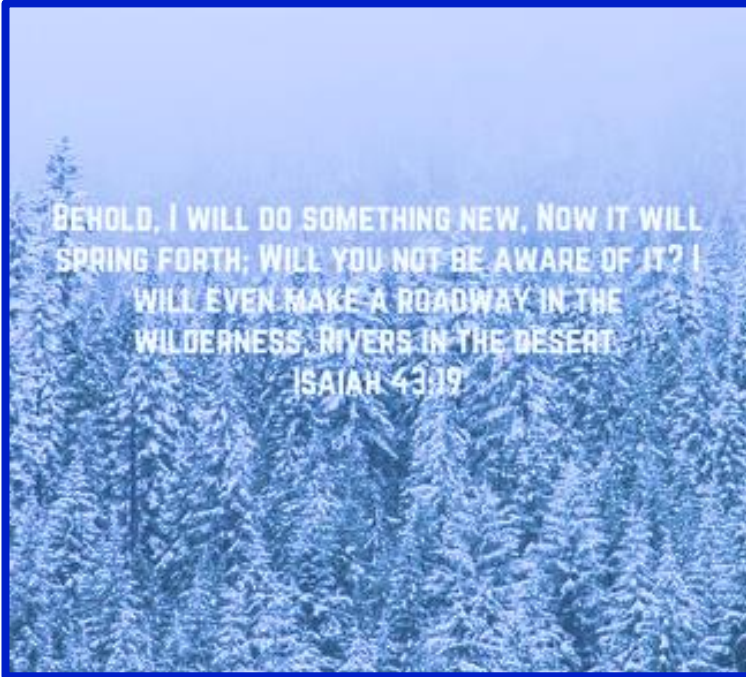


KYNAZ NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

kynaz.com



2024 Events & Reminders

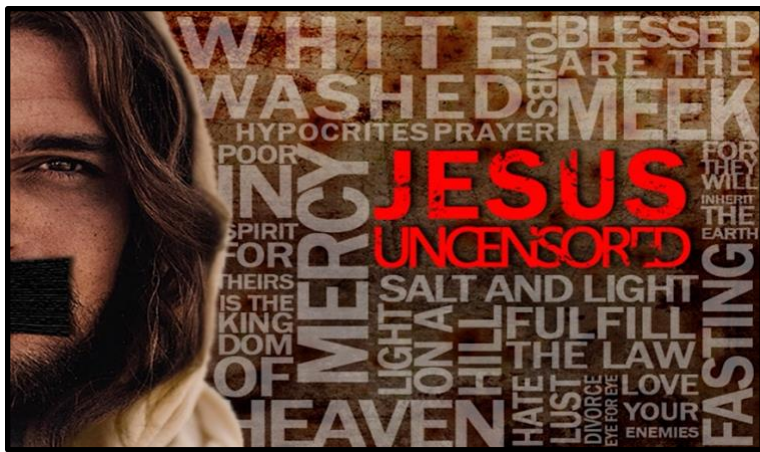
- January 23 – R.E.C. Session, Derby City & Green River Missional Areas, E-town Church, Elizabethtown, KY
- February 1-3 – Bluegrass Awakening, BG First Church, Bowling Green, KY
- March 10 – Daylight Savings Time
- March 22-23 – Celebrating the Call, Board of Ministry, District Ministry Center, Louisville, KY
- April 4-7 – Regional TNT, Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, TN
- April 6 – Hispanic Evangelism & Discipleship Conference, River City Hope, Louisville, KY
- April 21-28 – NMI Deputation Tour, Anthony “Tony” Bonce

Events & Reminders (continued)

- April 30 – End of Church Year
- May 10 – Online Pastors Reports Due
- May 10 – Teen Lock-In (NYI), Main Event, Lexington, KY
- June 9-12 – Kentucky District Assembly, Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green, KY
- July 22-26 – Teen Camp (NYI), Camp Paradise, Burkesville, KY
- July 22-25 – Children’s Camp, Camp Garner Creek, Dickson, TN
- August 20-25 – NMI Deputation Tour, Dr. Russ & Carla Frazier
- September 19-21 – Pastor & Spouse Retreat, Pigeon Forge, TN
- October 11-13 – Breakaway (NYI), Country Lakes Christian Retreat, Underwood, IN
- December 7 – Christmas Celebration, BG First Church, Bowling Green, KY



