



# one

experiencing Christ together

SPRING/SUMMER 2016 Vol 5



**Summer '16  
Activities  
Guide  
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## Church Staff:

### Pastoral Staff:

Dr. Brent Van Hook - Sr. Pastor  
brent.vanhook@firstnaz.org

Brad Riley - Associate Pastor  
brad.riley@firstnaz.org

Tim Pitzer - Worship Pastor  
tim.pitzer@firstnaz.org

Billy Byler - Young Adult Pastor  
billy.byler@firstnaz.org

Larry Page (LP) - Student Ministries Pastor  
larry.page@firstnaz.org

Paul Meinke - Children's Pastor  
paul.meinke@firstnaz.org  
Leslie Knapp - Early Childhood - birth-3 yrs  
Amy Roberts - Early Childhood - 3-5 yrs

### Office Staff

Candy Adams  
Sandy Culver  
Kim Eckles  
Lea Rankin  
Saundra Schubert

### Custodial Maintenance

Debbie Dungan  
Jon Williams  
Raymond Sharon

First Church of the Nazarene  
1400 E. Kellogg Dr.  
Wichita, KS 67211  
(316) 858-1400  
[www.firstnaz.org](http://www.firstnaz.org)



## Looking ahead...

April 24	Annual Church Elections
April 28	Decision America - Topeka, KS
April 29 - May 1	6th Grade Retreat
May 1	Baby Day COMMUNION - All Family Worship Hephner Baby Shower
May 2	Global Portal 4 Freedom Meeting
May 5	National Day of Prayer
May 6	6th Graders Friday Night Out
May 7	MNU Graduation
May 8	Mother Day Brunch
May 9	Widows Might
May 10	Louise Chapman Missionary Meeting
May 13	SNAZ Banquet
May 14	Church Belles Red Hat Lunch
May 15	Pentecost Senior Recognition Sunday
May 18	Caravans Awards Night
May 19	Box Work Global Portal 4 Freedom Meeting
May 30	Memorial Day (office closed)
May 31-June 4	Kids G3 Mission Trip
June 3 - 6	KNYI Sr High Camp
June 5	COMMUNION - All Family Worship
June 6 - 10	Kanakuk Kampout Day Kamp
June 11	Church Belles Red Hat Lunch
June 13	Widows Might
June 16	Box Work
June 19	Fathers Day
June 20 - 24	Vacation Bible School
June 24 - July 1	Area51 Sr High Summer Mission Trip
July 3	COMMUNION - All Family Worship
July 4	Independence Day (office closed)
July 9	Church Belles Red Hat Lunch
July 10 - 12	District Assembly
July 11	KNYI Convention Widows Might
July 21	Global Portal 4 Freedom Meeting
July 25 - 30	District Kids Camps
August 1	Global Portal 4 Freedom Meeting
August 1-4	KNYI Middle School Camp
August 7	COMMUNION - All Family Worship
August 8	Widows Might
August 11	Church Belles Red Hats Lunch
August 18	Box Work Global Portal 4 Freedom Meeting
August 19 & 20	Area51 STRENGTH FOR THE TASK
September 4	COMMUNION - All Family Worship
September 5	Labor Day (office closed)
September 10	Church Belles Red Hats Lunch
September 12	Widows Might
September 13	Louise Chapman Missionary Meeting
September 15	Box Work

# #HimAgain NOAH EDITION

Recognizing God in every day life



*Brent*

## “Him Again”

by Dr. Brent Van Hook

The concept of #HimAgain is recognizing God at work in our everyday lives. As events unfold in the world around us, some label them only as events. But the wise ones, the Master Detectives, look on and notice God at work ... over and over. These wise ones look at the events and say, "It's Him again!"

The more we are in tune with who God is and His characteristics, the more we will learn to recognize Him at work in our lives. That's why each sermon title takes a verb that is part of God's action in Noah's life, and adds an "er" to the end of that verb to make that word a noun - a noun that describes God. Through this sermon series I desire us to develop greater:

- Anticipation. I hope we begin to look at all kinds of situations around us and learn to expect God to act! The more we trace God at work around us, the more we expect Him to show up and bring about His good work in us. I want to expect God to act!
- Hope. Tracing the work of God around us leads to hope. If we possess the attitude of hope, there is nothing that can take that away. We can be hopeful even in the darkest of situations. Hope not only helps us persevere but it also brings out the best in our efforts. If there is hope for God doing something great, we rise to new levels in our experience with Him.
- Confidence. I really, really, really want to believe that God will work in my life. I want nothing to get in the way of confidently facing every day and believing I'll recognize #HimAgain throughout the day. Confidence is an attitude that

addresses the unknown. If the unknown is worrisome to us, a high level of confidence can help us experience a measure of victory even before the events take place.

