


# MOMENTUM

ISSUE #4 • OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF COLORADO BAPTISTS

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

## DISCOVER YOUR NEXT STEP



- + *CBGC ANNUAL MEETING RECAP*
- + *RAISE UP FAITHFUL PREACHERS*
- + *OUT OF THE MMA RING, INTO THE CLASSROOM*

# DARE TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP

**I**N JANUARY OF 2012, I BEGAN A JOURNEY that was both challenging and rewarding. I began training to run a marathon. I set my eyes on the goal of crossing the finish line after running 26.2 miles. The training was intense and, on most days, I had to push myself out of the door to run. However, it was in this process of training that I learned three lessons about life and leadership.

**1) MARATHONS ARE NOT RUN IN MILES, THEY ARE RUN IN STEPS** This is so important for people to realize when deciding to run a marathon. Every single step counts towards the goal. In fact, it has been said that it takes over 55,000 steps to run the marathon distance. The same can be true of the vision for our life or church. The race God has put us on is a marathon, which requires each of us to simply take the Next Step towards our goal.

**2) MARATHONS ARE NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART** While running my marathon, I begin to notice people fading out of race with each grueling mile we ran. You see, the idea of a marathon is fun and exciting, however, the execution is much more difficult. Marathons are hard work and requires discipline and endurance. The same can be true of the vision God has given to you. It is not going to be easy, but oh how it will be worth it. Stay the course and just keep taking your next step.

**3) MARATHONS ALWAYS START WITH YOUR FIRST STEP** When you come up to the starting line, your heart is beating fast, the adrenaline is pumping and

you are ready. The moment you have been training for has finally come. The race agent shoots off the gun and the race has started. However, in order for you to begin the race, you must take your first step. Once you take that step, the race is yours to run. The same can be said about your vision from the Lord. He has brought you and your church to this moment. This is your time. This is your race. You must now simply take the first step towards your future.

This is the new vision for Colorado Baptists. We are going to be a Next Step network that comes alongside you to help you take your Next Step in accelerating gospel impact in your community and across Colorado. We believe God has incredible things in store for our state through this incredible family of churches. We see a day when more lives are drastically transformed by the gospel, lostness is rapidly decreasing, churches are healthy and vibrant, and communities are changed because churches began taking their Next Step towards gospel impact. We believe this will happen as our family of churches move forward together each taking their Next Step. What incredible days we have ahead of us!

As you begin your Next Step journey, please know that your team at the CBGC stands eager and ready to serve you. We believe in you and know that God is going to use this new vision to radically change our state for His glory! We look forward to working alongside of you as you take your Next Step. We love you and consider it a joy and honor to serve you.



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



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**MOMENTUM**



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# DON'T DRIFT FROM TRUTH

## IN THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

my wife and I had the opportunity to visit the northeastern state of Maine.

This time of year, it is especially lovely, given its coastal towns and vibrant leaves. As with any place I travel, I always take note of churches, and New England is literally littered with them. Most of them are old white wooden churches with classic steeples and many have cemeteries next door. Many of them are no longer churches but have transitioned into community centers.

But the most notable thing about most of the old churches I saw was that instead of a cross on top of the steeple, they had a weathervane. Some of these were chickens, some were arrows pointing to the four points on a compass and some were sailing ships. But replacing the cross with a weather vane, was more than an ornamental change, it was a statement. In most of the cases the weathervanes on top of the church spoke to the kind of preaching and teaching that was going on inside the

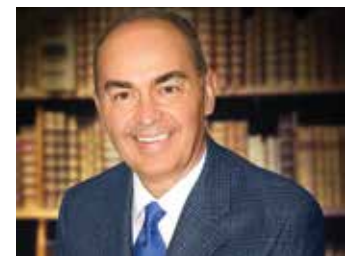
church. Instead of preaching the cross as they once did, these churches now preach whatever message the wind of culture dictates. Most of the churches I saw were exceedingly liberal and had long ago left orthodox Christianity. Many of them waved rainbow flags out front or were even more overt about their position on key biblical issues like marriage or human sexuality. These churches, once on fire for God and passionate about soul winning, have now become passionate about opposing the very teachings of the scripture they were originally built to preach. These churches left the faith gradually. Over time they drifted from the truth until one day they begin to teach a lie. It was sad.

You and I must be careful to stay in God's word, to remember that true believers will always be at odds with the world and exactly what it is to which we have been called. We have not been called to accommodate the culture,



but to confront it. We have not been called to change our message with every wind of doctrine that blows by, but to be rooted and grounded in the truth of the gospel (Ephesians 4:14). We can do that with love and with grace, but our message, of Jesus crucified, will never be popular with the world. Let's not just keep the cross on our steeples, let's keep the message of the cross in our pulpits. That's what will draw people to Jesus and bring glory to our Father in Heaven.

In Christ,  
Calvin Wittman



## Truly a Miracle: God Provides a Church Building



A few months ago, Iglesia Verdad y Vida in Montrose, Colorado, asked the Baptist Foundation of Colorado (BFC) about a loan for a church building. At first it appeared to be impossible, but then the Lord started to place His mark on this process. The church that currently owned the building could have sold it for more, but God laid this church on their hearts and sold it for what Iglesia Verdad y Vida could afford. The pastor said, "We were not sure that we could afford a loan, but the Baptist Foundation asked us to share our story on why we wanted a building." The BFC came alongside them and provided the financing. There needs to be some renovations, but there are already building teams from Colorado, Tennessee and Texas coming to make some of these improvements.

—By Douglas B. Lohrey, Baptist Foundation of Colorado

## CELEBRATING TOGETHER

### CP Giving

As of September 2018, Colorado Baptists have given over \$71,000 more than that time last year. An increase of 4.95%!



### Credentialed Churches

At this year's CBGC Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church Black Forest, 89 churches were voted on and approved to join our Convention. Colorado Baptists are now 325 churches strong with more to come!

### CBGC Annual Meeting Attendance

- + 361 Attendance
- + 203 Messengers
- + 158 Guests
- + 92 Churches sent messengers



# CHURCH LOANS THAT CHANGE LIVES.

The Baptist Foundation of Colorado partners with WatersEdge Advisors to provide loans to Colorado Baptist churches.

We offer competitive rates, and unlike traditional lenders, interest from your loan is given back to Southern Baptist ministries that touch lives with the Gospel.

### YOUR LOAN SUPPORTS:



Evangelism & church planting



National & international missions



Baptist universities & seminaries



Disaster relief & human needs ministries



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[baptistfoundationofcolorado.org](http://baptistfoundationofcolorado.org)



**BAPTIST FOUNDATION OF COLORADO**  
*A Financial Ministry to Colorado Churches*





KNOWING

&

LEADING

MYSELF

**T**HE MOST DIFFICULT PERSON YOU WILL EVER HAVE TO LEAD IS YOURSELF.

A person who is a package of impressive strengths mingles with equally great insecurities, wounds, and inconsistencies, all wrapped as best as we know how to project the best possible public face. We are fully aware of the concealed brokenness inside the box, and that brokenness, if not restored, will be our undoing. (We can all give examples of those who have fallen)

So how can we protect ourselves from this kind of ending?

