

INAUGURAL EDITION

# MOMENTUM

ISSUE #1 • OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF COLORADO BAPTISTS  [COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG](http://COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG)

FROM THE FLATLANDS TO THE  
MOUNTAINTOPS, **WE MUST  
TAKE THE GOSPEL TO EACH  
CORNER OF OUR STATE**

+ 5 HABITS OF  
EVANGELISTIC  
CHURCHES

+ How youth ministry  
has changed over  
the past 20 years

+ Is Christian leadership  
the same thing as  
secular leadership?



# A GREAT YEAR AHEAD

**W**ELCOME TO THE NEW FORMAT for the Rocky Mountain News. We are excited to provide for you a fresh resource that will help to encourage you through practical articles, newsworthy items, and incredible stories of what God is doing around Colorado! Rather than every other month, we will transition to producing this magazine once a quarter. It is our prayer this new magazine will be a tool for you as you serve the Lord across Colorado!

**I know 2018 is going to be a great year!** I believe God is going to do great things this year across our state. One of the most exciting things to take place so far in 2018 is the hiring of two new staff members for the CBGC. **On January 4th, the Executive Board voted to extend the invitation to Dr. Charles Boswell and Tim Corbin to join the CBGC staff.** We are excited to have these men and their families join our team as we seek to serve the wonderful Colorado Baptist churches!

These two men bring a lot of experience to our team. I am so grateful that God has led them to serve in Colorado. Please commit to praying for them as they begin their ministries with the CBGC.

There are great days ahead for the CBGC. There has never been a better day to cooperate together as churches across our great state. Please know that you are loved and prayed for. It is our privilege to serve Colorado Baptists!



**Dr. Nathan Lorick**  
Executive Director  
Colorado Baptists



---

## A CLOSER LOOK

---

**Dr. Charles Boswell** will serve as Director of Pastoral Care and Church Health.

His focus will be to assist churches in becoming healthy, growing, and multiplying churches. He will also be responsible for being



a “pastor to pastors” by intentionally ministering to and providing care for pastors and their families. We are excited about walking alongside our pastors as they lead their churches to fulfill the Great Commission! God has allowed Dr. Boswell to serve in many different contexts as a pastor. He will be a great asset to the team at the CBGC!

**Tim Corbin** will serve as Director of Convention Strategies/Chief Operating Officer.

His focus will be assisting the CBGC to operate efficiently through systems, structures, and strategies. He will



lead the day-to-day operational aspects of our convention, making sure all of our ministries are functioning at the highest level of excellence in order to serve the churches to the best of our ability.

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

### FOLLOW JESUS IN GOOD & BAD 2



### 5 Habits of Evangelistic Churches 4

We can have all we need to be effective evangelistic churches, but that doesn't make you an evangelistic church—doing evangelism does!

## THE MISSIONAL SHIFT

### How Youth Ministry Has Changed Over the Past 20 Years 16

Lots of believers are freaking out over our world, but we can minister to the largest group of teens and young adults in U.S. history. **What an opportunity!**

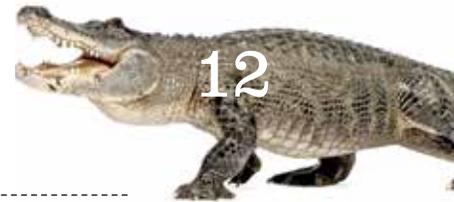
### FROM THE WEST TO THE WORLD 6

### STAFFING OUR COLORADO CHURCHES 8

### 7 THINGS EVERY CHURCH MEMBER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT CONTRIBUTIONS 10

### QUESTIONS ABOUT RELEASE FORMS? 11

### TICKING ALLIGATORS & BIVOCATIONAL CHURCH PLANTERS 12



### PRAYING FOR PLANTERS 14

### IS CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP THE SAME THING AS SECULAR LEADERSHIP? 18

### THAT'S TOO LONG 20

At a pace of 20 or so church plants per year, it will take 50 years to plant enough churches to saturate Colorado with the Gospel. #thatstoolong



Momentum is the official magazine of the Colorado Baptist General Convention. This publication is published quarterly. For general information call 303-771-2480.

**POSTMASTER:**  
Send address changes to  
Momentum Magazine,  
7393 South Alton Way,  
Centennial, CO 80112-2302

Colorado Baptists • Editor  
Lightner Creative • Design and layout  
7393 South Alton Way  
Centennial, Colorado 80112-2302  
coloradobaptists.org

# FOLLOW JESUS IN GOOD & BAD

**L**AST SUNDAY WAS A SNOWY DAY here in the Denver area, with nearly 8 inches of snow where I live, but we still had church. In the nearly 19 years I've been privileged to serve here, I think we've only canceled services once due to weather and that was because we couldn't get anyone to plow our parking lots. We've made a decision that we simply will not cancel service, leaving the choice as to whether attend or not up to individual members. As the leadership of the church, we have determined to have services irrespective of what the weather may be. We are living with a made up mind.

While I realize there are times when services must be canceled, as we did one that time, we are not making that decision week by week. We've decided that services will go on, even if the pastor has to snow shoe in. And this kind of resolve is a picture of how each of us must live our lives. Sometimes living for Jesus is not as easy as it is at other times. Sometimes it is dangerous, sometimes it cost us more than other times, and sometimes it is just downright inconvenient. But our faithfulness to Christ cannot be dependent upon



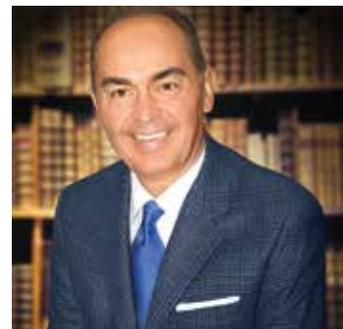
**As individual believers we must live with made up minds, with the determination that says, COME WHAT MAY, WE WILL FOLLOW JESUS.**

how easy it is or how convenient it is. As individual believers we must live with made up minds, with the determination that says, come what may, we will follow Jesus.

My prayer for each of you this year is that you will grow in your walk with God. I know that some of you will experience great victories this year and others of you will endure difficult times and hardship. I encourage you to live with the determination that keeps you from having to second guess your decision to serve our Lord. Like Jesus who endured the cross and its shame for the joy set before Him, may you be found faithful, keeping your eyes on the Author and Finisher of our faith.

It is a joy and an honor to serve as your president this year. I am looking forward to all God is doing in our midst.

In Jesus, your co-laborer,  
Calvin Wittman



## CHURCH REACHING THE LOST

“We are humbled and blown away

to be a part of all God is doing to advance His Kingdom in our community through Orchard Church. We want to just stay out of the way and not mess it up.”

-Pastor Doug Dameron, Orchard Church in Brighton

Orchard Church in Brighton is experiencing a move of God! After 12 years of meeting in a school, they moved into their new facility in November of 2017. Since the move, they have seen over 700 salvations and an average attendance of 2800. In 2017, they baptized over 230 people. Praise God for what He is doing through Orchard Church.

## God is on the Move

In 2016, Rosemont Baptist Church in Montrose Colorado had 1 baptism and 5 join the church, but in 2017 they had 11 baptisms and 11 join the church. That is a great increase in baptisms and church membership. God is good!

## CELEBRATING TOGETHER

### Exciting Days Ahead

High Plains Fellowship in Lamar purchased a building with the help of the Colorado Baptist Foundation. The first worship service in the new building was December 17 and the grand opening celebration was February 11.

