

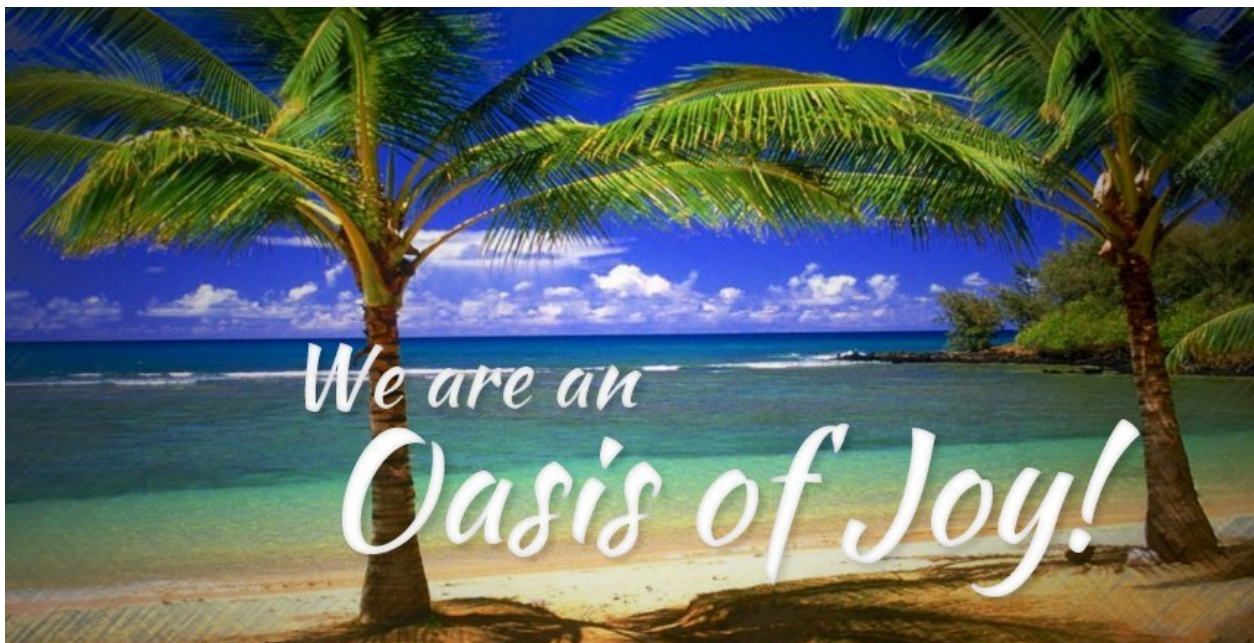
Church Blueprint

Kingdom Encounters

Welcome to the Kingdom Encounters family! We are so happy you are choosing to join with us! As our slogan states, we seek to be an oasis of joy, peace, and life for those who are thirsty for Jesus and in need of an encounter with God. It is our desire as a fellowship of believers that we genuinely care for you on not just a spiritual level but on a mental, emotional, and physical level as well. We desire to unite with you and see you not merely survive, but thrive! This blueprint is designed to be a guide to better understanding what we as a body are all about: from our background to our beliefs and to the many opportunities for ministry and fellowship.

Let's do life together!

-Pastor Jason and Pastor Bret



Our History

Kingdom Encounters was founded in 2014 by Pastor Jay West. Beginning as a home group, Pastor West chose through obedience and a prompting of the Lord to establish a new church within Omaha with the full blessing of his overseeing pastor: James Hart of Eagles Nest Worship Center.

With a goal to “not be pastor driven but Kingdom focused,” Pastor West strived to make Kingdom Encounters a “new way not to do church” by leading the church through a simple principle outlined in John 5:19: “the Son can do only what He sees the Father doing.” Pastor West envisioned Kingdom Encounters to be a place where “everyone gets to play,” with members developing and practicing their spiritual gifts, where disciples were trained and released, and where its members took every opportunity to lead others to their own encounters with the Kingdom of God.

