



February 2012 Newsletter

Make sure to read the whole issue to find out about...

- Lots of happenings within the church
- Giving opportunities

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LOOK, I TELL YOU, LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND SEE THAT THE FIELDS ARE WHITE FOR HARVEST

Have you noticed? God is at work among us here at New Life!!! Praise His name. Some may say it is because of our new approach to ministry. But please realize that kingdom growth is always a result of God and His blessing. It never happens because of us. In fact, it often happens in spite of us. In John 4 we read the words of Jesus that entitle this column..."Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." Because of God's abundant blessing, New Life stands in a place to help usher new believers into the kingdom of God. The question that haunts me as your pastor is, "will we take advantage of this opportunity and be used as God's instrument to change the world?"

To be honest, we have been here before and unfortunately not had the financial or physical resources, therefore missing out on great opportunity to affect the kingdom. I pray this time we will have all we need to make a difference.

The question I ask that you pray about is this one: "How can I be used to affect God's kingdom?"

I must tell you that there are many ways to answer that question. And the answer to this question is not the same for everyone. God has a plan for each of us regarding how we will be used. What God calls me to do may not be what He calls you to do. However, if each of us will rise up and do what God calls us to do, the kingdom will expand and He will be blessed.

First of all, will you pray for the ministries of New Life as we strive to take advantage of this opportunity? Prayer is powerful...it works. While not all of us can give extravagant financial gifts to further the ministry, we all have equal opportunity to pray for God to show Himself in every ministry at New Life.

Secondly, because we have more people participating, the cost of simply carrying out ministry is up. Therefore, your faithful financial support is needed. In this day of incredible economic challenge, Satan is using the economy to attack the ministries of churches all across our land. I thank God that we have weathered the storm because of the generosity and faithful giving of those at New Life who have continued to walk in obedience. But, as we grow, so does our budget. This past fall I asked for a significant increase in the dollars we are spending outside the walls of New Life. Our leadership agreed and we substantially committed ourselves to a broader ministry. In order to be effective, we must continue to grow our pool of resources so that more can be taught and reached for Christ. In this time it is not about equal gifts, for we all have different circumstances. But sacrifice of self is the call of Christ. Please pray about what God would have you give and be obedient!

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CONT. FROM PG. 1

Thirdly, we need more workers. Lannie Wolf wrote a song that paraphrased the passage that I spoke of earlier in John 4. The words say, "My house is full, but my fields are empty; Who will go and work for me today?" Well, there are many who are coming to hear the "Good News" of Jesus Christ. We must be ready to proclaim that "Good News" in every area of our ministry. Will you help us? Right now there are a number of areas that we need workers to step forward and serve the Master. Here is a list of just a few:

A Set up Person on Sunday Mornings- Every Sunday we have things that need to be done in order to be ready to welcome worshippers. Lights and furnaces need to be turned on, coffee made, restrooms readied, carpets and trashcans checked. It is not a hard job, it simply requires about an hour of time every Sunday. If you would be willing to offer your time from 7:45 AM until 8:45 AM on Sunday's to take responsibility of this area, please email me. If we get more than one person willing we will make a rotation and have people serve a month at a time. If your whole family would like to serve in this way, what a great way to teach your children to care about God's house!

An Outside Safety Volunteer- This person does not have responsibilities every Sunday. But on days when we have had bad weather, we need someone to shovel and salt the walks and porches so that people can get in and out of our facilities safely. Last week following the ice and small amount of snow, it took me about an hour to make it safe. We have the blessing of having some folks in the church who do snow removal for a living and they donate their time to plow the parking lot. But we need someone to take it upon themselves to show up early on Sunday's when the weather requires us to be more attentive to safety and access. Again, email me if you would be willing to take on this responsibility.

Children's Workers- One of the greatest needs we have right now is for Children's workers. Because of our growth, we are having more little ones to care for in the Nursery and Pre-School areas. Would you please pray for God to provide us with workers in this area? Our new emphasis on teaching and connecting our children to faith and to the congregational family make this my biggest priority among this list of needs. We need people who will take a month long responsibility. We need people who will prepare to be teachers in our children's ministry. We need childcare workers who will volunteer for special classes such as the upcoming six week course on Developing Spiritual Oneness. If you would like to give one Sunday a month, we can use you!!! If the Holy Spirit quickens your heart as you read this, please email me. We need you. The kingdom needs you!!!

Hospitality Workers- With the influx of new people, it is important that we meet and greet them with a smile and show them the love of God in a very real and tangible way. One of the failures of the church at large as it has become more and more involved in a mass worship approach is that we have lost the sense of belonging. We need persons with the gift of hospitality to work every Sunday to show the love of God to new persons who are seeking to become connected to Christ and His church. Some may just show up early and stay late and be available to welcome new people, learn their names and follow up to let them know that you noticed them. Others may want to host new families or people in their homes. You can design how you live out this ministry. Email me and let me know you are ready to serve and I will help you to design your ministry in a way that will bless God and New Life.

