

+ The [functional] Great Commission of churches in North America

# **MOMENTUM**

ISSUE #6 • OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF COLORADO BAPTISTS

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

# **A PARADIGM SHIFT >**

*WE ARE NOT A CONVENTION. WE ARE A NETWORK. A FAMILY CHOOSING TO WORK TOGETHER  
TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO REACH COLORADO WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.*

+ Connect  
Four Theology

+ A Preacher's  
Dress Code

+ A Planter's Perspective  
on Partnership

# NEW YEAR ... NEW OPPORTUNITIES

**T**HEY SAY THAT TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN. Can you believe we are already almost two months into 2019?

Last year was great, but I believe the best is yet to come. As we move forward in this new year, I want to challenge us to a renewed focus on three things that are often elemental, yet, can be suppressed in our faith. I believe these three things can help us see a real momentum for the Kingdom's sake.

**1) A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO PRAYER** The longer I live and serve the Lord the more I am convinced that any movement of God will be preceded by earnest and passionate prayer. I often wonder what our state could look like with a prayer movement that is unparalleled in America. Would you commit to joining me in fervent prayer this year? Would you ask God to start a gospel movement across Colorado? Would you join in praying for protection to be upon our pastors, staff, and churches across our state? Would you pray that God would help each of us to take our "next step" that He desires for us? If we would do this, I believe we have yet to see all that God will do in us and among us.

**2) A RENEWED PASSION FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL** Life can get busy and chaotic. In fact, we live in one of the busiest time periods in history. Since we are always connected through technology, there seems to be little time to unplug from the craziness of life and ministry. This is not always a good thing. When we are busy doing many things, often times the most important things fall by the wayside. This can't be true of our intentionality to share the gospel. We are the mouthpiece of the good news and we must be focused on our mission. Would you pray that God would give you someone to share the gospel with this week? Would you ask for a renewed passion for telling others about Jesus?

**3) A RENEWED PRIORITY ON PLANTING AND REPLANTING CHURCHES** I am thoroughly convinced that the future for gospel saturation for Colorado is to plant new churches and replant/revitalize struggling churches. We must remember that the local church is God's plan. There is no plan B. We must partner together across Colorado as well as partner with churches across our nation to start new churches across our state. Church planting is a great way to engage lost people who are searching for hope and purpose. However, it doesn't stop with just planting new churches. We desperately need to see God breathe new life into many churches that are struggling and dying. We should not write off any church, God can breathe new life into any situation. Let's step up and partner with these churches to see God revitalize his mission in these communities and cities. Would you join me in praying for God to raise up planters to help us engage the lost? Would you ask the Lord to work in a mighty way among churches that are desperate and in need of revitalization?

God is doing some great things among us in Colorado. However, we can't be satisfied with where we are when there are so many lost people living among us. We must move forward in the unique opportunities that God is calling us to. This year your church will have the opportunity to take the "Next Step" towards gospel impact. I want to encourage you to jump in with both feet and discover how God can use your church to help spark a movement like Colorado has never seen. I am humbled and grateful to serve you.



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



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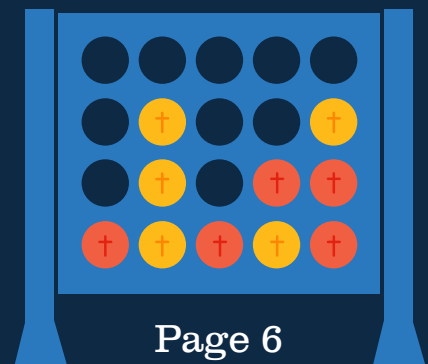
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# ***COLORADO BAPTISTS 5 PARADIGM SHIFTS***

## **1. FROM CONVENTION TO A NETWORK**

A Convention meets two days a year. We are a Network; a family choosing to work together to do whatever it takes to reach Colorado with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **2. FROM PROGRAM DRIVEN TO PROCESS DRIVEN.**

Rather than just handing out a “one-size fits all” prescription to go and do, we want to walk alongside churches through a process that changes the culture in our churches and ultimately changes the culture throughout Colorado.

## **3. FROM REACTIVE TO PROACTIVE**

Rather than wait for you to call us, we are going to pursue you, to help you. We exist to serve you, not the other way around.

## **4. FROM EXPERT TO HERO-MAKERS**

We are not going to tell you how to do it. We are going to highlight others who are doing it. We are going to make much of others who God is using in the field.

## **5. FROM CONVENTIONAL (FORMAL) TO RELATIONAL**

We love every pastor, every staff member, and every church. We are going to make sure our network of people know that.



## New Church Plant



We thank the Lord for the new church plant this year, Colorado Japanese Church in Denver, Pastor Simon Yokoi.

## Christmas Eve Services



Fraser Valley Baptist Church • Winterpark Resort



Livingstone Church • Broomfield



Mountain Heights Baptist Church • Buena Vista

## CELEBRATING TOGETHER

### Acts 13 Experience

Steel City Fellowship and Mesa Christian Fellowship's lead disciple maker apprenticeship, The Acts 13 Experience, just celebrated its first semester with 10 apprentices and 6 RGBA churches involved. A majority of the apprentices were indigenous/local SoCo guys.

### Orchard Latino

Marcial Muñoz, Spanish ministry Pastor, started Orchard Latino 3 years ago and God is doing amazing things! They just finished 2018 with over 150 decisions for Jesus, 28 people being baptized and an average attendance of 156 people every week.

### Multilanguage Services



The 8th Annual Multilanguage Christmas Service hosted by the Vietnamese Central Baptist Church on Dec. 16 in Edgewater, with six congregations meeting at their building including Vietnamese, English, Spanish (2), French, and a Jewish congregation where Dr. Nathan Lorick was the special guest speaker.



