

the Nall Call

monthly newsletter of Nall Avenue Baptist Church

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FREE INDEED: *An Inmate Finds the Freedom that Matters Most*

Steadily. That's how the relationship grew between David Langford and a Kansas inmate named Jim (named changed for privacy). And the payoff has had eternal impact.

The men met through a program that pairs inmates preparing for release with mentors. The goal is to help the inmate with life needs such as housing, employment and relationship skills. Plus, it allows the inmate to know someone cares and is willing to stick with them through a difficult transition. Though not faith-based, the program allows mentors to add a faith component to their biweekly meetings – an allowance David took full advantage of. He fostered faith conversations with Jim by including a devotional time in their meetings.



For the first many months, David said, his goal was to build relationship and trust with Jim, a core tenet of Real Life Discipleship. At one point, Jim said he had been baptized, so David thought he was already a Christian. Then, after 11 months, Jim explained that though he had been baptized as a toddler at the request of his Catholic grandmother, he had never made a personal decision for Christ. He asked David to help him.

“One lesson from Real Life Discipleship is you really need to know where people are coming from,” David said. He added that he learned he should probe more to fully understand how someone views their faith and relationship with God.



David led Jim through the popular “bridge illustration” (seen in picture), which is included in Real Life Discipleship training. The illustration highlights man's depraved state and desperate need for a Savior to find reconciliation with God. They also studied Bible verses about salvation. David paused regularly to ensure Jim understood the meaning. Then, with the Holy Spirit leading the way, Jim prayed to accept Christ.

Jim received his freedom from sin's grip just months ahead of receiving his freedom from prison. He will move into faith-based transitional housing that will help with discipleship. David will continue to meet with Jim, serving as a resource for both life and spiritual needs.

The experience encourages David to continue seeking opportunities as the Lord leads to build eternally impactful relationships with others. That is the Great Commission realized through real-life discipleship.

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DEBT-FREE ONCE AGAIN: *Loan Paid Off Years Ahead of Schedule for Kitchen, CLC Projects*



Richard Miller and Jana Dennington sign the final check for the line of credit loan on Jan. 30, 2019.

The last week of January 2019 contained a quiet and highly momentous event. The final check was cut, signed and delivered to the bank to cover the remaining balance of the line of credit loan that helped pay for construction and remodel projects in the kitchen and CLC/Gym.

The projects involved the construction of a new, commercial-grade kitchen; the long overdue replacement of the CLC/gym floor; and the conversion of the previous kitchen into storage area. Work started the summer of 2016 and was complete in March 2017.

“The projects went well and I feel the finished products have allowed the church to enhance our ministry outreach,” said Richard Miller, who helped coordinate with work crews on behalf of the church.

tithes (a campaign titled “Feed My Sheep”). The church had 7 years to pay back the loan. Giving by the congregation, however, ensured the debt was paid much earlier.

The projects cost about \$425,000 in all. To cover the cost, the church used a combination of \$50,000 held in reserve, a line of credit loan and financial commitments from the congregation that went above regular

“It was very encouraging to see our church family come together and pay off this debt several years ahead of schedule to allow our church to once again be debt-free,” said David Langford, who chaired the committee overseeing the financial end of the projects. “I am so appreciative of our generous church family.”

A brief celebratory recap of the project and loan pay-off will be part of Sunday services on Feb. 3.

HOW TO BE PART OF THE UPDATED MEMBER AND MEMBER BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The process to compile an updated member directory is underway. The directory will be produced entirely in-house, making the process easier, faster, more efficient and less expensive. Being listed in the directory is optional, and is open to Nall members and frequent attenders.

The updated directory will also include a list of church members and attenders who have a business or professional service.

To be included in the updated directory, all participants are required to:

1. Provide your contact information and business/professional service information. Current church records cannot be used. Participants can fill out the required form either in the Foyer on Sunday mornings through Feb. 17 or online at www.nallave.org/photodirectory. You can list your business or professional service on this form as well, if applicable.

2. Provide, take or “carryover” a photo. Email your own photo to Kelly Jackson, kelly@nallave.org. Smart phone pictures are acceptable. Families can submit one group photo or individual photos. Alternatively, you can have a new photo taken in the photo booth in the Foyer on Sunday mornings Feb. 10 and 17. Or you may opt to have your photo from the 2015 directory to carry over and be used with your profile. You will indicate your desired option on your contact information form.

Questions can be directed to Kelly Jackson. Forms and photos due by Sunday, Feb. 17.



CELEBRATING BAPTISMS



Siblings Anna and Joel Korv made their public declaration of faith through believer's baptism in the 10:45 AM service on Sunday, Jan. 13. Their mom, Lisa, watched with family from the Sanctuary seats. Their faces say it all.



Makenna Radliff, daughter of John and Lindsay Radliff, prepares for her baptism during the 10:45 am service on Sunday, Jan. 13. Despite a snow storm the previous day, her friends and family were on hand to witness the joyful day.



