

IN TOUCH

LET THE REBUILDING BEGIN

Dear Friend:

Our nation is in desperate need of a time of rebuilding. I have great concern about the amount of money being printed in Washington D.C. to help America rebuild, but that's not a topic for In Touch! I hope that one thing we are all united on is the fact that America needs to rebuild. Businesses need to be rebuilt, people need to go back to work, schools need rebuilt, hope in the future needs rebuilt. Add churches to the list of things that need rebuilt!

Churches need rebuilt numerically, financially, relationally, and faith in God! Today I want to talk specifically about Franklin Church – our church. Where else to find out how to rebuild but the Bible? Ezra is a perfect guide when it comes to rebuilding. He was Israel's spiritual reformer from the late - 400's B.C. until his death (exact date unknown). A descendent of Moses' brother Aaron, Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in 498 B.C., he had been in exile in Babylon. Ezra arrives in Jerusalem about thirty years after the temple was repaired and renovated. When he arrived he quickly learned that the people had remained morally lax. Ezra came as a reformer and he reformed the people. He led in the rebuilding of their spiritual lives. We all need to learn from Ezra's rebuilding plan.

First, Ezra turned to God in prayer and complete faith as he traveled. The road from Babylon to Jerusalem was dangerous but faith won over fear. Are we of the same nature now? If Franklin is going to rebuild we must lay fear aside. Second, Ezra fasted. I believe early in our rebuilding process we need to do some fasting. Third, Ezra enlisted leaders to lead in the rebuilding process. Perhaps we need to put together a short-term rebuilding task force. Fourth, Ezra sought the hand of God to be on him. I don't think we ask this of God often enough. Fifth, and finally, Ezra lead a moral reform which included a time of prayer and repentance. We need to do the same. May God lead us in rebuilding starting NOW!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer Needs: Roland Majors family at his death on Sunday, Dick Hickernell, Margaret Jewett, Belinda Lee

Events: Sunday 9:00 am Bible Study – Prophies About Jesus

Friday, June 4, 7:00 pm Combined worship service with NAPC