



August 9th, 2007

Children Growing Up Fast

So many of you are praying for our third child that is due in September and for that Nicole and I are so grateful. Your prayers are such a source of strength and encouragement to us. Nicole's doctor is very happy with Cassidy's development and everything is on track for a normal delivery next month. The Lord blessed us with uncomplicated pregnancies with Colton and Campbell and we feel so blessed to be progressing in a similar fashion once again.

It is hard to believe how fast time flies. When Nicole and I arrived in Houston to plant NEHBC, we were not even pregnant. Five years later our third child will be born right around the five year anniversary of our church. I never thought we'd have three children at or below three years of age, but it seems that is what the Lord had in mind for us. Adding the dynamic of a third child will be interesting—Nicole and I are unsure about switching from man-to-man defense to a zone defense, but it seems we have no choice. From what many people have told us, life is about to get a lot more, um . . . less sane at the Lino homestead!

Monthly Leadership Meeting

One of my favorite meetings of each month takes place on the first Monday night. That is the one time each month that our entire leadership team assembles in one room to make sure we all understand what is happening at NEHBC, to hold each other accountable to our various tasks, and to act as a sounding board for me to bounce ideas and thoughts off of. At this meeting, I have the opportunity to reinforce the vision of our church and share my heart with our leadership team. The team provides me with great insight, counsel, and ideas. There is opportunity for any leader to ask questions of any other leader. I really enjoy these meetings because though the group is large and diverse, there is a genuine camaraderie and a spirit of excitement about what the Lord is doing at NEHBC. Our leadership team is made up of six women and 15 men ranging in age from 28 to 57. The group is made up of our staff, our Team Leaders, our Sunday morning adult Bible Study teachers, and those that teach Sunday morning Bible Study to our teenagers. In all, there are 21 people on our leadership team. They are the ones that wear the colored leadership team shirts on Sunday mornings. Please remember to pray regularly for NEHBC's leadership. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom, discernment, integrity, humility, courage, thick skin, strength, and perseverance.

A Word About the Word

In case you missed it, this past Sunday morning I preached from 1 Corinthians 11:17-22 about a biblical perspective of church. The modern day church movement has led to individualism within the church where people are focused on what they can get from the church, which of their needs are being met at a church, and what the church is doing for them. God's Word says the church does not exist for the believer's needs, but the church exists to meet Christ's needs. We go to church so we can meet Christ's needs. We go to church to see what we can contribute to the work of the Lord. I'd encourage you to set aside 30 minutes, get out your Bible, and listen to the sermon on-line.

Last night I preached from 1 Samuel 18 on friendship. Genesis 2 says that the Lord looked at Adam and saw Adam was alone and needed a helper. Adam was lonely. The Lord designed us to crave real, authentic, deep seated, lasting companionship. But, our sin in Genesis 3 butchered us. Ever since Genesis 3, though we still crave real relationships, they are hard to come by because we are so broken by sin. Many, many people experience loneliness as they live out their lives. David was a man rich in real relationships. I believe that we can see in 1 Samuel 18 the variables needed to create the climate in our lives that can germinate real relationships.

Both sermons are available on cd for purchase at the sermon booth in the church lobby. You can also find it in MP3 format on our church website [here](#) or via podcast at www.itunes.com Simply search for "Nathan Lino" in the search box of the iTunes store.

Bank Loan Update

You may be interested to know that last Thursday, August 2, 2007, we closed on the bank loan offer that our church family approved on Sunday, June 3, 2007. As a reminder, the offer was that if NEHBC can put \$1,500,000 in cash on the table AND give \$1,400,000 in tithes, the bank will in turn give us the loan for our "Next Phase" project. You may be wondering why we only closed last Thursday when the church voted all the way back on June 3. Closing on an agreement of this size takes time. Land and property surveys have to be taken, environmental testing has to be performed on our land, the history of our land has to be researched, our current bank loan has to be examined, and mounds of paperwork have to be run. And this is just to name a few of the action items that have to take place. Bill Campbell, our Church Administrator, did a great job working with the bank to bring this long and arduous process to a conclusion.

In the end, there is no change in our financial situation as a church family until we break ground on the expansion project. All that is left to do now, church family, is raise the \$1,500,000.

As a reminder, here is how you can contribute to our "[Next Phase](#)" building plans. One option is the weekly pink envelope you get when you come to worship. Simply put a check in the envelope and mark on the "Building" line the amount of you are giving to "Next Phase", and your gift will go toward the \$1,500,000 goal. A second option is to give via our church website. Simply go to the "[Money Matters](#)" page and follow the instructions. Choose the "Building" box when you get to the page where you actually input the amount of your gift and the money will go toward the \$1,500,000 goal.

God's Provision of Dirt and Helpers

As I look out of my office windows this morning, I am so happy to see that yellow dozer and red tractor

hard at work. What began back in June as a quick, five-day project has turned into an arduous, summer-long effort. Weeks of rain stalled the work. One of the top five “wettest” July’s in the history of Houston turned the ground into what construction workers call soupy, Texas gumbo. So soupy in fact, that the dirt couldn’t reasonably be moved around to adjust the grade of the land. So, we had to bring in dirt from the outside; 190 loads of dirt, in fact. Was that an unforeseen expense! We needed more than 190 loads, but the amount of money we were able/willing to spend on dirt only purchased that amount. The dirt workers were making do with the 190 loads until Tuesday of this week. A black truck pulled into the parking lot, and a man got out and said he is the crew chief for the road crew building the roads in the new Lake Shore subdivision down the road. He was looking for a place to dump all the dirt they were digging up. He was hoping we would be able to take the dirt off his hands so he didn’t have to pay to dump it! Wow. I was reminded again of the faithfulness of our Lord. This is His church, and He will provide. So, all day Tuesday, eight dump trucks ran back and forth bringing load after load after load of dirt to NEHBC. The Lord just gave us 200 more loads of dirt. Instead of 190 loads of dirt at market value, we ended up with almost 400 loads of dirt at 50% off. Is the Lord good or what? We stepped out by faith, and the Lord has provided for us again.