# A Preacher's Dress Code

BY BOB BENDER *LEAD PASTOR, FBC BLACK FOREST, CO*

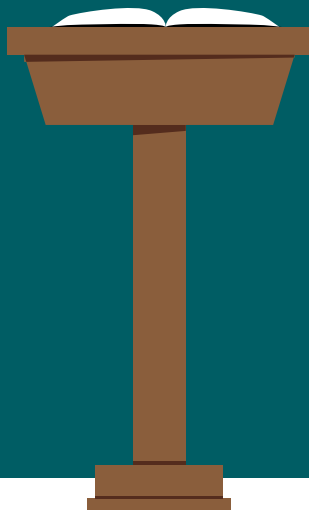


ILLUSTRATION BY LIGHTNER CREATIVE

**W**hat should I wear to church? Each church has its own unwritten dress code. Colorado was voted “the worst dressed state in the nation” because we walk around in shorts, fleeces and hiking boots! Colorado Springs definitely isn’t North Dallas and I love “Casual Colorado!”

I find it interesting that when I first started out in ministry (in the 70’s at least) that we young pastors dressed “up” on Sundays to look a little more mature. Now that I am older, I dress “down” to look younger! At least I don’t

make the mistake of dressing like I am nineteen while in my sixties. Nothing looks worse than an older guy all “gapped up.”

I preached in First Baptist of Arkansas City, Kansas once where a newbie Christian who was a clothier gave his testimony around the dinner table. His first time to come to the church was when the preacher was preaching on tithing. The newbie from his clothing business perspective asked his wife, “Why does the preacher want everybody to bring their ties to church?” He thought the preacher was saying “ties” rather than “tithes!”

Is there a standard attire for those of us who minister the Word weekly no matter where we are geographically or socio-economically? I dare say “Yes.” I found this customary attire recently in Exodus 28. Here God directs Moses to “make holy garments for Aaron”—the OT priest or picture of the NT pastor.

First, our dress code is represented by the twelve stones—each one representing a distinct tribe of Israel that hung over his heart. “Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for a memorial” (vv. 10-12). This ephod was a memorial, not only for the

## DO OTHERS SEE US AS HOLY? THE GREATEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE OUR PEOPLE IS JESUS IN AND THROUGH US.

LORD and the sons of Israel but also for Aaron as a reminder to him that he was to have the people of God on his heart “continually” (v. 29). Likewise, we are to have our flock over our hearts continually. “Know well the condition of your flocks and give attention to your

herds” (Pr. 27:23). Jesus, our Good Shepherd “knows His own sheep by name” (Jn. 10:3). Do you have your flock over your heart? Do you know them by name? Do you notify them on their birthdays? Do you pray for them unceasingly? Do you take time to visit with them in the lobby on Sundays focused only on them? Do you tell your flock you love them?

Secondly, and no less importantly, our dress code consists of an engraving on the front of the head dress—“Holy to the Lord” (vv. 36-38). My thoughts ought to be Godward as I possess and practice the mind of Christ. What good is a heart of compassion if I do not have a head of consecration? Although Aaron could not read it because it was on the front of his “hat,” others could. Do others see us as holy? The

greatest gift we can give our people is Jesus in and through us. Are you taking specific steps to avoid sin? Are you pure of heart? Are you filled with the Spirit and Word of God? Does your spouse see you as holy? Are you bringing every thought captive to Jesus? Don’t be a member of the “hole in the wall gang” in Ezekiel 8:7-13 where Ezekiel was shown through a hole in the wall into the inner recesses of the elders’ thoughts and lives—“detestable things.”

And so this is to be our “church dress code” represented in the breastplate and head dress—“hearts out” to the people (love) and “heads up” to the Lord (holy). Join me in wearing God’s dress code well rather than playing “dress up” (or down) on Sunday mornings and throughout the week for that matter.

## WHY DO WE GIVE THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM?

*Because we are better together.*

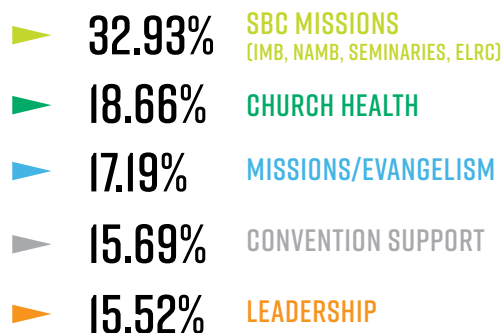
Since its launch in 1925, the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program has been dependent upon individuals, churches, state conventions, and SBC entities cooperating toward a common goal of sharing the gospel with every person on the planet.

*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.

### COLORADO BAPTISTS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET

**\$1,989,237**



PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT (NAMB, LIFEWAY & OTHERS)

