

MOMENTUM

ISSUE #2 • OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF COLORADO BAPTISTS  COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG

LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE

+ MINISTRY OF
PRESENCE

+ THE IMPORTANCE
OF RELATIONSHIPS

+ TELL SOMEONE

SHARING YOUR FAITH IN
CHRIST REGULARLY



STAY HYDRATED

LOVE RUNNING. Actually, it is a love/hate relationship. I hate it while I am doing it, but love it when I am finished. One of the fundamental things about running is that you are to constantly be rehydrating yourself in order to remain healthy. There is nothing greater after a long hard run than a cold glass of water to refresh your body.

This is true in our spiritual running as well. We go hard all year serving the Lord with all we have. There are times that we need to slow down and be refreshed in our walk with our Lord. Summer is a great time each year for this spiritual rehydration. It gives us an opportunity to slow down and drink from the water of our Lord.

One of my favorite passages of Scripture to reflect upon when I need to be refreshed by the Lord is Psalm 37. In God's faithfulness, he reminds us of four simple steps to being refreshed in our spiritual journey.

1. TRUST IN THE LORD Verse 3 tells us to trust in the Lord and do good. It is always refreshing to know that my God is trustworthy and steady. It is a blessing to know that whatever I am going through, I can fully trust in him! Whatever you are facing in the coming weeks and months, know that you can trust in the Lord!

2. DELIGHT IN THE LORD I love this verse. God reminds us to delight ourselves in who He is. As we run our spiritual race, we must do so with a joy that only Jesus gives. God is so good to us. His goodness is far beyond what any of us deserve. Let us delight in the goodness of our God together.

3. COMMIT OUR WAY TO THE LORD A great reminder for us is to commit all we are and all we do to the Lord. Every blessing in our life comes from the hand of

God. Since we know his goodness to us and our ability to trust in Him, naturally, we should commit our plans, dreams, strategies, and all other aspects of life to Him. We must remember, God can do far more with our lives than we can. God's word gives us the opportunity to commit to the Lord and watch what He will do.

4. BE STILL BEFORE THE LORD The last simple step to our refreshing from the Lord as found in Psalm 37 is to be still and wait for God to move. This is often the most difficult step for a believer today. We are so used to instant gratification, that patience is often not our strong suit. However, you can be still and wait on the hand of God to move, simply because of the first three steps. He is one we can trust, one who is infinitely good, and the one to whom we can commit everything. So, whatever you are facing, be still and know that God is in control.

I encourage you this summer to step back and be refreshed. Let the word of God be to your soul as water is to a dehydrated body. He has something special for you. I am humbled and honored to serve Colorado Baptists and am praying for a movement of God among us.

I want to remind you to mark the dates for our 2018 CBGC Annual Meeting. It will be held at First Baptist Church, Black Forest on October 15-16. It is going to be an incredible time of celebration together. I will be casting a new vision to lead us into the exciting future of the CBGC. I would love to see you there!

Please know I love you and pray for you often. Let's join together in praying for God's favor and blessings to be upon us as a body of churches.



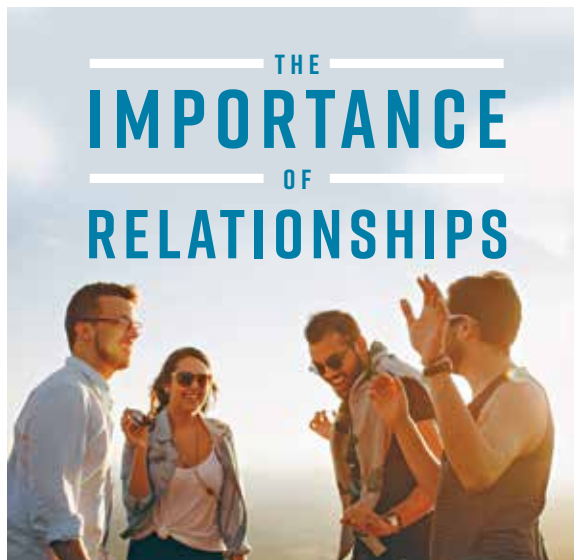
Dr. Nathan Lorick
Executive Director
Colorado Baptists



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

DOES YOUR CHURCH SMELL? 2



When Jesus was asked, what is the most important commandment? He answered, "Love the Lord your God... and Love people." I believe this is because we were created for relationships and without them we are missing part of our purpose.

4

BEING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN DOING 6

MINISTRY OF PRESENCE 8

CHURCH LOANS: CHURCHES YOUNG AND OLD BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE 10

THE BLESSING OF MISSIONS TEAMS 12



EVANGELISM: TELL SOMEONE 14

COLORADO COLLEGE STUDENTS DEPLOYED FOR HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS 16

ROMANTICIZING BUSYNESS! 18

"Busyness" might well be the greatest distraction impacting post-modern ministry and ministers—aka pastors. We have bought into the concept that busyness makes us more important and productive.

RAISING UP LEADERS FOR THE HARVEST 20

"What do we need most to plant more churches in Colorado?"



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

DOES YOUR CHURCH SMELL?

AM THE SON OF A BI-VOCATIONAL

PASTOR and the grandson of a vocational evangelist.

