

Q&A PASTOR BRENT'S SABBATICAL



What is Sabbatical?

A conversation with Pastor Brent and Prayer Guide to help you pray for Pastor and his family while he's away on Sabbatical

Home Run Life

Fall Sermon Series based on the book Home Run, including special guest preacher baseball legend Darryl Strawberry

Sabbatical Sermon Schedule

"This is My Story" a seven week series including The Burchfield Brothers Concert



Pastor Brent's Sabbatical

This fall will mark the seventh anniversary of our senior pastor Dr. Brent Van Hook leading our congregation. The local church board of Wichita First Church of the Nazarene, in partnership with Kansas

District Superintendent Jim Bond, has extended an invitation for Pastor Brent to accept a six-week sabbatical later this summer. Pastor Brent accepted and will begin his sabbatical on Sunday, July 24 and return Sunday, Sept. 4.

What is Sabbatical?

From The Manual of The Church of the Nazarene, Paragraph 129.10

"In order to encourage a healthy pastoral ministry and strong spiritual life of the pastor, the church board, in consultation with the district superintendent, should provide a sabbatical leave for the pastor during each seventh consecutive year of service in one congregation. The timing and duration of the sabbatical shall be determined in consultation with the pastor, church board and district superintendent. It is strongly urged that the pastor's salary continue in full and the church board provide for pulpit supply during the sabbatical period."

Church Board Chairman, Phil Newlin:

"A woodworker pauses from his craft to sharpen his saw. We, as a church board, also know that a pastor needs time to step away from direct ministry to recharge that heavenly vision. We are pleased that Pastor Brent also sees the wisdom of this and will be dedicating this time of sabbatical to renewing his heart. He will come back with even greater passion for reaching the lost, sharing life with the community of believers and serving his flock. Join us in praying for an amazing time of renewal!"

District Superintendent, Jim Bond:

"Jesus often took time away from the daily demands of ministry to meet with the Father and rest. Likewise, we want to give our pastors and leaders opportunity to step out of the daily flow of ministry to rest, listen, recreate and restore. I will be praying for Pastor Brent as he sets aside time for "Sabbatical." My prayer for him and his family is that he will be refreshed for new seasons of ministry and fresh vision for our church."

A conversation with Pastor Brent

What do you hope to accomplish on sabbatical?

"I haven't set up an achievement-based type of Sabbatical. The purpose of sabbatical for me is to start with the Lord and spend some time with Him in a designated way in which I can have an extended amount of time with Him. So that's where it begins. I'm also committed to family as the No. 1 place on earth in which we have discipleship and so this is a place for me to connect with them in downtime. Getting out of the busyness of life allows us the opportunity for walls to come down and for us to deal with deeper issues, and those will come up spontaneously as we spend time together. So really that's where it begins and ends as far as wanting to connect with the Lord, connect with my family, be grounded in a deeper way knowing that when I come back I'll be healthier than ever as I continue to be excited about what will happen in the church in the months and years to come."

Will this break from ministry delay or stop what you're trying to do at our church?

"No. The ability to have a long-term ministry has always been my ministry calling going back to when I was 16-years-old. God, I believe, wanted me to be a local church pastor and to come to a place that was His fit and to stay. This sabbatical is allowing me to have a long-term ministry in which I'm ministering at my best and at my highest effectiveness. As I am personally healthy, I'm

then able to give out the love of the Lord toward his people in a shepherding format that is most effective for the flock and healthiest for me."

What are your hopes for our church while you're gone?

"While I'm gone there are a variety of other goals, too. One is that the congregation will see the white hot passion for ministry that is at work in each of our full-time pastors. Each of them have a love and a passion that is so on fire that I fear sometimes the congregation as a whole may not be able to see that at its brightest.

I also think it's important for the church to realize that this church is not built on the personality of the senior pastor. This church has a long history – longer than any of us of the congregation today have been alive – and it has a future that's bigger and broader than any one person can quantify. So for me to step out for six weeks will, I hope, help our congregation increase its trust, faith and ability to recognize God's grand vision for his church here.

