
Lifelines Outreach

Mail Donations to 3225 Knobdale Road, Nashville TN 37214

Lifelines Outreach shares the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and by making disciples in the greater Nashville area. Sharing includes feeding the hungry and loving our neighbors.

**January
2015**

The holidays are always a slow time of the year for our ministry. However, January is going to be very busy, but in a good way. We are planting 3-5 Timothy Initiative groups in the Nashville area. One of the new groups is going to be planted in the Napali community. Gaius Tolangi is a local Napali pastor who is training 20 of his members to plant Timothy Initiative groups among that people group population in Nashville. He has received 20 of the Disciples Making Disciples books in his native language in the past few weeks and will begin his Timothy Initiative training center at his church in January. I am taking a group of people to Atlanta this week to learn how to train others to plant simple churches with the Timothy Initiative. Gaius and his friend Obed will attend the training with me. Josh Landsford, who will also be helping us plant groups, will also go with us. Josh is planting a new group this January with Cara Bergthold at Stonebrook Apartments located in the multiethnic community around Southern Hills Hospital. At the present time, we have 29 groups functioning at various locations around the city.

Each Wednesday night, I meet with a group of people at Judson Baptist Church who are planting these Timothy Initiative groups. Most people in the class have planted at least one group. Vincent and Martha, who are from Columbia, have been invited by Tusculum Hills Baptist Church to plant a group among their Hispanic speaking people. The new group also begins in January. They have 12 class members signed up and ready to be discipled.

Judson Baptist Church is hosting a vision casting night for the Timothy Initiative on January 27th from 6:30-8 pm. David Nelms, who started the Timothy Initiative, will be sharing how to plant groups and reach people who may not attend a traditional church. The event is called "The Night of a Thousand Churches." The goal is to start a thousand groups in the Nashville area in the next five years. Be sure and contact me if you are interested in attending.

Tell your pastor about this event and ask him to attend. Think about attending yourself to see how you can be used in this God sized goal. How can you be involved in winning the lost and discipling the saved. This might be a good place for you to start the new year. Please pray for us and thank you for your financial support! Remember to read your Bible and to pray every day! *-Richard Gay*

For more information about these ministry opportunities please contact Richard Gay at 838-0367 or by email at lifelinesoutreach@gmail.com or Shahe Nahler by email at shaheatlifelines@gmail.com

Eight Things I'm Praying Will Happen in Churches in 2015

On January 3, 2015, I will release my 15 trends for churches in 2015. Before I get to those trends, I want to share with you readers my specific prayers for congregations as we enter a new year. Obviously my prayer requests and trends are not the same. The latter is my assessment of where churches are headed. The former is my heartfelt desire where I pray they will heed.

You will likely recognize some of these themes if you read this blog with any regularity. These are my eight prayer requests for churches in 2015:

1. **For greater emphasis on prayer.** Many, if not most, churches have a woeful emphasis on corporate prayer. Churches who do not give prayer a high priority are churches without God's power.
2. **For standing firm on biblical truth.** Culture is trying to push our congregations away from the truths of Scripture. We cannot yield to that pressure. If we do, our congregations cease to be true, biblical churches.
3. **For greater unity in our churches.** There is too much infighting in many of our congregations. And there is too much disunity from church to church. The world is watching our fights. "Now this is His command: that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as He commanded us" (1 John 3:23).
4. **For greater intentionality in evangelism.** The typical church in America is doing very little to share the gospel of Christ boldly and intentionally. May we be so grateful for what Christ has done for us that "we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).
5. **For greater emphasis on groups.** Churches should grow larger by growing smaller. A church member not in a small group or Sunday school class is not fully committed to the body.
6. **For membership to be more meaningful.** For many churches, membership has become nearly meaningless. For others, membership is a perceived entitlement, much like country club membership. I pray that membership in our congregations will become truly biblical as Paul demonstrated in 1 Corinthians 12.
7. **For clear plans of discipleship.** Too many congregations cannot clearly articulate how members can become more obedient followers of Christ. This issue was the thesis of my book with Eric Geiger, *Simple Church*.
8. **For more ministry involvement and impact in our communities.** I pray that our churches will become known by the positive impact they have in their respective communities. As we obey Acts 1:8, we must first be obedient to our own Jerusalem.

These are my eight prayers for our churches. What do you think of them? What are your prayers for our congregations? *Article by Dr. Thom S. Rainer, Dec 27th, 2014*