As such, while I was growing up, I had the opportunity to visit many old and staid Southern Baptist Churches. One of the things those churches almost always had in common was a particular smell. I imagine it was the smell of old books, old varnish and old anything else. But even today, when I get a whiff of that odor it brings back memories of an old, half empty church. Many of you know exactly what I'm talking about. You've smelled it yourself. It was not necessarily the smell of health and life. It was the smell of something old, past its prime; something dying or dead.

This made an indelible impression on me, to the point that I began to talk about the life of a church euphemistically, with respect to smell. When I visited a church or was a guest preacher in a church I would ask myself what that church "smelled" like. Did it have the fragrance of life or the stench of death attached to it? What did visitors "smell" when they walked in the doors? Did they "smell" something vibrant

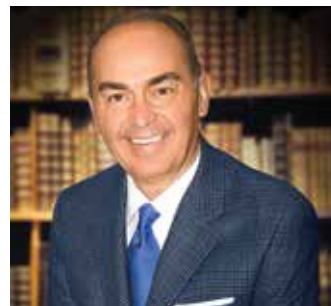
Have we become so accustomed to the "smell" of our church that we are no longer able to discern between what is living and what is dying?

and growing—something inviting and exciting—or did they smell something that had stagnated for so long that it was clearly dying or dead?

This is a question which we could certainly employ in many areas of our lives, but as pastors we should be asking this question about the church we serve. We should know what others "smell" when they visit us. Have we become so accustomed to the "smell" of our church that we are no longer able to discern between what is living and what is dying? Are we breathing enough fresh air, through what we read and to what we are exposed, that we can accurately detect the scent our church is giving off?

My prayer for myself and for each of you is that our churches would not give off the stench of death but the sweet aroma of life, not only to those who visit us, but to the Lord we serve.

Blessings,
Calvin Wittman



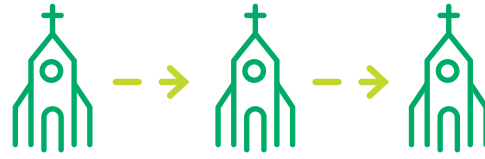


WORSHIP FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

The mountains of Colorado had well over 2,000 people from all over the world worshipping at our Mountain Top Easter Services! All but one of the services were outdoors.

TOWN OF YAMPA BEING TRANSFORMED

First Baptist Church of Yampa is filling up their building every week and baptizing 2-4 people every month according to Pastor Kelly Carlson. This is in an isolated mountain town of 500, in a building that will hold 100-125—figure the percentage! God is in the business of transforming communities.



Churches sending churches

Storyline Fellowship is multiplying by commissioning and sending out a church planting family to plant Journey Point Church. Chris Phillips, planter of Journey Point, has engaged in a yearlong church planting residency at Storyline under the leadership of Pastor Ben Mandrell and Church Planting Pastor Lange Patrick. We celebrate with them as our churches continue starting new work!

Seven Baptized at Yuma First Southern

In March, FSBC of Yuma baptized 7 children, one of which was the oldest son of pastor Chris Gilmore. “We had taken these kids through a 10-week new believers class to make sure their decisions were genuine,” said Gilmore. “Some had made decisions at home or in service, others in AWANA, and several in VBS. We have 3 more that couldn’t make the day work for family and are waiting to be in the waters as well as a list of about 8 to go through another class.”

WANT TO BE A MORE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR AND PREACHER OF GOD’S WORD?

Gateway Seminary will be offering Preaching I & II at the Rocky Mountain Campus for the upcoming 2018-19 academic year. Offered as a weekend class, the fall semester dates will be September 14-15, and November 16-17, 2018. Dr. Jim Wilson, DMin Program Director and Professor of Leadership Formation at Gateway Seminary – Ontario Campus, will teach the class. He is a seasoned pastor and a writer who has authored, co-authored, or contributed to more than twenty books, including the recently published title *Impact Preaching: A Case for the One-Point Expository Sermon*.

Application deadline for prospective students is July 15th and the application process is available on our website at www.gs.edu. The class is available to audit, as well.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS

BY JEFF BACHMAN *LEAD PASTOR, HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH, OLATHE, CO*



TOO OFTEN IN THE CHURCH we discard the amount of time that we invest into relationships, but I believe they are truly a vital part of our ministry. From the beginning God said, “It’s not good for man to be alone.” I hope that I can offer some tangible reasons why we should invest a large part of our time into relationships.

1 RELATIONSHIPS MEET A NEED THAT NOTHING ELSE CAN.

Think about the relationships that you have. There is nothing else that can fill that gap. Achievements, recognition and money will not take the place that is left by not engaging in meaningful relationships. When Jesus was asked, what is the most important commandment? He answered, “Love the Lord your God... and Love people.” I believe this is because we were created for relationships and without them we are missing part of our purpose.

2 RELATIONSHIPS ARE A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN IMPACT LIVES.

Just think for a moment about your own relationships. It is the relationship that you have invested in that gives you the opportunity to be real. You are able to connect on levels that you would never dream of connecting on with someone who is just an acquaintance. The gospel can be openly shared and received because relationships create an environment of trust, where lives can be impacted and changed.

