



# LEXINGTON LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

*Through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit we connect leaders, unify the body, and mobilize people to transform Lexington into a city for God.*

June 2023

## *In the Space Between Grief and Joy*

Have you ever thought much about why Jesus wept for his city? (See Luke 19:41)

A recently recurring theme during our weekly staff prayer time has been asking Jesus for guidance as we live in the space between grief and joy.

Kids we love continue to be impacted by senseless acts of gun violence (of the six shootings in Lexington over a 17-day period in May, five of the victims were under age 20). And, as you'll read in this newsletter, the LLF family is mourning the loss of one of the most incredible volunteers we've ever had.

Simultaneously, we've had so much to celebrate – the successful launch of new ministry opportunities with fathers, countless graduations (our Urban Impact staff was invited to nine different middle, high school, and college graduations!), amazing synergy among the body of Christ in city-wide prayer and worship. Our Amachi team was even recognized as the second highest performing mentoring site in the country by a national mentoring network.

While life in Lexington can sometimes feel most properly characterized by Charles Dickens' famous opening words, *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . ."* the positive reality is, Lexington isn't a tale of two cities. Rather, the story of our city is one of a King and His Kingdom.

And, in Luke 19, when the King of all Kings, Jesus, entered Jerusalem, he wept for its people. Why? Check out the next verse, Luke 19:42, *"If you had only known on this day what would bring you peace...."* The people of Jerusalem simply did not know Him. Even those who did acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah mistakenly thought he would bring peace through war. Perhaps they'd lost sight of Isaiah's prophetic words in Isaiah 9:6 (which I'll paraphrase), *For a child will be born to us, and his name will be called Prince of Peace.*

So as we go about our work, we take great comfort in the fact that Jesus also wept. He wept for his friend Lazarus (John 11:35) and he wept for the people he loved in Jerusalem. And we also celebrate the amazing things He is doing through the ministry of Lexington Leadership Foundation. All the while, we hold fast to the Prince of Peace, doing ministry by Him, to Him and through Him.

As you read about just a few of the things taking place in our city, and more importantly as you go about life in the Kingdom, may the Prince of Peace be with you.



Christian Postel

CEO | Lexington Leadership Foundation

### *Look Around Lexington Leadership Foundation!*



*Local high school students learn how to stop severe bleeding wounds during Leadership Academy's youth summit at Woodhill Community Center!*



*Shout out to Her Knight Dance, for inviting Fatherhood Initiative dads to treat their daughters to an incredible daddy-daughter evening!*



*An Amachi mentee explores her interest in medicine by dissecting a sheep's brain, thanks to her dedicated mentor!*



*Kentucky Children's Hospital partners with Urban Impact at the Woodhill Community Center, providing free, vital healthcare to local neighborhood youth through their mobile clinic every Tuesday!*

# THE PRAYER ROOM

## *In the Wake of the Asbury Outpouring*

The story of the Asbury Outpouring continues to be told all over the world. One of our ministry partners with The Prayer Room, who helped steward the renewal, recently traveled to London with six student leaders from Asbury. As the young people shared their reflections of the Glory of God that they experienced in Wilmore, 5,000 people assembled in Royal Albert Hall – Britain’s most iconic venue – bowed their knees with their faces to the ground in reverence before the Lord.

Here locally, in early May, more than 20 intercessors traveled from South Korea to continue in the spirit of traveling prayer for the Lexington region, Kentucky, and the United States. They prayed and met with people at Asbury who were present for the Outpouring before coming to The Prayer Room to lead prayer with local intercessors. They also visited and prayed at historic sites locally like McConnell Springs – where Lexington was founded, and at Cane Ridge Meeting House outside of Paris – the epicenter of the Second Great Awakening in 1801.

One of the pastors in the group related how Korea has such a rich and vital heritage in the Lord because of the praying and sending church in America. This group came to the United States to sow the same seed that was sown historically into the Body of Christ in Korea – what faithful intercession!

On that note, we want to encourage you to remain vigilant in prayer – especially corporately. The Holy Spirit places great value on the assembling of ourselves together. We long for your presence at The Prayer Room so that we can enjoy the Presence of the Lord as a representation of the broader Church in Lexington. Multiple ministries host live worship and prayer on site daily and weekly. Please visit [lexlf.org/the-prayer-room](http://lexlf.org/the-prayer-room) for our schedule.