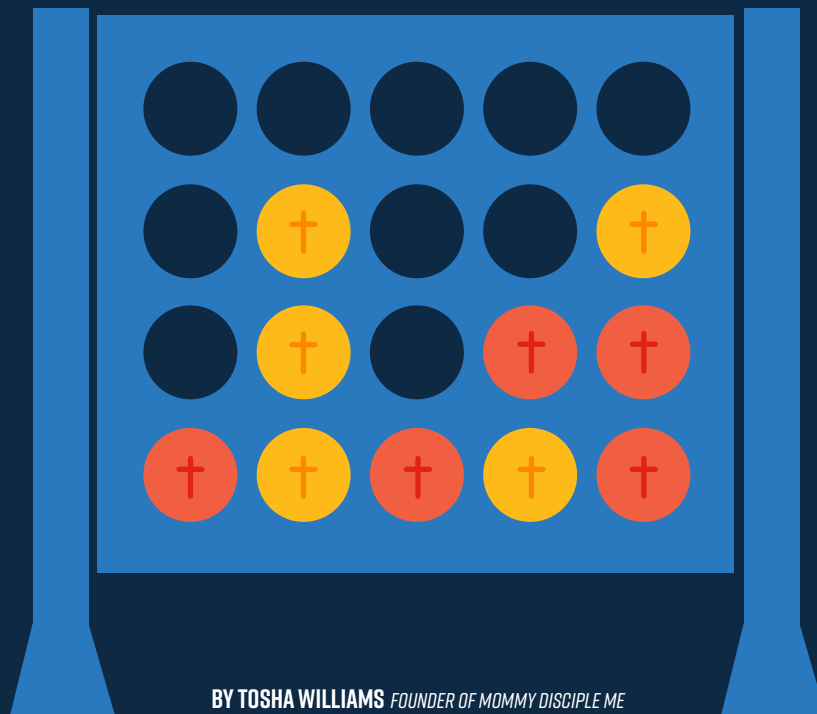
**\$1,497,000**



*Let's do more together!*

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

# CONNECT FOUR THEOLOGY



BY TOSHA WILLIAMS FOUNDER OF MOMMY DISCIPLE ME



## Does your family have a favorite game? Mine does.

Through the years, a game called Connect Four has remained in our entertainment repertoire. For many laughing, smiling moments my family has enjoyed this simple, but strategic, game.

In case you're not familiar with it, Connect Four consists of a simple plastic grid with seven columns and six rows. Players take turns dropping discs into these columns trying to "connect" four consecutive discs horizontally, vertically or diagonally. The first person to "connect four" wins.

Over the years, as a mom and pastor's wife, I have come to think of Connect Four as a vivid picture of something more than a game. Connect Four has become an incredible analogy of biblical discipleship to me.

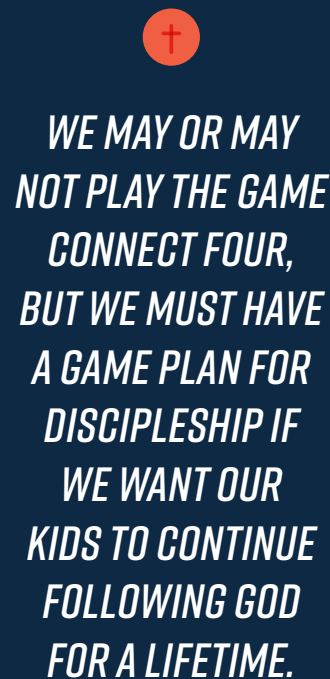
As my husband and I have raised our five children, I began to realize that our kids' minds start out similar to an empty Connect Four grid, waiting to be filled. Discipleship is strategically teaching the truths of God and His Word in an understandable, relatable way, so that each word, concept, verse and character gets put into our kids' own personal, theological Connect Four grids.

And, oh, this Connect Four is so much more than a game!

Every person's theological grid will be filled up, one way or another, throughout their life. The "discs" of what our children think about God and His Word may be dropped into their lives through experiences, friends, teachers, and social media.

Or, our children's theological grids will be strategically filled with "discs" of truth we place in their lives.

When we intentionally disciple our kids through God's Word, we fill their lives with a biblical worldview. For example, as we teach our kids the truths of Exodus 34:6-7 (that God is merciful and gracious,



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slow to anger, loving, faithful and forgiving), we are planting six "discs" of truth into their understanding of who God is. That "column" will be filled with what God revealed about Himself in His Word. As our kids grow up and go off into the world, it will not be as easy for the enemy to drop in discs of untruths—such

as God is hateful, unforgiving or angry—when that "column" about who He really is has already been filled with truth.

The theological Connect Four has columns of systematic theology, like Christology, soteriology and ecclesiology. We may never use these big words with our kids when we disciple them, but we will intentionally teach them doctrines like who Christ is, what salvation is all about, and why church matters. We will also fill our kids' theological Connect Fours with personal columns such as, "What God's Word says about prayer" and "God's promises I have claimed."

Slowly but surely, as we disciple our children about God and His Word, the columns will fill up, connected and interrelated. Understanding in one column will influence their understanding of another column. And wow, our faith is rich, textured and compelling when we are disciplined in the fullness of Scripture.

We teach this in our churches, but we can also encourage and equip families to do this at home. Indeed, discipling kids starts at home.

The continuance of our faith is one generation away. What we know about God was taught to us, and this is our moment in time to teach these truths to the next generation.

We may or may not play the game Connect Four, but we must have a game plan for discipleship if we want our kids to continue following God for a lifetime.

And this Connect Four is not a game. It is the most important thing we will ever do.

*Mommy Disciple Me is a free internet-based discipleship program for families of all ages, visit: [MommyDiscipleMe.org](http://MommyDiscipleMe.org)*

# Mountain Heights Baptist couple receive the first Larry Loser Award

BY DENNIS BELZ *CBDR STATE DIRECTOR*

**D**oug and Caroline Green are active members of Mountain Heights Baptist in Buena Vista.

They attended a CBDR training early this year at FBC Bayfield in Durango. Following that training they immediately got involved and deployed with the CBDR team to do recovery clean up from a tornado in Wyoming. They continue to serve and have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the ministry of CBDR. This year CBDR deployed 19 times and this couple only missed two of those deployments. Their talents are tremendous and can about fit in any area of need. Doug has been in heavy equipment for years and operated the skid steers and mini-x on many of the jobs. He and his wife Caroline also work as a team in cleanup/recovery along with feeding. This is a great couple to have in our CBDR family. Their commitment and dedication shows during our deployments as they give to help others in Bringing: Help, Hope and Healing.

