

# KyNaz News

Kentucky District Church of the Nazarene

## Calendar 2023

### February:

2-4th – NDI & Bluegrass Awakening,  
Bowling Green, Ky.

### April:

13-16th – TNT @TNU

### June:

9-16th – General Assembly  
25-27th – District Assembly

### July:

24-28th – Teen Camp  
24-28th – Children's Camp

KENTUCKY DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE PRESENTS

# THE BLUEGRASS AWAKENING

PRAYER CONFERENCE

## FEB 2-4 2023

WITH GUEST SPEAKERS

REV COREY JONES

REV KENNY GREENWAY

WWW.KYNAZ.COM

**BOWLING GREEN FIRST CHURCH**

1503 WESTEN | BOWLING GREEN, KY 42104

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# Bluegrass Awakening

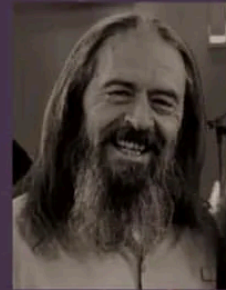
## Prayer & Theology Conference



Corey Jones

2023  
February 2-4

Bowling Green  
First Church of  
the Nazarene



Kenny Greenway

### BLUEGRASS AWAKENING

PRAYER & THEOLOGY CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2023

#### THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. .... Registration & Fellowship  
6:30 p.m. .... Session #1: Corey Jones  
8:00 p.m. .... Prayer & Dismissal

#### FRIDAY

Breakfast (on your own)  
9:00 a.m. .... Session #2: Kenny Greenway  
10:30 a.m. .... Workshops A  
*Revitalization & Power of a House of Prayer* ..... Rev. Corey Jones  
*Evangelism Anyone Can Do* ..... Rev. Mark Bane  
*From the Lord's Prayer to Loving Our Neighbors* ..... Rev. Jay Height  
*Learning to Live Generously* ..... Dr. Michael Johnson  
*Personal Intercession Leads to Corporate Mission* ..... Rev. Melissa Wright  
*Preaching & Teaching Holiness* ..... Rev. Jared Henry  
*Identity Crisis: Knowing Who & Whose We Are* ..... Dr. Doug Hopkins  
12:00 p.m. .... Lunch (served)  
1:00 p.m. .... Workshops B  
*The Mystery of Prayer* ..... Rev. Kenny Greenway  
*Jesus' Call To Corporate Prayer* ..... Rev. Corey Jones  
*Styles of Evangelism* ..... Rev. Mark Bane  
*Necessity of Prayer for Pastoral Ministry* ..... Dr. Harry Curry  
*Church & Community Hospitality: The Jesus Way* ..... Rev. Jera LaDonne Tidball  
*Identity Crisis: Knowing Who & Whose We Are* ..... Dr. Doug Hopkins  
*Avoiding Eisegesis in Biblical Application* ..... Dr. Brian Powell

2:30 p.m. .... Break & Refreshments  
3:00 p.m. .... Workshops C  
*The Mystery of Prayer* ..... Rev. Kenny Greenway  
*Evangelism Anyone Can Do* ..... Rev. Mark Bane  
*From the Lord's Prayer to Loving Our Neighbors* ..... Rev. Jay Height  
*Why Leaders Derail & What To Do About It* ..... Dr. Curtis Sellers  
*Living Generously* ..... Dr. Michael Johnson  
*How To Maintain Passion for Ministry* ..... Rev. Agrippina Maldonado  
*Preaching & Teaching Holiness* ..... Rev. Jared Henry  
4:30 p.m. .... Dinner (on your own)  
6:30 p.m. .... Session #3: Corey Jones

#### SATURDAY

8:30 a.m. .... Breakfast (served)  
9:30 a.m. .... Session #4: Kenny Greenway  
11:00 a.m. .... Prayer & Dismissal

\*Schedule subject to change as the Holy Spirit leads

\*Childcare is available for ages 3-11

\*Bowling Green is on Central Standard Time



Kentucky District  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

## Faithfulness In The Pulpit

by Dr. Brian Powell

After many years of preaching, I've grown accustomed to the Holy Spirit prompting me to say things that make me uncomfortable. Usually, it's something hard for me to hear myself or something that'll likely offend some of my listeners or both.

