

Spring 2016

# Ecclesia

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND GOD'S WORK AT KENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



## Spring Sermon Series

### Romans: Transformed by the Gospel

**This spring** at Kenwood Baptist Church we begin a new sermon series, "Transformed by the Gospel," turning our attention to Romans where Paul identifies himself as "set apart for the gospel" (Rom. 1:1). He is eager to share the gospel (Rom. 1:15) which reveals God's saving righteousness for all who believe (Rom. 3:21-25). It offers forgiveness and the beginning of new life (Rom. 5:2), fills us with the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11), and transforms our lives as God's renewed humanity in Christ (Rom. 12:1-2).

Paul writes to a congregation who had never met him. We share this same position with the original hearers. We, like them, are changed as we listen. We first hear the sad news that humanity, made in the image of God, has fallen. We have become defaced and degraded through the deception of sin. Yet, God has not left us in despair. He has put forward his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sin. Through faith in Him, we are declared righteous before God and new life begins. Our new life in Christ grows as we are filled with the Holy Spirit, whose presence confirms our adoption as God's children and births new desires, affections, and gifts to glorify God.



life in Christ grows over time. We are no longer conformed to this world, but we are "transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2).

Romans is Paul's most complete statement of the Christian gospel. It has influenced Christian faith, theology, and preaching beyond our ability to measure. God has used Romans to convert and transform significant leaders throughout church history like Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Wesley. God continues to use Romans in our own time to empower and sustain vibrant gospel-centered church ministry. My prayer for Kenwood this spring is that we too might be transformed by the gospel. 

Together, we respond to God's mercy in Christ by offering ourselves back to God in holiness and worship. The gospel calls us to present our bodies "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God" (Rom. 12:1). In worship, we rediscover our true humanity. Our new

**Romans 12:1-2**  
"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."



### Welcome Fred and Tacie Anderson

We are excited to have Fred Anderson joining us in February as Pastor of Student Ministries. Fred earned a Master of Divinity from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cedarville University, where he also met Tacie. Before joining Kenwood, Fred led youth groups in Ohio and Michigan. Tacie was raised in Sioux Center, Iowa, and has a degree in Communications with minors in business, Bible, and journalism from Cedarville University. They recently returned from a five-month mission trip and visited friends in China, Thailand, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, and parts of the U.S. We are blessed to have both Fred and Tacie as part of our Kenwood family!

## Power in Giving

### World Partnerships Magnify Our Grateful Giving Local Action Builds Community

Your financial giving to Kenwood supports local, national, and world ministries furthering the gospel and expanding God's kingdom. Thank you!

Did you know your gifts to Kenwood Baptist Church allow God to work through the American Baptist International and State of Ohio missions? Your stewardship also enables over 15 non-ABC missionaries every month, bringing many lives to Christ. "Knowing that people back home were praying for us was vitally important as a great encouragement, especially during difficult times. But also of great importance was having adequate funds to support projects, develop local leadership, and to offer support at times of critical need. Being supplied to do the work we were called to was a tremendous benefit, so energy was not spent pleading for funds." This sentiment was voiced by many whom we fund.

Your funds helped drill a freshwater well in a predominantly Muslim or Animist village (shown at right) and to share the gospel of Living Water and the hope of Christ there, in Costa Rica, and to many countries around the globe.

It takes the faithfulness of the people of God, who have been given a great responsibility through His provision, to provide opportunities which would otherwise not exist. God provides so that we can give to build His Kingdom. The church is God's distribution system. 



## BEANS AND RICE WEEK, APRIL 11-17



Let's join together April 11-17 to reduce our grocery expenses, by eating what is already in our refrigerators and pantries, and by not going out to eat. Celebrate by giving those saved dollars to the Beans and Rice donation.

Our 2015 drive funded tutoring, food assistance, and landscaping for Deer Park Schools. Now other churches and an alumni group are partnering with Deer Park Schools. We are blessed to see our efforts multiplied, inspiring others, and making a positive Kingdom impact.

The GO! CINCINNATI event in May is funded by your Beans and Rice donations.

## Eric Metaxas, Bestselling Author to Speak Here

### Record Audience Expected

*New York Times* #1 bestselling author Eric Metaxas will speak at Kenwood Baptist Church on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 pm. His books include *Bonhoeffer*, *Miracles*, *Seven Women*, *Seven Men*, and *Amazing Grace* and more than thirty children's books. He hosts the *Eric Metaxas Show*, a nationally syndicated radio program. He was keynote speaker at the 2012 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., an event attended by the president and first lady, the vice president, members of Congress, and other U.S. and world leaders.