3 RELATIONSHIPS CREATE AN AREA OF SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT.

When we invest our time into meaningful relationships it creates opportunities for us to support others and be supported. It creates

opportunities for us to encourage and be encouraged. This past year I began a relationship with a young family who was struggling. Their daughter who was eight was diagnosed with brain cancer. Less than a year later I stood in their home ushering this now nine-year-old into the arms of Jesus. I was privileged to have this relationship with the family and was not just a support and encouragement, but was encouraged and supported in return. God used this relationship to see three people come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Ecclesiastes 4:12 encourages us “that a cord of three is not easily broken.”

4 RELATIONSHIPS ARE TRULY WHAT MATTER IN OUR MINISTRY.

If we are just about numbers in the seats, then we have become a

country club not a church. God has called us to grow the church. Even if we are meeting someone for the first time and have the opportunity to share the gospel, we still need to understand that Jesus was interested in the relationship. He said in the great commission to, “Go and make disciples.” This means we are not only called to share the gospel but to build relationships with people so that the gospel can continue. Our main example of these types of relationships is the relationship Jesus had with the disciples during his ministry here on earth.

Will you take time this week to invest into the lives that God has placed you in? Will you invest into people so that you can build lasting relationships that impact the lives of those around you? We are called as the church to create environments of meaningful relationships that ultimately can change the world.

COLORADO MISSIONS OFFERING

IN HONOR OF NICY MURPHY

AN ETERNAL INVESTMENT

OFFERING
SUPPORTS:

Associational Missions • State Missions • Disaster Relief • Resort & Leisure Ministries • Ponderosa Camp • Seminary Students + more

BEING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN DOING

BY JOE CHAMBERS PASTOR OF MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, BUENA VISTA, CO



Do you remember when Jesus was baptized? Matthew tells us,

“As he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’”

We are, as the Apostle Paul so often said, ‘in Christ.’ Jesus’ story becomes our story. So, if you belong to Jesus, God the Father looks at you the way He looks at Jesus at this moment in the Jordan River. The Heavens are parted, God’s presence descends, and a warm fatherly voice speaks such wonderful words of affirmation.

It certainly is not always easy to hear that voice in a world filled with voices that shout: “You are no good,

you are ugly; you are worthless; you are despicable, you are nobody—unless you demonstrate the opposite.”

Henri Nouwen reminds us,

“As soon as we become spiritually deaf to the voice that calls us the beloved, we are going to look someplace else to make us the beloved.”

You are the beloved and you are becoming the beloved. Think of it this way, over three decades ago I said some vows and entered a covenant relationship with a girl and was married. Was I a husband? Technically, yes. But over three decades of effort, mistakes, defeat and victories I am becoming a husband.

When the triune God of the Universe thought us up, we became the beloved of God, but we must now be active in becoming the beloved of God.

In the courtyard of Louie’s ice cream shop in my hometown of Buena Vista, CO, there is a large chalkboard on the side of the red brick building. At the top of the board are the words, “Before I die_____.” Then there are lines after lines for folks to write their answer. There were many answers scribbled below ranging from the profound to the profane. But the one that caught my eye was printed in such small scribble, I had to bend close to read it. It said, “Before I die I want to be loved.”

As you advance God’s Kingdom, always remember that how God the Father felt about His Son at his baptism, is how He feels about you where you are.

After all, as far as we know, Jesus had done no ministry prior to hearing those words from His Father: *“This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”*

Being is more important than doing.

In 2013, I hiked the 460-mile section of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in Oregon. If you hike the PCT long enough, you will meet people who have trail names. Almost all the “Through-Hikers” had trail names. Like “Bear Cow,” “Kindergarten Cop,” “Peanut Butter Platypus,” “The Bee Man,” “Skinny D,” “Roger Dodger,” and “Sweet Jesus.”

Most of those names originated, as most nicknames do, from some memorable event. “Bear Cow” got scared of glowing eyes at the edge of the firelight one night, convinced he was being stalked by a bear only to find out it was a cow. “Peanut Butter Platypus” thought it would be a good idea to carry peanut butter in a camelback bladder. (Apparently that is not a good idea, but the name stuck.) “Skinny D” is short for “skinny dipper.” “Sweet Jesus” is a kid who had long hair and a beard like...Jesus.

I spent the first week and some sixty miles hiking solo from Ashland, Oregon to Fish Lake Resort. The camp manager told me where the designated PCT hiker’s camp was located. I was foot-sore, dirty, hungry and lonely. I sat my supply box down on a picnic table, took my pack off and stretched out under a canopy of fir boughs. I was almost asleep when I heard the heavy footfall of someone approaching.

A tall, lanky, gray-bearded man came lumbering up. He bowed low and with open arms said, “Welcome, sir, to your new home. We are all family here and anything I have is yours. Let me know if you need anything. On the trail they call me ‘Smoke.’” We shook hands and he crawled into his tent.

Over the next 24 hours, I learned he was not a hiker. He just hung out at the PCT camp because he had no place else to go. He would pick up trash around the resort.

**Always remembering
who you are is more
important than what you
do. Because when you
understand that you are
loved for who you are
not what you do, you’ll
find your true identity.**

He asked me what I did when I wasn’t hiking. When I tell people that I am a pastor, they change. Often, they become standoffish.

But Smoke smiled ear-to-ear.