I can't count how many times I've prayed over and prepared notes a week or more in advance, only to have a circumstance arise in the church that the sermon seems to speak to directly. It's uncanny how God prepares us to address specific situations before they occur.

In these instances, I face the challenge of saying what God's laid on my heart or removing parts of the sermon considering the new developments. Leading up to the delivery of the message, God reminds me that sometimes how I say something is just as important as what I say.

I want to share a few things I've learned over the years about preaching, specifically, what it means to be faithful to the Word, the importance of spiritual discernment, and the ability not to allow secondary issues to set the tone.

### Soapbox Rants

Typically, soapbox preaching is when one uses the pulpit to push a personal agenda. It involves the messenger endeavoring to prove themselves right regarding a disagreement or a controversial topic. Soapbox preaching is a slippery slope—no pun intended.

For example, ranting about politics has proven to be a significant temptation today. The pulpit is set apart for clear biblical instruction and nothing else. We need more preachers who view politics through the lens of scripture over filtering scripture through their political leanings.

With that said, declining to preach politics doesn't mean neglecting biblical topics hijacked by the political voices of our day. For example, cultural issues like abortion, racism, same-sex marriage, social injustice, etc., are all addressed in scripture. Thus, we shouldn't avoid them in the pulpit.

On the other hand, some preachers find a way to insert a personal diatribe into every message. They make their entire ministry about condemning specific sins while ignoring others altogether. In preaching, it's necessary to recognize that ranting about things that annoy you isn't the same as faithfulness to scripture.

As shepherds, our hearts should be so soft toward the people we serve that when we preach on challenging subjects, we do so with tears in our eyes. Anyone who enjoys preaching people into hell needs to repent themselves. Again, what we say and how we say it are two different things.



## **Personal Convictions**

Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is essential in sermon preparation. Pastors who lack discernment preach their individual convictions as if they were gospel truth. Those who use the pulpit to air their personal grievances are at best insecure, and at worst manipulative.

Ministers betray themselves when they give lip service to the centrality of scripture yet preach personal standards. Often this happens in matters related to dress codes, musical styles, hair length, bible translations, movie attendance, etc. When preachers force their pet peeves from the pulpit, they reveal a lack of biblical fidelity.

Understand, I'm not arguing against high standards. The closer one gets to Jesus, the higher their standards become. What I am saying is that high standards don't make one a good Christian. Preaching personal expectations lays burdens on people that some aren't ready for. It's like putting a toddler on a bicycle before they're able to reach the pedals.

I admire people who are principled in their beliefs. I hold many personal convictions myself. However, we should be careful not to present our convictions as if they are the final word for everyone else—that's the stuff cults are made of. All God needs is for us to be faithful to His Word, nothing more, nothing less.

For the record, this isn't to say we shouldn't implement high standards of accountability for those involved in ministry (i.e., pastoral staff, board members, church leaders, etc.). However, these discussions are better held privately, not aired from the pulpit.

## **Various Giftings**

As ministers, we all have specific areas of passion. For example, some feel strongly about discipleship, while others focus on compassionate ministries. Some are more gifted in facilitating corporate prayer, while others are exceptional at evangelism and outreach. Additionally, some have a great heart for missions, church planting, counseling, works of justice, and so on.

Sometimes pastors make the mistake of thinking everyone should share the same passion they do about a specific area of ministry. This mindset often quenches the fire that God ignites in the hearts of others. Learning to celebrate the various giftings within the church is essential to the edification of the Body of Christ.

Regardless of what areas shine the brightest in one's heart individually, there's one thing we better all get right, no exceptions.



## **Preach the Gospel**

Throughout the book of Acts, the disciples model the importance of preaching the gospel with clarity. Every single time they proclaim the good news, people's lives are changed. When I read about the powerful displays of transformation under the disciples' preaching, I wonder what they were saying that we aren't.