## HISTORY OF THE LARRY LOSER AWARD

Larry and Jan Loser have been faithful servants and volunteers in chaplaincy for many years with CBDR. Larry assisted in training volunteers in any area that there was a need, along with



L to R: Caroline and Doug Green, Pastor Joe Chambers



Larry Loser

from The Volunteer of the Year to

chaplaincy. Just prior to his passing, I visited him in his home and asked if he would mind if we changed our yearly award

The Larry Loser Award. As you can imagine, tears came down his cheeks with a smile and said, "It would be an honor!"

I am thankful for Larry's faithful service in CBDR. He is greatly missed.

"Larry would be so proud of this couple for receiving this award," added Jan Loser.

# CBDR Deployment Update

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BY DENNIS BELZ *CBDR STATE DIRECTOR*

**B**eginning in June, CBDR volunteers were very busy working in LaVeta, CO with cleanup/ash-out efforts from the spring fire. Our teams were able to assist the 24 property owners in Paradise Acres by sifting through the ash and removing debris from each property. This deployment began with feeding the first responders for three weeks and then we began cleanup and recovery. This effort was done over a four month period. We also responded to floods in Canyon City and then 3 tornadoes in Brush. What a blessing it was to be able to minister to those in need.

In November we deployed a team of 11 to Panama Beach, FL to assist with Hurricane Michael clean up, debris removal and feeding. Our teams worked out of two different churches in town. One team was clean up/recovery and chainsaw while the other did mass feeding for the community. These teams did a great job representing CBGC/CBDR.

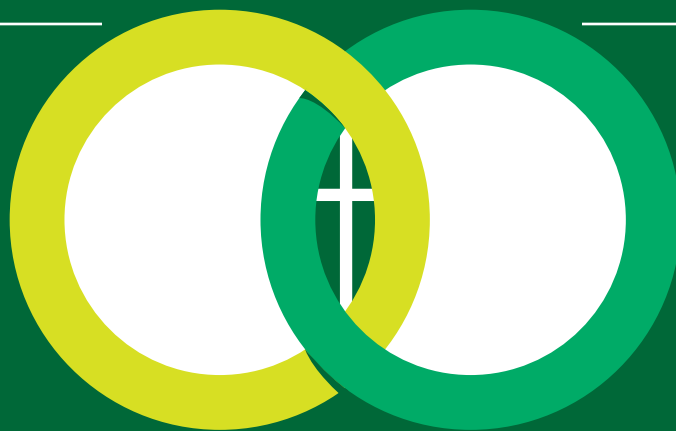
In December, our CBDR 5th Wheel Camper was deployed to Paradise, CA. This will be used as a Command Center for the first few weeks, then a pastor and his wife will live in this for several months next to their church.

In the spring of 2019, we will be going back to LaVeta to continue efforts on the other side of the highway that the floods kept us from getting done. Would love to have you join us!

Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry to bring help, hope and healing!







# A PLANTER'S PERSPECTIVE ON PARTNERSHIP

BY CHRIS PHILLIPS *JOURNEY POINT CHURCH, STAPLETON, CO*

## PARTNER

## CO-LABORER

## TEAMMATE

These are words that come to mind when thinking about church planting and partnership.

Let's start off by stating the obvious, there is in no way a church plant gets off the ground and launched without partners. They cannot fulfill the mission God has called them to do without others walking with them, linking arms together, and pushing for Kingdom advancement above all else! Every church planter would rave about having people that believe in them, care for them, and aid them in their mission.

Even with that being said,

sometimes partnerships take work. Just as in a marriage relationship, it takes time, honesty, and hard work to make the partner relationship strong and as useful as it was designed to be. If you'd allow, I'd love to answer a few questions I think are common when finding the right "partner" in a church plant/established church relationship.

### 1. HOW DOES THE PLANTER AND PARTNER KNOW THEY'RE A GOOD FIT FOR EACH OTHER?

Kingdom advancement. I believe that above all else, the planter and partner have to be on the same page with "Kingdom" work. When someone is focused on Kingdom work, they set aside their own thoughts, opinions, and traditions, and run hard after advancing the Kingdom, in both the planter's target area AND the partner's location. This removes the

desire to fill one's own needs, ridding the "planter" and "waterer" mentality, but simply understanding that God grows the Kingdom and His church (1 Corinthians 3:5-7). Neither the planter or partner are just members of a church, but they are residents of a Kingdom expanding all over the world, something Jesus spoke about more than 100 times and in 16 books of the Bible!

### 2. WHAT MAKES A "GOOD" PARTNER?

Good partners have no agenda. Almost any planter can tell you a story of the partner church that sends the date they can come, the projects they can do, and the focus they want to have while there, with the schedule they've already created. Whereas not having to plan a trip on top of everything else a planter has on their table is a benefit, having projects and tasks that probably

do not line up with the mission and vision of the plant is a wasteful use of God's time and resources. The best partners find out how they can serve the planter and not how the planter can serve their teams and goals. The "good" partners are servants above all else. One of our best partner trip activities was allowing our launch team to go out on a team building night while the team watched the children of the team. Having moved to an area with no family, money, or sitters, that was an invaluable gift to our team. That was not a "sexy" activity on the trip, but their servant heart made them great partners.

### 3. WHAT CAN THE PLANTER DO TO ENHANCE THE PARTNERSHIP?

Unashamedly, the planter absolutely has to understand that a partnership goes two ways and is for Kingdom advancement. I tell our partners all the time, this isn't about Journey Point, the city of Denver, the state of CO, or the Western part of the U.S., this is about the Kingdom of God. With that mindset, I do as much as I can to keep the church involved with what is going on. How are their prayers for

our church being answered? What are their resources going toward? With this in mind, we send monthly videos to the church to keep God's movement here in Denver on the forefront of their minds, which reminds them that they also can live as missionaries in their own city. Make it just as much about them than you and your partnership will thrive.