We had long discussions about the Bible. Smoke would talk and talk, but he didn’t speak in linear ways. He

would start down a line of logic and split off and chase a different topic.

The more you listened to him the more you knew he was a kind and gentle man. He wanted nothing from anyone but offered what he had to all who came along. He wrote me a three page letter confessing sins, a life of drug abuse, and rambling lyrics from old songs, sprinkled with clips of verses from the Bible.

When I packed up to go, I turned to him and said, “Smoke, would you mind if I prayed for you?” He said, “I would count it a privilege if you would just remember my name from time-to-time down the trail, pastor.” I said, “Smoke, can I pray for you right now?”

He nodded his head.

I began to pray, and Smoke tilted his head back just slightly as if basking in the warm rays of the morning sun. When I said, “In Jesus name, amen” big wet tracks of tears were flowing down his pockmarked cheeks. I placed my hand on his chest and said, “Smoke, you have a good heart beating in this chest. God loves you very much.”

He smiled and said, “Pastor, my name is Gary.”

Always remembering who you are is more important than what you do. Because when you understand that you are loved for who you are not what you do, you’ll find your true identity.

You are the beloved of God.

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



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?





Ministry of Presence

BY JAN LOSER

DISASTER RELIEF CHAPLAIN COORDINATOR/TRAINER

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

We have concern for those that are suffering or hurting, but stop short of doing anything. Why? Are we uncomfortable with their stage of distress, grief, pain, or hardship? Maybe we do not know what to do or what to say. Oh yes, there is the big fear ... what if we say the wrong thing! We may have a lot of *what ifs*. These fears can override our desire to help and cause us to walk away still wanting to show concern, but

feelings of our own inadequacies have taken control.

Here is something to consider... if we care about the hurting, have concern about what they are going through, want to see them recover from their distress, then GO to them...BE with them...LISTEN to them. It is called the ministry of presence. One of the most important things we can do is show up. We step out of our comfort zone and walk into their pain and suffering.

Walking out of our comfort zone and into someone else's pain and suffering is demonstrating compassion. Compassion comes from two little Latin words "cum" and "pati," which means "suffering with." The best example of showing compassion is Jesus. In the scriptures, Jesus always ministered in person. When He was unable to go to the hurting, He sent His disciples to GO. Either way, we see the ministry of presence.

Walking out of our comfort zone and into someone else's pain and suffering is demonstrating compassion.

When we are having a difficult time, it is nice to know that we are not alone. Notes, cards, and phone calls show someone is thinking about us. But consider the last time you were hurting—physically, emotionally, or spiritually—what made you feel like someone really cared? It was probably when they were actually with you.

Now that we have stepped into their suffering, what do we do or what do we say? The only way to know what will be most helpful is to ask, "Is there anything you need?" "What can I do for you?" Recently my sister was in the hospital when her husband suffered a heart attack. She got a call from a friend telling her they were on their way to be with her and asked, "Have you eaten? What would taste good right now?" They not only practiced the ministry of presence, but brought a cup of soup as well.

It is a privilege to be able to demonstrate compassion to those in distress. What if we show up and no one wants to talk? The pain is so deep; conversation would be an added burden. This can be a really uncomfortable situation, especially for those of us who feel if thirty words are good, then three hundred are better. Now not only are we practicing the ministry of presence, but we need to minister in silence!

To sit in silence could seem like torture. How in the world do we show compassion without saying a word? We have to rely on Christ's guidance. Compassion is doing whatever it takes; being what is needed at the time. And sometimes we get to use words!

Who can minister in presence? Think about this little story as the answer. There was a family busy preparing meals, cleaning, and

welcoming guests for their neighbor whose wife had just passed away. Then someone realized their 4-year old had not been seen for quite a while. After searching all over, she appeared at the door. While relieved she was safe, they asked where had she been? Her answer, "I was next door with Mr. Smith." They feared she had been bothering him and asked, "What were you doing?" She answered, "I sat and cried with him."

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

SEPTEMBER 6TH • 11:30 A.M. -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.



NOVEMBER 8TH • 11:30 A.M. -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.



Churches young and old building for the future

BY DOUG LOHREY *PRESIDENT, COLORADO BAPTIST FOUNDATION*



As the president of the Baptist Foundation of Colorado (BFC), I would like to share some exciting building expansions across our state. The BFC has had a part in these expansions through construction and/or permanent church building loans. We count it a privilege to come along side these ministries that are reaching out to their communities.

Arapahoe Road Baptist Church

Arapahoe Road Baptist Church (ARBC) had not updated their building, especially their preschool area, for many years and it was aging. They decided this was one area where they needed to upgrade their facility. I met with them and discussed the construction/permanent loan process, which excited them about the possibilities of this project becoming a reality.

The church proceeded to get some plans drawn up, as well as doing a cost analysis. The BFC Loan committee approved this project and away ARBC went on this project. ARBC finished this project and their preschoolers moved into their new classrooms.

Matthew Perry, pastor of Arapahoe Road Baptist Church, stated, “our aim with our preschool ministry was defined by the acronym

SEAL: a place that's secure, efficient for our teachers in keeping things up-to-date, atmosphere for kids to learn about Jesus, and to leave a legacy in Christ to help all of us in the generations ahead, keeping an active movement for Christ and community."

