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News of The Gate Church, North Lima, OH

www.gatechurchlife.org

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Claiming the Hope of Heaven Together | John 10:9-10

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Pastor Dave & Vanda Knickerbocker — Church Planters
Kim Wetzl — Worship Leader

A Quick Thought (Pastor Dave)

There's an advertisement on TV with the slogan along the lines of "Be an after". It refers to the diet industry's practice of comparing photos of clients before the tremendous success of their diet with their "after" photos so that prospective customers can see what the advertiser's product might do for them. Well, I'm on a diet once again. Above is a picture of me at our soft launch on April 1, alongside a photo of me at our church picnic on April 29—four weeks and ten pounds later. Thanks to Bruce Evans' picture-taking, and the prayer support of many people (thank you!), I have the ability to see that I have become an "after".



After sharing many examples from the Old Testament of God's people who had each struggled to become an "after" via their faith in God, the author of the book of Hebrews encourages us to envision what our spiritual "after" looks like. It is our objective as Christians to identify what would keep us from becoming the person the Spirit is both urging and enabling us to become and to then struggle to purge it from our lifestyle (12:1).

There are many more pounds for me to lose—many more cookies to pass up. It's okay to rejoice in progress, as long as we don't become satisfied—as long as we stay proactive in our desire to live life to the fullest extent until the day we leave this earthly life to realize our final "after" shot. The term "afterlife" is more accurate than we thought!

Church News

We've added four people to our launch team, and there are potentially a few more over the next few days! Our numbers on Sunday morning are gradually growing as the launch team invites friends and family to come along. What an awesome launch team God has brought together!

The purpose of the launch team is to form a group of Christians committed to the vision of The Gate, and to meet regularly for prayer and planning for the launch day. Many very successful launch teams in the past have been formed with people who commit to a year or so and then return to their home church. Joining us on Sunday mornings during our pre-launch phase is not compulsory to being on the launch team.

Imagine how might God bless you if you answer the call to a short-term mission project by helping to birth a new church—

Financial Support

Budget per month	\$9,250
Current raised amount	\$5,800
Needed	\$3,450

and you don't have to move away from home to do it!

The in-depth training of our launch team will begin on May 20, and will continue weekly throughout the summer. Please pray for God's blessing on us!

Prayer

- Securing South Range H.S.—Public Launch
- The "unconvinced" in North Lima
- Kenny Wehr's eyes
- Support Raising (Both the Knick's & Kim)
- Launch Team Growth (20 new members!)

The Gate Church "After" Picture

Our launch team is working on committing the following ideas to memory so that we know the corporate "after" that God is calling us to be:

Our Vision

We aspire to be a community that is proactive in experiencing life to the fullest extent through faith in Jesus Christ, and in bringing as many people as we can into our fellowship of hope.

Our Mission:

The Gate Church family lives to encourage everyone within our influence to join us on our spiritual journey as we strive to become what God has made it possible for us to be.

Our Core Values

Jesus' offer to provide life to the full is a promise. We at the Gate Church endeavor to **C.L.A.I.M.** that promise by:

- **Celebrating**-(Worship) Seek both personal and corporate relationship with God through our weekly gatherings.
- **Living**-(Small groups) Relationships with each other; experiencing life together.
- **Assisting**-(Spiritual Gifts) Helping each other to see God through meaningful and fulfilling service.
- **Increasing**-(Evangelism) Helping others to see God and to join us in our spiritual journey.
- **Maturing**-(Education) Becoming an "after" (read **A Quick Thought** article) through intentional study of the Word and applying it to our lives.