### 4. WHAT ARE SOME TANGIBLE THINGS THE PARTNER CAN DO TO INVEST IN A PLANT (NOT JUST FINANCIALLY)?

One of the greatest needs for every planter is to know that others are there for them, praying for them, and caring for them. Our best partners send text messages letting us know that we're not on an island all alone. They send care packages of date night opportunities, goodies we like, and things we need as a family. Sometimes the greatest gift is a package in the mail that shows others know our name and are praying for us. Some other things they can do also is focus on the wife and launch team. At times the lead planter is well cared for, but people forget about those that were also called to move and help launch a plant. They matter just as much in the Kingdom of God as any lead planter. Care for them as well!

## 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.

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



**WatersEdge**  
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## VISION & STRATEGY

*Inviting Colorado churches into a Next Step Journey to accelerate Gospel impact.*

### ➤ **Inviting Colorado churches**

This is an important word to us, since all of our churches are autonomous and choose to work together. As a state convention, we are not here to tell your church what to do, nor what to be a part of. We are “inviting” you into this process. You opt in, you sign up. It’s your choice!

### ➤ **Next Step Journey**

How can a convention be relevant to its churches when every church is different? Every church has different leaders, different members, different communities, and different gifts and resources. ***Every church has a Next Step, though!*** The convention is inviting you to discover your next step, as we come alongside you through the journey.

### ➤ **Accelerate Gospel Impact**

Your church is already having Gospel impact in your community. How can we as a convention pour fuel on the fire and see a movement of God as each of our churches collectively take their next step!



## ***HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?***

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***Our Strategy is a 4-step process to help you:  
Discover, Design, Engage, and Celebrate!***

### **Discover Your Next Step**

Every church has a Next Step. What's yours? We have partnered with Auxano, a leading ministry organization helping churches bring clarity to their vision, to assist our churches in discovering their Next Step.

### **Design Your Road Map**

Having a strategic plan to achieve your Next Step is key to focusing your church's people, resources, and efforts to have a greater Gospel impact together. Your Next Step Guide will help you design a road map that is customized to your church.

### **Engage Your Journey**

Now that you have a road map, engage the journey to see culture changed and communities transformed! As a convention we will come alongside of you to cheer you on and look for opportunities to resource you.

### **Celebrate Your Gospel Impact**

The journey may be long and wearisome at times, but taking every opportunity to celebrate what God is doing is vital to our momentum. We want to help you look for how God is at work, and celebrate as a church how the Gospel is advancing in your community.

***DISCOVER YOUR NEXT STEP AT [COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG](http://COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG)!***



# OTHERS NEED TO KNOW MY COMFORT

BY JANE FARNWORTH FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROCKIES, PUEBLO, CO

*"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 Cor. 1:3-4 (NIV)*

"Others in this city need to know My comfort." This is what I heard, not an audible voice, but words that spoke to my heart. I had just made it through another night of intense physical pain, and thanked the Lord for His comfort that got me through. April through August of 2007, God allowed me to go through a time of debilitating physical pain, that humbled me. Through this, God made me more sensitive to people who are hurting. He also showed me that my ministry is wherever I go: daily errands, doctors' appointments, church, school, work, and anywhere.

God was calling me to start a caring ministry, called Stephen Ministry, in my church, Fellowship of the Rockies in Pueblo, CO. Stephen Ministry trains lay ministers to walk alongside others who are going through a difficult time to encourage them in the Lord. I was so excited to serve in this kind of ministry that God had broken my heart for. But then, He told me to lead it. Lead? I'm not a leader. I've never been a leader. All of the tests I took in high school and such plug me into other categories, but never a leader. I talked to my Senior Pastor, Charlie Jones, about all of this and he said he would help me. I had to depend on God in the same way in this season that I did when I had the physical pain. Fear can be just as debilitating as physical pain. I decided I had to trust God, as He made me able. Where else would I go? "For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13 (NIV)

I had a deep passion for God's Word and desire to study it more in depth. When I heard others preach and teach God's Word, using the context of Scripture, the culture of the original audience, and the meaning of the Greek and Hebrew words, it was helpful and instructive for application. I



wanted to study more. I started to hear commercials for Bible colleges on the radio and I remember saying to God, too bad it's too late for me to go to school to study your Word. Ha! Apparently, it's never too late and we are never too old in God's timeline. He used a speaker at a conference and some other pivotal events to call me to seminary, and very specifically, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, now Gateway Seminary. God has been using Gateway Seminary to shape me into a biblical leader, one class at a time.

I have been able to serve and lead in Stephen Ministry, which later became Soul Care Ministry, for 10 years at my church. Through this ministry, the church has been able to minister to many people in our Pueblo community, who have walked through difficult times in their lives. I have been in seminary this entire time, taking one class a semester. Each class I have taken has been right on time for the growth I need in life and ministry. I plan to graduate Spring 2020 with my MDIV degree. The journey has been amazing. God has recently moved me out of Soul Care Ministry in preparation for what's next.

During the same time, God has used Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) to grow me in my Pastoral Care, which has led me to work as a Hospice Chaplain. As a Hospice Chaplain, I get to provide spiritual and emotional support to patients and their families. This is a hard time for them, and a sacred time for them, as well. I find that joy can accompany suffering and laughter can accompany tears. I get a front row seat to God's activity. There are many special ministry opportunities in hospice care: from being a comforting presence; to helping people reflect on their life; helping



L to R: Dane, Connor, Carson & Jane Farnworth AMYLEE DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

them find answers to some of their questions about God, His love, and His purpose; and helping them to be okay with not having all the answers to their questions, but trusting God and knowing and experiencing His love for them.