- Wisdom. The wise ones see patterns in life. They see values at work that unfold. They see pathways that eventually lead to some kind of result. The unwise see life as chance events and encounters. But the wise ones look beneath the surface and learn to recognize #HimAgain.
- Patience. The more that we are convinced of a God who shows up, works, and acts in our world, the more we hold on during the tough times. As we face difficulties we choose to see God at work, not the challenges in our way. If we see God and trust Him to act in our lives, we do not give up! Recognizing #HimAgain gives us the strength to hold on and not give up.

Join me in learning to recognize #HimAgain more and more in our everyday world.

**One in Christ,**

*Pastor Brent*

Sr. Pastor



## Sunday Worship Times

**9:30am**

Sunday School

**10:45am**

Worship Celebration

*Sign language interpreter for Sunday 10:45am.*

**6:00pm**

Small Groups, Kids Choir & Area51 SMU

## Wednesday Family Night

**Activities/Classes -**

**6:30pm**

Caravans & Benson Buddies for Kids (*through May 18th*)

Area51 for Teens

Thrive! Worship for Young Adults

Adult Bible Studies

Choir & Orchestra Rehearsals

Hispanic Bible Study

Hand Bells Choir @ 5:30pm

*Nursery available for all service / activity times.*



*Brad*

## Growing Our Life IN Christ

### Discipleship Classes

Brad Riley: Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. in the Church Parlor.

Frank Dungan: On-going Prophecy Class at 6:30pm Wednesdays in the Church Library.

Brad Riley: Thursday morning Bible study: Verse by verse exegetical study at 10am in the Church Parlor

Randy Harris: "Kingdom Men". For Men: meet Tuesdays, at 7:30 pm @ Panera Bread on Central & Hillside.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: On-going weekly Bible Study meeting at 7am in the Church Library.



## The Secret of Fruitfulness

by Brad Riley

*"<sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."*  
Philippians 1:10-11

**P**erfection, for us humans, can only be found within the context of Jesus' resurrection. Quite often, we don't even try to live a perfect life because it seems futile. We are reminded over and over each day that we are fallible. But, the life of Christ calls us to be sincere in our efforts for righteousness.

It seems we too often forget that all our "fruits of righteousness" are "by Jesus Christ,". Without the resurrection power of Jesus at work in our hearts we have nothing with which to truly praise God. He raised us up in His power to live righteous and holy lives; that's the message of new life in Christ that comes to us at Easter. Should we not then try to live holy?

The power of the resurrection was actualized in the life of the first believers on the day of Pentecost. The risen Christ had ascended but He had not left them alone, and neither does He leave us alone. We have the Holy Spirit who brings resurrection power to our lives; He is the secret power of our fruitfulness.

I find great hope in St. Paul's encouragement to the Philippians to "approve the things that are excellent," and to "live without offense". If you aren't seeing any fruitfulness in your life, perhaps you haven't discovered the right source of power – the secret of His fruitfulness.

As you consider how to live a fruitful life in Jesus Christ, remember our "Big 3" here at First Naz. He wants our lives to bear fruit in our *Worship* of Him, our *Discipleship* of each other, and in the way we *Serve* others. Put your trust in Jesus to bring His fruits to bear in your life.

Remember, *Christ is risen... and so are you!*

**One in Christ,**  
*Pastor Brad*

Associate Pastor

**Sign up here for Pastor Brad's**  
**["For Those Who Hunger & Thirst"](#)**  
**Devotional email**

**[Click to listen to Pastor Brad's podcast series](#)**





*LP*

## How Do You Respond...

By Larry Page

How do you respond when things do not go as you hoped? What do you do when someone lets you down? How do you cope when you feel really stressed? Everyone faces these types of situations in life and when you do you are primed for some serious head games! Are you going to give into thoughts of negativity, discouragement, and self-destruction, or are you going to hold on to the truth that God speaks?

Sometimes life doesn't always turn out the way we expect it to. How many of you have ever had a time in your life when things did not turn out the way that you expected? You had in mind that something was going to be a certain way, and you had your expectations set and it did not turn out that way at all. This can happen in small ways, and it can happen in big ways.

If there was ever a person who would have been labeled "go-getter", or "ambitious", or "tenacious" it would have been Paul. And yet, when Paul was writing the letter to the Philippians he was in prison in Rome for his faith. He was locked up and he was unable to plant churches and preach like he wanted. This would be like taking a bird that is meant to fly, and pinning his wings down and putting it in a box. It was totally against his

nature to be in a situation like this. Paul found himself in a situation that he did not intend to be in. He did not plan, hope, or expect things to turn out like this. But God was working through it and working through Paul in ways he would never have seen beforehand.

This spring we begin a couple of series specifically directed towards students and the kinds of things they experience with unmet expectations, biggest fears, when they are mistreated and dealing with stress. We will also look at some of the heroes of faith and how they dealt with some of the same kinds of issues. I can't wait to get started and begin sharing the scriptures with our students!