Tommy Green | Director, The Prayer Room

# URBAN IMPACT

## *A Strategic Approach to Preventing Youth Violence*



Throughout the last year, prayer, planning, research and guidance from Jesus paved a path for the launch of Leadership Academy, our new youth violence prevention program.

Implementing our strategic approach began at Crawford Middle School, where many youth from the Woodhill neighborhood attend, and focused on building positive relationships with them through in-school and after school group mentoring. We also hosted a high school youth summit at Woodhill Community Center welcoming students from several local high schools. Together, they learned healthy mindfulness and how to address trauma, in addition to being trained on life-saving measures of what to do in the event of overdose and how to stop a severe bleeding wound.

Executing one of Leadership Academy’s five strategic pillars, Exposure, we had the privilege of taking Leadership Academy young men on a trip to Detroit, Michigan during spring break. They experienced two NBA games, visited the Motown Museum and even saw the Canadian Border! Not only did they get to experience some fun activities, they began to bond in new ways and learned a little more about higher expectations and accountability. Research indicates exposure to new opportunities increases young people’s world view and affirms that their current circumstance does not have to dictate their future.



Finally, April 24-28 was National Youth Violence Prevention Week. We had the honor of raising awareness, prevention and education by partnering with Crawford Middle School, leading conversations and activities centered on violence prevention and how to create healthy communities. Pictured below is the shirt design that Leadership Academy students proudly created to help raise youth violence prevention awareness throughout the week.

There is much more to come but we're out the gates and gaining traction with our desired audience. We appreciate your prayers as we shift towards summer programming.

Leadership Academy is in need of program volunteers; if you're interested in learning more and/or getting involved, please contact Michael Overstreet at [moverstreet@lexlf.org](mailto:moverstreet@lexlf.org).



Marcus Patrick | Director, Urban Impact





## One Hour Per Week Yields Lifetime Impact

If the Amachi team knows anything after 19 years of matching people of faith and good will to children who have been negatively impacted by incarceration, its that God can do a lot with with a one-hour per week commitment, but Nathan and Jalen's story is a shining example of what Jesus can do when that hour gains compound interest over time.



When Nathan signed up to become an Amachi mentor in 2011, our Match Specialists knew just which child on our waiting list to pair him with. Jalen was eleven when he met Nathan for the first time, and the two quickly formed a close friendship. Jalen especially enjoyed playing basketball with Nathan, learning to garden, eating with Nathan's family, and going out for ice cream. They even routinely worked on Jalen's homework together, something Jalen's mom still considered an overwhelming success.

As you can imagine, Nathan became a big part of Jalen's life and attended major milestones like birthdays, holidays and graduations. In fact, he even taught Jalen how to drive and helped him pass his driver's test. In 2018, Nathan had the privilege of watching Jalen graduate high school, and while Amachi matches "officially" end after a young person's 18th birthday, Nathan and Jalen's friendship has continued to grow.

Nathan has continued guiding Jalen towards his goals, encouraging him to dream big and reminding him he's capable of accomplishing anything he wants to in life. There is no better proof that Jalen has followed Nathan's guidance than the fact that he just graduated from UK with a Bachelor's degree in Merchandise, Apparel and Textures.

When recently asked about Jalen, Nathan remarked, "Jalen has grown up to be an amazing, gifted, hard working, and kind young man who is an incredible blessing to everyone around him. I am so blessed to be a part of Jalen and [his mother's] life. My wife, kids and I have lived a much fuller life because of Jalen." Join Nathan and the Amachi team in continuing to cheer Jalen on as he begins graduate school at UK this fall. And, if you're interested in mentoring, contact me at [mmiddleton@lexlf.org](mailto:mmiddleton@lexlf.org)!