In 2021, Pastor West handed down leadership responsibilities to his son, Jason West, and founding church member, Bret Baker. Together as co-pastors, Pastor Jason and Pastor Bret seek to build upon the foundation laid by Pastor West by continuing to guide Kingdom Encounters into becoming a true, caring community and an “Oasis of Joy” for the Omaha Metro.

Our Mission

First and foremost, Kingdom Encounters seeks to be a true “Oasis of Joy” in a dry and thirsty world. We desire that KE becomes a place where the Holy Spirit dwells and is active, bringing refreshment and life to those who walk through our doors. We seek to bring those who are broken, lost, and hurting towards a real encounter and relationship with Jesus, and we strive to represent Christ and His Kingdom life to all we encounter.

Second, we seek to become a church as outlined in Acts 2:42-47. We desire to be a church of unity that stays together, prays together, and obeys together. We do this through fellowship, through corporate prayer and worship, and through caring and helping each other in times of need. We seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus, ready to reach out and love one another as Jesus commanded (John 13:34-35).

Third, we seek to train up and send out disciples as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” We desire for all members of the body to operate in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, grow and develop their God-given gifts and talents, be “transformed by the renewing of their minds” (Romans 12:2), and be sent out to carry the Kingdom of God with them wherever they go.

Our Practices

- **We are solidly committed to teaching the Bible as the Word of God.**
- We believe in the power of:
 1. **Love** (1 John 4:8, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 Corinthians 13:13)
 2. **The Word** (John 1:1, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16)
 3. **The Cross** (Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:18, John 3:16)
 4. **The Resurrection** (John 11:25-26, 1 Peter 1:3, Revelation 1:17-18)
 5. **The Holy Spirit** (John 14:26, Acts 1:8, Romans 8:11)
- We are a multi-denominational body. We do not ignore your personal church history, but instead embrace your background while demonstrating new experiences and understandings of the Kingdom.
- We believe in the power and the necessity of financial giving (Malachi 3:10). As a church body, we are committed to giving financially towards missions and other ministries. Individually, we do not force or coerce our members to give (2 Corinthians 9:7). Rather than take tithes and offerings during service, there is a basket by the entrance door for members to give at any time, as well as the ability to give online via the church website.
- Our services take a structured approach, typically featuring a set time for worship and a set time for teaching. However, we give the Holy Spirit free reign to interrupt and move in the service as the Spirit sees fit.
- We are family! We encourage our members to fellowship with one another, to care and support each other, and to hold each other accountable both inside and outside of the church building.

- We believe in and practice the gifts and works of the Holy Spirit as mentioned in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. We desire to be good stewards of these gifts and seek to practice them responsibly and respectfully.
 - When praying over others, we will ask permission to lay hands before doing so. When praying for supernatural healing, we will not discourage any members from following advice from medical professionals, as healing of the body happens both practically and supernaturally.
 - Before giving a word of knowledge, wisdom, or prophecy to the church body, we will first approach a pastor or church elder for discernment.
 - We do not discourage praying or speaking in tongues. However, we will not ask for our members to pray aloud in tongues at any point during a Sunday service. For those who pray in tongues or who speak with the gift of tongues, we ask you follow Paul's advice given in 1 Corinthians 14:27-28.
- We encourage many expressions of worship! These expressions include singing, playing of instruments, outpouring of emotion, the lifting of hands, dancing, artistic expression, etc.
- We believe in and welcome miracles, signs, and wonders. However, we do not chase after Jesus for these things. We chase after Jesus because of who He is, because of His love for us, and because He desires a relationship with us.

Our Ministries and Phases of Involvement

Kingdom Encounters is a place where all are welcome to come and join us in fellowship, prayer, and worship. As members become more dedicated in joining with us, they may find themselves looking for opportunities to become more actively involved in the various ministries of the church. Below is a list of the three phases of involvement and the current ministries associated with each phase.