**One in Christ,**  
*Pastor LP*  
 Students Pastor

**April 21 - 23**  
 MNU MAX

**April 29 - May 1**  
 6th Grade Retreat

**May 13**  
 SNAZ Banquet

**May 15**  
 Senior Sunday

**June 3 - 6**  
 KNYI Sr High Camp

**June 24 - July 2**  
 Sr High Summer Mission Trip

**July 11**  
 KNYI Convention

**August 1 - 4**  
 Middle School Camp



Paul



**Kids Worship**  
Sundays 10:45am  
in the Family Life Center  
(FLC)

**Kids Choir**  
Sundays @ 6pm  
in the FLC

**Caravans**  
Wednesdays @ 6:30pm  
through May. (Scouting  
program for boys  
& girls in 1st-6th grades)  
in the FLC

**Benson's Buddies**  
Wednesdays @ 6:30pm  
(Babies thru 5 years old)  
in the ECM Wing



## Running To Win!

by Paul Meinke

In 2004, Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner and Lane Jones co-authored a book called 7 Practices of Effective Ministry. Within this book lies a roadmap of how the authors visualize ministry should roll out. Is it effective? Well, Andy Stanley is the Lead Pastor of North Point Community Church and some publications say it is the largest church in the United States. He uses the principles in that book to steer his ministry to nearly 24,000 people a week. So, it is safe to say they know what they are talking about.

This book has been a huge contributor to the way the Children's Ministry at Wichita First Church is constructed. The first practice that is discussed is to "Clarify the Win" meaning you cannot know you are making progress unless you know the destination. Progress can possibly be defined in different ways but there is no doubt what the destination is for the summer schedule.

Summer is just around the corner, which means no school, trips to the pool, ball games and vacations. There will be so many opportunities for fun, sun and relaxation. We have a ton of options to participate in during the summer months that take planning and coordination.

The summer for Children's Ministry brings an intense amount of time and effort and coordination as well. There will be a trip to Kansas City on the G3 Mission Trip, Kanakuk Kampout for a week, Vacation Bible School and Kansas District Kids Camp! There is a WIN in all of those activities! There is a WIN in the fun that kids will have, a WIN in the relationships that will be built and a WIN in the message the kids will hear.

The destination does not stop with the specific programs and activities for kids in the summer. Because there is also a WIN in the bleachers of the ball games you are watching. The connection you make with parents of the kids your children hang out with all summer long is a massive opportunity to get to our destination and define the WIN. The moments you spend waiting for swimming lessons to wrap up along with other parents is an opportunity to start a conversation and that can lead to a WIN.

Opportunity for outreach is in our faces everywhere we go. The challenge is to make that last effort to see the WIN. Inviting people to church is huge, but the acceptance of that invite most likely will only come if we first establish that entry into people's lives outside the church walls. So, if you have neighbors and you have a few extra hamburgers and hotdogs, have them over. Strike up that conversation that is sitting right in front of you. You already have the common interest of your kids to break the ice. It makes perfect sense and the result could lead to a huge WIN!

**One in Christ,**  
*Pastor Paul*  
Kids Pastor

# SPRING & SUMMER ACTIVITES



April 22 - Kids Friday Night Out - Family Edition

April 29 - May 1 - 6th Grade Retreat

May 1 - Baby Day

May 6 - 6th Graders Friday Night Out

May 18 - Caravans Awards Night

May 31 - June 4 - G3 Mission Trip

June 6 - 10 - Kanakuk Kampout Day Kamp

June 20 - 24 - Vacation Bible School

June 25 - 28 - District Junior Kids Camp (4th-6th grade)

June 28 - 30 - District Primary Kids Camp (1st-3rd grade)



April 21 - 23 - MNU MAX

April 29 - May 1 - 6th Grade Retreat

May 13 - SNAZ Senior Banquet

May 15 - Senior Recognition Sunday

June 3 - 6 - KNYI Sr High Camp Table Rock

June 24 - July 1 - Sr High Summer Mission Trip - Charleston, West Virginia

August 1 - 4 - KNYI Middle School Camp

August 19-20 - Strength for the Task Student Conference



## **MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**

**(ALL LADIES & DAUGHTERS WELCOME)**

**MAY 8TH @ 9:30 AM**

**WILLIAMS FAMILY LIFE CENTER GYM**

**GUEST SPEAKER - KENDRA GRAHAM**

# Worship

## Worship Fully and Freely

by Tim Pitzer

Believe it or not.... Tim loves hymns!

I was raised in the church and became the church pianist at age 12! At that time, our church used almost all hymns with a few prayer choruses. So, I am familiar with almost every hymn in our hymnal. There are many of the hymns that still stir my heart each time I sing them. One of those is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness", so I thought I would share with you the story behind the hymn!

The author of the hymn, Thomas Obediah Chisholm, was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. He came to Christ at age 27. He had many struggles in life with bouts of illness and gainful employment which included everything from journalism to insurance to evangelistic work. There was no one dramatic experience in his life that gave birth to this great hymn but as he walked this difficult path of life, he says that he discovered new blessings from God every morning! Along with help from his musician friend William Runyan, the hymn was published in 1923.