He also said, "working with Doug Lohrey and the Baptist Foundation was a pleasant, helpful, and encouraging experience. They are always available to answer questions and to help navigate through what can be a trying process."

High Plains Fellowship, Lamar

High Plains Fellowship is a new church plant located in Lamar. The Lord is blessing them and

the church started to yearn for a place of their own. They found a storefront in Lamar that looked like the perfect place, so they talked to the owner and found out the price of this facility. The church went to the local bank, and because the church was so new the bank declined their loan. The pastor, Paul Floyd, came to BFC and asked if we could do a loan for them to purchase this building. The Loan Team evaluated their application and approved the loan. The church purchased the storefront, remodeled, and held their grand opening on Feb. 11. I was able to attend and it was quite the celebration.

The church said to me, "now we

have a place of our own to really reach our community for Christ." Paul Floyd said, "it was a pleasure to work with the Baptist Foundation. Every person we interacted with was professional, informative and knowledgeable. Their service was personal and filled with grace as they worked with us through every step of the loan application."

It is exciting to be part of churches moving forward in their attempt to reach their communities for Christ. If your church is needing help with a building program, contact the Baptist Foundation of Colorado by visiting baptistfoundationofcolorado.org. We are more than happy to help where we can.

SMALL LOANS, **BIG** IMPACT

Ministry Equipping
Loans from The Baptist
Foundation of Colorado



BAPTIST FOUNDATION
OF COLORADO

Ministry needs come in all sizes, big and small. Our church loans do, too. That's why the Baptist Foundation of Colorado offers small loans up to \$150,000 to Colorado Baptist churches and organizations. We call them Ministry Equipping Loans, and they can help meet needs like:

- Facility renovation and repairs
- Vehicle purchases
- Worship/sound upgrades
- New playgrounds and other additions

Apply Now

Contact Doug Lohrey at
720.372.7313 or dlohrey@cbgc.org

baptistfoundationofcolorado.org





THE BLESSING OF MISSION TEAMS

BY STEVE HOEKSTRA *TEAM LEADER, RESORT AND LEISURE MINISTRIES, COLORADO BAPTISTS*

HAVING MISSION TEAMS TO HELP in our Colorado Baptists church summer programming is a given. Whether it is a team for VBS, sports camp, day camp or construction, your church can use the help. I am thankful for the over one hundred groups that have ministered to churches where I have served over the years. For a while in my ministry we had 10 groups every summer. We did a day camp ministry (kind of like an outdoor VBS) for 10 weeks. It was intense but spiritually profitable. When a church is doing that many camps each summer, they cannot use the same material. Neither can one group “drop the ball” or the next groups will suffer. We learned to prepare our teams to build upon the ministry of the group prior to them. Occasionally, we would have a mission group that did not prepare well or just did not do a good job on site, but I attributed this more to my lack of preparation and adequate training for them.

Here are a few thoughts as you prepare to have a mission group assisting your church this summer.

1. BEGIN PREPARATIONS EARLY

Most mission groups that do a really good job for you will want to have a place and ministry already secured at least six to eight months in advance. Many churches wait until May to get a group in for the summer, but by that time the best groups already have a place to go. Begin planning summer ministry no later than January.

2. HAVE A MINISTRY PLAN IN PLACE

Know where you will be doing VBS, day camp, sports camp or other ministry. Be able to communicate what you need done. Not all churches need to do VBS or sports camp but decide what you need and do not let it be dictated by the incoming group. Know the size group you will need. Too large, and they will overwhelm your resources. Too small, and they will not be able to adequately minister in the context. Have an idea of what it will cost the group to minister in your area. Will they be able to stay in a church, will they need to rent camping spaces, or a motel? Will they need to prepare their own food or will it be provided? What is the minimum age of the participants? What material will they need to provide? All of this should be in written form so you can send it to prospective leaders.

3. PRE-PROJECT VISIT

This is one of the key elements in successful summer ministries! Have the leader or leaders of the group come out in March or April. Have a weekend full of blessings for them.



Take them to the site(s) where they will be serving, introduce them to key people in town and review the ministry plan with them. Let them show you what they have put together to meet your needs. Finalize all on site needs and expectations. If you have more than one team coming, get all of the team leaders to come in for this one pre-project visit. Let each group explain how they will meet the needs of their particular week and how it dovetails with the other groups. I have found that the group leaders love this type of holistic planning instead of each group doing their own thing and then just leaving.

4. COMMUNICATE. COMMUNICATE. COMMUNICATE.

We need to communicate often: *with our church*, so they know what to expect and how to participate; *with the community*, so that all the spaces are reserved, the needed supplies are on hand, the publicity is out, and all of the details are handled; *with the group(s)*, so you know how they are coming along, how you can help, if there are any needs we did not talk about, prayer needs and prayer partners.

5. MAKE SURE EVERYBODY HAS FUN

In addition to having fun in ministry, plan some fun activities with and for the group. Allow them some free time so their ministry can be fresh each day. I usually divide the day into three sections: morning, afternoon and evening. I plan for them to be busy two out of the three sections, but not always the same sections.