One time, I was called for a chaplain visit to someone who was extremely agitated, and was not allowing any of her care givers to approach her. On my drive over, I asked God to help her, knowing that He knew best what her heart needed. I also asked that I would be an instrument of His peace and comfort. When I arrived, I could see she was greatly distressed. She said she could see people who were screaming in a terrifying place, and that she was scared. I asked "Do you see a light?" She said "Yes, but I can't get to it." I told her "I know the way." I proceeded to tell her the Gospel message: that our sins separate us from God, but that Jesus has made a way for us through His death on the cross. I said "If we confess our need for Him, He will forgive us from our sin and give us eternal life with Him in Heaven." She answered with these words, which became her prayer: "I need Jesus. I need Jesus. I need Jesus." She received Him and I prayed for her and she was at peace. She was able

to allow her care givers to care for her and had a peaceful three days before she went home to be with the Lord. Jesus is the light of the world. As believers, we are called and chosen to declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).

Even older patients who experience memory loss, will remember songs and hymns from their childhood. Sometimes faith, theology, hope, and worship are accomplished in the simplest of activities, such as in singing old hymns, or children's songs together.

It has been a blessing and privilege to watch God walk intimately with patients and their families. One 6 year old patient talked often of her conversations with God, the glimpses of Heaven He took her to see, and the things He wanted her family to know. During one of my last visits with this sweet child, I held her little hand in mine, as we prayed. When I opened my eyes I saw she had her other hand raised. She had a smile on her face as she told me God was holding her hand. "For I am the LORD your God Who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13 (NIV)



# ACTS 13 EXPERIENCE

BY HARLAND CASON AND NATE TEMPLIN *CO-PASTORS, STEEL CITY FELLOWSHIP, PUEBLO, CO*

**T** HIS FALL TEN MEN OF VARIOUS AGES AND BACKGROUNDS from six different churches within the Royal Gorge Baptist Association joined a two year apprenticeship program. All love Jesus and desire to see His kingdom expand and see more come to know Him. All express some sense of “call” to ministry and spiritual leadership. All are stepping out in faith to mature as followers of Christ, evangelists, and disciplers. And thus, the “Acts 13 Experience” began.

“The Acts 13 Experience,” A13 for short, is a bi-vocational apprenticeship created to provide a framework and environment to clarify calling and catalyze a kingdom movement. It operates as part of the ministry of Steel City Fellowship, a one year old church plant in Pueblo, but has strong ties with the churches within the Royal Gorge Baptist Association.

The A13 Experience was born out of a strong desire to raise up local indigenous pastors. There were many conversations regarding

whether or not we could strategically, purposefully, and locally grow indigenous pastors, church planters, and other church leaders who know our local communities, become trained for ministry in our local churches, and then stay and become part of the next generation of church leadership here.

In the first few verses of Acts 13, the Holy Spirit speaks to the church gathered in Antioch, calling for Barnabas and Saul to be “set apart ... for the work to which I have called them.” And then, the church obediently sent them out. Believing God still calls folks to the work of ministry *and* believing that local churches and pastors would be willing to be an active part of the process of preparing men and women for ministry, we with the help of many others along the way set out to create a conduit for confirmation of calling and leadership training to occur, again with the ultimate goal of creating a kingdom movement over a longer period of time.

With this end in mind, A13 was created as a two year training process with three basic components that run simultaneously.

## COHORT

First, each apprentice participates in a **Cohort**. The purpose of the cohort is to create a weekly opportunity for apprentices and cohort leaders to meet together to process through various aspects of personal discipleship, basic hermeneutics, biblical overview, theological doctrines, disciple making, and other practical areas of church pastoral and church planting leadership, specifically in light of each one’s active ministry. The outcome should be a deepening of one’s faith in Jesus, knowledge of His Word and kingdom, and skills in ministry and mission.

## CONTEXT BUILDER

Second, the apprentice will engage in the **Context Builder**. Here, the apprentice puts theology into practice



in real-world settings. The pastor of the local church to which the apprentice is connected, mentors the apprentice while involving them in hands-on ministry experiences. This pastor mentor plays a vital role in the A13 Experience, filling the gaps between curriculum and skill. Mentors are intentional about including these young leaders in ministry and empowering them for greater leadership effectiveness, while helping them discover their personal gifting and calling. A13 provides encouragement and guidance to these local pastor mentors throughout the 2 years as they work to pour into their apprentices.

#### COACHING

Third, each apprentice engages in a regular one-on-one **Coaching**

relationship provided through A13. The coach comes alongside to clarify calling and catalyze action—empowering the apprentice for life and ministry, helping them discover God's agenda for their life and ministry, and encouraging them to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to see that agenda become reality. In this role they empower each apprentice to listen to the Spirit and act in faith.

The Fall 2018 Lab was a tremendous start. Nearly every apprentice preached one or more sermons in local churches, for some of them, their first. Many had evangelistic conversations with coworkers and friends. The depth of their teaching and serving ministries in their own churches is being positively affected.

One of the our A13 guys, Mark,

a student at CSU-P from London, decided to give up his soccer scholarship so that he could pursue the call God had upon his life. He has developed many new discipling and evangelistic relationships on campus. In just a few weeks there is fruit from his sacrifice and his disciples are already meeting with others that they are leading to Jesus and discipling.

The beauty is A13 doesn't require specialists, it is simple and replicable. Can you imagine if just 10 more churches across Colorado engaged in a similar strategy? If you would like to hear more about how you could do this in your church or association, inquire via the contact page at [www.a13experience.com](http://www.a13experience.com).

God is still calling. The Holy Spirit is still speaking. Churches are still sending.

