



Sidney First Church of the Nazarene

1899 Wapakoneta Avenue ♦ Sidney, Ohio 45365 ♦ 937-492-4492

Rev. Chad Wilson, Lead Pastor

February 1, 2019

I am writing to briefly share the impact that Revive Ohio has had on me, my church, and the larger "Church" of Shelby County. Joining together with the other churches who would dare to get involved has truly been a life changing experience.

Our Revive week took place in October of 2017. And here we are well over a year later and we still have approximately 8 pastors and 15 churches that continue to come together one Saturday morning every month. When we gather, we worship together, pray for one another and our community, and then we go out in groups of 4 to love the people of our community, offer prayer, serve, and share Jesus with those who are interested, and then to actually disciple some.

God has used this ministry in a few amazing ways:

For one, it's become our best tool to teach the people of our church how to share their faith and to live as a missionary in our community. What they learn to do at a Revive Outreach, they can then go and do in their work-place, school, and neighborhood.

Secondly it has had a profound impact on me personally. I accepted the call to be a pastor when I was 15 years old. I've been serving in full time pastoral ministry for 23 years. But my experience with Revive has helped me to see the need to train up missionaries within our local church and send them out week after week into their mission field. And I am doing that and modeling that better now than at any other time in my ministry.

Thirdly, the pastors who have been involved in Revive over this past year have become very close friends. We meet together to plan the next outreach, we get lunch together individually, we pray for one another, and we partner in ministry to spread the Good News of our LORD Jesus Christ.

Fourthly, in Shelby County other community leaders have seen the comradery and impact that is happening in and through the Church over the past year, and they have started turning to the Pastors to help lead and make a difference in other areas as well. We have been invited into the Shelby County Jail to lead a Discipleship Service every Thursday afternoon, which the Revive Pastors take turns leading. And I have been asked to serve on The Drug Task Force and the United Way of Shelby County. They said they need the Church's involvement if they are going to make any real difference in the community.

Revive is not about a program that you go through and then go back to normal. It's a life-style that is helping the Church to actually function as the Body of Christ and make a New Normal.

To Pastors, I would say, just get involved and be patient with the process – you won't regret it. The Church is bigger than our four walls and the programs that we do in them – and our communities desperately need us to realize it.

And to District Leaders I would say, encourage your pastors and churches to get involved and lead the way.

There are a lot of important things that we do in the ministry of the Church, but this is at the top of the list of what the Church ought to be doing.

Respectfully,
Pastor Chad J. Wilson

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known