6. FOLLOW UP

Have a plan to follow up on the groups as they go back home. If they did a great job, see if you can get them booked for the next summer. Have honest dialogue about what you saw them do well and how they could improve. Allow them the same privilege of helping you improve for future years. Let the groups know how your church did following up with the program participants. Celebrate the results of the ministry with them.

This is just a very brief overview of some of the basics to utilizing one of the most precious resources we have ... people!

Praying your summer ministries will be a blessing to you, your church, the groups and the Kingdom.

If I can help in anyway please don't hesitate to touch base.



TELL SOMEONE

BY TIM CORBIN *DIRECTOR OF CONVENTION STRATEGIES/COO* **WITH MARK SPENCE** *PASTOR OF MISSISSIPPI AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, AURORA, CO*



it

was the first time for Meredith to share Christ with anyone. She had been encouraged by her pastor for years but had never shared. The confidence she showed after sharing for the first time, though, demonstrated a lasting impact on her life!

Pastor Mark Spence along with other church leadership, set out to create a “third lane” of spiritual growth for their members aiming to equip their people for “Faith in Life.” The first “two lanes” are the Worship Service and Small Groups of their church. Realizing those two only cover a few hours each week, they put together strategic emphases throughout the year to focus on various spiritual disciplines.

One of the recent emphases was Evangelism. Mark knew it was not enough to encourage people to share their faith from the pulpit. That part is easy and still

necessary, but there needs to be a time we equip our people in how to do it, and then follow up with loving accountability.

The leadership designed an intentional plan called “Tell Someone,” inspired by Greg Laurie’s book by the same title. Encouraging their church to buy and read the book, they also invited them to participate in a training. They focused on equipping and sending members, and then celebrating God’s work.

During the equipping time, participants learned how to share their faith story and a gospel presentation. Then they practiced repeatedly with one another to become familiar and more comfortable with sharing. “The key is not only giving them a structure to share their story and the gospel,” says Mark, “but also having them practice until they build the confidence needed to share.”

After equipping, it was time to tell someone. They set out into the community in small groups to share. Par-

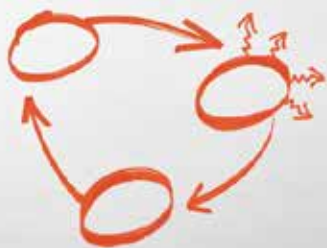
ticipants followed specific mapped areas and were given instructions and Bibles to hand out. Mark noted it’s important to give people an easy onramp to get into the game by taking them along and actually sharing.

When they returned from going out, they debriefed by sharing their experiences. In addition to someone receiving Christ, they celebrated how God worked through their conversations. They discussed who they were going to follow up with and rejoiced that some shared their faith for the first time ever, including Meredith.

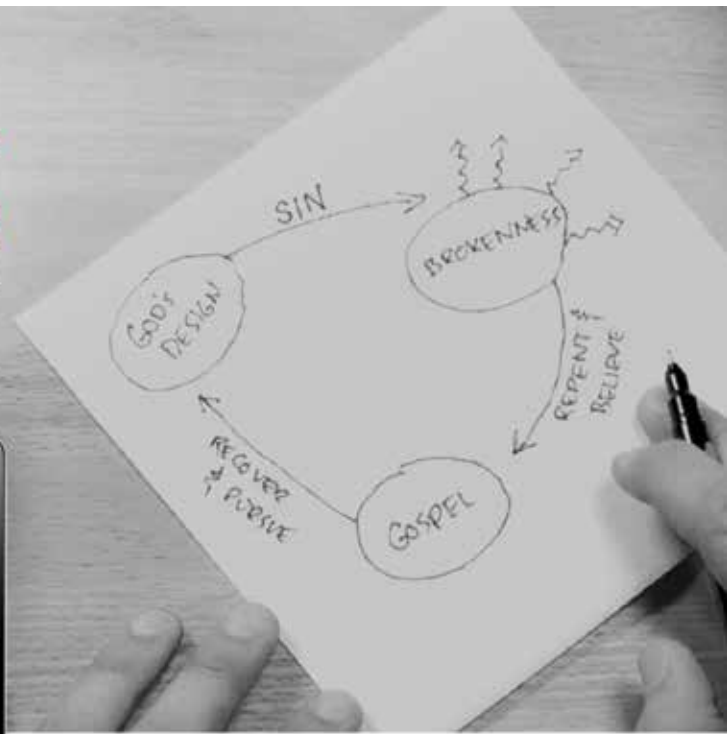
The win for Mark is not that they created something new. “This isn’t a new plan. But it’s our plan. If we don’t have an intentional plan, then we will likely never do it,” Mark stated.

If we rely solely on inviting people to church to hear the gospel, then we will miss out on a harvest awaiting us, as well as the opportunity for spiritual growth afforded to our people learning to live out their “Faith in Life.”

If we rely solely on inviting people to church to hear the gospel, then we will miss out on a harvest awaiting us, as well as the opportunity for spiritual growth afforded to our people learning to live out their “Faith in Life.”