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" became the unofficial theme song for the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago but remained relatively unknown until popularized by George Beverly Shea and the choirs at the Billy Graham Crusades. It is now one of the most beloved and recognized hymns of the Christian faith. There are great resources and books that share the stories of the hymns and of contemporary Christian songs, so I would encourage you to find those as it will bring a whole new light to the songs we worship with!

**One in Christ,**

*Pastor Tim*

Worship Pastor

*Bryan Kirk*

Orchestra Director



*Tim*

## WORSHIP

### Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays 6:30pm  
in the Choir room

Sundays 8:30am  
in the Sanctuary



*Bryan*

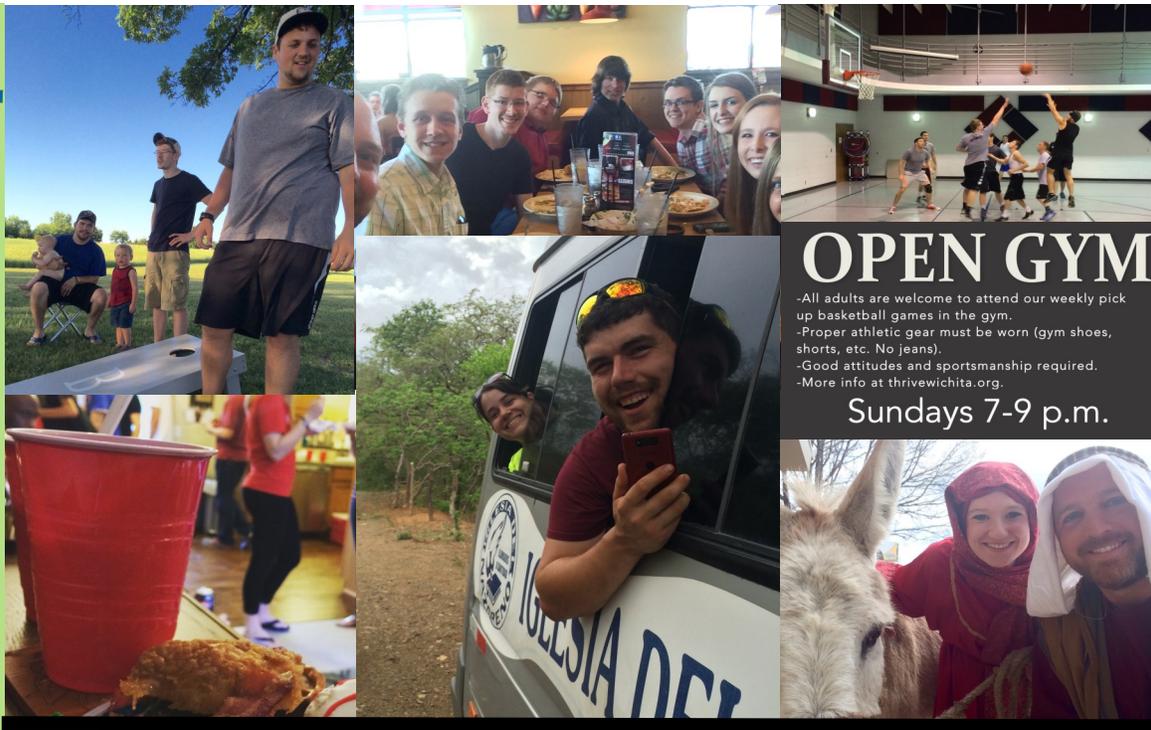
### Orchestra Rehearsal

Wednesdays 6:30pm  
in the Sanctuary

Sundays 8:30am  
in the Sanctuary



Billy



## OPEN GYM

-All adults are welcome to attend our weekly pick up basketball games in the gym.  
 -Proper athletic gear must be worn (gym shoes, shorts, etc. No jeans).  
 -Good attitudes and sportsmanship required.  
 -More info at [thrivewichita.org](http://thrivewichita.org).

Sundays 7-9 p.m.

**THRIVE Worship**  
 Wednesday evenings  
 6:30pm in the Chapel

**OPEN GYM**  
 Sundays 7 - 9pm

**Temple FitCamp**  
 Mondays & Wednesdays  
 6:30 pm in the gym.

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 6:00 am in the gym.

## Dirty Grace

by Billy Byler

There's a certain unfairness in the act of cleaning that just irritates me. I know that tidiness and overall cleanliness are good. No one wants to live in a dirty environment. But my experiences of cleaning around the house – both as a single young man and later in marriage – have certain inconsistencies that are highly frustrating. Some cleaning jobs require far more effort than others, and I just don't understand why.

For instance, there are cleaning tools in most houses that save much time and effort. Washing machines, dishwashers and showers come to mind. That's right; showers count. Because cleaning your body is just as important, if not more so, than cleaning your house.

