

IT'S TIME FOR A REPLANTING MOVEMENT

# MOMENTUM

ISSUE #7 • Official Magazine of Colorado Baptists • coloradobaptists.org

## DESIGN A ROAD MAP FOR YOUR CHURCH

Developing a customized approach to accomplish your God-given next step is key to greater gospel impact

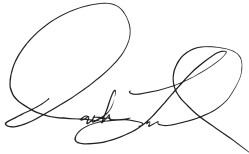
+ SOCIAL MEDIA  
& THE CHURCH

+ ONGOING CARE FOR THE  
CHURCH PLANTER WIFE



# FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

**H**ave you ever wanted to see the New Testament come alive like never before? I would like to personally invite you to join me on the trip of a lifetime, alongside Colorado Baptists, following in the Footsteps of Paul. This 10-day tour of Greece will take place July 6-15, 2020. We will visit cities like Athens, Ephesus, Corinth, Thessalonika, Patmos, and many more. Three days of this trip will be on a Mediterranean Cruise ship as we see various islands. It is going to be an incredible time as we experience the very strategic cities that God used to help the church in the New Testament grow exponentially. What an amazing opportunity this would be not only for you to join us, but to also consider bringing a group and spending that time with others watching scripture come to life. If you are interested and want to know more, please email me at [nlorick@ColoradoBaptists.org](mailto:nlorick@ColoradoBaptists.org). I would love to connect and help you take this journey that will enrich your relationship with Christ as you walk the Footsteps of Paul. I genuinely look forward to our time together!



**Dr. Nathan Lorick**  
Executive Director



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## FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

Travel Dates:  
**JULY 6 - 15, 2020**

**\$4795.00 FROM DENVER, CO**

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\$129 port fees, \$30 cruise gratuities & \$85 land gratuities)  
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Hosted by:  
**DR. NATHAN LORICK**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COLORADO  
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION



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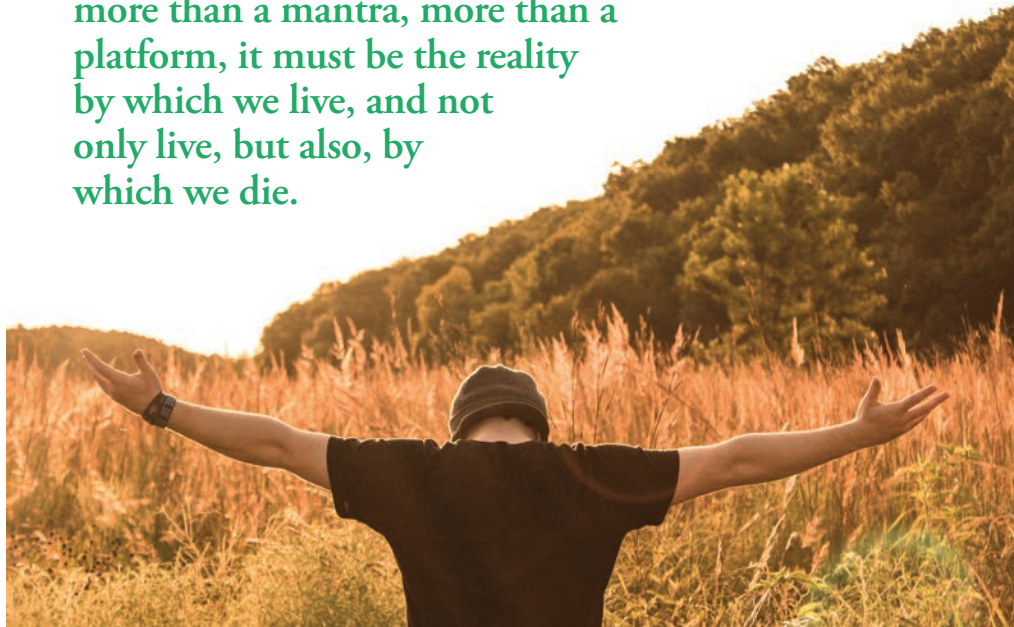
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# WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO PLACE ABOVE ALL?

The idea of self-denial must be more than the implication of our Convention theme, more than a mantra, more than a platform, it must be the reality by which we live, and not only live, but also, by which we die.