Is our lack of fruit the result of preaching politics and individual preferences? Are we guilty of emphasizing secondary issues over the good news of Jesus Christ? Are we responsible for adding irrelevant matters that distract from the power of the gospel?

There's so much theological nonsense floating around today that it's easy to get caught up in adding or subtracting from the supremacy of the good news. Paul warns about the dangers of preaching another gospel when he says, "If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:9b)

In other words, God doesn't need our creative input regarding the gospel. That's not to say there's no room for imagination in communicating biblical truth. However, preaching the good news of forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ doesn't need any supplements.

Paul spoke to numerous issues related to his day, yet he never neglected the centrality of the gospel. Jews and Gentiles alike heard the message of salvation through Jesus. Every person Paul encountered got an opportunity to receive salvation through faith in Christ alone, and our commission is to do the same.

The gospel doesn't need to be filtered through conservative talking points or propped up by progressive theological trends. There's not one gospel for millennials and another for boomers. There's not a rich man's gospel and a poor man's gospel. The gospel doesn't vary depending on race and ethnicity. There's only one gospel—and it's for everybody. So, while times change and culture shifts, the good news of Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today, and forever!

## **Conclusion**

Tragically, many today don't directly deny the gospel; instead, they modify it to suit the appetites of modern society. While there's nothing wrong with a church desiring to relate to its mission field, changing the gospel for the sake of relevance is a rejection of God's divine wisdom.

Plainly stated, adjusting the good news to make it more palatable to culture is why we aren't witnessing more life transformation. Remember that as you stand in the pulpit this week.



*He said to them, "Therefore every teacher...who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."*

**Matthew 13:52**

If Pastor/Teachers are going to have treasures to share with others, they will first have to spend some time and energy growing a collection, a treasure. Bresee Bible College can be that treasure source for you!

If you are pursuing ordination in the Church of the Nazarene or simply want to get top-notch instruction in Biblical, Theological and Historical learning, Bresee Bible College is a way to accomplish your goals.

During your time with us you will be challenged, stretched, and encouraged to grow in your capacity to love God with all your mind. You will be instructed by people who share a passion for the Church and for preparing others to be healthy, effective, and spiritually mature servants to the Church. Our mission is *"Equipping the called to serve the Church."* Whether you are called to full-time ministry or to Sunday school/small-group leadership in your local congregation, Bresee Bible College can be a resource for you.

Over the course of the summer and this fall semester we have 30 students taking classes with us from several Nazarene Districts.

Upcoming courses for the next session:

**Spring 23' Schedule**

Intro to the OT  
Holiness Theology & Practice  
Hebrew Prophets  
Global Evangelism

Courses for Ordination - \$140

Courses for Audit - \$70

Courses for Bachelor of Arts through Nazarene Bible College - \$140 + service fee from NBC.

Register @ <http://kynaz.com/bresee-bible-college/>

Send checks/payment to Debby Sherrill or contact [kynazoffice@gmail.com](mailto:kynazoffice@gmail.com)

In His Service

Rev. Doug Hopkins (D.Min)





# Kentucky District

## Nazarene Missions International

Hello Kentucky District!

God is so good to us and we want to give HIM praise for his continued presence and guidance in our lives! Following are some details to keep us on the right track for missions!

### PRAYER

Please keep our missionaries in your prayers

- Health and Safety
- VISA issues
- Their families
- Their ministry
- Nazarene world week of prayer coming in March 2023!



### THANKSGIVING OFFERING/WEF

Our missionaries are provided for via the World Evangelism Fund.

The offering is an offering of generosity and thanks from each of us! Resources can be found at **[nazarene.org](http://nazarene.org)** and on **YouTube** at the Church of the Nazarene (official) page.



### Engaging Children and Youth in Missions

What a great time of the year to have your children or youth reach out in YOUR community. Food pantries, visits to nursing homes and a good deeds chart are just a few ideas of what our church families can participate in at this time of year!



