

FIELD NOTES

BY KOBLE SYSTEMS

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THE "STRONGER COMMUNITIES" ISSUE



cover photo provided by Blessings of Hope

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A NOTE FROM MIKE

Hello customers and friends!

As we return from the holidays and settle back into the rhythm of a new year, I hope you were able to enjoy time with family, friends, and community during the Christmas season. Around here, the transition from hunting season and all the year-end activities to the fresh start of the new year always brings a mix of reflection and renewed energy.

I've been thinking about community. Living in a place like Lancaster County, Pennsylvania is a blessing. We're a culture of "can-do" entrepreneurs and hard-working people. Small business owners who attend the same church might compete in the marketplace, yet step in to help each other when the need arises. Business is for people, and God gave us our talent and resources so we can bless others. Being tight-fisted denies the reality that God gave us all that we have (we didn't earn it!).

At Koble, one of our three core values is "build our communities." We want to bring people together and make things better than they were yesterday. While we give of our time and money to causes we believe in, the reality is that the primary way we live out this core value is very "ordinary." We build software that

makes business growth easier. This leads to better business, more productive teams, and, ultimately, stronger communities.

We help businesses tackle very ordinary problems: like connecting the threads in a quoting process, tracking inventory from A-Z so we have on hand what we need while avoiding overstock, or sharing order documents and data in a single source of truth so sales, purchasing, warehouse, and finance all have the information they need, when they need it. A cohesive system like EBMS connects the business and gets everyone on the same page (and the same team!). This elevates the quality of life for business owner and employee alike.

We joke sometimes that our tagline should be "helping entrepreneurs take vacation since 1989." Having time for family and being more involved in community is a collateral benefit of the business operating smoothly. Effective use of software is an ordinary – yet vital – ingredient to that end.

We're here to see you thriving in your business (and in your community!) as you set goals for the year ahead. Please reach out if we can help.

MIKE STOLTZFUS
KOBLE CEO



GET A CHICKEN SANDWICH ON US

We want this newsletter to serve you well, and your feedback helps us do that. Share what you found helpful, what you'd tweak, or what you wish we'd cover in future issues.

Email your feedback to marketing@koblesystems.com
The first 10 people to reply get a \$10 Chick-fil-a gift card.



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PRODUCT UPDATE

A behind-the-scenes look at how EBMS is getting faster, stronger, and easier to use through real modernization and rigorous testing.



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A practical, faith-driven gathering helping business leaders move forward with purpose, strengthen their teams, and stay grounded in what matters most.

PRODUCT UPDATE

FROM DEKE BOWMAN,
KOBLE HEAD OF PRODUCT

When tools work the way they're supposed to, they fade into the background and let people stay focused on the work in front of them. That's the kind of experience we want EBMS to deliver. With that goal in view, I'd like to share where things stand in our efforts to modernize EBMS and what's happening behind the scenes.

Modernization

One of the biggest steps we're taking toward improving EBMS is transitioning the underlying database to PostgreSQL. This move sets the stage for meaningful improvements you will feel in your daily work: faster response times, more reliable performance, and the ability to introduce features like smart search that cannot exist on the current database. It also gives EBMS a long-term foundation that will support growth.

At this time, we are on track with our anticipated timeline to release a version of EBMS that runs with a Postgres back-end database.

The next major step is scale testing with realistic data. The best way to do that is to partner with a few large-data customers who have agreed to let us use a copy of their system in a Postgres sandbox environment. This lets us test real workflows, discover bugs or blind spots, address them, and ultimately release a durable solution.

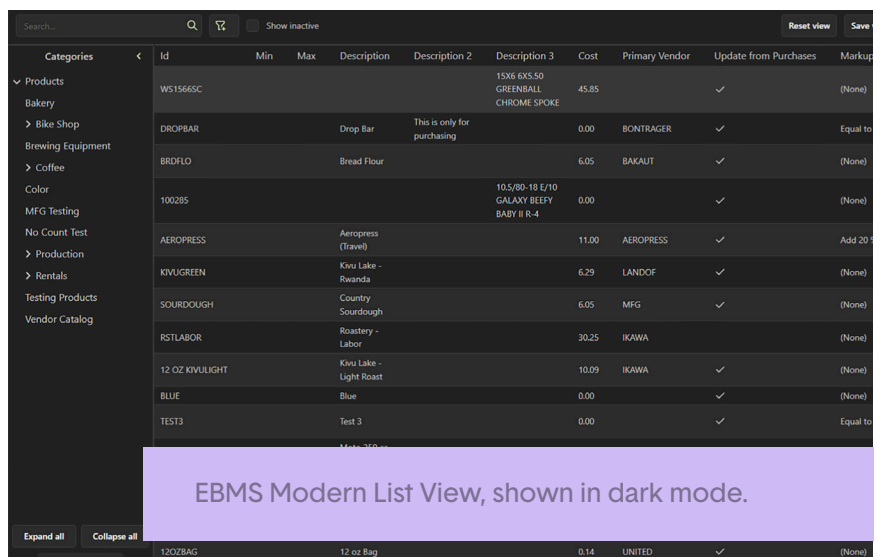
We are intentionally starting big because we want to stress test the system. Once this process is completed we will move to a beta release.