**W**E RECENTLY RETURNED FROM OUR NATIONAL CONVENTION IN BIRMINGHAM, and before going any further, I'd like to thank Dr. Nathan Lorick, and all of the Colorado Staff for their representation of Colorado Baptists; you all made us proud. As I took the opportunity to listen to many conversations around me, and several sessions hosted by our Convention President, Dr. J.D. Greear, and others, the theme—Gospel Above All—stayed with me.

As I thought about the theme I challenged myself in light of it, asking myself, "What am I willing to place above all?" It's one thing to tout a mantra, it's something entirely different for that mantra to become the drum beat to which we march, and a value by which we live. So I wondered, what would it take for everyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus to truly put the gospel above all? Among all of the "answers" that flooded my mind in response to that "question" the one thing that stood head and shoulders

above the rest is self-denial. If we are going to exalt anything or anyone above self, self-denial is the key, and it's also the hardest thing to do. The ability to deny self, and make something or someone else more important, is antithetical to our nature as human beings. However, we need only take a cursory view of Scripture to see both that this is our calling, as followers of Jesus, and also, how hard it is to fulfill that calling.

For example, in Matthew 16:24, Jesus declares to his disciples, if you wish to follow me, you must first deny yourself. In Philippians 3, Paul laid out what is quite possibly the most impressive resume in biblical history, and then he stated that he was willing to count it all lost, and to throw it all away to follow Jesus. Without question, the ultimate picture of self-denial is seen atop that great hill on the outskirts of Jerusalem, where Jesus

subjected himself to his creation, to atone for the sins of the world.

So, as you read this article, ask yourself how you are doing with the call to deny yourself? What have you (and I) placed above all? The idea of self-denial must be more than the implication of our Convention theme, more than a mantra, more than a platform, it must be the reality by which we live, and not only live, but also, by which we die. The call of those who would dare to follow Jesus isn't one of convenience, nor is it a call to comfort, it's a calling of sacrifice, and maybe the ultimate sacrifice. So I ask you again—what are you willing to place above all?

John Moreland  
President





### Trailhead Church baptizes 23 in the Poudre River!



*Trailhead Church, Wellington, CO*

Eight Trailhead Church members recently traveled to Easley, SC to serve their partner church, Siloam Baptist Church. Over the course of the week, Trailhead was able to complete yard work for a couple of elderly shut-ins, help prepare their aging facilities for a new preschool and help facilitate Siloam's VBS, where 5 children accepted Christ!

### VBS Collective Effort

Harvest Community Church (Olathe) and Church Without Walls (Delta) worked collectively to help each other have two amazing VBS weeks. CWOW helped with the Bible study and other areas and Harvest helped with Rec, Crafts, and Worship. What a great example of kingdom minded working together!

### Baptisms in Durango

*Gospel Church Durango*

"We have a few baptisms coming up, for which we praise God! One of them has come directly from our campus evangelism, which is super encouraging. We are progressing well on our next church plant, beginning to zero in on location and making first steps in building a team. Gospel Church continues to grow and mature, and we are very encouraged by what God is doing in Durango. So many things to celebrate as we worship Jesus and his victory over sin and death and Satan. What a Christ we serve!"  
- Pastor Tom Thiessen

### On the Trail

*Fraser Valley Baptist Church, Fraser CO*



Trail Trek hiking camp—think VBS on a hiking trail!



Bike Trek biking camp—think VBS combined with single-track trail!

### Life Transformation at Vanguard Church

Vanguard Church (Colorado Springs) had 6 people follow Christ in believer's baptism, **five of which were adults!** It was amazing to hear their stories of life transformation through Jesus. They have now seen 3,263 follow Christ in believer's baptism in 22 years.

# IT'S TIME FOR A REPLANTING MOVEMENT

BY MARK HALLOCK *Calvary, Englewood, CO*

**I**t seems like yesterday that I was sitting with one of my best friends in the parking lot of Calvary Baptist Church in Englewood, Colorado. At the time, Calvary was a church of 30 sweet folks who loved Jesus but were tired and ready to close the doors of the church for good. They needed serious help. They needed help that had to come from the Lord himself. You see, Calvary had once been a healthy, vibrant congregation that was a multiplying congregation. Several churches in the Denver-Metro area exist today because at one time Calvary had the vision, passion, and faith to plant new congregations. However, over the years, like so many other churches, Calvary slowly began to decline. The community around the church began to change. Families began to move away. A few pastors came in who were more focused on their own agenda than the agenda of God. And sadly, over time, Calvary

began to die. But the Lord wasn't done with this church.