### A Christmas Eve to Remember

Fraser Valley Baptist Church in partnership with Alpine Resort Ministries led the annual Christmas Eve Service at Winter Park Resort. They have been leading this event for many years and have recently been given an even bigger room to hold the service. Close to 1,000 vacationers and locals gathered to sing carols and hear the Good News of Christ's coming to earth to seek and save the lost!



# CHURCH LOANS THAT CHANGE LIVES.

A loan from The Baptist Foundation of Colorado is an investment in eternity. That's because the interest from your loan is given back to ministries that spread the Gospel.

We partner with WatersEdge Advisors to provide competitive rates to Colorado Baptist churches. If you can dream it, we can finance it.

### YOUR LOAN SUPPORTS:



Evangelism & church planting



Meals for hungry children



Housing for pregnant women



Clean water for villagers



GET STARTED AT:

720.372.7313

[dlohrey@cbgc.org](mailto:dlohrey@cbgc.org)



BAPTIST FOUNDATION  
OF COLORADO

*A Financial Ministry to Colorado Churches*





# 5 Habits of Evangelistic Churches

By **Nathan Lorick**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**I** AM A RUNNER. At least, I like to think of myself as a runner. Over the years as I have immersed myself into the running culture that I never knew existed, I have learned new techniques, how to position my body in order to run faster, what to look for in shoes and apparel, and many other things that help me maximize my running abilities. One can be inundated with all the new products, races, and medals that the running world offers. However, having the right shoes, GPS watches, clothing, and books do not make you a runner; running does!

As we look across the landscape

of churches in America, many have all the right accessories to be an evangelistic church. They have great preachers, incredible worship, state-of-the-art facilities, and all the things they could ever need in order to attract families to the church. Yet they are not winning people to Jesus and their baptisms are at an all-time low. How can this be? I believe the answer lies within the same concept of running. We can have all we need to be effective evangelistic churches, but that doesn't make you an evangelistic church—doing evangelism does!

As I observe churches who year after year are seeing many people saved and baptized, I have come to the conclusion that there are five key components or habits in the life of a church that leads them to evangelistic effectiveness. I pray these will assist your church in reaching more people for Jesus than ever before.

## 1 / THE PASTOR LEADS THE CHARGE

This is without a doubt the most important aspect of a church becoming highly effective in their evangelism efforts. The pastor must be the one who is blowing the trumpet of intentional evangelism. It is said that the church will take on the personality of the pastor. If this is true, an evangelistic pastor will lead to an evangelistic church. We need pastors to stand up and lead the charge by modeling evangelism and clearly communicating the commands to do evangelism in the Scriptures. If the pastor will lead the way, the church will follow!

## 2 / THE CHURCH KNOWS THEIR COMMUNITY

It cannot be emphasized enough that a church that knows their community the best will have a better chance of reaching their community for Jesus. Churches that have an understanding of the layout of their community and who is in their community can then develop strategies to engage them with the gospel of Christ. When a church knows their community they can

begin looking at their community through the lenses of the Great Commission and lead their people to be missionaries in the city. At some point, God planted your church in your community to know and love the people in which He planted you. As you know them, you can build the bridges to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them.

### **3 / THE PEOPLE ARE EQUIPPED**

---

One of the greatest hindrances to churches becoming highly evangelistic is the assumption that they know how to share their faith. We must never assume that any believer knows how to clearly articulate the gospel. A common belief is that 95 percent of Christ-followers never share Jesus with anyone. I would submit this would likely be the result due to the lack of equipping believers on how to share the gospel. Churches that are highly evangelistic are very intentional in equipping their people to share Jesus. There are many different tools that are available to churches to equip their people. However, a tool is not effective if left in the tool box. Churches that equip their people to share the gospel are equipping their people to reach their community.

### **4 / THE CHURCH HAS A DESIRE TO WIN THEIR COMMUNITY TO JESUS**

---

In order for a church to reach their community for Christ, they must desire to win their community to Christ. In many churches today, the mentality is so inwardly focused that they do not know what to do to reach their community. If we are going to see floodgates of

***“We can have all we need to be effective evangelistic churches, but that doesn’t make you an evangelistic church—doing evangelism does!”***

revival open across our cities and communities, it must begin with a desire to see our friends and neighbors saved.

The apostle Paul tells us of his heart in Romans 10:1 when he declares, “Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.” Paul clearly communicates that his heart desires for his people to be saved. As churches, our heart must beat for the lost to come to Jesus! The absence of our desire for people to know Jesus is the presence of our desire for them to go to Hell. When churches develop a heart and desire for their community to know Jesus, you will begin to see many communities transformed by the power of Christ!

### **5 / EVANGELISM IS CONSISTENTLY HIGHLIGHTED BEFORE THE CHURCH**

---

One of the greatest things a pastor can do for his church is to consistently highlight how God is using the church to reach people with the gospel. Oftentimes we show videos of missionaries in a far-away land doing an exceptional work for the Lord. However, if you want a church to get fired up about the gospel, have people in the

church highlight for the church the different experiences of sharing the gospel that week. I am convinced that there is nothing that will change the culture of a church like evangelism will. When people in the church constantly hear stories of the gospel being shared and people coming to Jesus, it will begin to sink in their minds and hearts that they, too, can be used greatly by God. A church that is excited about evangelism is a church that spends a lot of time highlighting evangelism.

**So where is your church with evangelism?** Do you have all the accessories needed but can’t seem to gain traction? I encourage you to consider these five habits that churches utilize and begin seeing how God will use them. When one begins running, he doesn’t immediately go out and run a marathon. Instead, he begins running one step at a time. In order to get to the marathon, you have to do just that—start running. The same can be said about evangelism. In order to reach your community for Jesus, begin by reaching one!



# From the West to the World



## Stephen A. Hoekstra

TEAM LEADER, RESORT AND LEISURE MINISTRIES

Several times in the past few years I have been sitting in mountain top restaurants listening to those around me, and very few conversations have been in English. An article a couple of years ago in the *Denver Post* had this to say, “The Colorado Tourism Office on Wednesday reported that 77.7 million visitors to the state in 2015 spent an all-time high of \$19.1 billion, generating \$1.13 billion in state and local taxes, an increase of almost 7 percent from 2014.” It would seem that people from all over the world are coming to Colorado in greater numbers than ever before. We could call this a coincidence, or we could call it

an opportunity; an opportunity to introduce millions of people from all over the world to the greatest gift of all, life in Christ Jesus.

There is much written and discussed these days about Globalization. If one gets on the Internet, looks at seminars for leaders in the business world or even watches CNN, FOX or any of the video news magazines, the term is used frequently. The difficulty comes when we try to nail down exactly what Globalization is. Webster’s New World Dictionary lists it as: glob-al-ism (-iz|m) n. a policy, outlook, etc. that is worldwide in scope—global-ist n., adj.

Or glob-al-ize (globl iz) vt. -ized, -iz|ing to make global; esp., to organize or establish worldwide—glob|al-i-zation n. Most business writings characterize it as a “global

village” or “one world government.”

What would we see if we looked at globalization in a Biblical sense?