## Care and Connections



Please stay in contact with our missionaries. Send funds to their deputation accounts. The NMI Council voted to send \$75 to each family from our funds. We encourage you to do the same!

## Alabaster

Thanks to all churches that have sent in their Alabaster funds! If you didn't participate in September, we can still participate!



## Tanzania Project

Final project funds for the kitchen are left to be raised by the district. Approximately \$6,000 still needed. Funds must be submitted by **March 15, 2023**! It is our hope that each and every church across the district participate in this project! Let's finish strong!







## Can I Get a Witness?

Rev. Jera Tidball

What is the primary objective of a witness? According to Webster, as a noun, witness means a person who sees an event (typically a crime or accident) take place or provides evidence/proof. As a verb, it means seeing something take place or have knowledge of an event from personal observation or experience. Jesus says in Acts 1:8, *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* By these two explanations, every follower of Jesus is His witness. Each of us should be testifying about the goodness of God and His faithfulness in our lives. So, why is it that today’s society appears to be clueless about the Good New of Jesus? A disheartening response would be; “His witnesses just don’t!”

As a child, I remember people unashamedly testifying; shouting, running the aisle, and waving hankies. As I grew, I came to appreciate hearing how God was working in people’s lives and felt the freedom to stand and bear witness to something God had done for me. Today, I cannot wait to share how God has worked in a situation or affirm His righteousness. I have current, up-to-date, personal experiences that God goes before me and is answering prayers on my behalf - and I want others encouraged by what He is doing. Testifying can be very encouraging to others in the faith. You never know how God may use your words to help someone else. We should not be slack in our praise! The enemy wants us to stay quiet or to think what we might say is silly or insignificant. How is it when someone asks how we are feeling, we unload every possible ailment? Or if asked about our children or grandchildren, our narrative is endless and enthusiastic? But if the Pastor asks for testimonies regarding what God is teaching you or how He is working in your life – crickets!

This passage in Acts is God inviting us to participate in His work of sharing the Gospel. Testifying is an act of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for a Christian is not just a Thursday in November, it is a way of living. Living with a heart overflowing with praise! Psalm 22:25 says,

I will praise you in the great assembly, I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.” Let’s be about our Father’s business and be His witnesses in all the Kynaz district. After all, His witness protection plan is out of this world!



## Kentucky District NYI

The Kentucky district is moving forward planning and preparing for multiple events currently.

We are excited to say that we have 74 participants signed up for the Nazarene Youth Conference that is going to happen Summer of 2023 in Tampa Florida.

We along with USA/Canada NYI have over 8500 people signed up to attend. Please continue to be in prayer for our youth and Adults who are going to be involved in this event.

District TNT just took place on the WKU campus in Bowling Green and we had a great showing from our Kentucky Teens. We have some new categories at Regional TNT this year at Trevecca and we want to let you know about them.

Esports, Games TBA

Chess

Cornhole

Gaga

I want to say how proud I am of our adult leaders for the time and dedication that they continue to show to our youth. We have some of the most dedicated leaders I have ever had the privilege to work with. I know that when we spend time together our Youth are gaining guidance and wisdom from our leaders who are investing not only in their own walk with Christ but in the lives of the students.

Sincerely,

Brad Luke



## Be A Disciple That Makes Disciples

**By Rev. Mike Justice**

Jesus told his followers (this includes you and me by the way) to “Go and make disciples.” Many churches adopt well-known, step-by-step discipleship programs. They start amazingly well. Almost everyone in the church goes through the first step of it together, and the positive feedback received is overwhelming. But fewer people sign up for the following steps. And by Step 4, it whittles down to one-on-one meetings in a coffee shop, struggling to get through material that was designed for a classroom setting.

You may have experienced similar frustrations.

I’m grateful for the people who have put their wisdom, time and energy into writing good discipleship curriculum. But nothing is perfect. No program can meet every need. One size never fits all. Programs tend to be more academic and less hands-on. They tend to replace personal interaction with downloading facts. The goal can become more about finishing the program than becoming more like Jesus. And, fatally, they can give people the idea that, once the program is over, discipleship is over.

