



A Message from the CEO

LLF's vision is that Lexington becomes a "City for God," so occasionally I get asked this question: "How exactly do you all at LLF make Lexington a City for God?" After 16 years, I think I have the answer. So, let's pretend for a moment that we were having coffee and you ask. . . . I take a long sip of my americano, because I'm nothing if not dramatic, and I say, "We don't. They do."

Let me explain. Since our inception, LLF's mission has been to connect, unify, and mobilize the Body of Christ in Lexington. A key strategy to meet that mission is what we term "empowering passion." It runs through every element of our work. We believe that there are leaders among us, placed strategically by God in every sphere of the city, to advance His Kingdom. It is our job to empower (encourage, raise up, and resource) those leaders to live out their Kingdom purpose.

The biblical roots to this strategy are found in Isaiah 61 where we see the prophet exclaim that the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord was on him to preach good news, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom, release from darkness, comfort all who mourn and bestow beauty and gladness to the people of God. This was an empowerment strategy! And the result of Isaiah doing his part was that "they will be called oaks of righteousness. . . . they will renew the ruined cities long devastated."

Jesus, 700 years later, was handed the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled it to those words, read it, and then sat down. His only commentary was, "Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." And for the next three years, Jesus employed the empowerment strategy, first with his disciples . . . and the world was never the same!

And then, the Holy Spirit came in Acts and all who follow Jesus were empowered! So, ha! The long sip of my americano wasn't just me being dramatic! I was being biblical!

We believe that when we empower leaders to live out passionate, purposeful lives for the Kingdom, that they

will renew this place, making it more and more like a City for God. You'll see this strategy come to life as you read through stories here like Dr. Barry Lloyd's engagement with dads, Curt Vernon's heart for worship, Allison Giyan's love for kids and the arts, and Curtis Rogers' passion for mentoring and the outdoors. These are the "they"- and it is truly they who are transforming lives and our city! Now, let me ask you a question. How do you transform Lexington into a City for God? What are you passionate about? Can we come alongside you in some way to empower you to live out your passion? Would that be by engaging as a volunteer in one of our ministries? If so, great! Give us a call. Or maybe we meet for a cup of coffee to explore how you might more fully live into your God-ordained purpose? If so, great! Give us a call.

Because we believe you are important to Lexington becoming a City for God, I'd ask you not to just read this newsletter for information. I'd challenge you to take a long sip of your coffee (or tea) and read it for inspiration. And if God is stirring you in any way, we'd love to connect.

Peace,
Eric Geary CEO

Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Award

We are excited to announce that Lexington Leadership Foundation has been selected as one of 34 Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Awardees. Over 5 million dollars in grants were made nationally. LLF has received a \$125,000 grant to enhance our efforts to increase engagement with African American men and youth through mentoring, youth programming, and fatherhood initiatives. We want to express our gratitude to Chick-fil-a and to all of you, who voted for us throughout the True Inspiration Award process!



Be a Mentor!

Email MOVERSTREET@LEXLF.ORG
for more information.



AMACHI

Reaching New Heights

With a little help from friends and local businesses, the Amachi family enjoyed a special opportunity to reach new heights together! Last fall, Curtis Rogers, Amachi mentor and avid outdoor enthusiast, approached the Amachi team with an idea. Curtis shared that he and his mentee are often outside and engaging the elements whether rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, or camping, and that he wanted others to share in this experience during an exciting one-day event. Thanks to his leadership, Curtis was able to introduce Amachi to L'escalade Fitness Climbing and Climb L8 to provide an incredible opportunity for 25 mentors and mentees to try something new and fun! The Amachi team is incredibly thankful for Curtis and for sharing his heart, his time, and his passions with so many others!

And this was just the beginning... While attending LLF's annual celebration, "Empowering Passion," Curtis discovered that his love for the outdoors and his heart for volunteering with Amachi could go together hand-in-hand to provide joy and excitement for so many others, for more than just one day of rock climbing. Plans are currently underway to develop an Adventure Club for Amachi and Urban Impact kids so that they, too, can experience the wonder of the outdoors in new ways. We are so thankful for Curtis and all of the other dedicated mentors who share not only their time but also their interests and passions with the next generation of Lexington leaders!



Special thank you to the Kentucky Bar Foundation for their generous grant to Amachi. This grant will be used for our work in matching caring adults with children impacted by incarceration.

URBAN IMPACT

Drama Club

We LOVE IT when passion meets purpose and when a plan comes together! And that is exactly what retired Breckinridge Elementary teacher Allison Givan is bringing to the Urban Impact team! Allison is bringing her heart, her experience, and her love for theatre and kids to create a new middle school drama club! And they immediately jumped into ACTION! They are currently working hard and preparing to debut their inaugural performance of "Finding Nemo" this Spring at not only Woodhill Community Center but

also Breckinridge Elementary and Crawford Middle School. Crawford students along with their arts and humanities teacher have also been contributing with set design and prop construction. A true collaboration of people, treasures, and talents!