**I. MY LOWEST POINT OF CHARACTER IS MY HIGHEST POINT OF CAPACITY.**

My leadership, especially spiritual leadership, cannot grow beyond my weakest point of character.

Picture an old antique wooden water bucket made from vertical boards (staves) fashioned together into a cylinder. If those boards were all different, the shortest board would logically dictate the limits of water the bucket could contain. If fifteen boards were 12 inches long and one board was 6 inches long, the defining limit would be what?

Our weakest character point always determines our capacity.

### **Example of Peter**

Peter's most tragic moments:

In the public denial of Christ, in Matt. 26:73-74, we see this uncharacteristically spineless scene which seems to be an aberration to the typically macho persona of Peter. Were there any hints to anticipate this breakdown?

In Matt. 16:21 Jesus explains the necessity of His upcoming crucifixion and resurrection. This is not what His followers wanted to hear.

In Matt. 16:22 Peter responds to Jesus and takes him aside and basically challenges Jesus to fight like a man.

"They will never over power us."

In Peter's words Jesus perceived a significant character flaw. Jesus did not need Peter's protection.

Jesus simply explained the "why" and the "what" of His Father's plan. Jesus was not trying to escape the plan but rather it was something He must fulfill.

In Matt. 16:23, Jesus corrects his friend. Peter was going to use fleshly power, which was Peter's character pattern, which needed to be corrected.

### **Fast Forward to the Upper Room**

Jesus had just called out Judas as a traitor and then Jesus fore tells His death and resurrection.

In Matt. 26:30 they go to Gethsemane to face an appointment of emotional, physical, and spiritual abandonment. Ironically the lesson Peter needed most to learn was being fleshed out in front of his unseeing eyes. Jesus' strength was not found in His physical frame but in His complete surrender to the Father.

In Matt. 26:31-32 Jesus says you will all fall away. Peter is no quitter. (See Matt. 26:33) Maybe Judas, and some of the others, but not me. Jesus needed to know the depths of Peter's devotion. Peter must have thought,

"How could Jesus get this so wrong?"

In Matt. 26:34 we have the prophetic pronouncement.

This reliance on physical strength versus spiritual strength was Peter's most limiting character deficiency.

Peter's last known words to Jesus before His crucifixion are found in Matt. 26:35, "Even if I have to die with You I will never deny You!"

Jesus had great plans for Peter. He handpicked him from the crowds to be His own Disciple, one whom He would send as an apostle of good news. Then there was the Denial of Jesus. Yet Peter's lowest point of character was his highest point of capacity. As long as Peter saw himself as his source of strength, there was not Kingdom future for him.

The low point of Peter's character had been laid open and exposed to the bone. There was no strength Peter could point to.

Ultimately Peter is restored at a sea side breakfast in John 21:15-19

Peter had nothing left. He simply had to trust Christ. Jesus reinstates Peter with his Kingdom assignment.

Reminded Peter, "Follow Me." Trust is a simple Key to Kingdom character. Only by knowing my challenges and struggles am I able to truly trust Jesus.

## **2. THE WAY I DO ONE THING IS THE WAY I DO EVERYTHING.**

A common sentiment in contemporary thought is a compartmentalized approach to character. A leader badly misbehaves and his supporters sing in unison that a leader's private life has nothing to do with his job performance. (All we have to do is look at many of our national leaders).

Private lives and public functioning are entirely unrelated. For the Christ Follower this thought is totally absurd.

*If I lie to my wife, I will lie to anyone.*

*If I hold back from God the finances that are correctly His, I will steal from anyone.*

*I must guard against rationalizing disobedience.*

*The way I do one thing is the way I do everything.*

For Peter his private issue of self-reliance became a spiritually damaging point of character. We must come face-to-face with this reality. Granted we all walk with a limp. We are flawed human beings. But we must walk with humility and realize that in our weakness God's strength can be found.

In Luke 16:10 we are reminded that when we are faithful with little then we will be entrusted with much. It is the little things, perhaps mundane activities, that demonstrate character. Character is not developed in the big events or challenges but rather character is revealed. Character is developed in the day to day disciplines, challenges, interruptions of life.

The way I do one thing, simple things, seemingly insignificant tasks, to "the least of these", reveals who I am.

Past behavior is the best indicator of future behavior. This is not the only indicator but we all tend to default to what has worked in the past. Developing new disciplines and habits are challenges we must face and only when we are self-aware will we have the insight to engage the need for change and growth. Today's problems are yesterday's solutions. We cannot tackle today's challenges with yesterday's methods and strategies. This is true corporately but also true personally. I must choose to change and embrace a new normal/reality.



### 3. PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION ONLY FLOWS FROM INTIMATE TRANSPARENCY.

The fact that my lowest point of character is my highest point of capacity should drive us to a place of analysis and deep introspection.

Knowing that the way I do one thing is the way I do everything should eliminate any semblance of self-reliance and move us to desperate dependence. How does this Intimate Transparency happen?

There has been such a focus and emphasis on the “personal relationship with God” element that we have lost the Biblical Community that is required. In the American contemporary understanding of the Body of Christ, it is left to the individual Christ-Follower to get his house in order through sheer intrinsic motivation. There is no place for accountability and support because there is no place for self-revelation. We are all on our own. So

we in the Church experience about the same level of social dysfunction as those outside the Body of Christ.

We need to ask, “How does a Christ-Follower break away from this culture of isolationism and experience something more transformative?” The Humility of Biblical Community becomes the key. It requires transparency.

James 5:16 says, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The intense prayer of the righteous is very powerful.” This requires humility and self-awareness.

I Peter 5:6 says, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time.” If Peter can get this there is hope for us. God’s call is to go deeper in community and to honestly admit sins of character in an environment of support and accountability which then results in authentic transformation.

How do we accomplish this? Here are a few suggestions:

- ◆ **Make it Personal.** Connect with others. Choose to be vulnerable and transparent with some close associates. Make this a spiritual discipline.
- ◆ **Model it Publicly.** Share what God is doing. Communicate the values you have received from biblical community with others.
- ◆ **Mark a Path.** Introduce this concept to your church. Engage the strategy to integrate biblical community in the normal rhythms of your church.

Imagine the transformation power a church will have in its city because it is composed of a members who are personally experiencing intimate transparency and transformation. People in the community will want what we have.

## WHY DO WE GIVE THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM?

*Because we are better together.*

Since its launch in 1925, the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program has been dependent upon individuals, churches, state conventions, and SBC entities cooperating toward a common goal of sharing the gospel with every person on the planet.

*With over 7 billion people in the world, we cannot accomplish this task alone.*

No church is too large that it can do it alone and no church is too small that it can’t make a difference. The CP allows us to do more together. The Colorado Baptist General Convention (CBGC) is a network of churches that work together for the advancement of the gospel. Your CP giving allows for statewide assistance in church planting and evangelistic efforts, while also sending 33% to the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention, both nationally and around the world.

### COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING BY COLORADO BAPTIST CHURCHES (2017)

**\$1,989,237**

- ▶ 32.93% **SBC MISSIONS** (IMB, NAMB, SEMINARIES, ELRC)
- ▶ 18.66% **CHURCH HEALTH**
- ▶ 17.19% **MISSIONS/EVANGELISM**
- ▶ 15.69% **CONVENTION SUPPORT**
- ▶ 15.52% **LEADERSHIP**

PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT (NAMB, LIFEWAY & OTHERS)

**\$1,497,000**



*Let's do more together!*

[coloradobaptists.org](http://coloradobaptists.org)



# CHURCH PLANTING IN Multiethnic Ministry

BY JERICO DEVEYRA

CHURCH PLANTING CATALYST

Gregoire and Louise Luabala is church planting a French-speaking congregation at the Vietnamese Central Baptist Church building in Edgewater. They were called by God to ministry in Metro Denver as former refugees from Congo. Gregoire started to lead as early as twelve years old and he started a Prayer Group in Bujumbura, Burundi that became a church where he pastored for 15 years and was a founding pastor of six community churches in Uvira, South Kivu eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo for 12 years that started in 1995. After that, he replanted a church in Kigali, Rwanda for three years before moving to Denver as a refugee. The Lord called him to church planting as a lead church planter here in Metro Denver of Christian Fellowship Evangelical Church. The Lord prepared him to minister in the United States by pastoring for 25 years in more than five churches in four different countries in Africa. Gregoire and Louise are faithfully praying weekly in the church so that the gospel will penetrate lostness amongst French-speaking Africans where they would like a church to be culturally, ethnolinguistically, and spiritually relevant.

Church planting leaders observed that Gregoire and Louise demonstrate a real sense of dependency on God. They love God very much and have strong trust in God for all aspects of their life. They shared some experiences they went through together in the church and every time they prayed and trusted God in these



Gregoire and Louise Luabala

situations. As a result, they were able to see where God was on the move. They pray a lot individually, as a couple and with the church. When we asked, "What are your greatest strengths?" They answered, "large will, perseverance, prayer." Gregoire and Louise have been married for 48 years. They have three grown children and grandchildren. They are very united in their vision to plant a French-speaking church in Denver, and they already have an average of 40 people attending.

Gregoire and Louise enjoy serving and they find themselves effective in their ministry amongst immigrants regardless of color or race. Louise is most gifted in praying, ministering to women, and caring for children. She also can lead the worship service and praying that she would find a five thousand dollars capital for her small-scale business entrepreneurship that primarily caters for African women. As a plus, their daughter, Therese, serves and enjoys serving as one of

the worship leader and as an English interpreter for their congregation. They are thankful that they are part of Colorado Baptists Family. Recently, they traveled to Montreal, Canada for the French-speaking SEND Network Assessment Retreat and this month of September they just baptized three people. They asked how can our churches help former refugees and they identified these ministry opportunities like ESL (teaching English as Second Language), how to manage budget and how to build credit, how to shop in local stores, how to go to different appointments, how to take care of the kids and train the kids, how to clean an apartment, how to live in America, and how to get a lawyer. When refugees arrive in Denver, they are given an apartment for four months and after they will on their own and it's hard for them to find a job and find a cheaper apartment. On top of that, they are expected to pay expenses they incurred to travel to the United States.

# CONSIDER IT JOY?

BY SHANE CANNON PASTOR, MESA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, PUEBLO, CO



*“Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.” – James 1:2-4*

**I**N ALL MY YEARS IN MINISTRY, I cannot remember ever being angry with a passage of Scripture. And though it may not sound particularly pastoral or spiritual, I recently found myself angry and arguing with God over one of the best known and beloved passages in the Bible.

Early in the morning on July 6th, I was lying in my bed asleep when I had a massive seizure. I had never had a seizure before. However, this seizure was violent enough to dislocate my right shoulder forward and my left shoulder backwards, breaking several bones in each shoulder. I was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery. I spent a week in the hospital and another 8 weeks with both arms completely immobilized. In the midst of all this, God brought to mind a verse that I had read hundreds of times, James 1:2. I recall many moments of angry tears as I argued with God, swearing to Him that there could be no joy in this situation.

I understand that for some this may not be a trial worthy of such anger and confusion. But if God is an intimate God and our trials are meant to mature us, then every trial is custom made for each individual. This is definitely true for me. You see, I pride myself in being a strong man,

both physically and spiritually. I could carry anything on my shoulders; my church, my children, and my wife. But in an instant, those shoulders became weak and useless. I will spare you the details of how incredibly humiliating it is to lose the use of your arms. However, if you are curious to know more, I would encourage you to tie both arms to your waist for 24 hours. You will quickly understand! So I began to argue and challenge God on the truth of joy in trials. How could there be any joy in this?! How could any of this work for the good of me, my family, or my church?!

After several weeks of this, I began to see my first glimpse into what God was doing. I saw my church grow through this trial, taking ownership of the ministry like never before and ministering to me as beautifully as I had ever ministered to them. In addition to this, I began to hear testimonies of how God was working in individual leaders within the church and how He was accomplishing great things in their hearts. As I saw this beautiful picture unfold, I found my congregation experiencing joy in the midst of this trial. I have a deep love for my church family, and if my pain was simply meant to accomplish this joy in them, it was worth it.

However, I think the natural question is how have I found personal joy in the midst of this? How have I experienced joy in my growth and the work God is doing in me? The truth is, I haven't...yet. You see, I am still in the midst of the humbling. God is still breaking me. I am constantly wearied by the pain it causes me to do simple tasks. I am still humiliated that I cannot take a shower or dress myself without help. I am still broken hearted by the fact that I cannot pick up my young children or embrace my wife. Though I have felt joy for my church, there have been no feelings of joy for me. I would like to say I smiled through this whole ordeal, counting on God to do amazing things. But the fact is, I needed a glimpse into the joy of my church family. I needed to see how God was working in them in order for my faith to be strengthened. So now, as I look forward to two more months of difficult and painful recovery, I do not plan on feeling a great amount of joy, at least not in the beginning. But I am now considering this trial as something joyful. Why? Because I know there is brokenness in me, and I am certain that my loving Father is working to make me mature and complete. Though the road is still painful, I am planning on joy!



COLORADO  
PASTOR'S CONFERENCE RECAP  
BAPTISTS

# FAITHFULLY PREACH GOD'S WORD

In 2 Timothy 4:1-2, Paul charges pastors to preach the word. He calls us to be ready to preach the word in season and out of season. As Kevin Smith, the executive director of the Maryland/Delaware Baptist Convention, reminded us at the 2018 Pastor's Conference that this charge is in the presence of God and of Jesus Christ. There can be no weightier charge. No more important audience for our faithfulness to preach.

Faithfulness is the key. While this world measures success through power and influence, followers of Christ must be different. Leaders especially so. And yet, we often use the same measurements of success as

the world. Bigger is assumed to be better. Nickels and noses are bragging points. No pastor is immune to this.