Christianity, or better yet the Kingdom of God, is Globalization in its purest form. Since its inception, the Church has been global in nature. God is the author of Globalization in His establishment of the Church. We have evidence in Scripture that one day there will be a “one world order”. The direction of secular world governments toward that end should not surprise or alarm us. The difficulty is that we, the Church, do not see ourselves as truly global in nature. We see ourselves in the U. S. church as a sending agency to establish churches in other countries, but that is not a true global view. Thomas d’Aquino, president and Chief Executive of Business Council on National Issues, in writing for the *Executive Excellence Magazine* described a global view or globalization this way:

*Stage IV companies are truly global. They are local players in a diverse mix of foreign markets and have extensive foreign experience in tailoring products to overseas markets. They manufacture or conduct some technical development activities in foreign countries and fulfill all service needs locally. They have R&D in multiple regions of the world. They source financial requirements globally and their stock may even be traded on multiple stock exchanges.*

*These companies are country neutral, but they are at home and typically competitively advantaged in their key markets. They have*

*developed a highly interdependent and geographically dispersed organization that creates, maintains, and shares distinctive strengths throughout the company. Resources are fluid and exchanged efficiently among parts of the company. They tend to be pacesetters or leaders in multiple locations; they set and influence standards globally.*

*Effective localization is the starting point. Localization is based on identifying and addressing the different needs of customers in local markets while leveraging the resources of the organization. Success in a foreign country requires that the company adapt local demands in product or service offerings, business processes, and technology. Globalization is the result of successful localization, or local building-blocks strategy.*

Could we restate it this way?

*Stage IV The Church (made up of churches) is truly global. They are local players in a diverse mix of foreign countries and communities and have extensive foreign experience in tailoring methodology to minister to that diversity. They research, develop and conduct some teaching and training activities in foreign countries and fulfill all service needs locally. They have R&D in multiple regions of the world. They source financial requirements globally.*

*These churches are country neutral, but they are at home in their communities. They have developed a highly interdependent and geographically dispersed organization that creates, maintains, and shares distinctive strengths throughout the world. Resources are fluid and exchanged efficiently among parts of the church. They tend to be pacesetters or leaders in multiple locations; they set and influence standards globally.*

*Effective localization is the starting point. Localization is based on identifying and addressing the different needs of people in local communities while leveraging the resources of the church. Success in a foreign country requires that the church adapt local “uniforms” in the methodology, processes, and technology. Globalization is the result of successful localization, or local building-blocks strategy.*

We make a mistake thinking we are “Taking God to Hungary” or training our youth groups to “take Jesus into the inner city” or to Mexico or wherever. He is already there. He is already working in those places. No matter where we travel there are already Christians. We are really going to assist our brothers in Hungary or Mexico or Denver with being the Church in that locale. In order to do that adequately we will need to have some guidance as to local customs and attitudes. We are not taking them the western church or our church philosophy. They know the people. All we can do is go to assist them to be successful locally so that the Kingdom will be more successful globally.

There was a time when “we” wanted all churches to look pretty much alike. I believe that “we” have come a long way in that regard, especially here in Colorado. Churches are experiencing a resurgence in numbers as they continue to find needs that relate to new people groups. People from all over the world come to Colorado to visit and live. People move to Colorado for the lifestyle, many taking jobs that they are over qualified for, just so they can live the lifestyle. When visiting with people it is becoming more important to find out how and where they play, than what they do for a living.

Our churches have recognized that it is vitally important to

the Kingdom of God that we as Southern Baptists meet people where they are. If we are going to evangelize this nation and the world, we will need to do a significant amount of our witnessing in the resort and leisure environment.

I dream of the day when Colorado is one of the greatest missionary sending states ever in the history of Southern Baptists. This will not happen through conventional missionary sending systems, but in more of a global sense. We have millions of people visiting Colorado from all over the United States and the world. Many will settle down here for a period of time. Some will be in our colleges, some in our big cities, many in our resort communities. Most will one day move “back home.” Our Colorado Churches recognize that tens of thousands of their neighbors flock to the mountains each weekend. Thousands spend the weekend at events in the cities, towns or communities. Several thousand others spend their leisure time at city, county and state parks. Churches have the opportunity to share Jesus with many of these – because they are intentionally where the people are. Churches are intentionally in the “market place” finding and ministering to the needs of people. Visitors to our state as well as those who live here are responding to the loving and caring contextualized ministry of our churches. Those who are responding are disciplined by the churches. Many of these disciples are “commissioned” as missionaries of the church when they decide to move “back home.” They will be “local missionaries”. They will know and fit into the culture because they are a part of it. Those who have chosen to remain in Colorado are helping begin new churches in their communities or in other communities. We are making a difference in the world from our churches in Colorado. We are thinking and acting locally and globally.



# Staffing our Colorado Churches

By **Steve Hoekstra**

DIRECTOR, WESTERN COLORADO OFFICE

**M**any churches around Colorado would love to have an extra staff person, however they cannot find the money in the budget to hire even a part time Music Minister or Youth Minister. Several churches have been successful in hiring and utilizing volunteer staff, but there are a few considerations when setting up a volunteer staff. Even in our larger multi-staff churches each of the paid staff probably have need of many volunteer staff within their area of responsibility. A good book for even more information on utilizing volunteers is *How to Mobilize Church Volunteers* by Marlene Wilson. I have drawn on her experience and wisdom for this short article.

Is it really possible to have a good volunteer staff? *An emphatic YES!*

**IF:**

**1 / WE DO NOT LOWER THE STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEERS.**

This is the ultimate put-down for the volunteer. It is an indication that we do not believe that they are good enough and are second class help. Normally in this instance the volunteers will either leave knowing they are not appreciated or live down to the expectations we have of them.

**2 / WE CAN VIEW THE VOLUNTEER AS NON-PAID STAFF.**

Before we hire a staff person at a salary package of \$50,000 + we must have a written job description, conduct

interviews, hire, then goals are set, objectives and action plans are developed. We can have a good volunteer staff if we follow the same procedure and expectations. It is also important to develop a covenant for personal and professional expectations, development and growth. All of the above is true for both short and long term volunteers. It is interesting that when I first began to use volunteers I probably did everything wrong; I did not expect much, I did not plan well, I did not set up interviews, I did not set up a covenant and I did not supervise well. I did not utilize volunteers, I used volunteers. I wish I could go back and do it all over again, but instead I am doing my best to learn from my mistakes and then to help others do a better job than I did.

**3 / WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATOR FOR THE VOLUNTEER.**

Motivation is the internal drive that prompts us to act in certain ways. What really motivates people? Abraham Maslow in 1924 developed what he called the hierarchy of unfulfilled needs, a short explanation of which is below. If we are to have a good experience with our volunteers we need to at least have a small picture of what motivates them.

**Physiological Security/Safety:** Very few volunteers come to us within these two lowest categories of need which are basic food, water and shelter and/or freedom from harm. We can have a few that we see, especially in the Christian Social Ministries areas and possibly a transient type ministry. As a general rule though, most of the volunteers we will be hiring and supervising are not in these stages of need. Usually the motivator in these first stages is a paycheck so they can eat and pay the rent. We will however, get quite a few in the next stage,

**Social Needs, Acceptance:** Many people volunteer to meet a sense of acceptance they are not receiving in any other way. They want to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They have a need to be loved and to give love. I would say that many of the young people in mission youth groups fit into this category. They are experiencing, possibly for the first time, a real acceptance and approval for something they individually are doing. These people, at this stage, are not concerned about the financial rewards but about the recognition they will receive. They are motivated by recognition. Making sure they understand how important they are to the project and to the Kingdom is a very important motivational tool. Certificates, banquets, recognition services are all biggies. It is especially important at this stage to make the recognition public.

