

MISSIONS & MINISTRY

The Newsletter of The Blue River-
Kansas City Baptist Association

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SPRING SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING!

We have invited Gary Kendall, leader of Love KC here in Kansas City, to be our keynote speaker and to share about an exciting evangelism and discipling tool that hundreds of churches are using throughout the KC area called Bless Every Home. Gary is the National Prayer Director for this ministry whose vision is that every home in the United States would be adopted by one or more disciples who are living the prayer, care, and share lifestyle. The beauty of Bless Every Home is that it allows you to visually record and track your progress in reaching your community through a simple program that allows you to see how your church is doing, but also to see every home in the Kansas City Metro area that has been adopted by someone. The other good news is that Gary has found some believers who feel led to underwrite the costs of this for several churches in BR-KC. Gary's message will be followed by a panel discussion of people who have effective evangelism strategies.

We will also be voting two new churches into the Association.

No mission fair or potluck at this meeting. We can't wait to see you all soon!



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR RETIREMENT, PASTOR? (PART 2)

By Gregg Boll, Director of Missions

In last month's newsletter, we started the conversation about pastors, or anyone for that matter, preparing for retirement. Since not all pastors plan to retire, we said the article could be titled, "Are You Living and Planning Today in Such a Way that is Preparing You Financially for the Final Chapter of Your Life?" Even if you don't plan to retire, (1) you may someday desire to work at a slower pace, (2) you may not be as desirable of an employee, (3) you may have unforeseen health issues that affect your ability to work, (4) and regardless of what you do, you will need a continuing stream of income throughout the final chapter of your life. The basic message of last month's article was "**Have a Plan!**" A good plan today is better than a great plan sometime in the future.

Other Issues That Impact Our Ability To Retire

Pastor's Pay – Ok, I'll just say it. Most pastors are underpaid. Not all, but most. I've never met a pastor who got into pastoring thinking they would get rich. It's a calling. They feel compelled by God to do what they do. If you compare pastor's salaries against workers from the private or governmental sectors of the economy with similar education and years of experience, the pastor's salary is substantially less. Now, I'm not assigning any blame as to why this is true but let me share a few reasons pastors are underpaid. First, church members don't understand the tax laws with relation to ministers/pastors. Let me explain. Ministers are considered self-employed regarding Social Security taxes and are considered employees of the church with regard to Federal and State taxes. So, regarding Social Security taxes, as self-employed, pastors pay all 15.3%+ percent on their earnings rather than 7.6%, like most employees who work for a company who pays half of their social security. Let's use a round figure salary of \$70,000/yr. The minister must pay \$10,500 in Social Security taxes while most people pay only \$5,250 and this is before we've even paid State and Federal income tax. So, right out of the gate, the pastor's salary has been reduced over \$5,000 compared to the secularly employed person. There are precious few deductions for the minister to take, too.....

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Greetings BRKC Church Leaders,

If we have not had the joy of meeting, my name is Jon Reed, a pastor here in the BRKC association at the Fount Church Downtown. As we navigate the challenges and joys of shepherding our congregations, it is crucial to have the right tools and resources at our disposal. That's why I am excited to announce my new role as the Church Solutions Partner with Lifeway, aiming to be your dedicated point of contact for all your church's needs.

Ministry Grid Training Platform: Ministry Grid is a dynamic platform offering custom solutions for churches. Think of Ministry Grid as your digital discipleship toolbox. With Ministry Grid, you can get your entire church on the same page by sharing resources and training. Our hope is to help you continue to accomplish “equipping the saints for the work of the ministry” (Ephesians 4:12) even from a distance.

Comprehensive Training: Ministry Grid ensures every leader in every ministry area receives essential training.

- **Pre-built Resources:** Access a library of 3,000+ videos from trusted teachers and pre-built Training Pathways tailored for various ministry areas.
- **Customizable Content:** Tailor training to align with your church's vision by easily uploading content from YouTube videos, PDFs, and more.
- **Effortless Onboarding:** Invite individuals, small teams, or the entire organization with a few clicks for quick and easy login creation.
- **Coaching Dashboard:** Track progress, take notes and support your leaders with a dedicated coaching dashboard.
- **Mobile-First Design:** Prioritize flexibility with a mobile-optimized platform, allowing training on the go via any mobile or tablet device.

New Church Offer: Lifeway, in collaboration with NewChurches.com, is on a mission to support new churches during their critical first two years. With over 4,000 new churches launching annually in the U.S., the challenges can be daunting. Limited resources, a shortage of trained volunteers, and the absence of essential tools can hinder the establishment of a solid foundation. Lifeway addresses these concerns by offering churches in their initial two years a number of valuable resources, including:

- One year of digital access to Lifeway's Bible study curriculum for all age groups,
- A digital discipleship dashboard/pathway and leadership development on Ministry Grid,
- An exclusive 40% discount off the Christian Standard Bible. Let us work together to empower leaders and reach the Kansas City Metro area.

I'd be glad to buy you coffee or lunch and learn how Lifeway can better serve you:

[Let's find a time to meet.](#)

In Christ,
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