

Focus Forward 2022 – “Faith in Action”

February 13, 2022

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Past & Future in Balance

- The Past Matters
- Paul preaches about the historical events in the life of Jesus as the basis for the gospel.
- The Past Matters, the Future Matters More!
- When there is a Biblical understanding of the future, there can only be one result: we will see that the best is yet to be and the glories of the past will be seen in their true perspective.

"That's what we've always done; that's what we'll always do" is a recipe for spiritual disaster". – Ronald Christie

Isaiah 43:18

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.”

Ecclesiastes 7:10

Do not say, “Why were the old days better than these?” For it is not wise to ask such questions.

A HUGE QUESTION!

Why are some churches growing and others are in decline or dead?

QUESTION ANSWERED

Churches that love their model more than the mission will die!

GROWTH OR DECLINE?

- Individual congregations and entire denominations won’t make it!

- The difference will be between those who cling to the mission and those who cling to the model.

1 Corinthians 9:19

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

What Does 'Straining toward,' and focusing forward and on the mission look like at LNBC in 2022?

THREE PILLARS OF PROGRESS

1. CONGREGATIONAL
2. ORGANIZATIONAL
3. FINANCIAL

Congregational

- Spiritual Gifts
- Telling others about what Jesus has done for you

Organizational

- Aligning Staff Resources with the essential functions of LNBC
- Hiring a Lead Pastor

Financial

- Keeping spending aligned with giving
- LNBC's mortgage must be refinanced this summer – current balance is \$1.7m

Faith in Action

- LNBC will pay down \$400,000 on the mortgage in 2022!
- Our church family is being asked to give an additional \$200k

Your Commitment

If LNBC is your church home, you have entered into a covenant with the Lord and your brothers and sisters in this place to support the ministries of this church.

Church Family Meeting

Wednesday, February 16 at 6:30pm

- Ministry Updates
- Search Team Update
- Financial Update & Commitment Opportunity
- Q & A

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.