**MAY 13-18, 2019**

## PORTUGAL VISION TRIP

Come partner with us in reaching the people of Portugal



Colorado Baptists is developing a partnership with IMB missionaries in Portugal.  
If interested email Breck Merkle: [bmerkle@fbcbf.org](mailto:bmerkle@fbcbf.org)

# THE [FUNCTIONAL] GREAT COMMISSION OF CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA



ILLUSTRATION BY LIGHTNER CREATIVE

BY WILL MANCINI *FOUNDER AND TEAM LEADER FOR AUXANO*

If we're honest, it's pretty easy to see the functional Great Commission in North America: Go into all the world and make more worship attenders, baptizing them in the name of small groups, and teaching them to volunteer a few times a month.

For all kinds of reasons, the words "church" and "growth" have become embarrassing when put side by side. Yet just because the lingo of the Church Growth Movement has departed from our lips doesn't mean that the model isn't still firmly rooted in our hearts and minds. Though the facade of church growth has been stripped off our institutions, the bones of the house are right where they've always been.

More than we'd like to admit, our default strategy for seeing people come to faith in Jesus begins and ends with pumping people through our priority programs. It's the classic attractional mindset.

And by the way, you can find it in every church—including those that wouldn't be caught dead being associated with those "sell-out" attractional churches and also in those that simply aren't attracting people very well.

## DESPERATE FOR A MEASURE THAT MATTERS

Ask yourself this question: Why do people come to your church (or any church)? Most likely, it's for:

- ➔ **Place:** the beauty, convenience, or sentimental attachments of the place
- ➔ **Personality:** affection for a leader
- ➔ **Program:** what they (or more likely, their kids) receive from a certain program
- ➔ **People:** friendships within that community

Not one of these “P’s” are bad. In fact, all of them are good. Like the lower story of a house, no one gets inside without going through them as the entry level.

But are these all the church is for? When any of us responded to God’s call to devote our lives to serve the church, was it because we were so in love with these things? I doubt it. They weren’t enough to draw us to the bride of Christ, and they aren’t enough to keep us in love with her either.

When we toil away at the work of the Lord—desperate for some sign that we’re getting somewhere and that our work is not in vain—it’s the most natural thing in the world to hunt for some proxy indicator that we’re not wasting our time.

Enter programs.

When we can count the flow of bodies through the pipelines of our program plumbing—well, we must be doing something right. Right?

### DON’T THROW OUT THE BABY

The dirty little secret among so many pastors is that we are really good at faking disciples rather than making disciples. The quantity and quality of our programs—and our sheer busyness keeping it all going—distract us from the truth.

Some pastors do recognize it, and they are so fed up with the superficiality of program jockeying that they’re ready to reject church growth altogether with all the attendance-, program-, and purpose-drivenness that comes with it.

That is a mistake. While we throw out the “church growth movement” bathwater, let’s not throw out the baby as well. There truly is a line that connects the dots of growth and disciple-making.

In short, if there is one thing I’m sure of, it’s that the best way to grow your church is by growing your people. I’m on the warpath for this principle, which I call “real church growth.”

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### REAL CHURCH GROWTH

Why should we give up on church growth? Why shouldn’t it be something we’re looking after, praying after, knocking on the doors of heaven for? Why wouldn’t we want to disciple people in such a way that they are empowered and emboldened to lead people to Christ? We shouldn’t give up on growing the church as people come to faith in Jesus. Jesus says we should expect fruit (and fruit that lasts!).

But there’s a certain way he’s set

everything up. “Real church growth” takes seriously the idea that if your church grows past 120 people, you have to ask the question, “What does organized disciple-making look like in this context?”

At the end of the day, it’s about this:

### REAL CHURCH GROWTH = ORGANIZED DISCIPLE-MAKING

And, “Organized Disciple-Making” does not equate to the programs you’re running—or, for that matter, to the programs the “bigger and better” church down the street or the one across the country is running.

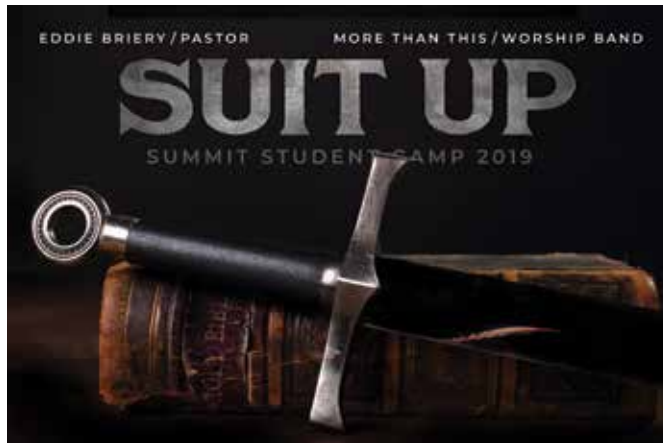
See, if you’re not doing organized disciple-making, my guess is that you’re doing programmatic education in the name of Jesus. But chances are, it’s “untransformational Christian education.” It may be well-executed and it might look good on Facebook or Instagram, but it’s probably not growing your church, nor is it really growing your people.

When I talk to pastors, I’m not interested in a church’s programs to mass-manufacture the raised-religious. I want to hear about their organized disciple-making process. I’m talking about how a church sets up a simple system that helps disciples of Jesus make brand-new disciples, who in turn make still more.

Real church growth. What if that became the new normal in the North American church?