Rather than follow the course of this world, let us be different. Let us measure success differently. Let's add faithfulness to preaching God's Word as a measurement of success.

To that end, Smith equipped us to exposit the text. He encouraged us with the words of Martyn Lloyd-Jones with such nuggets as to preach in the power of the Spirit. And pastors are to awaken the conscience, not to sooth the conscience. We were also reminded of the need to apply the text to our church. If we do not address the "so-what" then we have

not preached God's Word.

After teaching us how to preach, Smith took off his professor hat, and put on his preaching one. He preached a powerful sermon. Not only did he tell us to apply the text, he applied the text to us.

My hope is that Colorado Baptist churches will be filled with pastors who passionately and faithfully preach God's Word. And do so in a uniquely Coloradan way that is understandable and applicable to our communities. Do this and we will accept Paul's charge or preach the word rather than scratch the itching ears of those who want teachers to suit their own passions.

Make sure to attend the 2019 Pastor's Conference in Grand Junction. Chris Phillips of Journey Point Church will be the president of what will prove to be an outstanding time of encouragement and equipping for Colorado pastors.





## RECAP

# CBGC REVEALS NEXT STEP AT ANNUAL MEETING

### COLORADO SPRINGS

Messengers and guests of the Colorado Baptists gathered in Colorado Springs for their annual meeting Oct. 15-16 at First Baptist Church Black Forest. With a theme of A New Thing, Colorado Baptist General Convention sought to create an environment of encouragement for pastors and church members through preaching, music and fellowship. The meeting brought with it much anticipation as a new vision was cast for Colorado Baptists.



Nathan Lorick, executive director of the Colorado Baptist General Convention addresses messengers and guests at the annual meeting on Oct. 16 at First Baptist Church Black Forest in Colorado Springs.

In his address to messengers Lorick shared the CBGC new mission statement as “inviting Colorado churches into a Next Step journey to accelerate Gospel impact.” He added, “The greatest outcome of a network of churches is not measuring sticks by which we pat each other on the back. It is this... *do we see* a demonstration of the Holy Spirit upon us?” (see full vision strategy on pages 12-13)

The annual meeting brought messages from Southern Baptist leaders including, Calvin Wittman, CBGC President; Bob Bender, pastor of FBC Black Forest; Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention; Kevin Ezell, NAMB President; J.D. Greear, SBC President; Kevin Smith, executive director of Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware; and Jimmy Draper, former LifeWay President.

The convention unveiled a new website, [coloradobaptists.org](http://coloradobaptists.org), to messengers which features resources, articles and new opportunities for churches to connect. One of these connections are the CBGC Vision Gatherings being held throughout Colorado to hear more of the new Vision and Strategy for our Colorado Baptists. The gatherings will give an opportunity for churches to gain clarity and inquire about how their church can discover its Next Step. Meals are provided for free and pastors and key leaders are invited. Registration is available at [coloradobaptists.org](http://coloradobaptists.org).





*"IT'S LIKE GOD IS SAYING 'YOU CANNOT MANIPULATE ME INTO DOING WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO, WHEN YOU WANT ME TO DO IT, WHERE YOU WANT ME TO DO IT. DO NOT EXPECT ME TO DO THE SAME THING THE SAME WAY TWICE. PAY ATTENTION, I AM DOING A NEW THING.'"*

—Calvin Wittman, President, Colorado Baptists



*"WE ARE JUST BROKEN PIECES, REALLY, BUT THE LORD TAKES OUR BROKENNESS AND MAKES SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL OUT OF OUR LIVES; THOSE WHO WILL LET HIM, WHO WILL NOT BE BITTER, BUT BE BETTER."*

—Bob Bender, Senior Pastor, FBC Black Forest Forest



*"I BELIEVE THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE THAT WANT TO HEAR THE GOSPEL THAN THERE ARE WILLING TO SHARE IT. THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, THE LABORERS ARE FEW."*

—Kevin Ezell, President, North American Mission Board



*"GOD USES A DIFFERENT MEASURE STICK THAN WE USE. HIS MEASURE STICK OF SUCCESS IS THAT WE'RE GIVEN NOT A QUOTA TO ACCOMPLISH BUT A CALLING TO FULFILL."*

—Jim Richards, Executive Director, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention



Messengers and guests join in worship during the Colorado Baptist General Convention annual meeting held Oct. 15-16 at First Baptist Church Black Forest in Colorado Springs.



*"WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT WELL TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND DO IT SOMEWHERE STRATEGIC FOR THE MISSION OF GOD."*

—J.D. Greear, President, Southern Baptist Convention



NAMB Lunch Panel w/ (L-R) Mike Routt, Doug Dameron, Chris Phillips, J.D. Greear, Kevin Ezell, Ben Mandrell, and Nathan Lorick.

For several months the CBGC Team Leaders along with the Task Force prayerfully worked through developing a new vision and strategy for Colorado Baptists. With the utmost belief that the Great Commission is given to the local church, the convention is positioning itself to come along side Colorado Baptist churches and help them take their next step to accelerate Gospel impact.

Here is the outline of the new Vision & Strategy that Executive Director Nathan Lorick unveiled at the Annual Meeting. More details and opportunities to ask questions will be provided at the Vision Gatherings coming throughout Colorado. **Register now at [ColoradoBaptists.org](http://ColoradoBaptists.org)!**

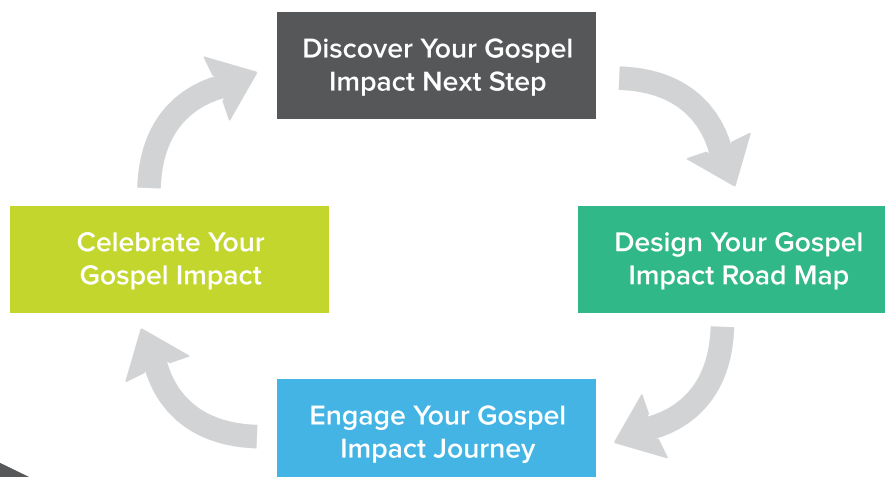
## MISSION STATEMENT

Inviting Colorado churches into a Next Step journey to accelerate Gospel impact

## OUR VALUES

- **For Gospel** We demonstrate an obvious passion for the Gospel and encourage crazy risk taking to make disciples throughout Colorado.
- **Through Process** We deliver real value to each church through customized process not top-down programs.
- **With Action** We act with intentionality and excellence, investing in simplicity and streamlined ministry not organizational complexity.
- **Without Limits** We invite churches out of isolation into cooperation to dramatically increase local Gospel impact.