What I don't understand, however, is the fact that of all these cleaning tools, only one (the shower) requires cleaning itself. I've never, in the history of cleaning, ever heard of someone needing to clean a dishwasher or a washing machine because of regular use. It's almost magical in the way you can put a dirty dish, stained clothing or muddy towels into a machine and yet the machine itself doesn't appear any dirtier because of it.

This is not so with the shower. Why is that? Apparently, our bodies are so dirty, our flesh so filth-ridden, that it causes rings, scum and even mold after just a few weeks of regular showers. Yet I've thrown sweaty socks, food-stained shirts and mud-covered shorts into my washing machine for years and the inside of the appliance remains just as clean as the day I bought it.

This travesty irks me to no end, especially when I must clean the shower - the glass door, the tub, the tile, the showerhead. It is not easy and, of course, by the time I am done, I need a shower.

This vicious cycle of irony should not be so.

But then, a few years ago, a certain item popped up on my grocery store's shelf that intrigued me. I had been a shower cleaner my entire adulthood, but here, in the cleaning section between the laundry detergent and the little round discs that turn your toilet water blue, was a product called an "automatic shower cleaner." These scrubbing bubbles seemed to be a divine gift of providence and grace.

The possibility of such an invention momentarily took my breath away. It was something that cleaned the shower AUTOMATICALLY! When I clean, I do nothing automatically. I procrastinate. I cut corners. I grumble and whine like a... like a... like a man cleaning a shower!

But this product promised to clean that same shower with the simple push of a button. I didn't hesitate at the 25-dollar price tag or requirement to purchase expensive refill bottles on a regular basis. It was worth its weight in gold, in my mind. Other, richer people hire staff to clean their showers. I was hiring a machine! I quickly and eagerly placed my robotic employee in the shopping cart and made my purchase.

Perhaps you've heard that things are never as good as they seem, and if it's too good to be true, it probably is. Well, this product, which I named Rosie in a not-so-subtle nod to the robot maid on *The Jetsons*, worked. Rosie's instructions, printed in English, Spanish, Mandarin and, I believe, ancient Hebrew, directed me to hang her from the showerhead. Each day, after my morning shower, I simply pushed the little green button on the front of Rosie and a small, spinning nozzle sprayed "scrubbing bubbles" all over the shower. It cleaned, I didn't and the world instantly became a better place.

## Dirty Grace...

by Billy Byler



*Billy*

But, alas, the story does not end there. I noticed after about two weeks that Rosie's newness had worn a bit. In fact, she was downright dirty. I didn't understand how this could happen. Like I said, cleaning is an inconsistent irritant in my life. Somehow Rosie's base had a dark, scum-like substance stuck to it. The shower itself was spotless, a testament to Rosie's efficiency and the fulfillment of her sole purpose in life. But, much to my disappointment, it appeared I would have to clean Rosie.

So, after only a few weeks, it became very clear to me that I needed something to clean the cleaner of its griminess – something that would clean the automatic shower cleaner. To put it simply: I needed an automatic shower cleaner cleaner.

This would not work. Why even have an automatic shower cleaner if you're just going to have to clean the thing itself anyway? Other machines (washers, dryers, dish washers) don't tease their owners in such a way, and I did not want to engage in the manual work necessary to clean the cleaner. The whole purpose of the machine was to allow me to avoid cleaning! No, instead, I needed something, a product perhaps, that would do the job with a push of a button.

It became glaringly simple. I needed an automatic automatic shower cleaner cleaner.

Alas, the scrubbing bubbles people have not yet invented such a device. It is my hope that, within the next year or two, I will see an automatic automatic shower cleaner cleaner on the grocery store shelf. I only ask of these cleaning manufacturers that they consider installing an added feature, possibly a self-cleaning option. Otherwise, I would soon be in need of an automatic automatic shower cleaner cleaner cleaner and, if I wanted this new device to work with just the press of a button, I'd need an automatic automatic automatic shower cleaner cleaner cleaner.

I can't help but think that the cleaning companies may be purposefully orchestrating this vicious cycle just to further profit off of lazy people like me. If so, that's just dirty.

But such is life. We are dirty. How are we, as Christians, supposed to deal with our dirtiness? Some people try to deny the dirt. Even if we don't understand that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:23) our dirtiness is still obvious by the consequences of sin (both ours and those around us) that cling to us. We can try to scrub it off ourselves, hide the stains or pretend they aren't there. But we all remain sinners in need of a savior.

There is no machine that can help – no automatic contraption to easily wipe away the grime. Only

the sacrifice of Christ's body and blood on the cross could pay the price for our dirtiness.

For a guy who doesn't like to clean and prefers an automatic fix, I'm grateful for a savior. But He's no Rosie. He's not my robot. He's not my automatic cleaner, sitting around and waiting in the corner until it's time to fix my mess. He's so much more.