**Recognition, Self-esteem:** At this stage I am volunteering because it makes me feel good

about myself. I am no longer as concerned with having public recognition but I still need for you to tell me how important I am to the project/ministry and the Kingdom. This is probably where a lot of our interns and summer staff are. They could be earning money for school or going to school but they see a need they can fill and feel good about themselves in the process.

**Achievement, Self-actualization:** In this stage we see some but not many volunteers. Most of these are either retired or have independent means. When we get this volunteer we know we have something grand. They see a need and achieve it for the Kingdom regardless of the cost to them personally or any recognition they might receive.

It will make all the difference in the development of a volunteer staff if you can detect a person's motivator. You will then know what they need to do a good job and feel good about it when they leave.

## 4 / WE CAN BUILD A TEAM.

Teams by their very nature say that everyone is important and yet they also help us to see our distinct position or role. If the volunteer is placed on the team with paid staff and recognized as a valuable part of that team with all the same rights and privileges, they will perform as a part of the team.

## IN CONCLUSION:

### 6 items that volunteers have repeatedly said they want and need:

- 1 to be carefully interviewed and appropriately assigned to a meaningful task;
- 2 to receive training and supervision to enable them to do that task well;
- 3 to be involved in planning and evaluating the program in which they participate;
- 4 to receive recognition in a way that is meaningful to them;
- 5 to be regarded as persons of uniqueness;
- 6 to be accepted as a valued member of the team.

# 7 Things Every Church Member Needs to Know About Contributions

By Doug Lohrey *DIRECTOR, COLORADO BAPTIST FOUNDATION*



**Can I deduct the value of volunteer work I do for the church?**

No, the value of volunteer work you do for the church can never be a contribution.

**If I do some work around the church and get reimbursed for my labor and the items I purchased to complete the job can I just ask them to add this amount to my contribution statement?**

No, the church is not allowed to add this amount to your contribution statement, but they can cut you a check and then you give that money back to the church. It would be best to cash the church check and then write a personal check to the church, but you can just endorse the church check back over to the church.

**The church had a youth retreat and I paid for both of my sons to**

**go to this retreat and the cost of the retreat was \$150 per child. Can this money be considered as a contribution to the church?**

No, anytime you receive any goods or services for your payment of cash then you cannot count it as a contribution.

**One of the families in our church was having a financial crisis, so I gave the church \$1,000 to give to this family. This contribution is to the church, correct?**

No, an individual cannot give a family a gift through the church and count it as a contribution.

**The church found out that a family was having a financial crisis, so the benevolent committee let the church know that they were collecting an offering for this family. I gave**

**the church \$1,000 to give to this family. This contribution is to the church, correct?**

Yes, when a church decides to help a family in need and you, an individual, give towards a benevolent need then that money is a contribution to the church, because the church is the one that initiated the offering.

**Is there a limit to the amount that I can contribute to my church and still count it as a contribution on my tax return?**

Yes, a contribution ordinarily cannot exceed 50 percent of a donor's adjusted gross income for the year. Donors who exceed this limit may be able to "carry over" their excess to future years, but you need to consult a tax lawyer for clarification.

**I, as a member of the church, decided that I wanted to designate \$10,000 to the church. I insisted that this money be spent to buy a new musical instrument, which the church has not even thought about purchasing. Is this money a contribution?**

No, an individual cannot designate money to a fund of his/her own choosing, but if the fund is already in existence then this gift would be a contribution. Churches need to be careful how they handle this kind of gift.

# Questions About Release Forms?

By Doug Lohrey DIRECTOR, COLORADO BAPTIST FOUNDATION



**F**or years there has been a debate about churches that have parents/guardians sign release forms. Should they be done? Do they protect the church? And are they legally binding documents? I have wondered about this and have been researching this subject. Finally there does appear to be an answer.

Let's begin by looking at the definition of a release form or waiver. *"This is a form that is signed by two parties, in which one party releases the other party from liability for a specified risk and duration."* Simply put, this form releases one of the parties from liability in case another party gets hurt.

We have all done this. We have a youth mission trip and before the youth can go on this trip, the parents of said youth must sign this release form. But, let's be totally blunt, if there is negligence of the party that has been released from liability then this piece of paper will not be worth anything.

So, let's give a simple illustration. The youth go on a mission trip and

they have two vans of youth. The vans travel at 75 miles per hour on a 60 mile per hour highway and they crash. There is negligence and the church, plus others, will be held accountable. That release form will hold absolutely no sway during the court proceedings.

Let's now look at the legal requirements to have a valid release form. Many courts have noted that release forms are contracts, and as a result, are governed by contract law. This means for a release form to be legally enforceable, it must satisfy the following elements of a valid contract:

**Part one: Two or more contracting parties.** A release form is generally a contractual agreement between two parties. This simply means that the church is signing a contract with the parent or some other party.

**Part two: Consideration.** In a typical contract, one party is contracting with another party to do a certain thing for the benefit of the other party.

Here is a simple illustration from

the world. Party X promised to sell party Y a car for \$5,000. The consideration for X's promise to sell his car is simply that party Y will pay party X \$5,000. A contract has been formed.

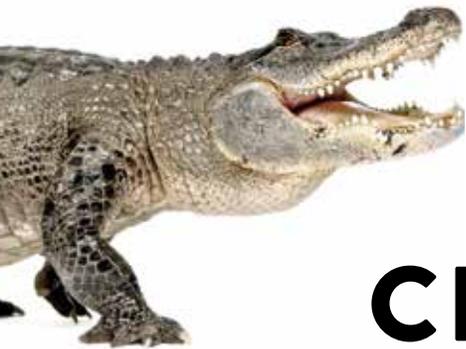
Now, let's return to our release form. Our contract is that we, the church, will not do anything to cause harm to our children or youth (we will not be negligent), while the parent releases the church from any injury that results from a non-negligent injury. That is the contract that is entered into with our release forms.

**Part three: Mutual Consent.** Simply meaning both parties to the contract must assent to the agreement (contract).

Now let's look at how the courts have been dealing with release forms. Sad to say, they have not looked favorably upon them. Why? Many courts have come to view these release forms as an attempt to avoid the consequences of negligence. We do not believe this to be true, but the courts have noted that it appears to be true.

So, two items must be true. One, the release form must be in the form of a contract. That is why it is important to have a lawyer look over your release form at least once to make sure that it is a valid contract. Secondly, we the church, must be diligent in finding people who are responsible and are not going to put our children and youth in harm's way by being negligent.

Finally, minors cannot sign these release documents.



# TICKING ALLIGATORS & BIVOCATIONAL CHURCH PLANTERS

**Robby Christmas**

*NATIONAL BIVOCATIONAL CHURCH PLANTING CATALYST, NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD*

Tick,  
tock.  
Tick,  
tock.



**P**ICTURE A TICKING ALLIGATOR AND A SCARED, ONE-HANDED PIRATE. Some of you may remember watching Peter Pan as a kid. If you do, you recall that Captain Hook had a ridiculous fear of clocks because the gator that bit off his hand swallowed a clock. Every time he heard the tick-tock he freaked out and did something crazy. This sounds a lot like the situation in which a traditional church planter can find himself as he thinks about the his funding. The clock starts ticking on day 1, and he better find enough givers before the last tock or the money runs out.

Church planting experts advise the traditional church planter to build a network that can financially support him and his church for 3-5 years. This usually means they need several hundred thousand dollars. Yet there is no guarantee that this massive investment is going to result in a new church. It makes me wonder if there is a better way?