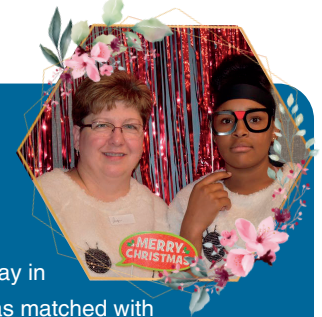


Maggie Middleton | Director, Amachi Lexington

## Honoring Angie

*In Loving Remembrance of a Committed Mentor*

With heavy hearts, we share that one of our beloved mentors, Angie Hancock, passed away in May, after a brief battle with cancer. Angie was matched with her mentee, Antajea, for more than 6 years, and in that time became a very special part of the Amachi family. Angie was full of love, confidence, kindness, and beauty, and she saw the same things in Antajea. Angie always looked for ways to be the best mentor possible; she believed strongly in Antajea's potential and found ways to reach out to her even when she was battling sickness. Her influence on Antajea is a shining example of what can happen when a person of faith invests in young person of promise. "I already miss her so much," Antajea recently shared, "I'm going to make her proud for sure. I just want to thank her for always being there for me when I had no else to talk to, for just being there for me in general... I really don't think she will understand how much she has helped me at a very dark time in my life or when I was going through stuff with family. I knew I could always count on her to listen or give me good advice on situations. I really am going to miss her deeply. I will never forget her...she really was my best friend, she was such a beautiful person, and she had a beautiful soul. I'm so thankful she was in my life, and I thank her for letting me become a part of her family. She will forever be missed."



moving to turn the hearts of fathers back to their children and we are so thankful to be able to witness these seedlings of transformation.



Jared Sloan | Director, Fatherhood Initiative

## FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

Vulnerability & War

Join us June 17th at Douglass Park as we celebrate fathers! Details on the back!

The text message that came in from a father just hours after our group session ended read, "I didn't know it when you invited me, but I needed this tonight." The sender was one of eleven fathers in attendance for Fatherhood Initiative's first ever War Room, a new weekly opportunity for fathers to delve into family history, home dynamics, and personal struggles with substances, incarceration, depression, poverty, and loneliness.

During the War Room session, fathers shared as raw and candidly as you can imagine. Men need safe spaces to express vulnerable feelings, and the same is even more true for fathers. For two hours they listened intentionally to one another and encouraged each other before praying together in the name of Jesus (for some, praying like this was an entirely new experience).

The launch of War Room was inspired by observing how fathers engage one another during the "in-between time" and before or after our curriculum-based fatherhood classes. We saw an opportunity to invest in the spiritual and emotional nourishment of fathers by providing a space for father-centered comradery free of specific content. God is



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## What's Inside?



*In the Wake of the Asbury Outpouring*



*A Strategic Approach to Preventing Youth Violence*



*One Hour Per Week Yields Lifelong Impact*



*Vulnerability & War*



## What's Happening in Woodhill this Summer?

*In addition to weekly opportunities for tutoring, futsal, basketball, and a variety of groups, clubs and parent nights, Woodhill Community Center will be busy this summer!*

- June 5-9 Arts Camp
- June 26 - 29 Academy Camp
- July 11-13 Girls STEM camp (rising 6th-9th)
- July 18 - 20 Girls STEM camp
- July 24 Mentor / Mentee trivia night (gym)
- July 25-27 Girls STEM camp
- July 31 \*Kickball game
- August 5th \*Back to School Jam

*\*Takes place at Woodhill Park, rain location is Woodhill Community Center.*

Summer camp registrations are full, but if you've a desire to volunteer at one of our events or camps, please email [MOverstreet@LexLf.org](mailto:MOverstreet@LexLf.org)



Scan to become a monthly donor & support city-wide Kingdom work!

## JOIN US FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION



Saturday, June 17th

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM  
**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**  
 FIRST AFRICAN CHURCH MBC LAWN  
 465 PRICE ROAD

FEATURING MARIO J. RADFORD, PASTOR ANDREW EATON OF COMMONWEALTH CITY CHURCH & DEMARCUS HOPSON



10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (REGISTRATION & T-SHIRT DISTRIBUTION)  
**11:00 AM - 11:30 AM**  
**FATHER-FAMILY COMMUNITY MARCH**  
 FROM FIRST AFRICAN MBC TO DOUGLASS PARK  
 FREE T-SHIRTS FOR ALL WHO MARCH!  
 ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME!

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM  
**FAMILY CELEBRATION**  
 DOUGLASS PARK

FOOD, MUSIC, RESOURCE FAIR, PRIZE GIVE-AWAYS, FATHER/FAMILY PHOTOS, AND MUCH MORE!