We belong to a God who introduces ways in which we don't have to settle for a life of dirt. Sin does not win. Throughout scripture we have examples of very broken, very flawed and very dirty people whom God plucked out of the dirt and transformed them into His works of grace (see Hebrews 11). In our own church we've shared a variety of personal stories that testify to God's faithfulness (see [firstnaz.org/nolifeleftbehind](http://firstnaz.org/nolifeleftbehind)). Considering we're surrounded by these examples, both ancient and modern, "let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2).

This summer, let us allow the Perfecter of our faith to bring about His redemptive work in our lives.

### **One in Christ,**

*Billy Byler*

Young Adults Pastor

## Humble Gifts and HIM AGAIN!

by Susan Van Hook

*Matthew 14:16-21*

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

<sup>17</sup> "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. <sup>18</sup> "Bring them here to me," he said. <sup>19</sup> "And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

So many people from our church have given from the heart and have made it possible for Living Waters Ministries to reach out to our community and help meet many needs. We have seen God do miracles- many times multiplying the gifts brought to Him, blessing those we serve, and bringing glory to Jesus. So many lives have been touched and changed...the lives of the people served and also the lives of the volunteers!

We have a chance to bring more gifts to God in order to see Him multiply our efforts this summer. Here are a few ways to offer your "five loaves and two fish":

1. **May 22- Backpacks for the Homeless OUTREACH EVENT:**

Please donate: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, soap, washrags, socks, beef jerky or Vienna sausage,

peanut butter crackers, bottled water, granola bars, candies

(We will meet in the church foyer at 5:00 pm to pack the backpacks and then head out to a couple locations to hand out the backpacks)

2. **Donate extra produce from your garden this summer for the Food Pantry**

3. **CONVOY OF HOPE, August 6:**

Please donate new tennis shoes (any size) by the end of July AND plan to help serve at the Convoy of Hope event. No need to sign up, just come to the volunteer rally at 7pm on August 5<sup>th</sup> for instructions, t-shirts, and to get pumped to serve the next day!

When we bring the Lord our humble gifts we get a front-row seat to see miracles happen... and we will be the first to say, "It's HIM AGAIN"!!

**One in Christ,**

*Susan*

Director Living Waters Ministry



*Susan*

**EVERY WEEK**

**LWM FOOD PANTRY**  
Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm

**LIVING WATERS WORSHIP**

(bilingual worship service/hot meal)

Wednesdays 5:15-6:15pm  
(Sept.-May)

Please call the church office to contact Susan Van Hook or Valerie Boyd with questions.

Susan Van Hook  
Director

Valerie Boyd  
LWM Food Pantry Manager

Brad Riley  
Benevolence



# Excel in the Grace of Giving - Crossing "lines in the sand" to give more generously

By Brian Kluth, Pastor and Founder of [www.MAXIMUMgenerosity.org](http://www.MAXIMUMgenerosity.org), [www.GenerousLife.info](http://www.GenerousLife.info), [www.GiveWithJoy.org](http://www.GiveWithJoy.org)

*Wherever you are in your journey to a more generous life, God wants to take you further!*

*What about you? What "line in the sand" is God calling you to cross at this time in order for you to live a more generous life and excel in the grace of giving?*

Wherever you are in your journey to a more generous life, God wants to take you further!

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 8:7, "Just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving." I have discovered that the Lord will draw a new line in the sand for each of us to cross over in order to live more generously and to experience Him more fully. Every step of the way, God calls us to consider the resources He has placed in our hands. Then, He invites us to release them for His work and to trust Him to be our provider. At each point, we may find ourselves fearful and want to hold on to what we have instead of letting it go and trusting God with our needs. In my life, these lines in the sand to become more generous have included the following:

**Giving more than I thought I could afford to give.** As a young man who had recently come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ, I was prompted in my heart during a church service to put a \$20 bill in the offering plate. Prior to that time, I had never given more than a few dollars. As I wrestled with this prompting, I contemplated putting the \$20 bill in and taking out change! Ultimately, with a shaking hand, I gave the \$20 (without taking change) and in the next few days I experienced God's peace and provision in such a way that I did not regret giving that amount.

**Giving even while I was in debt.** There was a season in my life when my bills had piled up so high that I had more month than I had money! It was during this time that I was prompted in my heart to start giving 10% of my income to the Lord. This didn't make sense to me since I didn't have enough money to pay my bills and take care of my needs every month. But I decided to trust God and cross over this new line in the sand to live and give more generously. The next time I received a paycheck, the first check I wrote (hesitantly) was a check for 10% to the Lord's work. As I continued to do this, I noticed that I was not as foolish with my money, I had a greater trust in God to provide for my needs, and I began to make progress in paying off my debts. I also joined a Crown Financial Ministries Bible study ([www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org)) and learned how to prayerfully develop a spending plan to help me get out of debt completely within a few years.