## OUR STRATEGY





## OUR MEASURES

Increase Statewide Baptisms



ARE YOU READY TO DISCOVER YOUR NEXT STEP?

## VISION GATHERINGS

Colorado Baptists is providing Vision Gatherings throughout Colorado to hear more of the new Vision and Strategy for our Convention. This is a great opportunity to gain clarity and inquire how your church can discover its Next Step. Meals are provided for free and pastors and key leaders are invited.

**Register at [coloradobaptists.org](http://coloradobaptists.org) for a Vision Gathering near you!**

### WESTERN COLORADO

#### Grand Junction

Tuesday, Jan. 15  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
Emmanuel Baptist Church

#### Edwards

Wednesday, Jan. 16  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
Trinity Baptist Church

#### Pagosa Springs

Tuesday, Jan. 29  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
Centerpoint Church

#### Durango

Wednesday, Jan. 30  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
First Southern Baptist Church

### FRONT RANGE/ SOUTHERN COLORADO

#### Ft. Collins

Wednesday, Dec. 5  
11:30am-1:30pm  
Cornerstone Baptist Church,  
Windsor

#### Denver North

Thursday, Jan. 10  
11:30am-1:30pm  
North Metro Church, Thornton

#### Colorado Springs

Monday, Jan. 14  
11:30am-1:30pm  
Vista Grande Baptist

#### Denver South

Tuesday, Jan. 22  
11:30am-1:30pm  
Calvary Englewood, Englewood

#### Pueblo

Sunday, Jan. 27  
4:00pm-6:00pm  
Steel City Fellowship

### EASTERN COLORADO

#### Limon

Monday, Jan. 21  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
Hi-Plains Baptist Church

#### La Junta

Thursday, Jan. 24  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
Calvary LaJunta

#### Sterling

Thursday, Jan. 31  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
Emmanuel Baptist Church

# OUT OF THE RING INTO THE CLASSROOM

BY TYLER SANDERS *GATEWAY SEMINARY*



One thing Southern Baptists and mixed martial arts fighters have in common is a propensity for acronyms. For instance: Nate Marquardt, a current MTS student at the RMC, retired from professional MMA fighting in 2017. He fought matches for Pancrase, UFC and Strikeforce.

Now he hopes to serve with his family in ministry.

Marquardt is pursuing a master of theological studies degree at Gateway Seminary's Rocky Mountain Campus. The drive that led him to a successful career in mixed martial arts (MMA) has been redirected into pursuing Christ.

As a child, Marquardt would always tell people that whatever sport he was currently playing was what he wanted to do professionally.

"When I was playing soccer, I wanted to be a soccer player," he said. "If I was playing basketball, I wanted to play in the NBA."

Marquardt began training in MMA in high school after watching an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) fight.

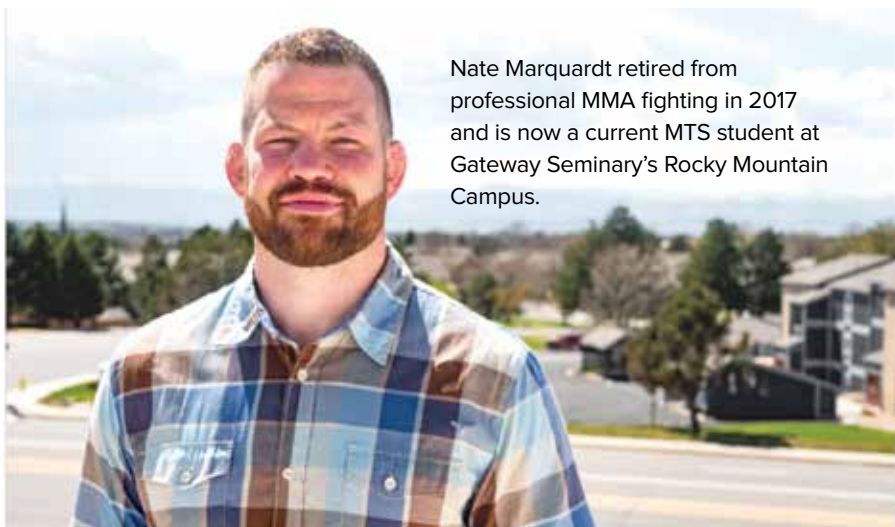
"I was kind of a small [person] in high school," he said and he identified with a successful UFC fighter who was the smallest guy in the tournament. "He was able to use technique to beat his opponents and that really intrigued me. As soon as I started fighting, my goal was to become a professional fighter."

He found a gym that taught Brazilian jiu-jitsu, kickboxing and karate. By age 20, Marquardt had a contract to fight in Japan, marking his move into professional fighting. He went on to win 35 fights in his career, earning titles in Pancrase, several wins in UFC and a welterweight title in Strikeforce. He announced his retirement in December 2017 after 18 years and 56 professional fights.

Retiring from professional fighting has been an easy transition for Nate Marquardt. Many people, athlete or not, do not get to share that experience. For Marquardt, the ease of this shift is due to a greater change he experienced in 2013: salvation.

Though he grew up in what he called a Christian home, and his father was a Lutheran pastor for a few years, Marquardt did not fully surrender until later in his life.

"I learned about a false Christianity that says you can live however you want and call yourself a Christian and be accepted," he said. "The true Gospel is the Gospel that changes lives, and I didn't learn about that until I was 33 years old. I basically hit rock bottom. My career, my finances, my marriage,



Nate Marquardt retired from professional MMA fighting in 2017 and is now a current MTS student at Gateway Seminary's Rocky Mountain Campus.

everything was in shambles. But once I truly surrendered and humbled myself, all the anger, the lust was just gone. It changed my life, our family life, changed my wife's life and my kids' lives."

"My goal wasn't to just live a good, happy life," he said. "In fact, if by any kind of suffering I can win more people to Christ, then so be it."

Marquardt is married to Tessa, and they have four children together plus one more from a previous relationship. They study the Bible, memorize scripture, sing worship songs and even evangelize together. One of his daughters recently gave Marquardt's doctor a gospel tract, and Marquardt has been following up with him since then.

This is markedly different from how Marquardt grew up.

"I had a very good childhood when my parents were married. As soon

as they split up I had a pretty bad childhood," Marquardt said. Being a biblical father is something Marquardt strives for. He recalls being disciplined as a child "always out of anger." Now he seeks an alternative: to discipline his children in a gospel-centered way.

"God is just, so we need to be just with our children, but God is also merciful," he said. Marquardt's goal is for his children to understand why they are being disciplined and why they receive mercy.