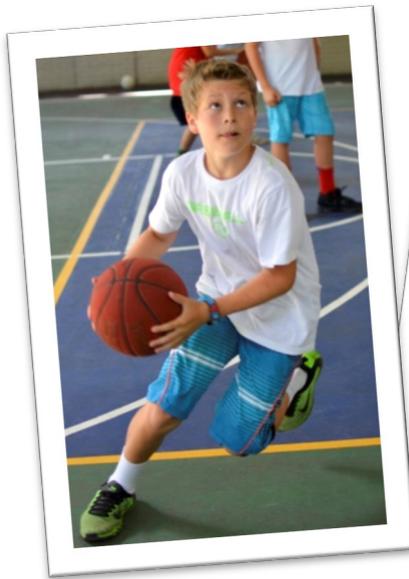
I hope that new people will come to Christ. I hope that new people will come to the church. I hope that perhaps some people will get interested in baptism and that the church will grow in some ways with me gone. I think that would point to Christ. I've sold out to Him such that I want Him to get all the credit anyway, so I think this would get the spotlight burning brighter on the One who leads this church, and that is Christ."

What can the church do for you while you're gone?

"We have a very vital, effective and current prayer ministry, and I'd like to see that take some forms of praying for me while I'm away. (See the Prayer Guide on the next page.) But even if you're not near the prayer guide and the Lord happens to bring me to mind, the sabbatical will help you as a congregational member view me as more than just the role that I play in the work of the church. I hope you'll view me also as who I am, Brent, without the titles before my name of reverend or doctor. I'm just Brent: a follower of Christ, a husband, a dad, a son, a brother, a brother-in-law, all these titles that could be added to my name are part of who I am not just what I do. So as you pray for me I think this sabbatical offers an opportunity for you to pray for who I am as a person in addition to what the Lord does through me for the work of the church."



Prayer Guide



The following is a prayer acrostic of the word SABBATICAL designed to guide you in your prayers for Pastor Brent while he is away. Keep a copy of this near by and let the Holy Spirit guide you as think on these words and phrases and apply them to Pastor Brent.

S - Serenity/strength/spirit - pray that this time of sabbatical will provide times of serenity for Brent and his family. That his/their spirits will be strengthened.

A - Application - pray that the things Brent does while on Sabbatical will bring application to all of his life; as a person, husband, father, son, brother, son-in-law, friend, and follower of Jesus.

B - Brent - pray for Brent to be able to “de-role” from being a “pastor” during these weeks and rediscover what it means first and foremost to be “Brent”, a child of God.

B - Built Up - May God build into Brent all that is needed to help him fulfill his role as God’s child and the many roles he serves in life as mentioned in under “Application”.

A - Adoration - Pray that Brent and his family will find times of refreshing in worship as they “Adore” Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

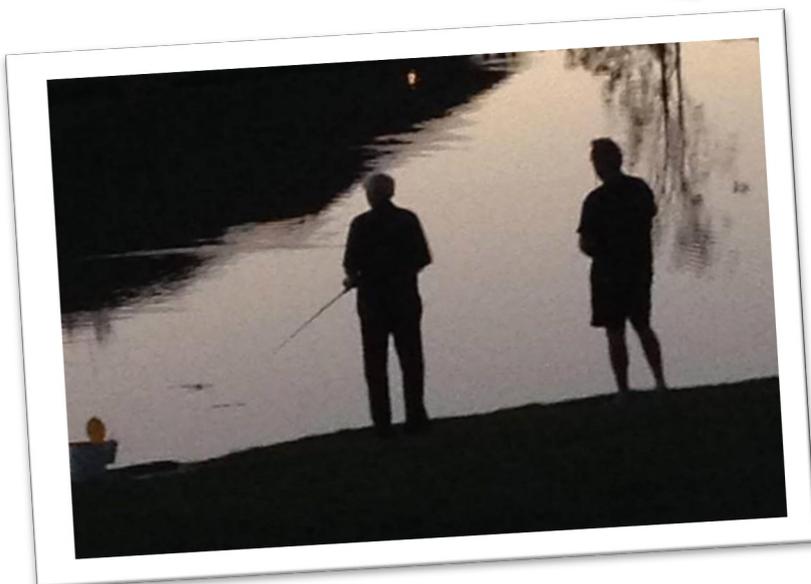
T - Togetherness - Pray for special times of togetherness as a family for Brent, Susan, Matthew and John David while they are away.