Kentucky District
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



JESUS UNCENSORED

by Dr. Brian Powell

One of the most common phrases we hear today is, “I believe in God, but not religion.” This type of statement indicates that religion hasn’t been offering God in a way that people can sit down at the spiritual table and feast. It means that God hasn’t been presented, well, as God.

We like to wrap God up in all kinds of boxes. We make him neat, tidy, safe, and secure. We come up with trite little feel-good phrases like: “God never closes a door without opening a window” or “God only helps those who help themselves,” neither of which is in the Bible.

People today desperately need God raw and unfiltered, a far cry from the stained-glass window depictions of Jesus many of us have grown accustomed to. People need a God that can be seen, felt, and experienced in their daily lives. We don’t need Jesus all dressed up in spiritual buzz talk, catchphrases, and religious clichés.

People don’t need a bunch of God-talk; they need God to talk. And if it’s messy, it’s messy. If it’s hard, let it be hard. If it doesn’t fit into three points and a poem and doesn’t end in a way that makes the rest of the day comfortable, so be it. If it flies in the face of culture, religion, and politics, let it rip. We may not understand it all, but that’s okay. We may not even like it all, but at least we’ll know. I’ve never met anyone who didn’t want things served up without spin, particularly spiritual things.

I love Matthew’s description of the people’s response to Jesus in chapter 7: “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law” (Matthew 7:28-29). People were amazed—real people. He doesn’t say religious people. No, he’s referring to ordinary people like you and me.

They were amazed, meaning they expected the same old religious song and dance. They thought they’d heard it all. They knew about Adam and Eve, Father Abraham, Noah’s Ark, Moses and the Prophets, Oprah and Dr. Phil. But then came Jesus, and they were astonished, not just at what he said, but how he said it.

Are you amazed by Jesus?

If not, you aren’t experiencing him as much more than words on a page. Reading the Bible without understanding the personality of Jesus is like watching a movie with the sound on mute. Intimacy with Jesus is the only way to live in wonder and amazement of who he really is. Everything else in life flows out of one’s growing knowledge and personal relationship with him.

Let me ask: Do you think the enemy of our soul will let that happen without a fight? Satan has a master’s degree in deception. The deceiver deceives through distortion; he loves to filter God’s real identity, which includes distorting Jesus’s personality.

Remember, Jesus is the complete revelation of God. He is the defining word on what the heart of God is truly like, what God is up to in the world, and what God wants to do in our lives. That’s why a deep knowledge of who Jesus is must remain the number one pursuit of our lives.

Sadly, religion and culture often misrepresent Jesus on a large scale, and millions fall for it. The truth is knowing about Jesus and knowing him personally are not the same. To know him as he truly is is what it means to come home. And nothing compares to the life, love, joy, and peace this kind of relationship brings to the human experience.

A deep knowledge of Jesus is humanity’s greatest need; to be mistaken about him is life’s saddest tragedy. In the new year, I pray that you will draw closer to Christ than ever, which means getting to know him as he really is.

(Sources: Dr. James Emery White, Church & Culture; John Eldredge, Beautiful Outlaw; NIV Application Commentary)



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Curtis Sellers



Doug Hopkins



Brian Powell





SPRING SEMESTER

March 11–June 3, 2024

Bresee Bible College continues to be the primary learning pathway for fulfilling the educational requirements towards ordination on the Kentucky District. BBC combines quality academic learning with practical, boots on the ground experience.

We are an affiliate school of Nazarene Bible College, meaning you can transfer BBC credit hours to NBC if you decide to work toward a bachelor's degree. You will not find a better education for the price, and the experience of learning alongside fellow ministers on the KY District is priceless.