**Giving a large gift that was worth half a year's salary.** As a young couple, my wife and I were prompted to sacrificially give a gift from our savings account to help a Christian ministry. At the time, this five-figure gift was worth more than a half a year's salary. As we prayed and discussed this giving opportunity, we decided to write a list

of all the things we would be giving up if we gave this gift. We prayed and decided that this was a new line in the sand that God was calling us to cross. Again, with a bit of a shaking hand, I wrote the check. A few years later, we found the list we had written and we were amazed to discover that God had graciously and unexpectedly provided for every item on the list that we thought we had given up. Through this experience we learned that you can never out give God. Another time, the Lord led us to give another gift that was equal to a year's salary.

**Giving increased offerings by "Counting Our Blessings".** For years, we would sit down on Sunday nights with a pencil and notebook and list the ways God had provided for us over the last seven days (e.g., my main income, my wife's substitute teaching income, unexpected financial income/ gifts, discounts on purchases, hospitality/help we experienced, and more). Based on what we recorded, we would give 10% of my expected salary to our church and give 10% or more of the other financial blessings to other Christian causes and needs.

**Giving more by limiting our lifestyle.** There was a season in our lives when we were making more than we ever dreamed possible. During this time, we felt God's new line in the sand for us was to limit our lifestyle spending so we could increase our giving. We decided that we would limit our lifestyle spending to a specific annual amount and that ALL monies received over this amount would be given 100% to the Lord's work. To do this, we opened up two different checking accounts. The first check book was for our living expenses (a set amount each month) and the other check book was for our increased giving. God ultimately used this decision and allowed us to not only increase our giving, but also for me to accept a Senior Pastor position at a salary that was 65% less than we were making.

**Giving more by giving higher percentages of our income.** You see that I believe that giving 10% to the Lord's work is the starting blocks and not the finish line of faithful biblical giving. In my own life and in the lives of generous people I've known, I've learned that by giving 10%, it is much easier to obey God's promptings and learn to give higher percentages of income and assets to the Lord's work in the future.

What about you? What "line in the sand" is God calling you to cross at this time in order for you to live a more generous life and excel in the grace of giving?



Our mission at Global Portal 4 Freedom is to give the key of hope to victims of human trafficking being rescued around the world!

## Unlocking the Hope of Freedom for Victims of Human Trafficking

### Doors Unlocked in the first quarter of 2016:

**January 2016** – Gave gift bags with prayer and scripture cards to women that are dancers and being ministered to by four Christian women. Some are survivors of Human trafficking.

**January 2016** – Spoke at an evening event at the Eureka High School, in conjunction with the school and the local Ministerial Alliance showing the 8 Days movie. This event had over 200 people from the SE Kansas area; both adults and high school students, with great contacts made to speak in other areas and show the 8 Days movie in other communities.

**February 2016** - Spoke to more than 125 USD 259 teachers, counselors, and psychologists about prevention education for Human Trafficking.

**February 2016** - Lester and Tisha Lever, a Nazarene couple from Udall, who had joined Global Portal 4 Freedom in August 2015 – joined the leadership team, as Lester is on the KS district Mission Council and agreed to lead the meetings, as Director; Tisha as Advocate General and Deronda to continue as Coordinator.

**March 2016**– Attended the Friendship Tea held by the local Soroptomist International group – as they give scholarships to women coming out of Human Trafficking and/or Domestic Violence.

### Upcoming Events:

As we celebrate the first anniversary in April of Global Portal 4 Freedom meeting at First Church a vision has been on our

hearts to work with local businesses, and ask them to be involved with survivors, and at-risk young people. We are the only local Anti-Trafficking group with a strong business background and we recognize it is by God's design.

**May 3, 2016** - Mayday event as an invitation only to business owners, and/or upper management. The issue of Human Trafficking will be presented, followed by information regarding ways the businesses and their employees can be involved. We will have different levels of involvement – providing scholarships for vocational training, internships at their companies, and hiring survivors when they have completed the designated training.

**April 2016** – 8 Days Movie and Presentation in Howard, KS

**May 2016** – USD 259 presentation education to four Sixth grade classes

**May/June** – 8 Days Movie and Presentation in Independence, KS

We all truly appreciate the prayer support, encouragement, and financial support from Wichita First Church! The various doors that have opened and are opening are sometimes a surprise, and sometimes something already on our hearts, but are always encouraging! We are really praying that God will send the team mates we need for the upcoming opportunities. We covet prayers for wisdom and vision as we follow God closely.