If your church doesn’t have a discipleship program or one that’s not working well, I have some good news. You don’t need an expensive, staff-heavy discipleship program to do great discipleship. And it doesn’t need to kill your already-over-busy schedule, either.

After a few hit-and-miss attempts, I’ve discovered a process that can work for any church. And it looks suspiciously similar to what Jesus, Paul and many other early church leaders did.

### **1. Meet With Every New Believer.**

People learn and grow in different ways. Use a personal touch to help people learn in the way that suits them best. I recently met with a new believer who had no Bible knowledge whatsoever. I determined the best way for him to start growing in his newfound faith was to read the Gospel of John. I told him to start by reading one chapter a day, then chew on it. If he wanted to re-read the same chapter the next day, he could do that until he was ready to move to the next chapter.

When I followed up 10 days later, he was only on John 5. “I sat with John 3 for a few days,” he told me with great joy. “That conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus was really good!” I smiled. He was getting it. God’s Word was doing its work.

### **2. Connect Them With a Mature Believer and the Right Resources.**

Connect new believers with mature believers in our church to meet regularly to learn, grow and be discipled, and help them find the right resources for their growth – books, podcasts, etc. They’ll both grow in faith and their relationship.

### **3. Help Them Plug Into Ministry That Utilizes Their Gifts.**

This is the most neglected step of most discipleship programs. We fill people’s heads with Bible knowledge, but don’t activate that knowledge within real-world ministry.

The longer I pastor, the more convinced I am that the number-one reason for stress in the church is people with a lot of Bible knowledge who are doing little—if any—practical, hands-on ministry. Help them activate their hands and feet in the church and in the community.

### **4. As People Mature, Have Them Start Leading Others.**

Discipleship is never finished. Even the most mature believer has something to learn. The best way for a mature believer to keep learning is to teach others as they do ministry together. Start with one person. Walk a new believer through the early stages of discipleship, including letting them know that they’d be doing this themselves someday. Then, when another new believer comes along, show them how to do this with the new believer. Believers discipling believers. Your church doesn’t need a program, a curriculum, a classroom, or a certified teacher. We just need to do it.



## Compassion Works

By Rev. Bob McCabe

I am excited to tell you compassion works! If you are willing to be patient and simply love on people with no conditions, God will soften people's hearts towards the message of the Kingdom of God.

It all started on September 25, 2022. I was asked to preach at Louisville Grace and the Friday before the Lord pressed me to invite families from the Kingdom Pantry to come to the service. I sent out 14 invites with thinking maybe 1 family would come. Sunday arrives and I am at the church and all of sudden it happened. People starting showing up! 7 families showed up! 3 families went to church somewhere and the 4 other families did not go anywhere. Needless to say, I was asking God was it time for Overflow Community Church (OCC) to start? I honestly did not know what to do next.

All the families then started to ask me every Monday at the Kingdom Pantry when the church was starting? I said, "I am not sure." Then middle October, I had an idea to write a letter to families that I have connected with at the Kingdom Pantry and in the letter, I said I am having a meeting next Sunday to talk about an idea I have for the next part of OverflowCC.

That Sunday arrives and 20 adults and 20 kids showed up to the meeting! I asked them what would they think about starting a church with me? I told them not to tell me that night but to think about it and if you want to be a part of it come back next Sunday night. The next Sunday night 26 people showed up. I could not believe it!

From that meeting we picked the Launch date of Overflow Community Church to be November 6, 2022. We worked to get things ready for the launch. We had 40 people come to the launch and 70% were from the Kingdom Pantry.

How and why did this happen? We loved on people for the last 2 ½ years without expecting anything in return! Compassion works if you do not put a time on when you want to see results. Let the Lord lead in your ministry and great things will happen.

As of now we are averaging 85 families every Monday to the Kingdom Pantry! We usually have 10-15 new families every week. To God be the Glory!

