



A Message from the CEO

I started leading a new Bible study with four marketplace leaders the Spring of 2020, just as Covid started to affect all parts of our lives. I have been especially grateful to be engaged with these leaders during such a tough season. I am most thankful for the Word being “alive and active” (Hebrews 4:12) in new and fresh ways. So far, we’ve studied the gospel of Mark and the book of Acts. A couple of weeks ago, we started one of Paul’s prison epistles, the one he wrote to the Philippians and right now we are studying Chapter 2. It is so chocked full of theological implications for our – meaning your (staff, volunteers, partners, stakeholders) work here at Lexington Leadership Foundation. I so hope you will read it today. But for the sake of space, I’d like to key in on verses 5-8, which say:

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!” The passage is clearly about the incarnation,

which is deeply embedded in the “way” we hope to live out our Kingdom calling at LLF. Meaning, that it is within the context of relationships that we flesh out the gospel. To understand this at a deeper level, it helped me to learn that theologians call this the “kenosis” passage. Kenosis is the “self-emptying” or “pouring out self.” It hearkens to the Old Testament practice of a drink offering. What we learn through Paul here is that Jesus poured himself out as a drink offering. And what we are instructed to do the same, “in our relationships with one another.”

In my 15 years at LLF, I have never been more aware of just how integral the incarnation is to our work. Over the past 11 months, our ministry has tragically lost 8 young men of color, with the most recent occurring two weeks ago. Six of those young men were lost to gun violence, many of which had nothing to do with the altercation that prompted the senseless act of firing a gun at another human. Two others passed away from accidents. And the response we – meaning you - have had to the families of these young people has been the modern-day demonstration of kenosis. You have poured yourself out in deeply meaningful and very painful ways. That is the incarnation. It hurts. But it looks a lot like Jesus. And it is the way of LLF.

As we approach Easter, we do have the promise that Philippians conveys in Chapter 2 as well. The incarnate becomes the resurrected. My prayer for us in this season is that we would arise in new life, continuing to give of ourselves in new ways. Ways that “destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8) so that instead of kids dying in our streets, we will fulfill the vision of Zachariah 8:5, “And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing there.”

As you read this newsletter, I hope you also see that there can be great joy in the incarnational journey. Our work together continues to advance the mission of connecting, unifying and mobilizing the Body of Christ so that Lexington will become a City for God!

Eric Geary *CEO*

LLF's mission

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.

FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE



Center for Fathers and Families

Lexington Leadership Foundation is excited to announce that our Fatherhood ministry is launching a Center for Fathers and Families. This 3700 square foot facility is dedicated to “returning the hearts of fathers to their children and children to their fathers” (Malachi 4:6).

The Fatherhood Initiative has been operating out of the Woodhill Community Center since May 2018. However, the dream to establish a center specifically for dads has been on our heart for quite some time. This dream is now becoming a reality – and is made possible through the generosity of the MAP Foundation.

The Center for Fathers and Families will provide classroom and office space, room for private meetings with counselors as needed, a multi-purpose room for fathers and children to engage, and a tech center.

The Fatherhood Initiative currently impacts more than 250 fathers and equips them to have nurturing, healthy relationships with their children and families. Multiple 12-week classes are offered throughout the city in neighborhood-based sites and to fathers incarcerated in Fayette County Detention Center and Blackburn Correctional Complex. With the development of this dedicated space, we will increase to 350 dads being served while also deepening our level of engagement with participants.

PRAYER ROOM

School of Prayer

Our prayer ministry is leading a 12-week devotion (virtually) called the School of Prayer. The School of Prayer is designed in a way where participants give themselves to the Lord more fully through concerted prayer and worship, encountering Jesus in new and deeper ways. The mission of The School of Prayer is this:

- Minister to the Lord by joining with the Holy Spirit in His mission to honor and magnify Jesus.
- Give the Holy Spirit opportunity to cultivate within us a more instinctual consciousness of Jesus.
- Learn to increasingly function as intercessory missionaries in the city and beyond.

It has been a rich time that, even though it is being done virtually, there have been opportunities to connect with others via Zoom and scheduled hours of prayer and worship at the Prayer Room. We hope to launch another School of Prayer again in the future.