3 CIRCLES: LIFE CONVERSATION GUIDE



namb.net/3Circles

Download the App





BY DENNIS BELZ *DIRECTOR OF COLORADO BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF*

COLORADO COLLEGE STUDENTS DEPLOYED FOR HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

WHEN I WAS IN TEXAS, I toured FBC Ingleside where the pastor gave me a tour of the damage created by Hurricane Harvey. Most of the roof was torn off in the main worship center, the smell of mold and mildew was strong, pungent. Everything was destroyed by the water and wind that came into the building. The damages totaled over one million dollars.

When I asked about their plan for repairs, they had no idea due to the amount of damage. I began to think about how Colorado Baptists could take on this project through Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief (CBDR). Because of the generous giving from Colorado Baptists, we were able to get to work on planning the rebuilding efforts. But who would we send?

Christian Challenge, our Colorado collegiate ministries,

was a big part of the answer. Three campus pastors contacted me to see if there was a spring break project they could assist with along with CBDR. This is the first time we have deployed collegiate teams! Along with other volunteers, over 60 collegiate volunteers were sent out to two different locations.

The first group, who went to FBC Dickinson, was made up of 40 college students and Christian Challenge leaders from the

University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO.

Colt Kreeger with UNC Christian Challenge said, “The students learned basic construction skills that will serve them well in life and will help them serve others in the future. It was a great character-building exercise for our students. They saw how serving is an essential part of our walk with Jesus, and how Jesus is the model servant. This was one of the best spring break trips we’ve ever taken!”

The second team served at FBC Ingleside and was made up of Christian Challenge groups from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, UC Boulder, and FBC Bayfield.

College student, Bryan Roberts said, “Over the course of my experience with the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, God taught me that work can be worshipful. I definitely wasn’t in my normal routine while working with Disaster Relief, but I still felt God’s presence very near throughout the week. It was nice to step outside the bubble of my regular life and join a network of believers larger than just my immediate community to explore how God is moving throughout the country.”

It is not required to be highly skilled and experienced to work with CBDR; just be willing to be trained and serve. Bill Winter, team leader, said, “Some had building, construction, and maintenance experience. Others did not. Those

**“
USING MY SPRING BREAK
TO VOLUNTEER WITH
CBDR OPENED UP DOORS
TO DEMONSTRATE THE
LOVE OF THE GOSPEL, NOT
ONLY IN INGLESIDE DURING
THE TRIP, BUT ALSO BACK
HOME WITH FRIENDS AND
CLASSMATES WHO ASKED
ABOUT THE BREAK.
”**

**JENNY EDWARDS
UC BOULDER STUDENT**

who did not have experience were very teachable. All were very hard workers.”

Blakeley Winslow with UC Boulder Christian Challenge identified working long days, hard manual labor in hot, muggy conditions was well worth it. He said, “It wasn’t just about clearing out debris, nailing boards, chipping away tile, and repairing a leaky roof. We had been able to tangibly serve as the Hands and Feet of Christ to those in need. We are proud to have done this through CBDR and their outstanding disaster relief organization!”

Jenny Edwards a student from UC Boulder said, “Using my spring break to volunteer with CBDR opened up doors to demonstrate the love of the Gospel, not only in Ingleside during the trip, but also back home with friends and classmates who asked about the break. God can use anything to make an impact in people’s lives, even in people we weren’t expecting.”

I’d like to thank our leadership from CBDR including Bill Winter, and Dave and Catherine Humphrey for leading these deployments. Thank you to FBC Bayfield, and Immanuel Community Church for sending 20 high school students and leaders. Thank you also, to the four seasoned handymen from Pelahatchie, MS, and the six additional Disaster Relief volunteers from Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas.

With these two deployments along with the initial fall deployment, Colorado has now sent 210 volunteers to assist in Texas. We are far from finished and still need volunteers to go to complete this rebuild effort in Ingleside.

Maybe God is leading you to be involved in relief efforts through CBDR. Consider this remark by Melissa Taylor from FBC Bayfield as you seek God’s guidance, “The sweet breath of Jesus was upon this place as we experienced worship, work, and fellowship. We came home renewed in our spirits.”



DISASTER RELIEF: BRINGING HELP, HOPE, AND HEALING

Want to get involved? Contact the DR office at 720.372.7307



ROMANTICIZING *BUSYNESS!*

BY MIKE MCVEY TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH, GUNNISON, CO

TIRED?

← SPREAD TOO THIN?

← **BUSIER THAN YOU
NEED TO BE?**

“Busyness” might well be the greatest distraction impacting post-modern ministry and ministers—aka pastors. We have bought into the concept that busyness makes us more important and productive. Unfortunately, busyness often means we’re too busy for God, ignoring His design for building margin into our lives.

REST is a foreign word to most ministry leaders. Peter Horne suggests that, “Sabbath-rest clashes with our culture’s

emphases on consumption, efficiency, productivity and time management. He goes on to say, “if our Christian journey is a process of being transformed into the image of God, then we must transform our schedules to enable the pursuit of refreshment and renewal in a theology of rest.”

Pastors imagine this, God using a choir director, to enlighten us on what a theology of rest looks like. It’s simple, yet profound: “Be still and know

that I am God,” Psalm 46:10. We frequently quote it and seldom live it. The words be still are an imperative; one which we often choose not to engage. Perhaps this musician understood what a “pause” in life is all about. It is as if he is saying, amid a busy schedule, we need to take a “pause” to get to “know” our Creator a little more intimately.