He holds himself to the same standard, modeling repentance for his children when he is wrong. Marquardt and his wife want to represent Christ to their children. "How can we do that if we are hypocrites?" Marquardt asked.

Marquardt watched the film *The Insanity of God* and began to seriously consider becoming involved in ministry.

"I had wanted to do missions as soon

as I got saved," he said, but was unsure he would be able to work with the IMB because he doesn't have a bachelor's degree. With encouragement from his wife, Marquardt continued to investigate and found that a master's by exception was an option.

Marquardt is careful to say that he will follow God's call to any task in any place, but he thinks there may be a way for his experience in MMA to be used in some unique ways.

"Once I got saved I had this idea of opening a gym in a poor area," he said. He'd like to work with orphans and children whose fathers have left them. His vision is to serve them by "letting them train for free in the gym, helping them with homework and whatever else they need."

Marquardt currently runs a small sports ministry called Resurrection Jiu-Jitsu with a friend who used to train with him. That friend was one of the first people Marquardt shared Christ with, and he experienced a drastic conversion from Islam to Christianity.

In this ministry Marquardt teaches a class for children and one for adults. The children listen to a Bible lesson and memorize Scripture while the adults share testimonies after training.

Though Marquardt isn't exactly sure where God will lead him after seminary, he is ready to do it. Until then, he is going to be obedient each day.

"I see life as ministry. Once you are a Christian, you are in ministry," he said.



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*Rocky Mountain Campus*

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**JANUARY 9-12, 2019**

**The Baptist Heritage & Practice (L1113)**  
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# THIS. CHANGES. *Everything.*

BY STEPHEN HINSON

OPERATIONS PASTOR • Foothills Community Church, Arvada CO

**D**uring the fall of 2017, a portion of Foothills Community Church's staff traveled down to Ponderosa to see if it would be a good alternative for our youth camps and annual staff retreat. Marcus Unrein, Ponderosa Guest Relations and Personnel Director, gave us a tour and showed us the many enhancements and upgrades he and his team have brought to Ponderosa over the past decade. It was encouraging and had us reminiscing about our different experiences of life change during camp. It wasn't long before Senior Pastor Kyle Morris asked, "What if we brought our whole church down for camp?"

A brief conversation with Marcus and Marty Unrein yielded a possibility the weekend of June 22 – 24, 2018. Our conversations continued with our leadership teams, and we determined the opportunity was too good not to do it. We have never taken our whole church to camp before, and we weren't certain exactly how it would be received by our people. We were certain, however, that an event like this could radically change our church in a very good, compelling way. As a result, our theme for Camp Foothills was: This. Changes. Everything.

Over 300 people, ranging in ages from two months to 75, made the trip to Camp Foothills at Ponderosa for an amazing weekend. Our experience from Camp Foothills highlighted three themes: Leadership, Partnership, and Transformation.

**LEADERSHIP.** Camp Foothills came together because of great leadership. From the initial conversations to the planning team creating an experience everyone would



Over 300 people from the Foothills Community Church, enjoyed a weekend experience at Ponderosa.

enjoy, the commitment of Foothills' leadership never wavered. We went all in, including moving our regular Sunday morning services to Ponderosa for those who couldn't attend Friday or Saturday. Senior Pastor Kyle Morris was committed to creating an event that would be meaningful. We enlisted key staff and lay people to plan, coordinate, and implement Camp Foothills, empowering them with the responsibility to maximize participation. This team was faithful from the first planning meeting to the last prop packed for home Sunday afternoon.

**PARTNERSHIP.** Effective leadership from Foothills was only one part of the success of Camp Foothills. The critical partnership Marcus and his team formed with our church was immeasurably valuable. In some respects, Ponderosa hasn't hosted an entire church throughout its whole camp in the way we envisioned. Everyone on Marcus' team was flexible, supportive, and entrepreneurial in their effort to serve us (highlighted by a last-minute hay ride for young children Saturday night). We were able to take advantage of virtually every recreational offering Ponderosa has, and everything the Ponderosa staff promised, they delivered. Foothills' partnership with Ponderosa turned

into a great friendship because of the mutual passion for connecting people to Jesus in a meaningful way. Thanks, Marcus, for all your team does to serve people and, ultimately, the kingdom.

**TRANSFORMATION.** The most compelling part of Camp Foothills, however, was the transformation that we experienced as a church. We regularly long for our weekend and mid-week services and programs to reach our people in meaningful ways. Camp Foothills provided 36+ straight hours of disconnect from the busyness of life and the opportunity to connect more deeply with Jesus and each other. Creating safe environments where people can be authentic opens the door

for conversations that really matter. New friendships were made, old friendships were celebrated, and we learned that great things can happen when we don't take ourselves too seriously and give the Holy Spirit space to move among His people.

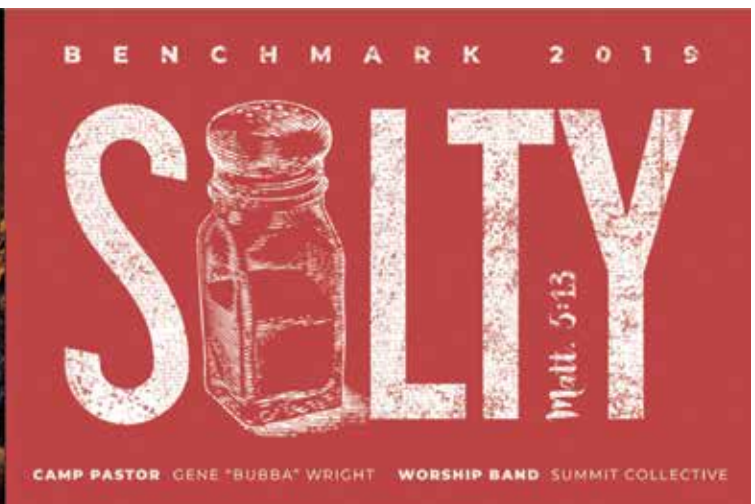
If you want to create an experience for your church that could transform your community within and touch those around you, consider Ponderosa. It has great accommodations and can host groups of almost any size. You can't find a more economical venue and partnership so close to the metro area. Marcus and his team will take care of you and give you the freedom to make Jesus real in a powerful way for your church.



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**New this year:** Training for students who feel called to ministry: Training will be offered THE FIRST WEEKEND ONLY for those students who feel called to full-time ministry! This will be provided through Oklahoma Baptist University's Hobbs College of Theology & Ministry. Watch for more info!



# RAISE UP FAITHFUL PREACHERS

BY MARK HALLOCK PASTOR, CALVARY ENGLEWOOD, CO

**H**OW IMPORTANT IS PREACHING to the health, life, and mission of God's Church in the world today? Is it really all that important? I mean, aren't there other, more effective ways in which to reach the lost and edify the saints? How essential is preaching to genuine Gospel vitality and potency, both individually and corporately, as believers in this culture?

