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Vindiclaimer

News of The Gate Church, North Lima, OH

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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

\$8,000 Matching Funds!

Near the end of May, friends of The Gate informed me that God has led them to offer \$8,000 in matching funds! All new pledges received through August 1, will be matched dollar for dollar. This includes: pledges from both churches and individuals; increased contributions from those who are already graciously giving; monthly and one-time gift giving. And, **as long as the pledge is made by August 1st, it doesn't matter if a supporting church can't start their support until the next budget year, which may not begin until months later. The amount will still be matched.** This could add **\$16,000** to our fundraising efforts and has already doubled \$1,227 in new donations to \$2,454!

Anything you can do will be doubled for this ministry. There's no better time than now to begin supporting the Kingdom building efforts in North Lima! Please call Dave at the above phone number for more information, or send your contribution to the MBC office made out to **MBC**, at 20 E. McKinley Way, Poland, OH 44514. Please put "Dave Knick Support" in the memo. Thanks for all you do to support our ongoing work in North Lima! God truly provides for those who do His work!

Financial Support

Budget per month	\$9,250
Current raised amount	\$6,150
Needed	\$3,200

The Gatehouse Coffeebar

Vanda and I attended the Mideast Baptist Conference's Annual Leadership Conference in May. Dr. Reggie McNeal intrigued us with the concept that Jesus did most of His ministry in the marketplace, not in the "church".

We talked the entire ride home (6 hours!) about an idea that would attract people to Jesus in North Lima—a coffeehouse run by the church, but not on church property. We called it **The Gatehouse: Java for Your Journey**.

The concept is simple. We provide high quality coffee (at cost) in an appealing setting and ask nothing in return. Currently, North Lima coffee connoisseurs travel miles to neighboring towns for their caffeine experience. We would not only be in the marketplace - we'd be creating the marketplace. My office will be in the back of the Gatehouse, not in a church building. We'd share our service with no obligation placed on our guests to hear our message. The

A Quick Thought (Pastor Dave)

Last week Vanda brought home a regulation men's NCAA basketball for me. Yesterday, Emma (our six-year-old) picked up the ball and began shooting at our hoop - which is regulation height - but without success.

Later, Vanda and I sat in our lawn chairs as Jess and Zach played in our blow-up pool in the back yard. Emma, still unsuccessful in her quest, asked me to teach her how to play. I suggested that she try shooting underhand and that she shoot from the same spot every time. Several more attempts followed, getting closer and closer until . . . Emma made her first shot ever! What inspires me is that Emma didn't stop after making her first basket. In fact, she made **seventeen more** before bedtime!

At 8:00 this morning I heard the sound of the basketball bouncing in our driveway. Emma soon came inside to proclaim that she had made her nineteenth basket. She picked up where she had left off. Yesterday's success inspired today's agenda.

As the early church was rapidly expanding, Peter and John were jailed and told not to share Jesus. They responded, ". . . We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Their first encounter with witnessing through the Spirit (Acts 2) seemed to play a key role in their evangelistic fervor.

Do you lack motivation to witness? Just keep shooting. Today's success will inspire tomorrow's agenda. By the way, I hear the sound of a basketball in the driveway again. This time there are four little girls taking shots. Apparently, success is contagious.

Prayer

- Securing a location for the public launch
- The "unconvinced" in North Lima
- Kenny Wehr's eyes (Praise for his new job!)
- Support Raising (Both the Knick's & Kim)
- Launch Team Growth (20 new members!)
- The Gatehouse Coffee bar (see article)

Spirit will provide more avenues for ministry this way than with any other approach. It was once said, "People won't care what you know until they know that you care." After all, isn't that how Jesus went about doing ministry?

The launch team and friends of The Gate who have been introduced to this idea are fully onboard. God has already made a place available. The rent is \$950/mo., and we'll need at least \$5,000 to start the project. What mission-minded potential! There's much more about this concept than space allows. Please pray for God's leading, and contact me with your comments and/or support for this vision.