This is why I appreciate Pastor Jimmy Scroggins' approach to this dilemma. When you put all the finances on the table and combine them with your church's commitment to actually reach lost people, it often just doesn't add up. It's clear that we need to be moving more intentionally and rapidly toward bivocational church planting models.

Here are six reasons why this shift is crucial to the future of church planting:

**I. FINANCES** – I'm stationed in South Florida where we have a vision to plant 100 churches. To launch these churches with a full time planter would cost millions and millions of dollars. Because of that ticking clock, most church planters will unintentionally shift their

focus from reaching the lost to reaching the lucrative. Have an honest conversation with a planter in this situation and you'll find out that wasn't on his heart when God called him to plant. This is as crazy for a church planter as Captain Hook jumping into Mr. Smee's arms at the sound of a ticking clock.

**2. MISSIONAL PLATFORM** – How many of you in full time ministry have been hit with the reality that you don't often interact with unbelievers? This makes it difficult to model a life on mission like we expect from those we lead. Yes, there are many creative ways for full-time pastors to engage with lost people, and many do. However, bivocational pastors have an automatic in because their secular jobs allow them to be around unbelievers all day, every day.

**3. TEAM PLANTING** – When you plant bivocationally, you quickly realize that you can't go it alone. This healthy realization leads to a stronger leadership plan. Though many full-time planters wisely develop a team, a bivocational

planter must develop a team if the work is going to get done. This is a biblically sound model (read the end of some of Paul's epistles) that brings with it built in accountability. It also gives you the opportunity to model the kind of Gospel community you want to develop in your church.

**4. WALK IN THEIR SHOES** – Planting bivocationally will help you relate to the people you lead. When your schedule resembles their schedules, it will help you plan realistic leadership development strategies and meeting times. It also gives you opportunity to model being a Gospel witness in the workplace.

**5. BIBLICAL PRECEDENT** – This isn't a new strategy; it's been done before. Acts 6:7 says, "So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly." How did this happen so fast? There wasn't enough time for a 90-hour MDiv, church planting conferences, networking, and fundraising required for this kind of growth. (By the way, I have a 90 MDiv, have been to many church planting conferences and

done plenty of networking and fundraising.) However, it's clear that professional, full-time pastors weren't the only ones responsible for the rapid growth in the early church. God also used—and still uses—ordinary, working people with a passion for Christ.

**6. REACHING THE LOST** – When you're not constantly worried about the weekly budget numbers, it frees you up to stay focused on your reason for planting. It seems silly that we would need to reiterate that church planting is for the lost. Perhaps plants that reach saved people (unintentionally I'm sure) should be called church reshuffles instead of church plants. Think about it like this: in 3 years would you rather grow to 300, with 5% of that growth representing new believers or grow to 100, with 50% being new believer growth? Do the math. Would you rather reach 15 people or 50? Based on what I've experienced, the bivocational planter who is laser-focused on reaching the lost is likely to experience the second scenario.



**COLORADO  
BAPTISTS**

For the latest information  
visit our social channels



[FACEBOOK.COM/COLORADOBAPTISTS](https://www.facebook.com/coloradobaptists)



[TWITTER.COM/COBAPTISTS](https://twitter.com/COBAPTISTS)

# Praying for Planters



By Claudean Boatman

**L**UKE 10:2 IS THE WATCHWORD FOR MANY IN COLORADO and across the Southern Baptist Convention: He (Jesus) told them: “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” (HCSB)

It is true that one task Colorado Baptists have is to pray God would bring church planters so Colorado can be reached with the Gospel. We rejoice when God answers prayers for workers, whether on the Front Range, Western Slope, or Eastern Plains. And rightly so; answered prayer should be celebrated.

However, prayers should also be offered for the workers God has already sent. Marcial Muñoz, the Spanish Ministry Pastor of Orchard Church (Brighton), is one of those planters who has answered God’s call. He savors believers’ prayers for him and

his family. “Just to know that somebody is praying for you makes you feel secure and supported. Prayer is essential for a church planter,” he said.

Muñoz tells of two answered prayers in the Spanish ministry of Orchard Church. The first is an Easter story. The ministry planned a neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt in 2017. God cleared the way for the ministry to use their neighborhood school for the hunt. Muñoz and others prayed for good connections with people in the neighborhood. “God answered our prayer, and that day we had more than

500 people coming to our egg hunt. We reached five families from that event for Christ.”

The second answered prayer Muñoz shares is a Christmas story. The Spanish ministry scheduled a special Christmas event for December 17, 2017. Muñoz asked his friends and family to pray for 150 people to attend. Muñoz said, “Well, God answered our prayers, and He sent us 215 people that day. I was amazed.”

Muñoz asks his prayer circle of family, friends, and other pastors to join him in praying for specific requests such as the Easter and Christmas outreach events. He also asks for wisdom, patience, and passion—requests that could be prayed for any church planter.

## JOIN THOSE PRAYING FOR CHURCH PLANTERS

There are several ways to join those praying for new church planters and for current church planters and re-planters.

Those who wish to be on the prayer team for a specific church planter or ethnic group may send a request to [cpma@coloradobaptists.org](mailto:cpma@coloradobaptists.org). The Connect Eastern Colorado Church Planting Prayer Guide is available via email. A request to receive the newsletter can be sent to [EasternColoradoPrayer@outlook.com](mailto:EasternColoradoPrayer@outlook.com). Those wishing to pray for the Denver Send City church planters may sign up to receive regular updates at [praydenver.net/become-a-15-er](http://praydenver.net/become-a-15-er).

Churches and individuals may express their commitment to pray for church planters in a specific city, state/province, or campus. In return, the prayer supporters receive a list of planters for which to pray. To sign up, go to [www.prayforplanters.com](http://www.prayforplanters.com).

## Prayer Requests

Prayer requests from Marcial Muñoz, Spanish Ministry Pastor, Orchard Church, Brighton:

➔ Ask God to give the church plant passion to reach their friends and family for Jesus.

➔ Pray that God would help Muñoz develop leaders in the ministry and that He would send more leaders to the ministry.

➔ Ask God to give Muñoz wisdom to guide and love his wife, children, and extended family.

# NEXT LEVEL LEADERSHIP LUNCHES



Pastors are invited to this **free** series of strategic leadership luncheons. This will be a time of encouragement and to offer networking and equipping opportunities.

NEW IN 2018

Register for these free luncheons at [coloradobaptists.org](http://coloradobaptists.org)

**MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> • 11:30-1:30 P.M.**  
RIVERSIDE CHURCH, DENVER

## GRANT SKELDON

### ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING MILLENNIALS THROUGH THE CHURCH



In response to millennials being labeled noncommittal, cynical, entitled, slacktivists, Grant Skeldon started Initiative Network in order to shift the culture of Dallas by training millennials to be Christ-loving, city-changing, church-investing, disciple-making, local missionaries.

Initiative has impacted thousands of young leaders from over 540 different churches across the metroplex. Grant has traveled the world, speaking to over 40,000 pastors, parents, and business leaders on the topic of engaging and empowering millennials. He is currently writing a book that will be published by Zondervan in 2018.

**SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> • 11:30-1:30 P.M.**  
RIVERSIDE CHURCH, DENVER

## RUSS BARKSDALE

### LEADING YOUR CHURCH THROUGH STRATEGY CHANGES



Russ grew up in Oklahoma, graduating from OU in 1973 with a degree in Petroleum Land Management. He worked for Shell Oil and then an independent company until 1981. That year he married his wife, Sue, a graduate of and cheerleader at the University of Houston. That same year, God called them to career ministry and they headed to Albuquerque, N.M., where they started their family. They moved to Mississippi for 10 years while Russ pursued and completed his Masters of Divinity and Ph.D. They have been at Rush Creek since 1994 and wouldn't be anywhere else. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren, with two on the way! Russ likes to play golf, read on the topics of history and leadership, and travel.

**JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> • 11:30-1:30 P.M.**  
RIVERSIDE CHURCH, DENVER

## WILL MANCINI

### GOD DREAMS: FINDING AND FOCUSING YOUR CHURCH'S FUTURE



Will Mancini is the founder of Auxano, a non-profit church consulting group, and Younique, a training and certification company for personal calling and life planning through the church. As a recognized thought leader, he leads a team of "navigators" who work with over 400 church teams a year to create break-thru clarity and execute their vision. Will is the author/co-author of multiple books, including *God Dreams: 12 Vision Templates for Finding and Focusing Your Church's Future*; *Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture and Create Movement*; *Innovating Discipleship: Four Paths to Real Discipleship Results*; among others.

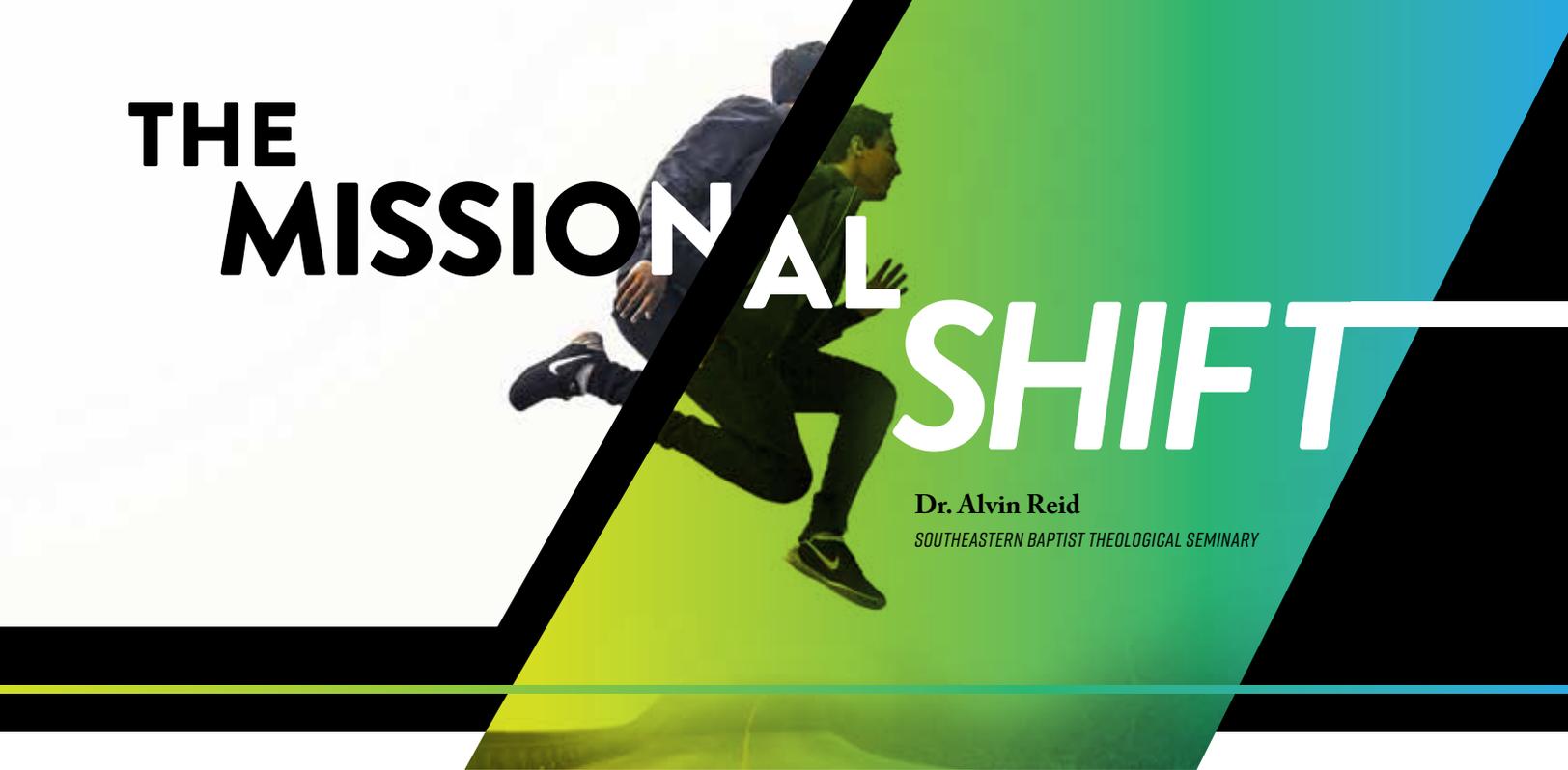
**NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> • 11:30-1:30 P.M.**  
RIVERSIDE CHURCH, DENVER

## ED LITTON

### LEADING THROUGH DIFFICULT SEASONS



Ed Litton has been the senior pastor of First Baptist North Mobile since 1994. Prior to coming to North Mobile, Ed served as a home missionary appointed to work in the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. From there, he and his wife, Tammy, moved to Tucson and founded the Mountain View Baptist Church. Ed holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ed and Tammy have 3 children: Josh, Tyler, and Kayla. Ed was married to Tammy for 25 years when she was killed in an automobile accident August 16, 2007. After a period of God's grace and healing, Ed married Kathy Ferguson, widow of Pastor Rick Ferguson, who was also killed in an automobile accident. Ed continues to push harder and harder for the Kingdom of God.



# THE MISSIONAL SHIFT

**Dr. Alvin Reid**

*SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY*

## How Youth Ministry Has Changed Over the Past 20 Years

**O**UR WORLD IS CHANGING FASTER THAN WE CAN KEEP UP. Lots of believers are freaking out over our world, but think about it: You and I minister to the largest group of teens and young adults in U.S. history. What an opportunity! While truth doesn't ever change, how we apply timeless truth in a timely manner really matters! I want to offer five ways the youth world has changed followed by suggestions to meet these challenges today.

**1. Public schools.** Twenty years ago a youth pastor could grab a couple of pizzas, show up at a local school, and be welcomed to sit at lunch with some of his students. Today, a 20something year old showing up on a public school campus is not so welcome. From Columbine to 9-11, we've moved from

Civil Defense drills in my day to lockdown drills now. In addition, LGBTQ clubs and issues related to transgenerism were virtually unheard of before 2000. The public school remains one of the great mission fields in America.

**2. Sports and entertainment.** When I preach in a distant town nowadays, I almost always awaken Sunday mornings to a hotel filled with sports travel teams of mostly teenagers. That wasn't the case 20 years ago. Add the rise of videogames to the equation: the average 21 year old has played 10,000 hours of videogames.

**3. Social media.** Social media is here to stay, and there are more cell phones today than people. Social media offers new ways to interact with youth in discipleship and evangelism. It connects youth globally. But it has

its pernicious side, from porn, to bullying, to the ability to experiment in the virtual world. It's also created FOMO (the Fear of Missing Out), causing more anxiety in an already stressed out youth culture.