As I sat with my friend that day, I knew full well, as crazy as it seemed, that the Lord was calling my wife and I to go to this dying church and by God's grace, see it come back to life for the glory of God. As though it were yesterday, I remember my friend looking at me in that parking lot and saying, "Are you sure you know what you're doing?" I looked back at him and said, "No. I don't know what I'm doing. In fact, I have no real idea as to what I'm doing. But one thing I can't deny is this. I can't deny that God is calling me to lead and love this congregation. And I can't deny that I believe the Lord can bring this church back to life." With a little smirk and a laugh, my buddy looked at me and kindly said, "You are nuts."

This wasn't the last time someone called me "nuts" for going to Calvary to replant this dying congregation. In fact, I've heard it from a number of people on numerous occasions.

Many of these folks didn't mean to put me down in any way, they simply looked at the obstacles ahead for this little church and felt leading Calvary back to health was next to impossible. To be honest, I have come to embrace being called, "nuts." The truth is, I am! In fact, I would say that everyone of us who is passionate about church replanting is a little "nuts." We're nuts because we are crazy enough to believe that God is not done with dying churches. We're nuts enough to believe that God has not given up on churches that many of us would have given up on a long time ago. We're nuts because we truly believe that he loves dying churches and receives much glory when dying churches come back to life and vibrancy ... and that he invites us to be part of it!

The truth is, you can hardly blame people for calling folks like us nuts. When you look at recent statistics on the health of the church in North America, things don't look so great.



**According to the  
Hartford Institute of Religion Research:**



more than 40% of Americans "say" they go to church weekly.



However, less than 20% are actually in church.



In other words, more than 80% of Americans are finding other things (in Colorado it's kid's sports and trips to the mountains) to do on weekends.



Between 4,000 and 7,000 churches close their doors every year. Thom Rainer has put the estimate higher. He says between 8,000 and 10,000 churches will likely close this year.



Each year, nearly 3 million more previous churchgoers enter the ranks of the "religiously unaffiliated."



Since 1950, there are one-third fewer churches in the U.S.



The United States makes up the third largest mission field in the world.

These statistics, among others, are very sobering. What we see is that not only are we in need of new, healthy churches in North America but we are in desperate need of replanting declining and dying churches. **So, what exactly are we talking about when we talk about church replanting?**

## WHAT IS CHURCH REPLANTING?

Church replanting is a unique ministry. In church replanting, we are focused on those congregations that are not simply declining, but they are dying. These are congregations that have reached a point where they realize they are not only sick and unhealthy, but they are nearing their death. In fact, you could say churches are identified as needing to be replanted when they humbly and honestly acknowledge that they are at risk of closing their doors once and for all within two to five years if major changes are not made. These congregations do not simply have a "cold" that needs a little help to get healthy again, but rather they have some form of "cancer" with major surgery and treatment needed to survive. As a result, these congregations have come to a point of humble surrender. They are no longer concerned with fighting over battles such as the color of the carpet, or whether we sing hymns or praise songs, or whether our pastor preaches in a suit or jeans. They have come to a point of humble surrender, saying, "Lord, whatever you want to do with our church, we are all in. This is your church, not ours. We want to do whatever it takes to not simply survive, but thrive for the sake of the gospel, for the sake of this community."

Pastor and church replanting strategist, Jeff Declue, gives a helpful analogy of what replanting is like. He says to imagine that you were given a plant that was beautiful! Everyone that came to your house complimented you on its size, health, vibrancy, and the fragrance was breath-taking. Now one day you noticed the plant was changing. Its leaves were turning pale yellow and the plant looked slightly withered. You didn't forget to water it. Maybe someone else watered it too much. Maybe it isn't getting enough light. You love this plant and you will do whatever it takes to save it! If you don't act now it is going to die! Quickly you get the plant into a pot where

you can get back to the basics. You get good soil in the pot with some quality nutrients. You now can make sure it is getting ample sun shine and water. Deep green color starts to return to the leaves and its strength starts to return. It takes time but it is coming back! Now replace the flower in a pot to a church in a community. This is “replanting.”