Design a Ministry Around Your Giftedness and Calling- Not all ministries that are needed are even yet in existence. I believe God is calling some of you to begin a brand new ministry. If he calls and leads in this way, please don't quench His Spirit. Set up a time to meet with me or one of the Staff or Elders to talk about how we can partner in ministry together! You will be blessed and so will God's church.

If you feel led to respond to any of these opportunities, you can email me at nlcpastor@earthlink.net. Your service will be a blessing to your God and to His church here at New Life. And it may well be the thing that God will use to bring others into the kingdom!!!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

Journeying Together
...as the People of God

God's Love Letter Written by Angela Garner

We received this awesome letter written by Angela Garner and wanted to share it with you. Often in February, because of Valentine's Day, we stop and think about what true love looks like. Take a few moments this month and study the different types of love spoken about in Scripture. Agape love, phileo love, storge love, eros love and epithumia love are all mentioned in Ed Wheat's book entitled Love Life for Every Married Couple. If you are married, order this book online and enjoy it together this month. If you are not married, realize that God still enables you to love on many different levels. Thanks Angela, for the great reminder that the Bible is God's love letter to us! — Pastor Mark

This month...

Take time to study the different types of love spoken about in Scripture.

Make sure to read John 3:16, I Corinthians 13, Leviticus 19:18, Mark 12:31, and I Chronicles 16:41.

As you prepare to celebrate the warm and fuzzy feelings we call love I ask what is love ?

The bible, the word of God is a love letter for all generations. It tells us that God loved us so much that He sent Christ to suffer and die for our sins in order that we can be reconciled to Him.

John 3:16 is perhaps the most popular bible verse. But what else does the bible have to say about love? The books of Psalms and Song of Solomon are loaded with talk of love.

Christ describes what love looks like in his sermon on the mount. He even tells us to love our enemies. In I Corinthians 13 we are taught what love acts like. We are told it is patient, and kind it does not boast and it is not proud. Leviticus 19:18 tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Again in the new testament we are told Love your neighbor as yourself for there is no greater commandment (Mark 12:31). But what would that look like in today's world? The love described is sacrificial and compassionate.

Does your elderly neighbor need their sidewalk cleared of snow? In the summer do you have a bounty from your garden to share? When you leave work do you have time to clear a coworkers windshield when he's running behind?

I Chronicles 16:41 says Gods love endures FOREVER. Wow that's even more amazing when we consider how He sees love. This month consider what favors big and small God has given you out of His love for you.



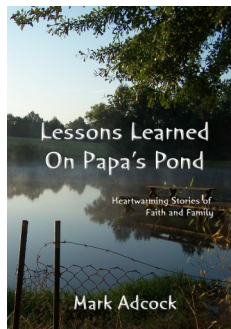
From the Missions Team...

As we have begun our journey together, several new interests have come to light. Adoption is one of those interests. Would you be interested in learning more about adoption or orphan care? The Bible is very clear about taking care of orphans and widows. In James 1:27 it states, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." As a church or individually, how could we support orphans? Do you know anyone who has been adopted (beside Emily)? Have you ever had questions about adoption, foster care, or orphan care? Have you ever wanted to learn more about the process of adoption or considered adoption? Would you like to help support an orphanage monetarily or through a mission trip where we would go and do service projects? Many people in our congregation already support children monthly through various ministries such as Horizon International, World Vision, etc. We encourage you to pray about this opportunity. Then, if you feel the Lord is nudging you to take action or has placed a desire in your heart to help birth this new ministry in our church, please contact Rebecca Chapple at (317) 326-1489.



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. It will begin with a pitch-in dinner. The church is providing the meat, and we are asking families to bring a covered dish. Please sign up in the entryway so we can know how many to prepare for.



Lessons Learned on Papa's Pond

If you are interested in buying a copy of Pastor Mark's book Lessons Learned on Papa's Pond, a limited number will be available on the night of the annual meeting (February 12.) Cost is 13.00 + tax for the grandparents' edition & 10.00 + tax for the storybook version.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Kenneth Butler Soup Kitchen

There is a need for volunteers for Kenneth Butler Soup Kitchen, located on US 40 across from the jail. Jill is the contact person at 317-462-9900. She needs help on Monday afternoons. If you have questions, please see Diana Hinds.

Feed the Youth

Volunteers are needed to feed the youth group on Sunday nights. This would be a great tie in to integrating age groups. Food is needed for approximately 25-30 people at 6:00 every Sunday. If anyone would be interested, they could contact me at 317-432-1183 or janie.blanton@irvmat.com.