I - Insight - May the Lord grant Brent insight into his own spiritual life that will in time strengthen his ministry however He leads.

C - Cares - Pray that Brent will be able to turn completely loose of all the cares and burdens he carries as a Pastor during this time of refreshing.

A - Answers - May God grant Brent all the answers to whatever questions he may have on his heart during this time away as he seeks out special quiet times with Jesus.

L - Love/Lead - May this sabbatical help Brent to see anew all the love God has for him and his family, and that he will return renewed in his spirit to once again take up his leadership role in the Church.



Fall Sermon Series based on the book
Home Run-Learn God's game plan for life and leadership
by Kevin Myers & John C. Maxwell

- ◆ Sept. 11 Home Run Life
- ◆ Sept. 18 Running the Bases
- ◆ **Sept. 25 Guest Preacher Darryl Strawberry**
- ◆ Oct. 2 Home Plate: God
- ◆ Oct. 9 First Base: Me
- ◆ Oct. 16 Second Base: Others
- ◆ Oct. 23 Third Base: Results

from Cindy Bond,
member of Discipleship Council:

"I'm reading Home Run and really enjoying it. I especially liked Chapter 5, talking about the Leagues-Levels of Play!! Very good!!"

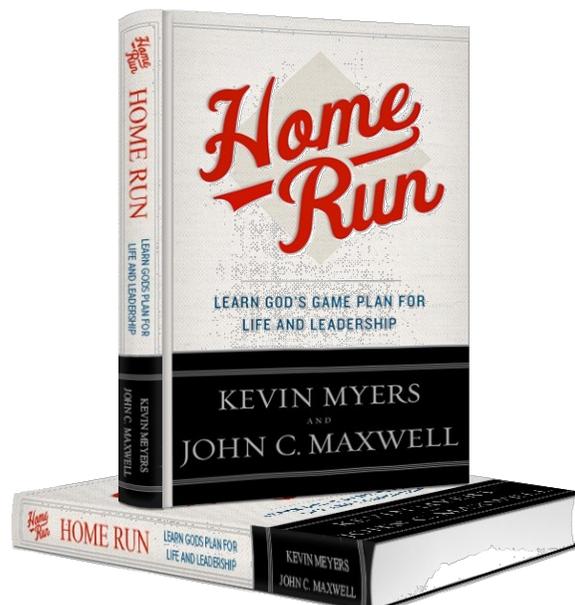
from Carol Lorenson,
Church Board Member:

"I am enjoying Home Run, a book I'd never have chosen for myself, but I am encouraged by it's message!"

from Kathy Stewart,
Church Board Member and Sign Language Interpreter

"One of the analogies presented in this book is the idea that, just like a batter has to start at home plate, and run all the bases and make it back to home plate to score, we have to look at God as our home plate. Everything we do should begin and end in Him. What a great way to remember this awesome truth!"

Books can be purchased at bookstores or the church office for \$11





WICHITA
FIRST CHURCH
OF THE
NAZARENE

PRESENTS:

