Tour—Noon, Frankfort
- May 6—Tommy Cash Concert, Burlington Baptist Church, 7 pm
- May 14 Prayer Boot Camp, 9 am—3 pm
- May 16—Leadership IQ with Nick Sandefur, NKBA, 6:30-8:00 pm
- May 17—TOUCH500 Meeting—6:30 pm
- May 30—Memorial Day—Office Closed
- June 14-15—SBC Annual Meeting, St. Louis
- June 9—Golf Outing, Hickory Sticks Golf Course
- July 4—Holiday—Office Closed
- July 11—7 p.m. NKBA Executive Board Summer Meeting, Union Baptist Church

