



New Hope Assembly of God

2020 Cincinnati- Zanesville Rd. Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Rev. Randall Perkins - Lead Pastor

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I am writing to briefly share about the experience and impact that Revive Ohio has had on me, our church, and Fairfield County as a whole!

In August 2023, New Hope was given an opportunity to partner with another local Church to be a host Church to serve lunch for a weeklong outreach with several other Churches in the Fairfield County area.

Prior to the Outreach, I had no idea what to expect or how things would look, but the fellowship and partnership amongst the local Churches was incredible! To see denominational walls torn down, and religious differences set aside, lifelong relationships made with other Pastors and new brothers and sisters in Christ, was beyond amazing! It has literally become a brotherhood for us, with very vibrant meetings taking place every month as we carry out our renewed mission: to have gospel-centered outreaches every first and third week of the month! **Every** month!

Our outreach week kicked off on a Sunday afternoon with a worship concert and family-friendly fellowship in our downtown area where many local Pastors got together to share the plans for the upcoming week and encouraged others to come alongside us. During this time, 3 people were baptized! Some gave their lives to Jesus for the first time, and others had already committed their lives to Him but had not yet been baptized!

Throughout the week, there were **many** testimonies of how God moved in the lives of those who were being ministered to in the community, and how God moved in the lives of those who did the ministering! I had the great opportunity to take my 10-year-old son to a small town in Fairfield County on Tuesday of the outreach week, and my heart was overflowing with joy as I got to sit back (not as a Pastor) but as a Dad in that very moment, and watch my son minister and read through the scriptures to 3 other children! The thing I love about Revive Ohio is that they make evangelism so easy that children can learn to do it and it instills in them what evangelism and outreach is all about!

I've had several members of our Church approach me with excitement and joy, thanking me for allowing them the opportunity to take part in this outreach, as it has literally changed their lives and whole way of thinking about ministry! One member told me that she is heartbroken that she has been a "Christian" her whole life but has been stuck in a "religious" mindset within the walls of the Church and didn't realize it. With the help of the Holy Spirit and through Revive Ohio, the scales have been removed from her eyes, and she is now a prominent leader within our Church!

For me personally, it has shown me the **need** to minister to our community. It has shown me **how** to minister in our community, and it has given me some more tools and resources that I need to minister here, including an emphasis and resources for follow-up and discipleship after a salvation takes place!

Revive Ohio has literally changed my life and has set an example on how to do ministry along with living a normal Christian lifestyle doing what God has called each of us to do, and that is to evangelize to the world in every moment that we can!

If you're considering bringing Revive Ohio into your community, I would say "don't wait!" If you haven't considered bringing them in, I would say, "Now would be a Great time to!" Mark Burd, his wife Jill, and the entire Revive Ohio team are like none other. They literally come into your community, introduce you to your neighbors, and they leave as part of your family!

Revive Ohio isn't just another encouraging "program" that you go through that wears off a week or two, but it's literally a lifestyle and new way of doing life and ministry! It literally becomes a "New Normal!"

Pastors, please get involved and trust the process - The Church is bigger than your four walls and your fancy programs! We have communities that are influenced and bound by darkness, but they don't have to stay that way! Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And **behold**, I am with you **always**, to the end of the age." (Matt.28:18-20) You have a responsibility and have been called to help influence change in your community, and that won't happen by sitting in an office and spending all your time, efforts, and resources on building up you're brick and mortar facility. Imagine how much more God can use you and bless your church, when we begin to think about the bigger picture of God's kingdom!

To District Leaders, please encourage your pastors and churches to get involved, come alongside them, support them, participate **with** them, and and work with them to lead the way!

At the end of the day, when the rubber meets the road, each of us will stand before a Holy, Righteous, and Just God to give an account for what we did with what He gave us, and how our gifts were used to fulfill His call on our lives. Let's not be the one who sat on the sidelines waiting for people to come into our facilities, but let's be able to look at Him face to face and say with confidence that we truly gave it our all, and we did everything we could do to reach our lost and hurting world!

There are a lot of important things that we all do in ministry, but reaching the lost and winning souls for Jesus Christ must be priority, and it goes much farther than leading someone in a prayer on a Sunday morning. I learned this firsthand!

Respectfully,

Pastor Randy Perkins – New Hope