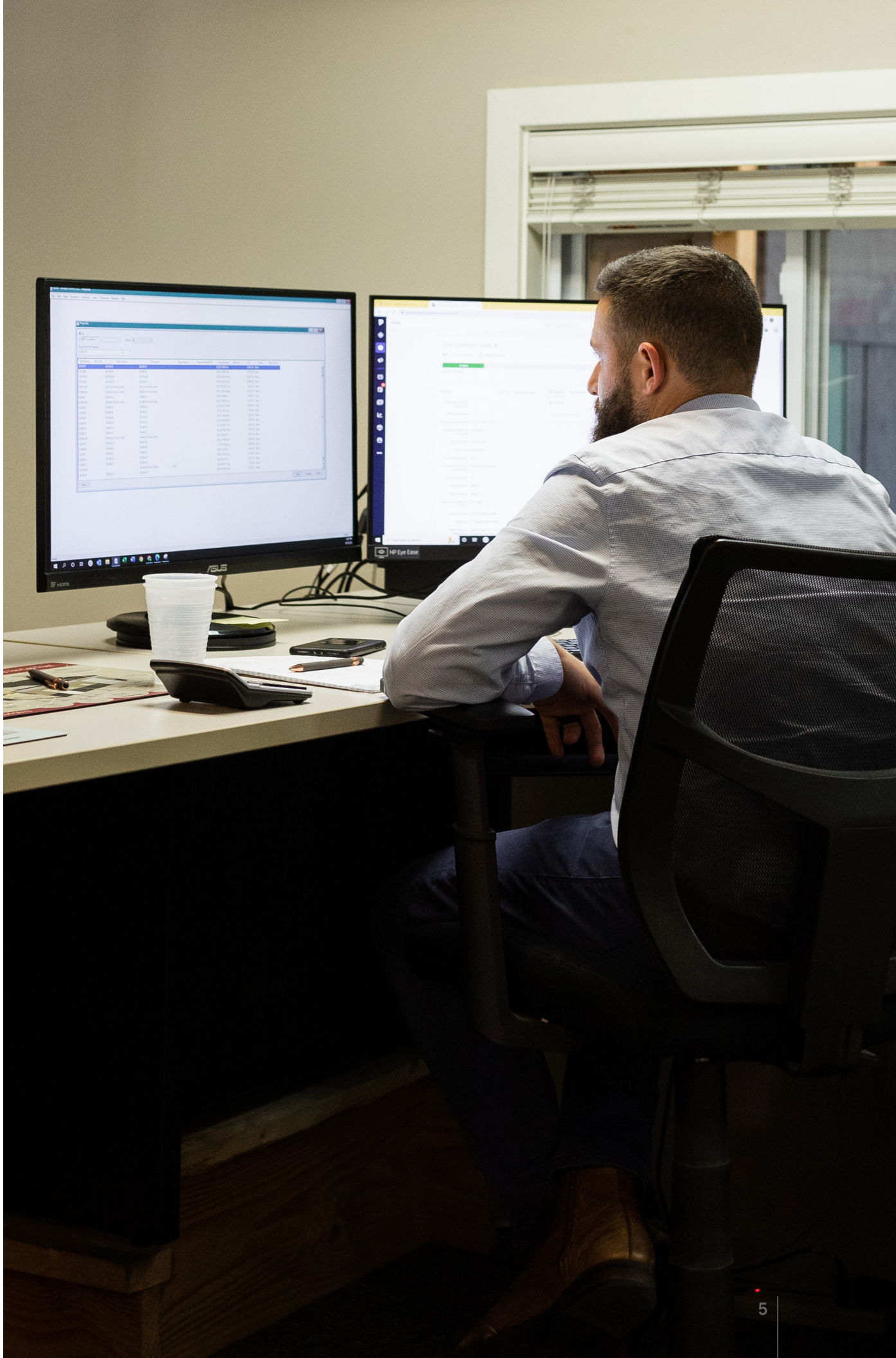
Our goal is that this modernization effort is invisible to you, the end user; for you to simply know that your back-end database is better and to

experience the positive effects of that change. Over time, we will refactor and update segments of EBMS to bring enhanced speed, additional functionality, and new features.