Metaxas will be speaking about the compelling life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor in Germany when the Nazi's came into power. Opposing the Nazi regime meant significant personal risk and, while most chose the 'safety' of silence, Dietrich Bonhoeffer boldly lived with God as his *fürher* (leader) and the Bible as his standard of truth. Until he was arrested for aiding the escape of seven Jews, Bonhoeffer spent his energy writing, speaking, and doing all that he could to live in a way that pleased God, not Hitler. 



Tickets are free, but limited. You may reserve them at: [www.KenwoodBaptist.org\MetaxasCincy](http://www.KenwoodBaptist.org\MetaxasCincy) or 513.791.0355.

## How have you experienced Christ lately?

We're the Johnson family and this is how the Lord led us to Kenwood. Desi's mom, Margo, lives in Blue Ash. We moved here about two years ago from Athens, Ohio, and a few months after we arrived, Margo was diagnosed with cancer and started treatment. All of us are extremely grateful for God's timing in bringing us here. His providing us with a home so close to Margo is an amazing blessing. Happily, she is now cancer-free!

Since that time, Desi has been attending the Women's Bible Study on Thursday mornings. In July, we began attending Kenwood as a family on Sunday mornings. We felt like we wanted to casually check out the church, but we kept coming back



Desi and Chad Johnson, Silas, 4, Asher, 6

week after week after week. Why? Because we feel a strong pull here. We could list many praises for this church: like the warm and welcoming congregation, the high view of Scripture, and the ever-present focus on the gospel. But honestly, it all comes down to us seeing God work so beautifully in this local body that we can't help wanting to be part of it!

It is our daily prayer that the Lord shows our friends and family His love for them in special and unique ways that only they understand. Lately, it seems more difficult for us to shine God's truth and love into this dark world, but Kenwood's commitment to doing just that is unwavering. Thank you for allowing all of us to be part of God's shining work at Kenwood!

*"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care . . . So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."* Mathew 10:29-31

## You're Invited

### Romans Sermon Series: Transformed by the Gospel

February 7 – May 29 Book of Romans

**February 27** **Women's Ministry Festival of Tables**  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Fellowship Hall  
Brunch/Speaker \$10 at door  
Registration required: dawnmarosi@gmail.com

**March 6** **Quarterly Meeting**  
12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall



**March 16** **Eric Metaxas Speaker**  
New York Times Bestselling Author  
7:00 pm Sanctuary/Overflow rooms  
Speaking on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Ticket required: www.KenwoodBaptist.org\MetaxasCincy

**March 19** **Grove City College Choir Concert**  
7:00 pm Sanctuary - free event

### Holy Week at Kenwood

**March 20** **Palm Sunday Services**  
9:30 am and 11:00 am

**March 25** **Good Friday Service**  
7:30 pm

**March 27** **Easter Sunday Services**  
9:30 am and 11:00 am

**April 11-17** **Beans and Rice Week**  
Let's redirect our food budget to help fund Kenwood's GO! CINCINNATI projects on May 14

**April 17** **Hymn Sing**  
6:30 pm in the Chapel

**May 5** **National Day of Prayer**  
24-Hour Prayer Vigil in the Prayer Room  
www.KenwoodBaptist.org\Pray

**May 14** **GO! CINCINNATI 2016**  
Serve the community with Christians citywide!  
7:30 am Shelter House  
RSVP at www.KenwoodBaptist.org\GO  
jjordan\_8529@fuse.net for information



**BACK2BACK**  
MINISTRIES

### Mission2Mexico: 2016

God has called 30 people from our Kenwood family to joyfully serve with Back2Back ministries July 15-21 in Monterrey, Mexico. Singles, couples, and families that represent three generations from Kenwood will serve together as we ask God to meet the spiritual, physical, educational, social, and emotional needs of the fatherless. This "Play with Purpose" is part of breaking the cycle of poverty by introducing children to their loving Father. We will also work on projects such as cleaning, painting, and light construction. Please consider supporting the Mission2Mexico team with your prayers and financial sponsorship. Contact Liz in the office to support this trip. 



*"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."  
1 Thessalonians 2:8*