The words “be still” (Heb. raphah) means “to let drop, to abandon, relax, refrain, forsake, to let go, and to be quiet,” (www.blb.org). The NASB translates it “cease striving.” Choose the phrase that works best for you, but ask, why is it so vital that we discover how to be still? It is the means to growing deeper in our relationship with our Father. Rest is a time to delight in God, to enjoy Him and to relax.

Blaise Pascal, noted 17th century philosopher, wrote “All unhappiness

of men arises from one single fact, that they cannot stay quietly in their own room.” The consequences of such he continues, are “that the pleasure of solitude is a thing incomprehensible.”

Pascal’s words aptly describe the noise and busyness of the 21st century. We are not wired to embrace silence and solitude yet these disciplines are essential to being transformed into the image of God. It is during these times that we can withdraw from the demands of life and the noise of our own thoughts.

We need these times to give God our undivided attention. Henri Nouwen writes concerning solitude, “Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life. We do not take the spiritual life seriously if we do not set aside some time to be with God and listen to

Him.” Nouwen continues, “solitude is the furnace of transformation. ... [It] is the place of the great struggle and the great encounter—the struggle against the compulsions of the false self, and the encounter with the loving God who offers himself as the substance of the new self.”

What will you “drop,” “abandon,” or “let go of” this week to encounter stillness with God in an effort to engage the imperative of Psalm 46:10? STOP romanticizing busyness!

Heavenly Father, as I take time to pause and to rest, help me amid all my busyness to focus on what’s really important and to not get caught up in “romanticizing busyness.” Help me to put you first, because that is where I will be rejuvenated, replenished and reconnected and renewed. In Jesus name, Amen.



NEED A BREAK?

PLANNING YOUR NEXT STAFF RETREAT? *We can help!*

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY
719.481.2482

visitponderosa.com

15235 FURROW ROAD | LARKSPUR, COLORADO 80118

Raising Up Leaders for the Harvest

FRANK CORNELIUS *LEAD CHURCH PLANTING CATALYST*

“What do we need most to plant more churches in Colorado?”

That is a question I am often asked as I travel the state. My number one answer is more church planters. Obviously, there are other needs, but without a church planter it is unlikely a church will be planted. Church planters, however, do come in a variety of packages. Some planters come to us from other states. Sometimes a pastor will lead his church to plant in a community down the road, and that pastor is the planter for the new church. In other instances, a planter will be sent out by one of our Colorado churches to plant in another area of Colorado.

The third scenario is where I would like to focus. What if there were multiple church planters being trained up and sent out from Colorado churches? That could be a game changer for church planting in our state. The next obvious question is, how do we train up the guys

God is calling to plant churches? There could certainly be a variety of approaches to accomplish this end. However, there is a readymade tool for training up church planters: The Church Planting Pipeline.

The Church Planting Pipeline is a tool developed by the North American Mission Board that is made freely available to any church. It gives a future planter up to three years of development using curriculum that is both knowledge and experience based.

A common misconception about the Pipeline is that it is only for church planters. First, the Pipeline materials can be used to train not only planters, but also church plant team members and their spouses. Second, while it has a bent toward church planting, the material is a good leadership development process for any church leader. Some churches have adopted the Pipeline as their process for leadership

development.

The first step to using the Pipeline is to visit www.namb.net/pipeline. Here you can learn more information, see samples, and find resources for implementation. This is also where you register to begin using the materials. Once registered, you will get further instruction for using the Pipeline.

We believe developing future planters from within Colorado Baptists churches will increase our ability to plant more churches in the coming years. Our goal is to see forty Colorado churches using the Pipeline by the end of 2018. Currently, twenty-six churches have registered. If you would like to explore using the Church Planting Pipeline in your church, feel free to contact me (fcornelius@coloradobaptists.org) or any other Church Planting Catalyst. We would be glad to give you more information and help you through the process.

New Church Planting Team Members

Two Church-Based Church Planting Catalysts have recently joined Colorado Baptists' church planting team. Church-based CPCs continue to serve in their church while working part time to catalyze church plants. Jeff Bachman and Dustin Wagley have been endorsed by NAMB and recently began their service.

Jeff and Tammy Bachman moved to Olathe, CO and planted

Harvest Community Church in 2012. Jeff will continue to pastor Harvest while catalyzing church plants in the Montrose and Delta areas.

Dustin and Julie Wagley returned to Colorado in 2013 to pastor Fraser Valley Baptist Church. Dustin will focus on catalyzing church plants in Grand and Clear Creek counties while continuing to pastor in Fraser Valley.



Jeff and Tammy Bachman



Dustin and Julie Wagley

Church Planting Pipeline

The Church Planting Pipeline is a resource to help the local church discover and develop church planting missionaries. Up to three years of plug-and-play training is available covering 30 church planting competencies. The training is prescriptive, yet it allows you as a church to supplement for focus or depth.

Ready to discover and develop future church planting missionaries?

Visit www.namb.net/pipeline

 **SEND Network**



**COLORADO
BAPTISTS**

7393 S. ALTON WAY
CENTENNIAL, CO 80112

COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG

A
NEW
THING



**COLORADO
BAPTISTS**

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL MEETING 2018
OCTOBER 15-16

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