In addition to the database work, we have been developing modern list views. We first built a proof of concept using the product list, then expanded it to other commonly used lists. These new views bring functionality users expect in modern software, including improved search, filtering, sorting by fields, and the ability to reorder columns. We are also adding the option to save custom views so you can return to your preferred setup without rebuilding it. The modern list views are currently in beta and planned to be in general release very soon.

This is only the beginning of what is coming as we continue reimagining EBMS for the future. We know that incremental changes, delivered steadily, give everyone the ability to experience that progress along the way. That is our commitment now and moving forward. We are excited about where we are and what is coming next.





WHEN GOOD WORK GOES FURTHER

How three businesses prove that giving back isn't about grand gestures but about using your work to build up the people around you.



When we believe the work we do makes an impact, it changes how we show up. It affects how we build teams, serve customers, and handle challenges. We see that belief lived out every day among the businesses we get to work with. From mentorship programs to community projects, this broader network of business owners is using their work to strengthen the people and places around them.

Millcreek Manufacturing

At Millcreek Manufacturing, impact looks like a welding torch in the hands of a high school student. Each year, Henry Zook and his team open their shop to local interns from public, private, and homeschool programs. Most come in with no prior welding experience. Their trainer spends the first few days teaching proper form

and safety, giving students a solid foundation before letting them loose on real projects.

Interns learn to weld, fix mistakes, and prep finished parts for production. They earn a paycheck after their first 20 hours. The schedule is flexible, but the expectations are high. Some students move into full-time roles after graduation. Others simply leave with skills and confidence they didn't have before. For Millcreek, giving back means investing in the next generation and showing them the dignity of a job done right.

Caliber Metal

Each fall at Caliber Metal, the Cameron, Texas team runs Covering the Community, a program that provides a free roof replacement for a local family in need.

Nominations come in from the surrounding area, often for elderly or widowed neighbors. The Caliber crew reviews the submissions, selects the recipient, and takes on the full project from teardown to installation, often teaming up with trusted contractors to get it done.

What started as one simple act of generosity has become a yearly tradition that the entire team looks forward to. For Caliber, they're intentional about using their trade to meet real, visible needs right where they are.

Stoll Industries

For Stoll Industries, giving back is not a project. It is part of how they operate. Decades of quiet generosity eventually grew into Stoll Cares, a nonprofit formed to steward the company's



Welding work being done at Millcreek Manufacturing

giving and multiply its reach.

What began as simple financial support for missionaries and local causes has expanded into partnerships with organizations in more than a dozen countries, addressing education, hunger, housing, and human trafficking. Over time, Stoll's focus also turned closer to home. Through programs in Abbeville County North Carolina, the team now supports mentoring, family resources, and small business development that create real, lasting change.

The company tithes a percentage of its profits each month to fund this work. Employees can also contribute through Stoll Shares, an internal giving fund matched dollar for dollar by the company. A committee of employees decides how those funds are distributed. The model is simple but powerful: generosity that is steady, structured, and shared.

The Ripple Effect

Not every business can start a nonprofit, and not every act of giving requires a big platform. What matters is the mindset. Whether it is mentoring a student, lending equipment to a local project, or setting aside time to help a neighbor, every act of generosity has a ripple effect.

These stories are not about grand gestures. They are about ordinary businesses using what they already have to strengthen the places they call home. And that is something any business, big or small, can do.



Food distribution through Stoll Cares



To learn how your business can partner with Blessings of Hope, visit [blessingsofhope.com](https://www.blessingsofhope.com) or message their donor team directly at giving@blessingsofhope.com

GUEST ARTICLE

FEEDING HOPE

HOW LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS FUEL THE BLESSINGS
OF HOPE MISSION

At Blessings of Hope, we believe that stronger communities begin when people come together with a shared purpose — to serve, uplift, and give Hope. Our organization was born from a simple act: sharing a few extra boxes of food with neighbors in need. Today, we've grown into a regional food logistics and distribution ministry — but the heart of our mission has remained the same.

Every month, we distribute millions of pounds of food to families and nonprofits across the northeast US. But we don't do it alone. It's the strength of local partnerships — volunteers, donors, and businesses — that makes this work possible.