Update on Prayer Room hours: Due to COVID-19, we have decided to cease having The Prayer Room open 24/7 for safety of the community, but we do have scheduled times of prayer and worship. Please check the website for the most up-to-date schedule of the Prayer Room as the in-person gatherings have been limited (www.lexlf.org/the-prayer-room).

The Prayer Room is located at 1218 S. Broadway Lexington, KY 40504. Contact Tommy Green at tgreen@lexlf.org or 859.277.3087 with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 19

Annual Father's & Family Celebration.

Check our facebook and website for details as the date draws near.

Spotlight: Jackson Nzerhumana

We're so excited that one of our own, Jackson "Jack" Nzerhumana, was recently selected to participate in the African American Research Training Scholars (AARTS) program at the University of Kentucky! The scholarship program was established to provide research opportunities for Black undergraduate students as part of the Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center's continued efforts to increase minority representation in neuroscience.

Jack joined our Urban Impact family after being drawn in from watching his younger siblings participate. Beginning when Jack was a freshman in high school, he participated in summer camps, college readiness courses, and discipleship group with us. He also joined in as a summer youth worker and was always around to lend a helping hand at events throughout the years.

Jack is currently a junior studying neuroscience and psychology. He said the AARTS scholarship will help him follow a passion he has held since he was young. When he was 6 years old, he suffered a brain injury but made a miraculous recovery. He hopes that as a researcher, he will be able to make a difference in people's lives just like those who helped him heal. Particularly, he wants to give back to the communities in Kentucky and in the



Democratic Republic of the Congo, where he is from. Jack and his peers will be doing a three-week workshop with Urban Impact high schoolers this spring to expose teens to the field of neuroscience. Our Urban Impact director, Marcus Patrick, shared "not all of our kids will be neuroscientists, but we want to remove whatever barriers that are in front of them and help them realize their God-given talents and dreams." We are so proud and privileged to have witnessed Jack's growth and leadership over the years.

AMACHI

Being a Bridge & Birthday Celebrations!

In a year that has brought much uncertainty, isolation, and feelings of disconnection, the Amachi team has sought to be a bridge of community to our families by continuing to facilitate meaningful relationships between our mentees and positive adults. We have found creative ways to build in-person relationships, along with various means of "virtual mentoring." Virtual mentoring includes playing games together online, video chatting, texts, emails, phone contact and more. We know that nothing can replace being in person with someone a young person feels safe with, but we are thankful for alternate ways to connect during a time of social distancing.

In addition to finding creative ways to connect, our team has also recognized the importance of finding reasons

and ways to celebrate! We believe that all of our Amachi mentees are truly "children of promise" and deserve to be celebrated, especially on their birthdays! To help facilitate this, the Amachi team assembles "birthday bags" for each young person in our program. The bags are filled with small goodies and fun items and are delivered by a staff member or mentor. This has been a simple but meaningful way to remind our mentees that they are truly celebrated, even when leaving the house is difficult. We're accepting donations of new art supplies, games, candy, and toys for this effort. What a great way to bless a child of promise!

Looking to volunteer?

Be a mentor with Amachi! Email moverstreet@lexlf.org for more information.

AMACHI
WAITING LIST

GIRLS 18 BOYS 20



LLF appreciates each and every gift especially during these difficult times. Consider becoming a monthly donor and partner with us in doing Kingdom work. To give please visit [LEXLF.ORG/GIVE](https://lexlf.org/give)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to get involved volunteering during this time. Amachi mentor recruitment is on-going, Fatherhood Initiative is actively seeking class facilitators, and Urban Impact is seeking volunteers for after-school programming.

For more information about volunteering please email volunteer@lexlf.org or call our office at 859-277-3087.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY MAY 11TH: KY

Gives Day! KY Gives Day is a 24-hour, online giving event raising funds for participating KY non-profits. KY Gives Day is a special opportunity to celebrate the important work of non-profits. This year all gifts to LLF will go towards programming for Urban Impact. Visit our Facebook page, Instagram, and website to give that day.

The Woodhill International Market will be at the Woodhill Community Center again! The market happens bi-weekly on Thursdays June-October. Visit the LLF website for more details or email kansted@lexlf.org for more information.

For all upcoming events please visit our website at: lexlf.org/news-events.