Here is another “God thing” associated with our dirt project. A man in our church family has access to top-of-the-line Caterpillar dozers. He has been so kind and generous to our church family. He has donated dozers to us for weeks on end. I’m talking about dozers that have to be dropped off by 18 wheeler rigs. Each time we have needed a different piece of heavy machinery, he has been only too happy to provide the equipment we need. I am thankful to God for this man.

Here is another provision of God. Last week the dirt workers told me that there were a few hurdles to be overcome to getting the project completed. One hurdle was a pile of felled trees that need to be moved one-by-one. A man in our church heard about the need, took a day’s vacation from his job, and spent all day this past Tuesday using a tractor to drag the trees away.

I never cease to be amazed at the Lord’s provision. This reminds me that if you and I will live by faith and not by sight and attempt great things for God when we feel Him leading, He will always provide just what we need at just the right time. Just one of the many things I love about the Lord Jesus. I’d encourage you to live by faith and not by sight.

This summer-long project will provide NEHBC with a fantastic tool that can be used for years to come. This field is going to be used for church events, our weekly children’s ministries, our youth ministry, and Christian Life University. I believe the Lord is going to use this field as yet another tool to win the lost and disciple the saved in the Northeast Houston community.

Out Front (OF)

Each Wednesday night, there is a full blown worship service just for teenagers at NEHBC replete with music, expository preaching, invitation, and sometimes special music. The corporate singing time is led by a strong praise and worship band called Out Front. OF is made up entirely of teenagers from NEHBC. Teens have to earn their way into the band and then once they qualify they have to earn the right to stay in the band. Various factors are involved. For example, every six weeks, the band members have to bring their report cards that reflect their school grades to Pastor Wes. Pastor Wes then talks to the parents. If a teen’s parents aren’t happy with the teen’s grades, the teen is put on probation and has the following six weeks to improve their grades or they are no longer a band member. Sunday morning worship service and Bible Study attendance are a major factor. Personal soul winning and school conduct reports are factors. Personal devotion times and Bible reading are factors. The members of OF are held to a high standard and it has really paid off. I can still remember when Pastor Wes first

approached me two years ago about starting a praise and worship band made up of our teenagers. I wasn't sure a quality band could be had, but Pastor Wes persuaded me and boy, was I wrong! Two years later they are getting invitations to play at other churches and venues. They are developing quite the reputation and I couldn't be more proud of their love for the Lord and their desire to win the lost and disciple the saved. Last night OF lead the music time in our midweek worship service and did a great job preparing our hearts to hear from the Word of God.

Gearing Up For the Fall Season

NEHBC's "church year" runs on the school calendar, from August-May. Many of our ministries take the summer months off, but we run at full throttle during the school year. That means that CLU, AWANA, Round Tables, the Early Childhood Center (formerly known as MDO), and other ministries are taking place. Before each new "church year" begins, we like to provide training and equipping to both those who are new to serving and those who have already been serving. These training sessions are crucial to NEHBC's ability to minister to people all year long. If you are currently serving at NEHBC or you would like to get involved, coming up over the next few Sundays are some important training meetings. If the training session pertains to your area of interest, please make every effort to be there.

Guest Services Ministry/Parking Ministry Training: Sunday, August 19, 5pm

- Our Guest Services Ministry includes our door greeters, our ushers, and our guest hosts
- Both our Guest Services and Parking Ministries serve only on Sunday mornings

Sunday Morning Childhood Ministries Training: Sunday, August 19, 4:30pm

- Little Blessings: Sunday mornings, birth-4 years old
- Potter's Wheel: Sunday mornings, K-5th

Youth Parent Meeting: Sunday, August 26, 5pm

- Objective: to brief parents on the plans for our teenagers for the upcoming school year and to provide parents with opportunities for service
 - Parents, it is so important for you to be at this meeting so you can be familiar with the ministry to your teen(s).
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Christian Life University (CLU) - Fall Semester

Pastor Sonny started CLU three years ago, and it has been a time of spiritual and personal growth for those who attend. CLU is the opportunity NEHBC offers for adults to engage in topical studies of the Bible. In Sunday morning Bible Study and in all of our worship services, we study the Bible expositionally, going book-by-book through the Bible. CLU is a collection of topical classes that we offer each fall and each spring. These relaxed, small group classes are solid opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to build relationships with folks in our church.

Our fall semester of CLU begins on Sunday, September 9th. All classes meet at 5pm. Looking over the list of class offerings, I am very pleased with the classes that Pastor Sonny put together for this semester.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Preparing for Spiritual Warfare	John Lambert
Living Beyond Yourself (Beth Moore)	Debra Polk
Men Leading the Charge (Steve Farrar)	Dick Polk

Financial Freedom
Shepherding a Child's Heart

Jim Hamilton
Ed and Gail Black

Childcare is provided during CLU for children two years of age and younger. AWANA meets on Sunday nights during CLU and is for children three years of age through 5th grade. Round Tables is offered at the same time for our 6-12th graders. I'd encourage you to pray about getting involved in one of our CLU classes this fall.

For more information, click [here](#) to go to the CLU information and sign up location on our church's website.