There is nothing about a dying church that brings glory to God! As Christians, we need to lock arms and fight to stop the trend of the dying churches in our communities. The task of church replanting is to come alongside these dying congregations and lovingly and joyfully shepherd them back to health, mission, and multiplication. Al Mohler, President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky writes:

“One of our central tasks in the present generation is to be bold in our vision of replanting churches—helping existing churches to find new vision, new strategic focus, new passion for the gospel, new hunger for the preaching of the Word, new love for their communities, and new excitement about seeing people come to faith in Jesus. Replanting churches requires both courage and leadership skills. A passion for replanting a church must be matched by skills in ministry and a heart for helping a church to regain a vision.”

Indeed, the need for church replanting is great, as is the opportunity and potential. Sadly, many churches will close their doors for the final time this next Sunday. This should break our hearts! These are churches made up of sweet saints who love Jesus, love the Bible, love people, but have perhaps lost vision and hope for what God can do in

and through them. They are sheep that need a pastor-shepherd who can know them, feed them, and lead them with passion, joy, and hope into the future. So, what do we do?

### **We’re Not Talking One Replant Here ... We’re Talking A Movement**

As excited as I get at the thought of even one dying church being replanted for the sake of the gospel, the truth is, in order to reach the masses of people in our world that don’t know Christ, one replant is not enough. Two is not enough. Ten is not enough. Even a hundred

**In fact, when you look at the spread of the gospel through the early church in the book of Acts, what you see is a gospel movement infused by the Holy Spirit that changed the world, one life, one church, one community, at a time.**

new church replants are not enough! Our vision as the church in North America must be to see hundreds and even thousands of churches replanted for the glory of God. What we need is a replanting movement. A movement of churches that replant churches that replant churches.

Now, what exactly do I mean by a movement? What is a replanting movement? I’ve heard it said that on the most basic level, movements are about mobilizing people behind a shared purpose. Movements happen in our world all the time. Movements happen in the world of business, or technology, or food, or entertainment, or even in the church. In fact, when you look at the spread of the gospel through the early church in the book of Acts, what you see is a gospel movement infused by the Holy Spirit that changed the world, one life, one

church, one community, at a time. I don’t know about you, but I get excited dreaming about a new kind of movement in the church today. A church replanting movement. A movement where God does what only he can do through his people. A movement where God uses ordinary, faithful pastors, church leaders, and lay people to bring declining and dying churches back to life. A church replanting movement. A movement that mobilizes God’s people behind the shared purpose of replanting dying churches for the glory of God. A movement where

churches that seem to have no hope and no pulse come back to life by the spirit of God in such a way that they not only survive, but thrive to the point of replanting other dying congregations. Yes, we need to plant new churches. We need to plant many, many new churches in order to take the gospel to areas where people are far from Christ. But at the same time, if we as the church of Jesus Christ are going to truly push back the darkness, to go from a posture of defense to a posture of offense in our mission to take the light of Christ into a dark world, then we must be as intentional and purposeful in our church replanting efforts as we are in our church planting efforts. It is not an either/or. It is a both/and.

**Now is the time for a church replanting movement. Are you in?**



# FOUR PRIORITIES OF A CHURCH REPLANTING MOVEMENT

What would be the marks of a church replanting movement? What would be the priorities of churches and church leaders who seek to join God in his work of bringing hope and new life to dying churches? Let me offer what I believe to be four essential priorities of this kind of replanting movement.

PRIORITY

#1

**Together as churches and church leaders, we must pursue our joy in Jesus, seeking to make Him non-ignorable in North America and to the ends of the earth.**

First and foremost, we must desire to be churches and church leaders where Jesus is our greatest treasure and where together we passionately pursue our joy in him. As we pursue our joy in him, our hope, prayer, and mission must be to see many others in our communities find their joy in him! Of course, we know that we are surrounded by people we know and love who, though seeking for true joy and satisfaction in their lives, are knowingly or unknowingly *ignoring* the only one who can actually give it to them: Jesus Christ.

This is why our shared desire in this movement of church replanting must be to make Jesus non-ignorable in North America and to the ends of the

This is a movement about desperate men and women begging the Lord to do what only He can do. This is a movement that desires to see the impossible become possible, namely dying churches infused with new life and vibrancy, becoming healthy, faithful, reproducing churches for the sake of gospel advancement.

earth. For this to happen, we need to be churches and church leaders that are known by our passionate love for Jesus, for his Word, and for people. We must be churches and church leaders zealous for and committed to persistent prayer, seeking the face of God in all things. This is not a movement with the goal of trying to be the coolest or biggest churches in town. This is a movement about God and for God. This is a movement about desperate men and women begging the Lord to do what only He can do. This is a movement that desires to see the impossible become possible, namely dying churches infused with new life and vibrancy, becoming healthy, faithful, reproducing churches for the sake of gospel advancement.