Feast for Friends

The food pantry within our congregation has a box in the lobby for "feast for friends". The Pantry committee (Denise McKnight, Tom Sullivan, Beth Hensley and Janie Blanton) would like to encourage our church family to utilize the supermarkets' "buy one, get one free" for the food pantry. When shopping, take the opportunity to purchase a product and donate the free item to our food pantry.

Fortville Food Pantry

February

Breakfast

Due February 14

1 box cereal
 1 box breakfast bar or pop-tart
 pancake or baking mix
 syrup
 choice of coffee, tea or hot chocolate
 juice if desired

March

Cleaning

Due March 13

all purpose cleaner (ex. 409)
 toilet bowl cleaner
 window cleaner
 dish soap
 1 sponge
 1 roll paper towels

A Time for Tea

All women and girls ages two & up, mark your calendar for A Time for Tea on Saturday, February 25. Gathering will begin at 9:45 a.m. with special music from Angela Garner. Tea will begin at 10:00 a.m. Healthy homemade scones, fruit, hot tea, coffee, & water will be available. Denise McKnight will be speaking on our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit from 2 Corinthians 6:16-18, 7:1. Deb Bowles will be providing music. This is an event you won't want to miss! Nursery will be provided for children under age two. Invite your friends, and sign up in the entryway today!



Baptism Service

Several people who have recently come to know Christ have asked about a Baptism service. We are planning one near the end of March to celebrate God's awesome work in our congregation. If you have interest in following the Lord in baptism, please contact Pastor Mark.

Wounded Knee Trip: July 7-15, 2012

Sunday, February 5 is the last day to sign up to work this summer with Pastor Cecelia and Pastor Alex at the Lakota Memorial Church of the Nazarene. There are a few spots left. The trip will cost roughly \$700, and as usual we will be looking to raise money to help ease the financial burden. Trip details and information will be coming soon for those who are participating.



Attention {2:42} Members & Parents

The youth center will be open Tuesdays from 4-6 and Thursdays from 5-7 for youth group age folks to come and hang out.

Seeking Donations

If you have old items such as picture frames, windows, and furniture (desks, tables, dressers, etc.) that you would like to get rid of, see Angel Wadman or Stacie Picha.

Weeknight Small Group/Class Offerings

Wednesday Night Bible Study for all Ages

This study begins Wednesday night, February 1, and will last from 7-8:30 p.m. Joe Watkins will be leading this study in the youth building for anyone who is interested in delving more deeply into the Sunday morning sermons. This study is meant to be a supplement to Sunday's sermon and to give people young and old the chance to come together and learn from God.

Tuesday Night Study Also Available

If Wednesday night won't work for you, Pastor Mark also teaches a study for youth and adults who want to develop a deeper understanding in a midweek discussion group that will unpack each Sunday's message on a deeper level. The group meets in room 10 each Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

Developing Spiritual Oneness

This course for engaged or married couples will begin on Tuesday night, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. It will last for six weeks. Childcare will be provided. Pick up a brochure, and sign up in the entryway if you are interested.

Sunday School for All Ages Available During the First (8:55 a.m.) Hour

February

Nursery — Help still needed

1's & 2's — Lincoln & Rebecca Chapple

Pre-K — Rhonda Sullivan & Taylor Speer

Elementary — Tina Kerfoot & Susan Jones in Children's Building

Junior High & High School (Youth group) — Danny DeVault in Youth Building

Adults — A review & discussion from the previous week's message with Tom McKnight & Rick McFarland in Room 10

— "Getting to the Heart of Parenting", a 10 week video series that covers the basics of child raising and discipline, will be led by Ron Farmer in Room 9

Second (10:35 a.m.) Hour Children's Area Teachers

February

Nursery — Angela Adcock

1's & 2's — Myra Hess & Gwynne Watkins

Pre-K — Debbie Kimberly

Lower Elementary (grades K-3) — Mike Bowles & Carol Reneer

February 2012

Special Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 p.m. Small group led by Joe Watkins begins	2	3	4
5 8:55 a.m. Getting to the Heart of Parenting begins	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 6:00 p.m. Annual meeting & pitch-in Dinner	13	14 Food Pantry bags DUE	15	16	17	18
19	20 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team meeting	21	22	23	24	25 10:00 a.m. A Time for Tea
26	27	28 7:00 p.m. Developing Spiritual Oneness begins	29			

**Please note that this calendar is not meant to be an inclusive list of all events at NLCF. It does not include regular or weekly meetings such as Bible studies/small groups, youth group, prayer groups, etc.

February Greeters

2/5

1st – Ted & Sally Back

2nd – Campbell family & Sue Eads

2/12

1st – Leo & Lorraine Kocher

2nd – Mark & Ann Thompson

2/19

1st – Dave & Pat Zorne

2nd – Wadman family & friends

2/26

1st – Marianna Wanner & Taylor Speer

2nd – Keerns family