**4. Time strains.** Youth people seem busier than ever. The pressure to be involved in extracurricular activity to impress colleges (among other reasons), rising AP classes, and a host of others has led many youth to have days filled with more things to do than hours to accomplish them. This obviously affects things like involvement in youth group; more importantly, it creates a driven lifestyle that does not deliver the satisfaction it promises.

**5. Youth ministry focus.** In the church, for too long youth groups—unintentionally no doubt—focused too much on behavior modification and church involvement and too little on a Christ-centered life lived 24/7. The National Institute of Youth and Religion created a name for the teaching too often promulgated in churches: Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, resulting in what Kenda Dean calls “an adherence to a do-good, feel-good spirituality that has little to do with

the Triune God of Christian tradition and even less to do with loving Jesus Christ enough to follow him into the world.” In *As You Go* I note a young adult who epitomized so many I’ve seen and youth pastors have recognized. She said once she finished high school, what she remembered from youth group was 1) don’t have sex, 2) invite a friend. She did not recall a strong focus on a Christ-centered life.

How do we respond to the changing times? With excitement, optimism, and faith! To quote my friend and former student Tommy Kiker who teaches now at Southwestern Seminary: “It seems the line between genuine follower of Christ and the Bible-belt religious practitioner will soon become easily recognizable.” If we will reach this generation, we’d better clarify what a radically changed Christ-follower is and is not. Here are a few thoughts:

**1. SHARE THE UNCHANGING TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, BUT DIFFERENTLY.** Os Guinness in *Fool’s Talk* observes how most evangelism training over the last generation has been built not on

classic rhetoric or communication theory but on sales techniques. Youth today are both savvy and wary. Simple gospel presentations will reach some, but engaging youth with the gospel, showing them how Jesus changes everything, from our spiritual life to our careers, is vital. It’s why I believe we must teach the gospel to youth both in its essence (the death, burial, and resurrection) and as an epic that is as big as the whole Bible.

**2. TEACH YOUTH TO CONFRONT THEIR IDOLS WITH THE WORD.** I’m convicted and convinced that sports have become an idol in our time. Sports are not evil, but if you and I talk about our sports teams more than Jesus each week, we may be idolaters. We have to help parents make wise decisions about sports involvement based on a Jesus-first mentality.

**3. SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE LEVERAGED AS A FANTASTIC GOSPEL TOOL.** Yes, help students with filters and accountability. But also show them how to use social media to share their testimony, post

evangelistic websites (like [www.viewthestory.com](http://www.viewthestory.com)). You can even have your youth group take a mission trip to the internet for a week, where their entire social media activity is given to sharing Christ.

**4. WE HAVE TO TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE BIBLICAL PRIORITIES AND TIME MANAGEMENT.** In a FOMO-based world it’s both ok and necessary to say no, and to step away from our phones. We have not disciplined youth if their entire adult life is marked by workaholicism and exhaustion.

**5. WE MUST MAKE MUCH OF JESUS.** I don’t know if there is a church in America that talks about Jesus too much. We don’t talk to lost people about Jesus because we don’t talk about Jesus with each other enough. I came to Christ in the Jesus Movement in the 1970s. Jesus was the big deal then. We need a Jesus Movement today! I believe there is a generation of young people desperate for the love of God and hungry for a vision as big as the Kingdom of God.



What an incredible weekend spent with over 400 students and adults on campus! We witnessed 9 students “ring the bell” to mark the beginning of their journey with Christ! Due to the overwhelming response this year, Camp Pastor Shane Pruitt is planning to come for 2 weekends in 2019 (Jan. 11-13 and 18-20). **Make plans now!**



A FEW COMMENTS FROM OUR SPONSORS:

“I WAS REMINDED TO GET OUT OF MY OWN WAY & LET GOD WORK”

“GRATEFUL FOR PONDEROSA’S PARTNERSHIP IN GOSPEL MINISTRY”

“GOD IS MOVING HERE”

PLUS OUR NEWEST ACTIVITIES

- + CRATE STACKING
- + HUMAN BOWLING
- + HUMAN FOOSBALL

RESERVE YOUR GROUP SPOTS NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP
JUNE 18-22 OR JULY 16-20
[visitponderosa.com](http://visitponderosa.com) + CLICK CAMPS

# Spiritual Leadership

By Charles Boswell *DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE AND CHURCH HEALTH*



**“The challenge for today’s leaders is to discern the difference between the latest leadership fads and timeless truths established by God.”**

In his article on the “7 Factors That Influence Influence,” John Maxwell States that “Leadership is influence. Just because someone has a title, doesn’t mean that person is a leader.” He wants us to buy into the concept that “leadership is influence—nothing more, nothing less.”

I believe that the issue of leadership holds a deeper dimension for Christians: Is Christian leadership the same thing as secular leadership? Can the leadership we give to our churches be defined with one word, influence? The trend among many Christian leaders has been for an almost indiscriminate and uncritical acceptance of secular leadership theory without measuring it against the timeless precepts of Scripture.

Scripture is utterly unique in its

nature as God-breathed revelation; it is unparalleled and absolute in its authority; and it is the sole infallible rule of faith for the church (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The scriptures must be the final ground for guidance in all areas of life. Jesus constantly quoted scripture, explained it and treated it as a source of authoritative guidance (Lk. 24:27). He promised the Spirit’s guidance for the future leaders of the church, who would write the New Testament (Jn. 14:25-26; 16:12-15). When He left them, they had very little idea how to proceed, except that they must do so in the power of the Holy Spirit. All subsequent unveilings to the church of God as to methods of work and service have come from the growing interpretation of the Spirit. The challenge for today’s leaders is to

discern the difference between the latest leadership fads and timeless truths established by God.

What does “Spiritual” mean? We use it to refer to somebody who is not in touch with life, to a person living in the clouds. Actually, “spiritual” has to do with God the Holy Spirit. What is spiritual is what the Holy Spirit does. (1 Cor. 14:46) According to the Scriptures, the ‘spiritual’ state of soul is normal for the believer, but to this state all believers do not attain, nor when it is attained is it always maintained. (1 Cor. 3:1-2) Vines suggest that sin, immaturity and indifference to spiritual disciplines can hinder spiritual progress if not revoke any spiritual progress previously enjoyed.

Spiritual goals can be achieved only by spiritual people who use

spiritual methods. Therefore, “an effective and comprehensive biblical theology of leadership must draw the person and the work of Christ, the nature and the activity of the Trinity, and the way biblical figures were led by God to develop into effective coworkers with Him.” God equips His leaders when they are saved, and when they come to have the spiritual and moral qualifications that come from obedience to His Word, their leadership blossoms and becomes evident. (1 Corinthians 12:7). The spiritual man is one who walks by the Spirit both in the sense of Gal. 5:16 and in that of Gal. 5:25, and who himself manifests the fruit of the Spirit in his own ways.