Education is meant to be instructive, formative, and applicable. This is a challenging process, but as we find in life, most things worth having do not come easily.

While we employ the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and meditation in ministry, we must also utilize the physical tools available to a pastor, specifically, books. As you engage each course offered through Bresee Bible College you will be adding books to your ministerial tool kit that will continue to be of use long after the course has ended.

Finally, Jesus was clear to include “the mind” when He commanded us to Love God. In the words of Leonardo Da Vinci:

“As iron rusts when not used, and water gets foul from standing or turns to ice when exposed to cold, so the intellect degenerates without exercise.”

Practice of Christian Ministry

Instructor: Dr. Curtis Seller

Christian Education

Instructor: Rev. Mike Justice

Philosophy & Christian Ethics

Instructor: Rev. Daniel Bradshaw

Church History I

Instructor: Rev. Andy Newman

Whether you find yourself pursuing ordination or simply wish to exercise your intellect for the glory of God, Bresee Bible College is an option for you.

- Cost per class for ordination – \$140
- Cost per class for audit – \$70
- Cost per class for ordination and college credit through NBC – \$140 (with a heavier workload)

Register on-line at www.KYNAZ.com under the “more” tab and fan those flames for learning and spiritual growth!

In His Service,
Rev. Doug Hopkins, D.Min





NEW START UPDATES

Rev. Sergio Monterroso

Since coming to the KY District in 2016, I noticed that the Church of the Nazarene had no presence at all between Florence and northeast Louisville. That is an area of 88 miles on I-71, that includes at least three large towns: Carrolton, LaGrange, and Crestwood. This is still a huge concern for me, please pray that God will open the doors for us to step into this area of need.

I noticed that we had a similar situation on I-75, between Florence and Georgetown. This area has several more towns not being reached. I also discovered that many churches from various denominations were closing. This area is 58 miles, and has towns like Walton, Verona, Crittenden, Dry Ridge, Corinth, Williamstown, and Sadieville.

Praise be to God, on November 2, 2023, with the support of Georgetown Church, and the hospitality of Bean's Café & Bakery, Pastor Tony & Linda Hayse started a new congregation in Dry Ridge. This group meets on Thursdays right now until they grow enough to need a different facility. Please pray for New Life Church of the Nazarene in Dry Ridge!



Tony & Linda Hayse



Bean's Café & Bakery

A few years ago, while visiting our churches in Somerset KY, Kim and I noticed that the Hispanic Community in that city was growing. We talked with two of the pastors there about the possibility of starting a Hispanic congregation, but we did not have the person to do it. Thanks be to God, in August last year, pastor Alfredo Perez reached out to our Lake Cumberland Church and asked to be allowed to use their building as their group had outgrown the home where they were meeting.

Pastors Seth & Jera Tidball's congregation, Lake Cumberland, immediately welcomed this group seeking to grow God's kingdom. On Sunday December 10, 2023, the Ebenezer Church of the Nazarene was officially started in the city of Somerset, KY, with a group of about 35 people. God is so good, He always provides! Please pray for pastor Alfredo and Rosy Perez who travel every weekend from Monterrey, TN, to serve this congregation.



In other news, we have been dreaming about a New Start in Stanford. Our Stanford Church has made available their fellowship hall, and we have equipment ready. However, we need someone to help us start a new ministry geared towards the Next Generation. Please pray for the right person, who we know God is already preparing. Also, in Louisville, we have a small African congregation that has outgrown the homes where they meet and are looking for a new place. Please pray for this congregation and their pastor Mugabo Joseph as we work on arrangements to provide them a new church home.

BIBLE STUDY

WHERE
BEANS Cafe & Bakery
21 Taft Avenue
Dry Ridge, KY 41035

NEW LIFE CHURCH

WHEN
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6:30 p.m.
(859) 801-1556

Join us as we study God's Word to introduce the Good and Beautiful God

A ministry of the Church of the Nazarene



Kentucky District

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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