I would argue that the faithful preaching of God's Word is perhaps more important to the Church than ever before. As Walter Kaiser writes, "It is no secret that Christ's Church is not at all in good health in many places of the world. She has been languishing because she has been fed, as the current line has it, 'junk food;' all kinds of artificial preservatives and all sorts of unnatural substitutes have been served up to her." As a result, Kaiser notes that theological and biblical malnutrition has "afflicted the very generation that has taken such giant steps to make sure its physical health is not damaged by using foods or products that are carcinogenic or otherwise harmful to their bodies."

While tough to hear, I think Kaiser's diagnosis is correct. What the Church needs today is not junk food, but the

kind of food and drink that can truly satisfy hungry and thirsty souls. What the Church needs today is food and drink that comes through the clear, undiluted preaching of the Word of God.

Of course, this begs the question, "Who will preach God's Word? Where do we find faithful preachers who rightly handle this Word of truth?" While our seminaries play a vital role in the equipping and training of preachers to serve God's people, I am convinced the best place to raise up and develop preachers is in our local churches. In churches just like yours! So, what might this look like? How can your congregation begin to intentionally raise up preachers? Let me offer a simple pathway you and your church may want to consider.

## DEVELOPING A PREACHING COHORT

One of the most effective ways your congregation can begin to develop preachers is by launching a preaching cohort. A preaching cohort is simply a small group of individuals committed to meeting regularly for the purpose of helping one another grow as preachers of God's Word. In this group, individuals will learn with one another, encourage one another and give helpful feedback

to one another as they journey toward becoming more effective preachers of the Word. Ideally this group will be made up of anywhere from two to five committed individuals, alongside the leader of the group, which in most cases is a pastor. It is recommended that this cohort meet at least once a month together for six to twelve months. Each cohort gathering should last between two to three hours in length.

Most preaching cohorts are made up of individuals with various levels of preaching experience. Whether someone has never preached a sermon before, or they have preached on a weekly basis, a preaching cohort is a great environment to sharpen skills and help those in the group mature in their preaching. Let me briefly paint a picture of what a preaching cohort might look like in your church. This is a model that has worked well for many churches launching a cohort for the first time. There are three primary components to the cohort: Personal Study, Group Preaching, and Mentor Coaching.

### Component #1: Personal Study

Personal study is one of the keys to helping those in the cohort get the most



out of this experience. The commitment to learning outside of the monthly cohort preaching gathering will help to stretch and equip individuals both in their intellectual understanding, as well as practice of biblical preaching. While there are many excellent preaching resources available that you might choose to use with your group, let me recommend a combination of reading and listening. In other words, pick a book for your group to read and study together, along with a preaching podcast or two that will help provide additional instruction to your group.

First of all, I would encourage you to have your group read through an introductory book on preaching that can help them develop and deliver biblical sermons. There are many excellent introductory preaching books out there. I would recommend one of the following:

- ◆ *Christ-Centered Preaching*  
by Bryan Chappell
- ◆ *The Christ-Centered Expositor*  
by Tony Merida
- ◆ *Biblical Preaching*  
by Haddon Robinson
- ◆ *Power in the Pulpit*  
by Jerry Vines and Jim Shaddix

Along with reading one of the above texts, have your group listen to one or two preaching podcasts on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. This is a great way for those in your group to be learning from experienced preachers as they share some of the nuts and bolts learned over the years of preaching. Three podcasts I have found to be incredibly helpful to this end are:

- ◆ *On Preaching* with H.B. Charles Jr.
- ◆ *Expositor* with Dr. Steven Lawson
- ◆ *Preaching and Preachers*  
with Dr. Jason Allen

### **Component #2: Group Preaching**

Once a month the preaching cohort group will meet together for two to three hours (depending on your group size) for the purpose of instruction and

preaching. Typically, a portion of this meeting will be given to discussing some of the reading and listening the group is doing together. It can also provide an opportunity for the group leader to do some intentional teaching on some aspect of preaching with the group. However, the majority of this meeting time will be spent having group members actually preach. This is where things get really fun! This meeting will allow individuals to preach in a context where they will be given honest and helpful feedback from others. Along with the group itself, I would recommend inviting other church leaders, as well as members of the congregation to come listen to the group preach each month.

Again, depending on the size of the group, each preacher in the cohort will preach a 20-25 minute sermon, followed by 10-15 minutes of evaluation and discussion. During this time, those present have the opportunity to offer words of encouragement and also share thoughts and observations that will help those in the cohort identify areas for growth in their preaching. I recommend having each observer fill out a simple preaching evaluation sheet that can help guide them in giving helpful critique in different areas.

Let me just reiterate what is probably very obvious. The evaluation and feedback given to the preachers in this context should be marked by much grace and kindness! Having your sermon critiqued? Are you kidding me? This can be an incredibly intimidating (even scary) experience for even the most seasoned preacher! This is why you want to go over the top in creating an environment marked by extravagant love and encouragement! This experience should be a joy not drudgery. Do all that you can to make sure it is just that.

### **Component #3: Mentor Coaching**

A mentor coach is an individual those in your group can meet with on a regular basis to receive helpful feedback

and practical coaching for their growth as a preacher. The hope would be that this coach can commit to two things: 1) Be present to hear the preacher's sermon each month and then 2) find an additional time to grab lunch or coffee to talk about the sermon and any other issues related specifically to the area of preaching.

With the help of the cohort leader, each preacher in the group is responsible for finding their own mentor coach. This coach may be your pastor, another leader in the church, or perhaps a pastor from a different congregation in the area. The bottom line is that having a preaching coach who can serve as a friend and mentor through this cohort experience will be a great encouragement to those in the group, helping them to get the most out of the cohort experience.

### **YOUR CHURCH CAN DO THIS!**

Our world needs the faithful preaching of God's Word perhaps more than ever. But for this to happen, we must develop preachers of this Word. Local churches, just like yours, are desperately needed to help in the raising up and training of these preachers. Sadly, very few congregations have an intentional and carefully crafted strategy to see this kind of equipping become reality in the lives of those exploring the call to preach the Gospel.

My prayer is that through the launching of a preaching cohort, your congregation can become a place that is proactively raising up preachers who can take the truth of the Gospel to the ends of the earth! Preachers who will rightly and joyfully feed God's Word to God's people. Preachers who will proclaim the truth and goodness of God to those who have yet to know Christ as Lord and Savior. Preachers who will bring hope to the hopeless and healing to the broken. Preachers who will lift high the Gospel in such a way that lives, communities, and the world are transformed by the Spirit of God for the glory of God.



# PLAN BEYOND TODAY

BY CHAD MOORE

PASTOR, BOOKCLIFF BAPTIST CHURCH, BOOKCLIFF, CO

**E**VERYONE LIKES TALKING ABOUT MONEY, how we spend it, how we invest it, especially in Baptist life. Perhaps that is one of the most hyperbolic statements ever made, but in truth, as disciples of Jesus we are wealthy beyond measure in ways that most of us choose to never talk about, either because of our culture, our sensitivities or we decide not to.

However, when we look at scripture money, finances, wealth, and talents are far from the back burner. How we invest what God has entrusted us with is of the utmost importance especially in light of the reality that we are not only living for the next 10-70 years but rather as disciples of Jesus we are living for the next billion plus infinity years and where I come from that is a long time.