### **#himagain**

Deronda Aiken, Coordinator  
Global Portal 4 Freedom  
info@globalportal4freedom.com

### **Biblical Goal of our Mission:**

Psalm 82:2-4 (NIV)

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

### **Look for these coming events:**

Prevention and Awareness training events,

Business Coalition, where businesses, educators, and everyday people join together to become Freedom Fighters against Human Trafficking,

experiencing  
**CHRIST**  
 together

— WICHITA —  
**FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
 make a difference



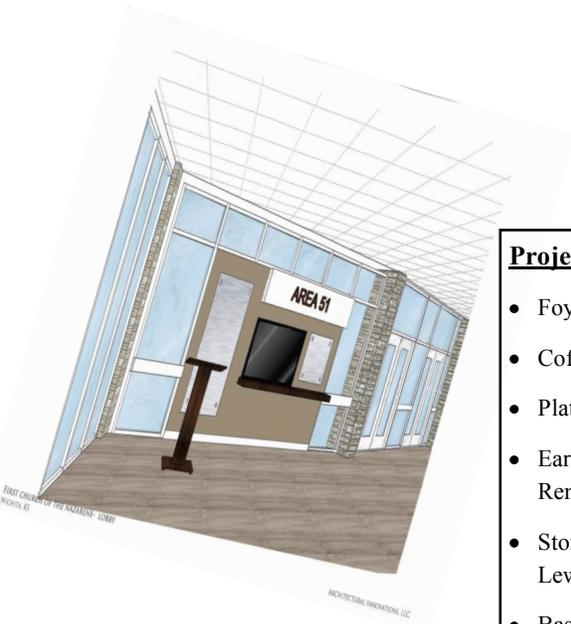
Join in with your pledge \$\$\$  
 and  
 Help us...  
 "Make a Difference Together"

Pledge cards available in foyer &  
 sanctuary seats.

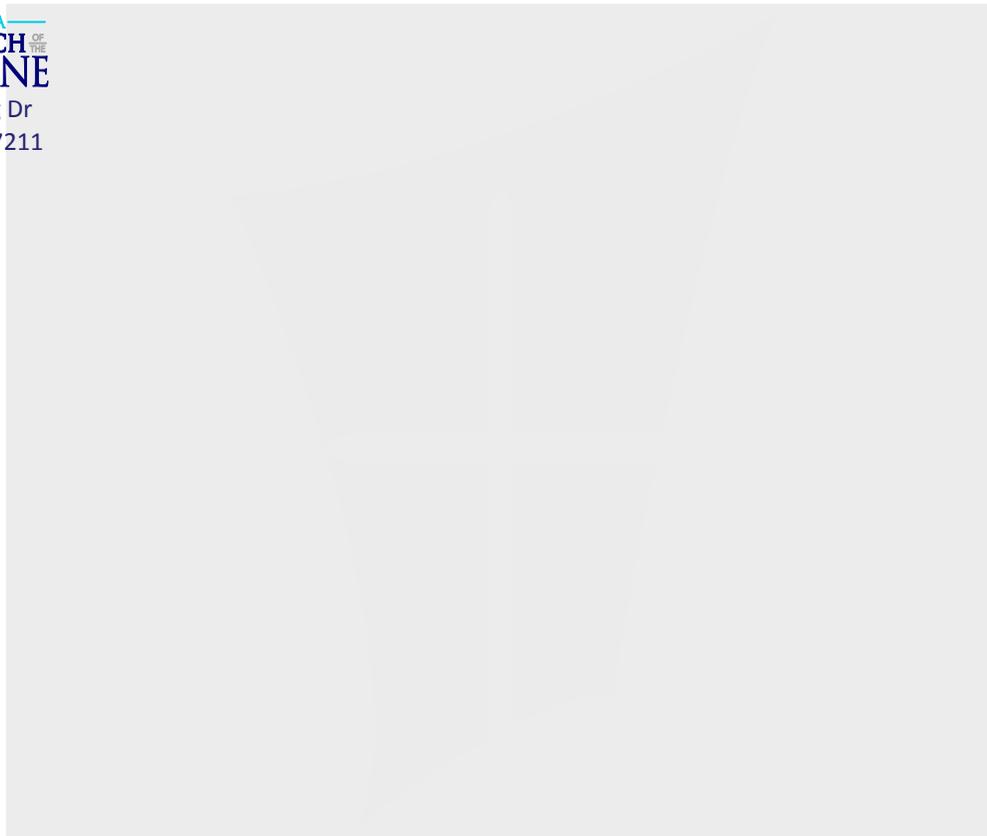


Take a wooden desk cube as a  
 commemorative reminder  
 of your pledge.

**COST - \$382,000**  
**RAISED - \$306,294**  
**STILL NEED - \$75,706**



<u>Projects</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>
• Foyer Renovation	\$17,995
• Coffee Shop	FUNDED
• Platform Renovation	\$22,711
• Early Childhood Renovation	FUNDED
• Stone Signage on Lewis St.	FUNDED
• Basement renovation	\$35,000
• 2 Glass Vestibule	FUNDED



**Contact Us | Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.**

**First Church of the Nazarene | 1400 E. Kellogg Dr. | Wichita, KS 67211 | (316) 858-1400  
info@firstnaz.org | Visit us on the web at [www.firstnaz.org](http://www.firstnaz.org)**