PRIORITY

#2

**Together as churches and church leaders, we must do whatever it takes to make disciples who make disciples and replant churches that replant churches.**

Jesus has called us to be his disciples, but it doesn't stop there. He has called us to make disciples who make disciples: joyful, passionate disciples! Along with making disciples who make

disciples, we must be churches that replant churches. For disciples are made in the context of the local church, not apart from it.

It doesn't matter if you live in a major city or in a small, rural town, every one of our communities is in desperate need of gospel-centered, word-saturated, outward-focused, people-loving churches. Not a few of these kinds of churches, but *many* of these churches! Because of this, we must need a movement in which local churches are committed to aggressively coming alongside and replanting dying churches that will become replanting churches themselves.

There must be an urgency in all of this. This is not about us, it is about Jesus and his gospel. For this kind of movement to happen, it means we need churches that don't simply talk the talk, but walk the walk when it comes to doing whatever it takes to replant churches. We need churches and church leaders who are humble and willing to set aside personal preferences for the sake of reaching those far from Christ; to do whatever it takes to get the gospel out! We need churches who are willing to die of themselves for the sake of those in their communities who are lost and broken. We must be willing to do whatever it takes, by the grace of God and the power of his spirit.

PRIORITY  
**#3**

**Together as churches and church leaders, we must practice**

**humble, radical cooperation for the sake of gospel advancement.**

I truly believe we as churches are always at our best when we link arms and pursue ministry together. Just as there is no such thing as a lone ranger Christian, there is no such thing as a lone ranger church, or at least there shouldn't be. Ministry is hard. We can't do this alone, which is why a replanting movement is made up of churches and leaders who practice humble, radical cooperation for the sake of gospel advancement. Churches and leaders who intentionally pursue the joyful sharing of any and all kinds of resources (people,

money, programs, etc.) whenever and however we can.

In a true replanting movement, this kind of cooperation will not be a burden, but a joy! A movement like this is not about one church or one church leader and the advancement of their "kingdom." This type of movement is centered on the one hero, Jesus Christ, and the advancement of his kingdom for his glory!

PRIORITY  
**#4**

**Together as churches and church leaders, we must be committed**

**to one another for the long haul.**

Ministry is hard. It is hard in all kinds of ways and for all sorts of reasons. And because ministry is hard, not only must we practice

humble, radical cooperation for the sake of gospel advancement, but we must be committed to one another for the long haul, by the grace of God and the power of the spirit. This type of commitment to one another is essential if we are to see a true replanting movement take place.

Commitment to one another. This is what families do, or at least the best families. The healthiest families. As Christians and as churches, we are the family of God! This means through good times and bad times, mountain tops and valleys of church replanting, we're the family of God. We are a family committed to love and encourage and sharpen one another, journeying together in this challenging yet vital ministry for the long haul.

# CHURCH LOANS THAT CHANGE LIVES.

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**BAPTIST FOUNDATION  
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**WatersEdge**  
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# Design Your Road Map



How you get there is just as important as where you're going.

Have you ever had a God-given vision for your church's future? There is something powerful about hearing where God is leading, but have you also experienced the failure of not getting there? Many times, our hearts are in tune with the Spirit, but our plans are lacking. We want to charge to the top of the mountain, but we lack the strategy to take people with us!

Colorado Baptists is committed to not only helping you Discover Your Next Step, but to also helping you Design Your Road Map to your destination. It's an integral part of our process!

Having a guide proves invaluable to not only dreaming about where God is taking us, but also how everyone will get there together.

*Let our Next Step Guides come alongside your church to Design Your Road Map!*



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

# FINDING PLACES TO PLANT NEW CHURCHES



BY JAMES VAUGHN

Church Planting Catalyst, Colorado Baptist General Convention

**T**he harvest truly is great. With an average percentage of lostness in Colorado at over 90 percent, there is a tremendous need for more churches for the purpose of impacting our state with the gospel.