Business leaders often underestimate the impact they can have beyond their own walls. But we've seen time and again how a business decision to partner with us becomes a community-impacting move. Whether it's providing financial sponsorship, donating surplus product, or encouraging employee volunteerism, local businesses have helped us scale our operations, expand our facilities, and bring food and Hope to those who need it most.

Our work isn't just about logistics or hunger — it's about dignity, purpose, and faith. Hunger is often a symptom of deeper needs:

isolation, discouragement, or lack of seeing the opportunities that exist. When a local business partners with Blessings of Hope, they become part of a bigger story. They help us say to someone, "You're not forgotten. You matter."

We've also learned that generosity multiplies. A single donation of surplus food can feed hundreds. One volunteer shift can ripple out into thousands of meals packed. One business sponsor can empower dozens of local families. That's the power of community — when each person and business contributes what they can, the results are far greater than the sum of their parts.

As we look toward the future, we see a vision of hope fueled not by handouts, but by collaboration. By coming together — business owners, faith communities, and individuals — we can steward our resources wisely and meet both physical and spiritual needs with excellence.

To every business leader reading this: Your role matters. Your generosity matters. Whether it's through Blessings of Hope or another nonprofit aligned with your passion, I encourage you to take a step toward involvement. Volunteer. Donate. Sponsor. Reach out. Stronger communities don't just happen — we build them together.

DAVID LAPP
CEO, BLESSINGS OF HOPE

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

NAVIGATING BALANCE THROUGH FAITH, FAMILY, AND BUSINESS

HOW ONE GATHERING HELPS BUSINESS LEADERS
ANCHOR THEIR DECISIONS, THEIR TEAMS, AND THEIR
GROWTH IN FAITH THAT MOVES THEM FORWARD.

Each spring, local business owners and leaders across Lancaster County gather at the Kingdom Focused Summit to talk about what really matters—leading with purpose, serving people well, and keeping their faith at the center of it all.

For event founder Steve Goble, this gathering started as more than a business idea. It started as obedience.

“When we first hosted the Summit back in 2019, I didn’t really know what I was doing,” Steve said. “But God made it clear that this was something He wanted us to do—for the community and for the small businesses in it.”

That calling continues to guide the event today. This year’s theme—“Navigating Balance Through Faith, Family, and Business”—grew out of Steve’s own reflection.

“We all wrestle with how to do what God has called us to do while keeping up with everything else life asks of us,” he shared.

But Steve doesn’t see balance as standing still. “If you’re balancing, you’re not moving forward,” he

said. “The goal is to navigate—to keep moving ahead in faith, even when life feels uneven.”

Where Faith and Business Meet

The Summit gives business leaders a place to connect with others who share the same drive—to build strong businesses, serve people well, and keep faith at the center of it all. It’s a day for learning, conversation, and encouragement. It’s about reminding leaders that success isn’t just about growth charts or profits; it’s about purpose.

“It’s a faith-focused business conference,” Steve said. “We talk about what it means to live out your faith Monday through Friday—not just on Sunday.”

Many of the event’s sponsors, including Koble, see it as an opportunity to invest back into the local business community.

Among a variety of speakers, this year’s highlighted keynote is Preston Poore, a former executive at major corporations like The Coca



Cola Company and The Hershey Company.

In his writing and speaking, Preston helps people understand who they are versus just what they do (he calls it “identity before outcome”) and he’s passionate about bridging faith, values and business in practical ways—not just ideals.

So when you come to the Summit and hear Preston, you can expect more than a nice talk. You’ll walk away thinking: “Okay, I can apply that this week in my business, in my team, in my life.”

Faith in Motion

Even with all the planning and preparation for a great event, for Steve, the real work begins after the event ends. “We’re called to serve,” he said. “That means taking what we learn here and putting it into action—at work, at home, and in the community.”

That’s the heartbeat behind Kingdom Focused Summit: equipping people to move forward with courage and purpose.

“God didn’t call us to wait,” Steve said. “He called us to navigate, to take action, face challenges head-on, and keep moving. When we do that, our businesses get stronger, our teams grow closer, and our communities are blessed.”

Kingdom Focused Summit 2026

April 23, 7:45a - 12:30p
at the Junction Center in Manheim, PA

Learn more at
kingdomfocusedsummit.com

Join Koble’s Sponsor Table!
Reserve your seat by sending us a message
at marketing@koblesystems.com



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**NEW EBMS UPDATES INSIDE, PLUS STORIES FROM
BUSINESSES DOING REAL, MEANINGFUL WORK. A
QUICK READ FROM YOUR TEAM AT KOBLE.**



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