Attendance Phase

Attendance phase simply means your level of involvement with KE is only to attend on Sundays and special services. This is not a bad thing, nor is it a shameful thing! We are happy to have you among us and invite you to receive what the Lord has for you. That said, that doesn't mean opportunities for ministry are not available. There are ways for those at attendance phase to serve within certain areas if they so desire.

Ministry Opportunities (Phase 1): Prayer Groups, Outreaches, Hospitality and Groundskeeping, Care Group Host

Membership Phase

In order to be considered as a full member of Kingdom Encounters, we ask you fulfill these following commitments:

1. Consistent service attendance over a minimum period of 3 months
2. Some form of consistent investment (giving, prayer attendance, participation in events or outreaches, etc.)

At this time, membership to Kingdom Encounters is broken down to two very important qualities: consistency and investment. Those who show consistency and investment over a period of time will be seen as dedicated members of the church capable of joining one of our many areas of ministry. If any of the following ministries interest you, do not hesitate to approach the pastors or heads of ministry when an opportunity arises.

Ministry Opportunities (Phase 2): Worship Team, Sound Team, Children's Ministry Team, Nursery Team

Leadership Phase

Leadership is a role we do not take lightly at Kingdom Encounters. When it comes to selecting who will be recognized leaders in the church, the pastors and elders are looking for these commitments:

1. Long-term, consistent attendance over an extended time period
2. Long-term involvement in a church ministry or long-term investment within the church body
3. Evident fruits of the Spirit as outlined in Galatians 5

Becoming a leader within Kingdom Encounters means that the pastors are entrusting you with some of the responsibility of leading the church, caring for its members, and running its ministries. Leaders in the church are made by appointment from the pastors and the elders and must show consistency in fellowship, extended church service or investment, and an evident relationship with Jesus.

Ministry Opportunities (Phase 3): Board of Elders, Heads of Ministry, Care Group Leaders

Our Special Services and Outreaches

Kingdom Encounters is always looking to do more than just Sunday services. We desire to create more opportunities for fellowship amongst members, more opportunities to develop our relationship with Jesus, and more opportunities to grow as disciples. That desire to do more also goes beyond our four walls as we look for opportunities to partner with other churches in advancing the Kingdom of God throughout the Metro. Below are several reoccurring ways we do more at KE.

W&P Encounter Nights: Worship & Prayer Encounter Nights are special services designed to engage in extended periods of worship and prayer beyond what we normally do on a Sunday. These nights are excellent opportunities to give full expression of worship, operate more freely in the gifts of the Spirit, and join together in unity to pray over our churches and our city. These nights will be held on the last Sunday of every month.

Care Groups: Care Groups are smaller gatherings each with a specific focus or theme. Individual Care Groups are overseen by a group leader or teacher and meet in a volunteer host home. Care Groups are a more personal time of fellowship, Bible study, and individual care. Care Groups give our members the opportunity to “do life together” and cultivate deeper relationships within the church body.

At Your Service: Every 3 to 4 months, Kingdom Encounters will close for a Sunday and instead attend the service of another church within the Omaha Metro, something we call “At Your Service.” While there, we encourage our members to fellowship with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and pour into their ministry through financial giving, prayer, and acts of service. By doing this, we hope to build relationship and strengthen unity between us and the other churches of the city. We as believers of any background all seek the same goal: to see souls come to Jesus and be saved, and for the Kingdom of God to be advanced throughout the region.

Joint Outreaches: Kingdom Encounters seeks to join with other churches and ministries in reaching the unsaved and unchurched through joint outreach. We desire to see the church as a whole grow; we are not in competition with our fellow believers! We want to work together to reach the lost and the hurting. These outreaches will vary in activity and time and cannot be regularly scheduled. Joint outreaches will be announced whenever an opportunity arises.

Our Leadership Structure