When we think back to Matthew 25:14-30 we remember the moment where Jesus is teaching those who have gathered around and likewise us through the Parable of the Talents. Each one of the servants was given

something, entrusted with a talent. And we remember in the parable that all saw their talents expand except for the one whom in verse 26 Jesus refers to as the slothful servant who buried what he was given in the ground and had nothing more to give the master than what he was given.

As we look at what we have been given we too have been given much, whether it be financially or actual talents, gifts, and passions. And no matter what stage of life we are in, we have a responsibility to plan well to live well, to not dig a hole and bury what has been entrusted to us, but to see it expanded well beyond us, but to see it expanded for the sake of eternity and the Kingdom.

This summer at Bookcliff Baptist Church Doug Lohrey, the President of The Colorado Baptist Foundation, invested his time and talents in us to share with us how the foundation comes alongside churches and individuals to help us plan beyond today, to help us look beyond living day to day and plan how we can see the finances that God has entrusted to us have an eternal impact during our lifetime and far

beyond our entering the presence of the Kingdom.

We all are wealthy, we all are at the perfect age to plan well today. For as we read in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 [1] For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven....

As a pastor too often we spend time in hospitals and at funeral homes. Too often we spend times in places of mourning and simultaneous celebration as those we love have been called into the presence of the Father. Regardless of our life stage, regardless of the status of our bank accounts, God has entrusted us as stewards of His riches, what is His not ours. Are we giving of our talents, spending our talents for the Kingdom today? Are we preparing our talents to be used by the Kingdom far beyond our lifetime, or are we being slothful as we hear from Matthew 25:26?

God has entrusted Colorado with the gift of the Colorado Baptist Foundation, a gift that provides resources such as financial planning, estate planning, and accounting for our churches. Let it be our prayer that we are found faithful - 1 Corinthians 4:2.



# COLORADO SKIER MOUNTAIN TOP WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES

Every year Colorado is blessed to have more than 2 million skiers adorning our resort slopes. On any given winter weekend our ski resorts play host to tens of thousands of skiers and their families from all over the world as well as right here in Colorado. Many of the Resorts have Skier Worship Services hosted by the local Church. These services are usually listed on the trail map, but not always so we wanted to make sure that our Colorado Baptist Skiers knew the times and the places they could attend a worship service on the mountain while and where they might be skiing. While we don't advocate that you are not with your local church family on any given Sunday, we also know that there are times when for various reasons we find ourselves having to ski on a Sunday, sigh. When those times happen, we would encourage you to visit one of the services listed below. It is a beautiful thing to Worship the Creator in His Creation.

Resort	Time	Location	Sponsoring Church
Arapahoe Basin	1:00 PM	Top of the Sundance Run	Agape Outpost
Beaver Creek	12:30 PM	Spruce Saddle	Trinity Church
Breckenridge	1:00 PM	Peak 9, just above 10 mile station Restaurant	Agape Outpost
Copper Mountain	12:30 PM	Top of American Eagle Lift – Nature Center	Copper Mountain Community Church
Crested Butte	1:00 PM	Mountain Chapel – top of Painter Boy Lift	Oh-Be-Joyful Church
Keystone	1:30 PM	Dercum Mt. on the Key Top Deck	Encounter 5:12 Church
Purgatory	11:00 PM 1:00 PM	Top of Chair 1 Top of Chair 1	The Underground Church
Steamboat Springs	1:30 PM	Thunderhead	Anchor Way Church
Telluride	12:30 PM	Top of Lift 7	Alpine Chapel
Vail	12:30 PM	Eagles Nest and Two Elk	Trinity Church
Winter Park	12:45 PM	Top of the Zephyr Lift	Fraser Valley Baptist Church



**COLORADO  
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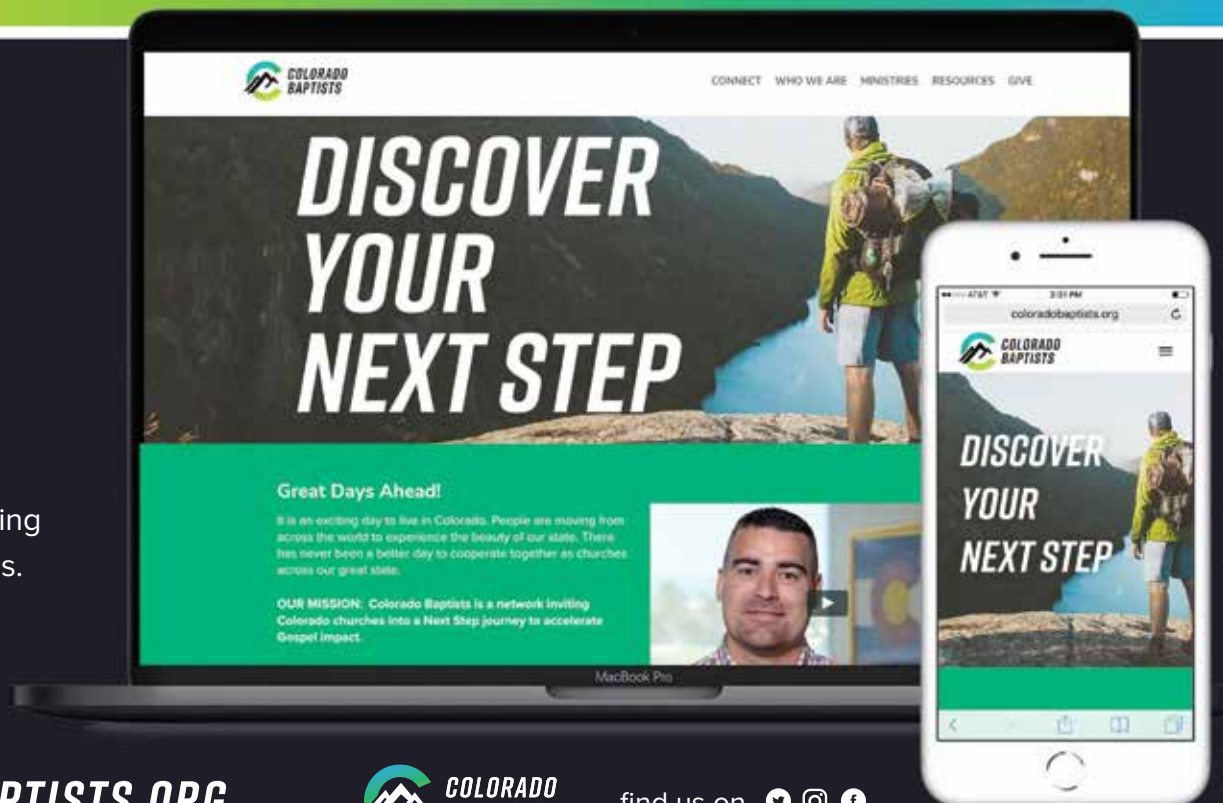
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