*Colorado Baptists has the privilege of partnering with Auxano in developing our Next Step Vision and Strategy to bring clarity to our churches that accelerate Gospel Impact.*

**DISCOVER YOUR NEXT STEP  
AT COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG.**

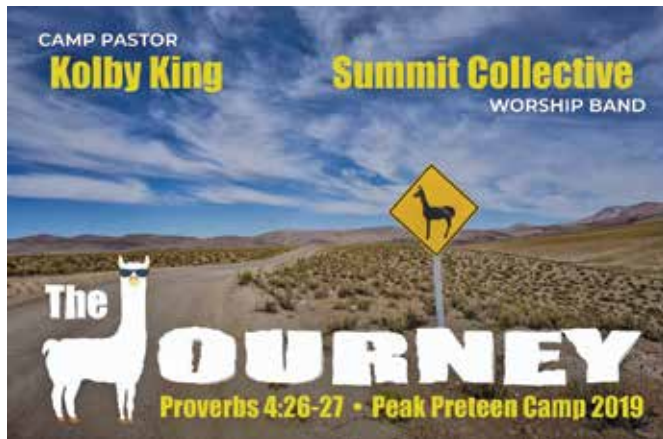


### **SUMMIT STUDENT CAMP**

Cost: \$300

**#1 JUNE 17-21 OR #2 JULY 15-19**

for students completing 6th thru 12th grades, Pastor Eddie Briery and Worship Band "More Than This"



### **PEAK PRETEEN CAMP**

Cost: \$235

**#1 JUNE 23-26 OR #2 JUNE 26-29**

for preteens completing 3rd thru 6th grades, Pastor Kolby King and Worship Band "Summit Collective"



**BE A VIP - Volunteers Improving Ponderosa:** We need men and couples during our busiest months, which are May thru October. If you live nearby and can volunteer weekly, or if you have an RV and can stay for weeks or months at a time, please contact us for more details. We'd love to add you to our family!



### **REGISTERED NURSE & LOVE KIDS?**

Be a Camp Nurse this summer at Ponderosa!

Call Terri Rawls 719-481-2482 ext #17 or send your contact info to [trawls@visitponderosa.com](mailto:trawls@visitponderosa.com)





# Transitional Pastor Training

**APRIL 8-9, 2019  
AGAPE OUTPOST  
BRECKENRIDGE, CO**

This training will prepare you to assist churches during the time they are without a pastor, helping them move into a better position from which to call a new pastor. This is not a program, but a process to allow our churches to be better equipped and therefore excited to call a new pastor into the fellowship of their church.

### **3 ways this training is beneficial to pastors...**

- ▶ Discusses ways a healthy church operates
- ▶ Provides an abundance of material to help
- ▶ Godly, knowledgeable speakers and well-organized material

For more information contact Tammy Bachman at [tbachman@coloradobaptists.org](mailto:tbachman@coloradobaptists.org) or go to [ColoradoBaptists.org](http://ColoradoBaptists.org)





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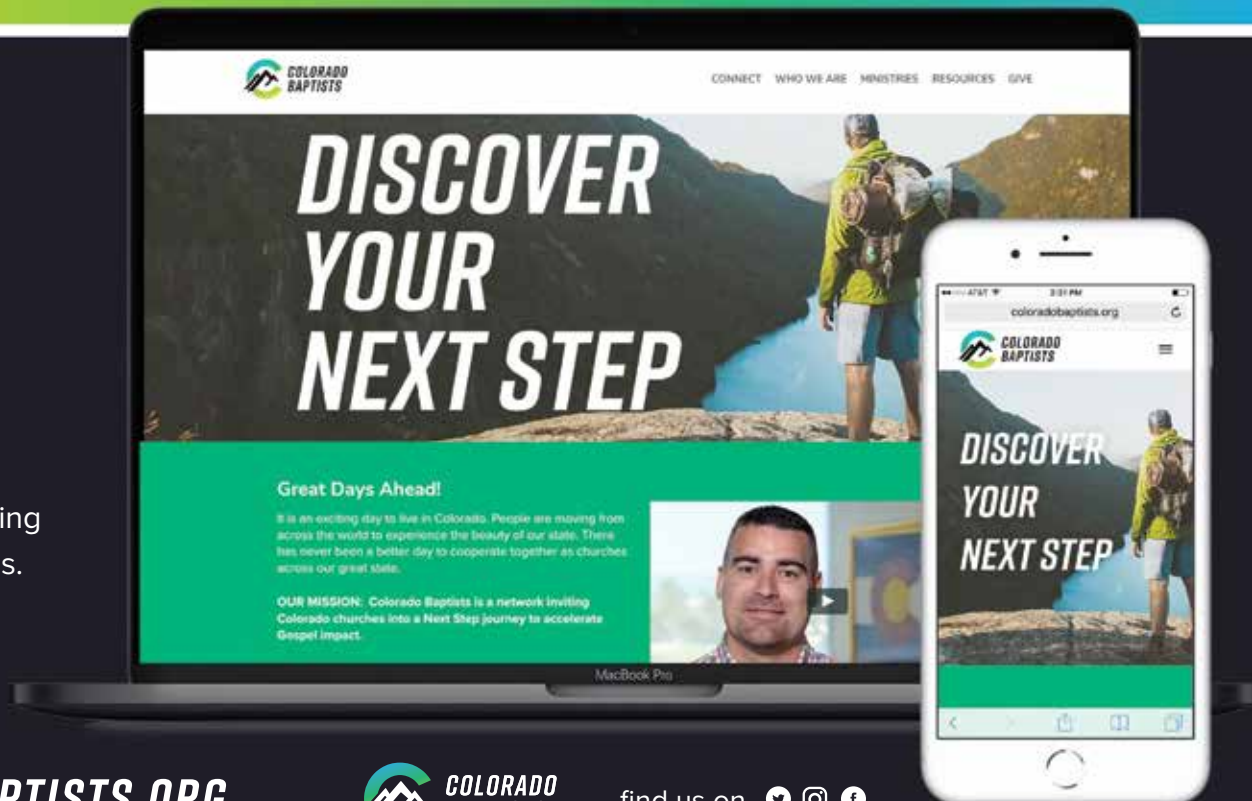
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Our new website is user-friendly and a great way to stay connected with our network of our churches. Features include resources, articles and upcoming events and trainings.



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