Home Run Life

LIVING LIFE BY GOD'S GAME PLAN

FEATURING
DARRYL STRAWBERRY

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25 10:45AM

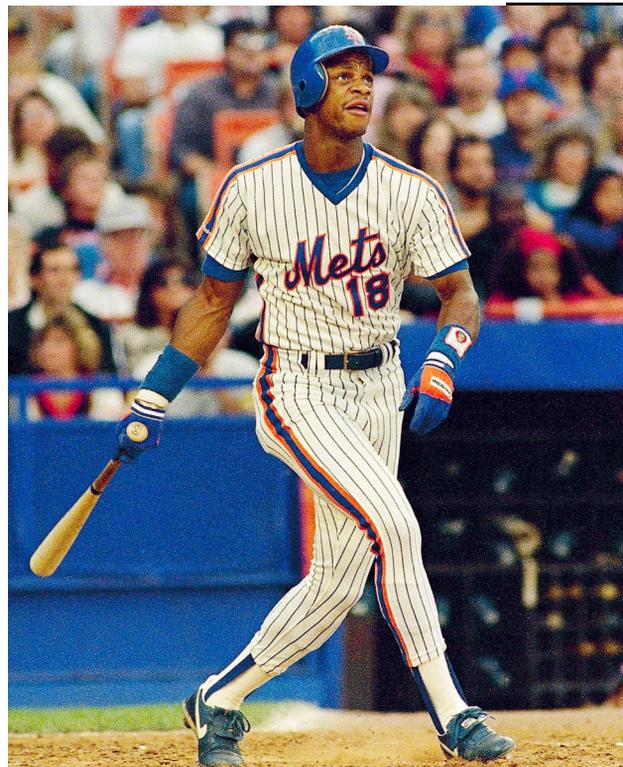
1400 E. KELLOGG DR



Darryl Strawberry is an American former Major League Baseball right fielder and an ordained Christian minister and author. Pastors' Darryl & Tracy Strawberry are driven to see the multitudes saved and set free through the grace and power of Jesus Christ. They lived defeated lives, were separated from God, for many years. Addictions, abuse, divorces, cancer, jail-time, and other issues are just a few things that plagued their lives. In 2003, they had lost it all! But God's plan was not to be undone.

Darryl and Tracy found true redemption and restoration in Jesus Christ. Today, they share their story as a powerful illustration of the true power of God, and His redeeming love. They are on a mission to lead people to Jesus Christ, and to restore lives and relationships through the power of God and the process of change.

You won't want to miss the chance to hear him preach on **Sunday, Sept. 25** at First Church of the Nazarene, Wichita, KS.



Sabbatical Preaching Schedule

This is MY *story*

During Pastor Brent's Sabbatical each of our Pastoral Staff will be bringing the Sunday message with a theme, "This Is My Story". We want the entire congregation to see and hear the heart of each one of our Staff. They all have a "white hot" passion for Christ and the ministries He has called them to here at First Church. While some of you work side by side with them in ministry each week, this format will allow them to share their hearts in a way that you may not otherwise see.

- ◆ July 17 Pastor Brad Riley
- ◆ July 24 Burchfield Brothers Concert
- ◆ July 31 Pastor Larry Page
- ◆ Aug. 7 Pastor Billy Byler
- ◆ Aug. 14 Pastor Paul Meinke
- ◆ Aug. 21 Pastor Jim Bond
- ◆ Aug. 28 Pastor Tim Pitzer



OUR story isn't over yet.



burchfieldbrothers

Jon and Ben Burchfield make music that inspires the soul. Classical guitar, midi-marimba, Irish whistles and recorders make these two artists sound like an entire ensemble! The stylistic diversity of Appalachian, Classical, Jazz, Renaissance, Praise, Worship and Gospel has attributed to the stunning arrangements that has put this Dove nominated duo in demand.

Their concerts are a combination of music, storytelling and comedy as each plays off the other in a way that's entertaining and captivating. Our time with The Burchfields (two brothers who play nice together) can be described as Reaching the Ages. Prime timers love the music they recognize while young people are inspired by the arrangements and intrigued with the instrumentation.

Sunday

July 24

10:45 a.m.



WICHITA
FIRST CHURCH OF THE
NAZARENE

PRESENTS:

Home Run Life

LIVING LIFE BY GOD'S GAME PLAN



DARRYL STRAWBERRY SUNDAY, SEPT. 25 10:45AM
1400 E. KELLOGG DR

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