Pastor Joe Funderburk introduces Kyle Mamie to the congregation prior to his baptism during the 10:45 AM service on Sunday, Jan. 20. Kyle's decision in part stemmed from a discipling relationship he has with a Nall member.

Have a Nall snapshot to share? Email it to Sara Brunsvold, sara@nallave.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Foster and Orphan Care Brunch and Learn, Feb. 3

9:30 AM, CLC/Gym. Guest speaker Abby Frye will present on international and local ways for the church to care for orphans and foster kids.

Special Called Business Meeting, Feb. 3

10:40 AM, Sanctuary. Members will vote on Senior Leadership Team nominees, the team's 2018 review report and the 2019 action plan.

Men's Breakfast, Feb. 4

6:30 AM, Santa Fe Cafe, 87th St., Overland Park. All men welcome. No RSVP needed.

'All Things New' women's study begins, Feb. 6

6:30 PM. Focuses on 2 Corinthians. Register: www.nallave.org/events.

JOY Seniors Luncheon, Feb. 14

11:30 AM, CLC/Gym. Featuring the music of Ken Bell and Mary Fazio. Bring potluck dish or \$4.

Women Praying for Women Kick Off Luncheon, Feb. 24

NOON, Room D108. See details on this page.

Upward Celebration, Feb. 25

Upward families will celebrate the end of the season with special entertainment and awards.

Moms in Prayer meeting, Feb. 27

6:30 PM. All moms with children in local schools are invited. Pray for children and schools.

Full and updated list of all events and activities:

www.nallave.org/events.

WOMEN PRAYING FOR WOMEN MINISTRY KICKS OFF

The Women Praying for Women ministry pairs two women of faith for the year to intentionally pray for each other and grow in relationship. Women may opt to partner with someone they know or request to be paired with someone. Partners are encouraged to meet regularly and keep in contact on a frequent basis.

The 2019 Kick Off Luncheon is Sunday, Feb. 24, at noon in Room D108. All who would like to participate at a 2019 prayer partner is asked to attend. Child care is available with registration.

Please register as a prayer partner and for the luncheon at the Welcome Center in the Foyer or at www.nallave.org/women.

NOT A SONG TO PLAY IN THE BACKGROUND *by Mark Miller, Minister of Worship and Administration*

Some songs deserve more devoted attention than simply being played in the background while you're doing a task. CityAlight's worship song "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me" is one I strongly believe should be intently listened to...in the foreground. The song is so rich with truth. While it has a beautiful, hymn-like melody, it is the message that stirs our affection for Jesus.

Every verse is filled with specific phrases speaking to the work of Christ and how it governs every aspect of our lives. Though some may consider the song too wordy, it's the song's thoroughness that amplifies the core message: "yet not I but through Christ in me." It is a gratifying thought that every blessing we have received has not been attained by our own merit but only by the grace of God obtained through faith.

In verse one, we sing of the sufficient merit of Jesus: "He is my joy, my righteousness, my freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace." The next two verses lead us in biblical thoughts such as joy in tribulation (James 1), power in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9), relationship with our Shepherd (John 10:27-28), and victory over sin (Hebrews 2:17-18). All of these are only possible because of the indwelling spirit of Christ. In the last verse, we sing about our lives being renewed daily until we are in Heaven with Jesus, which echoes Paul's words in Philippians 1:21: "To live is Christ, to die is gain." Again, we can sing of this assurance and declare this faith only through Christ in us.

As our church incorporates this new song into our worship culture, please embrace the opportunity to realize the gravity of God and express your passion for Christ in singing. Before we can be transformed disciples who are Kingdom-driven, we must start with a life of worship lived out because of Christ in us (Galatians 2:20).



READY CONFERENCE GIVES REASONS TO BE ENCOURAGED *by Lewis Jones, Minister of Students*

Seven Nall middle and high school students joined more than 1,200 others from Kansas, Missouri and other states as far as away as Texas for the Ready Conference on Jan. 25 and 26 at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The five main session speakers carefully took students through Romans 8, challenging them with questions such as: "Are you ready to tackle the toughest issues and questions of our day? Are you ready to follow Jesus no matter the cost, whether loss of reputation, suffering or even death?"

Those questions did not fall on deaf ears. Students engaged with the speakers and breakout leaders and filled their journals with notes and insights. They worshiped the Lord with voices filled with passion and desire for their Savior. If you were there, you would have been encouraged by what the Lord is doing in the lives of students.

Continue to pray for them. Students, no matter where they are, need to understand the hope of the Gospel which leads to a personal relationship with Christ. They need believers to walk alongside them in discipleship. And they need great encouragement that their identity is in being a child of God, nothing else.

About Nall Call

Nall Call is the work of many hands.

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**TRANSFORMING
LIVES**



**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS**



**IMPACTING
COMMUNITIES**