Spiritual leadership requires Spirit-filled people. Other qualities are important; to be Spirit-filled is indispensable. The Spirit will not

delegate authority into secular or carnal hands; all workers must be Spirit-led and filled (Acts 6:3,5). To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit. The leader’s mind, emotions, will, and physical strength all become available for the Spirit to guide and use. Under the Spirit’s control, natural gifts of leadership are lifted to their highest power, sanctified for holy purpose. Through the work of the now ungrieved and unhindered Spirit, all the fruits of the Spirit start to grow in the leader’s life. His witness is more winsome, service more steady, and testimony more powerful. All real service is but an extension of the Spirit’s power through believers yielded to Him (John 7:37-39). Spirit-filled leadership appears rapidly when God is freely at work in His body (1 Corinthians 12:7). The secular mind and heart however

gifted and personally charming, has no place in the leadership of the church. The spiritual state is reached by diligence in the Word of God and in prayer; it is maintained by obedience and self-judgment. Such as are led by the Spirit are spiritual, but, of course, spirituality is not a fixed or absolute condition, it admits of growth; indeed, growth is evidence of true spirituality. (2 Peter 3:18)

In that same article I mentioned in the beginning of this article, Maxwell quotes Bill Hybels. He says Bill “believes that the church is the most leadership-intensive enterprise in society.” While I agree with Bill, I must respectfully disagree with Maxwell. We must become spiritual leaders who lead spiritually least we lead in the flesh. Let’s not define our leadership with a single word. Our leadership must be spiritual or not at all.



## ←← PEAK KIDS CAMP

For kids completing 3rd-6th Grades, Cost \$225

SESSION #1: JUNE 24-27

SESSION #2: JUNE 27-30

### NAMES OF GOD

PASTOR MIKE WATT FROM LUBBOCK, TX WILL JOIN US ALONG WITH “KIDS CELEBRATION” & SUMMIT OK COLLECTIVE BAND RETURNS!

*Don't wait to reserve spots – already filling quickly!  
Call 719-481-2482 ext #17 or visit PeakKidsCamp.com*

## SUMMIT STUDENT CAMP →→

For Students Completing 6th-12th Grades, Cost: \$290

STANDARD FORMAT – WEEK #1: JUNE 18-22

\*NEW\* FORMAT – WEEK #2: JULY 16-20

\*SPLIT TRACK: Separate middle & high school experiences throughout the week for specialized teaching & competition.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12 “SET AN EXAMPLE ...”

PASTOR ACTON BOWEN IS BACK!

... ALONG WITH BAND “MORE THAN THIS”

Reserve Group Spots today! 719-481-2482 ext #17  
or visit SummitStudentCamp.com



# THAT'S TOO LONG

**Frank Cornelius**  
LEAD CHURCH PLANTING CATALYST

I recently became aware of a Twitter feed called #thatstoolong. It's a place where people can go to talk about things that take too long, whether it be wait time at the DMV, the time since visiting their favorite relative, how many weeks since they visited their favorite restaurant, or how long their least favorite politician has occupied office. We tend to be an impatient society, so I'm sure we could all add many items to the growing Twitter list of things that take too long.

In 2017, we saw 21 new Colorado church plants. That is a reason to celebrate! As 2017 ended, Colorado's population was 5,540,000. At a pace of 20 or so church plants per year, it will take 50 years to plant enough churches to saturate Colorado with the Gospel.

**21**  
NEW  
CHURCH  
PLANTS



**5,540,000**  
COLORADO  
POPULATION

#thatstoolong. Add in about 10% per year population growth, and it would take over 75 years to plant a sufficient amount of churches. #thatstoolong!

What if we could double the amount of churches we plant each year? Then, we would see those churches planted in 20-25 years. That's still a long time, but not so long that many of us would still be around to see it happen.

We need to reach the place where we are planting 40 or more churches every year in Colorado. This is not about numbers, this is about our neighbors' eternal souls. Every year the majority of Coloradoans who pass into eternity, do so without knowing the Savior. The longer it takes for us to plant churches, the more people leave this world without Christ.

Jonathan Ferre, planter of Iglesia Gracia y Verdad in Colorado Springs, recently related the story of Rafael. A lady visiting IGV in December asked Jonathan to visit a friend of hers, Rafael, who was in the hospital with terminal cancer. Rafael, a native of Guatemala, had been here for three years. Jonathan visited Rafael in the hospital and shared the Gospel. Rafael accepted Christ! Five days later Rafael returned to Guatemala and six days afterward passed into eternity. Rafael's story is a stark reminder of the frailty of human life, mankind's need for a Savior, and the imperative nature of sharing the Gospel.

I believe within a couple of years we can get to the place where we are planting 40 or more churches every year. It will not be an easy task, but it is an incredibly important task. Here are what I see as the keys to planting more churches.

## AN INCREASED NUMBER OF CHURCH PLANTERS

Admittedly, this is the equation's most difficult part. To be a church planter requires a call from God. Therefore, we can't just go out and start picking people to lead church plants. What we can do is pray that God will call out church planters. We have been praying Luke 10:2 for many years, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest fields." I ask you to join us in praying daily that God would send out church planters to Colorado's harvest fields. One easy way to do this is set your alarm for 10:02 every morning as reminder to pray.

***At a pace of 20 or so church plants per year, it will take 50 years to plant enough churches to saturate Colorado with the Gospel.***  
#thatstoolong

**AN INCREASED FOCUS  
ON INTENTIONAL BIVOCATIONALISM**

Sustainability is very important in church planting. The goal is for a church plant to be self-sustaining in four to five years. In some cases, the plant's context tells us that being self-sustaining in that time frame will be a challenge. Maybe the plant is in a small community. Maybe the economy of the community would not support a full-time salary. There are many other factors that might point to the need for a bivocational planter. Whatever the case may be, it is best to start with the end in mind. This means starting with a bivocational planter rather than making that transition later.

There are many Colorado communities where these scenarios play out, and not all are in rural Colorado. There are places along the Front Range where bivocational planters are needed. I believe there are people in pews God is wanting to call out to use their vocation as a platform to

plant new churches. Our role is to 1) create an atmosphere that celebrates and validates God's call on people who use their vocation to share the Gospel and plant new churches, and 2) give them the training and tools they need.

**AN INCREASED NUMBER  
OF MULTIPLYING CHURCHES**

Multiplying Churches have an intentional process of training and sending out church planters. As we increase the number of Multiplying Churches, we increase the number of planters being trained and ready to plant. We are also seeing some of these churches shift their focus to training intentionally bivocational planters. We have several resources to help churches develop a process of training and sending planters. Would your church consider being such a church? Talk to a Church Planting Team member to get more information about becoming a Multiplying Church.

**AN INCREASED NUMBER OF  
SENDING AND SUPPORTING CHURCHES**

Sending and Supporting Churches are the key partners in church planting efforts. They pray for, provide for, and work alongside church planters. Nationwide, only 4% of SBC churches are involved in church planting. In Colorado, we do much better at 15%. What if 50%, 75% or even 85% of Colorado churches were involved as a Sending or Supporting Church? It would totally change the face of church planting in our state. As we increase the number of plants, we will need more partner churches. If your church would like to get involved, we have the resources and tools to help you.

As we move through the year, my prayer is we can see these key areas increase to move us toward a greater number of plants in future years. Let's work together to move from #thatstoolong to #allhaveheard.

Through the Cooperative Program, our churches work together to support a wide array of ministries and missions including: evangelism efforts, children's homes, volunteer missions, missions education, new churches, colleges and universities, collegiate ministries, camps, and much more.

**[LEARN MORE AT COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG](http://coloradobaptists.org)**



**HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**





**COLORADO  
BAPTISTS**

7393 S. ALTON WAY  
CENTENNIAL, CO 80112

[COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG](http://COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG)

*COLORADO BAPTISTS ANNUAL MEETING*

BEHOLD, I AM DOING  
**A NEW THING** ISAIAH 43:19

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**OCTOBER 15-16, 2019**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACK FOREST**  
10915 Black Forest Road • Colorado Springs, CO 80908