It is so exciting and inspiring to see so many young people thriving and enjoying time together and we are grateful to be a part of such a loving and caring community. And if backstage antics and van rides to and from practice are any indications, we are all in for a hilarious and one-of-a-kind treat. Stay tuned for show dates and times. We hope you'll join us and celebrate all the hard work, commitment, and passion that Allison and her crew have put into bringing this performance to life.



You're Invited!

You are invited to get a haircut in support of our kids! We are responding to our young people's passion for music by raising money to purchase instruments for creative arts camp this summer. Haircuts are pay what you can, and all proceeds help fund this cause. Join us!

April 24th

3 PM - 7 PM

Woodhill Community Center

422 Codell Dr. Lexington, KY 40509



FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

Revive Life House

In September, Fatherhood Initiative program coordinator, Jared Sloan, and long-time volunteer facilitator, Dr. Barry Lord, began meeting weekly with men at Revive Life House in Nicholasville. During that time, Barry and Jared have interacted with close to 70 men as they walk closer to Christ and away from addiction. Each week, the men begin with prayer and are then guided through a rich conversation on what it means to be a good man, a good father, and a servant to others. There are joyful outbursts of laughter mixed with heartfelt tears – all within a safe and sincere setting where brothers are striving and eager for a new and better path.

In February, Barry and Jared began leading the men through a 6-week journey using 24/7 Dad© Key Behaviors Workshop. When men have completed their 6th week, they will each receive a certificate of completion and an open invitation to future community classes and all the support and love Fatherhood Initiative

has to offer while they continue their journey of spiritual maturity, sobriety, and healing. We are so grateful for Todd Johns and the entire Revive team for opening their doors and acknowledging and appreciating the value of fatherhood engagement and the positive impact in the lives of fathers, families, and children. Barry, like all of Fatherhood Initiative's volunteer facilitators, uses his giftings to bless and inspire others. He loves, he challenges, he inspires, and he expects fathers to leave the room with more knowledge and tools than they had when they first arrived.

His passion is contagious, and we are so grateful for his leadership and how he so faithfully empowers others.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 18th

ANNUAL FATHER'S & FAMILY CELEBRATION

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



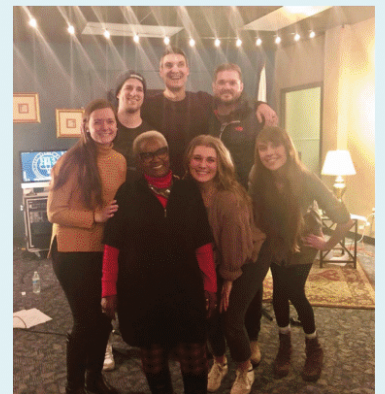
City-Wide Prayer & Worship Gathering | Closing 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting
April 21 at 7:00 PM
First Baptist Church Bracktown

PRAYER ROOM

In early February, The Prayer Room turned seven years old. To this day, we are in awe of God and His response to a collective cry for a house of prayer to emerge in the city. Even before our inception, Curt Vernon has been a primary steward of that cry. Through his heart for worship and intercessory prayer, he became an integral part of the journey leading to the Prayer Room and has led worship there since opening night.

Through Curt's passion for worship and songwriting, new songs spontaneously began to emerge during worship times in the Prayer Room. Mixed voices of melody and harmony have become complete masterpieces in real-time. It is incredible to see what the Lord is creating through Curt and other worshippers who commune with us. Their hearts are being enlivened because of their involvement in what is happening in this space. Their voices are shaping things through worship. To celebrate our seventh year at the Prayer Room, we hosted a worship night and did a live recording of seven new songs that have been written during recent times of prayer and worship led by Curt on Wednesdays.

In addition to this, The Prayer Room launched into a 40-day journey of intercession and fasting starting March 3rd. The space will be accessible 24/7. Participants can go on a guided prayer journey on-site at multiple prayer stations – praying for revival in the Body of Christ regionally, praying for UK's Campus, praying for the nations, etc.





Become a monthly donor and support the Kingdom work happening in our city. To give, please visit [LEXLF.ORG/GIVE](https://www.lexlf.org/give)



LEXINGTON LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

WE'RE HIRING



- Support Specialist (Full-time)



- Community Resource Coordinator (Full-time)
- Youth Sports League Coordinator (Part-time)
- Youth Worker (Part-time)

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Is God stirring something within you that is encouraging you to get involved in creating Kingdom impact in our city? If you would like to learn more about how to activate your passions and your faith this spring and summer, please email volunteer@lexlf.org or give us a call at 859-277-3087. We would love to have a conversation with you, listen to what it is you're passionate about, and see where God takes it from there.