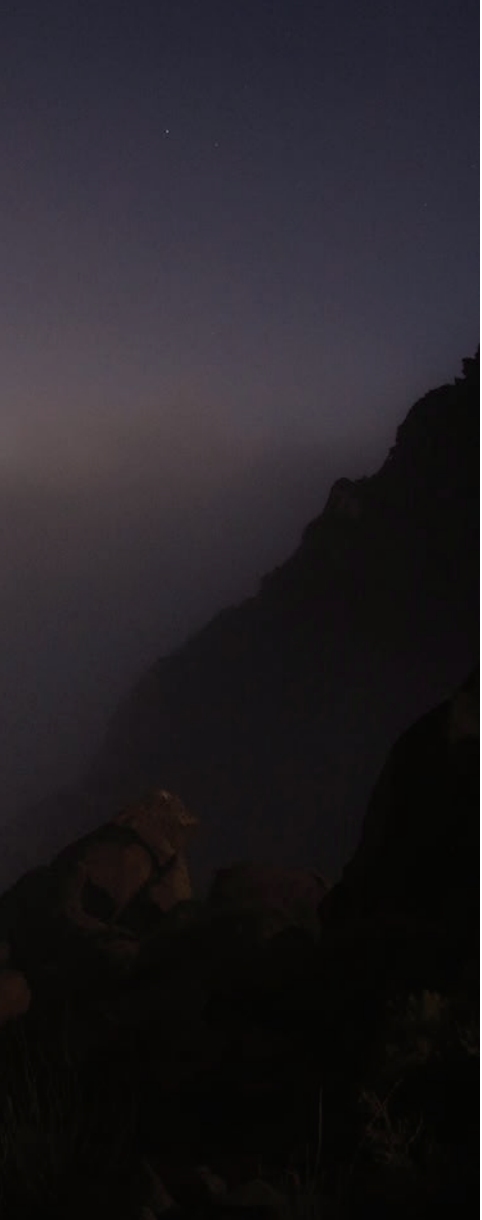
For the past 28 years I have kept spiritual eyes, ears, and heart open to areas that need the gospel planted here in Colorado. They are everywhere. We live in a target rich environment when it comes to sharing the gospel and planting new churches. Like many in our state,

the alarm on my phone goes off at 10:02 every morning to remind me to pause and pray the Luke 10:2 prayer, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” As I have prayed this prayer with pastors over the years, I have learned how to pray more effectively for laborers. Not only do we need to pray for laborers to come to our state, but we need to pray for laborers that are already in the harvest to be sent out. I now pray for boldness “as we

go” that a witness will be given and churches will be planted. I pray for indigenous planters and co-laborers in the kingdom.

Prayer works! He is sending laborers into the harvest field. It also helps us to see where more churches need to be planted. Awareness is crucial. I have had church planting responsibilities in four associational areas in western Colorado. For each area I have taken a map and listed all the communities in that area. If a community is big enough to be on the map it was big enough to





**Church planting has been a big part of our history and has been making an impact in communities across Colorado for decades. Lives have been changed because churches looked across town or down the road a ways and saw the need for a gospel presence in another community and they responded in obedience.**

make the list. Then I listed the number of churches in each community. The majority of communities do not have an SBC church and most of those have no gospel presence at all. When I share this information with pastors, either one-on-one, small groups, or at associational meetings, I ask the question, “How did your church get started?” Most pastors and church members cannot answer that question because it was before their time.

Having studied church planting in Western Colorado, typically here’s how it worked in the early years. In 1938, a church in New Mexico saw a need for a church in Cortez, CO. They acted on that burden and it came to pass. A few years went by and FSBC of Cortez saw a need for a new church in Mancos. Then Dove Creek and Cahone as well as others and then Dolores in the 90’s. In the 1960’s, FBC of Ouray started the work in Silverton as well as Calvary in Delta. Calvary has been the sending church for West Elk Family Church in Hotchkiss which is the sending church for Grace Community in Crawford as well as others on the horizon. Calvary is also the sending church for Church Without Walls in Delta. Ouray was also instrumental in starting Alpine Chapel in Telluride. Through the years Bookcliff Baptist Church in Grand Junction helped to establish most of the churches in that area, which have gone on to plant other churches in their area.

You get the idea.

Church planting has been a big part of our history and has been making an impact in communities across Colorado for decades. Lives have been changed because churches looked across town or down the road and saw the need for a gospel presence in another community and they responded in obedience. That has not changed!

After I share the list of communities with pastors and churches I challenge them to adopt a community. Adopt means to pray for, learn the demographics, discover and meet needs, and develop relationships. Part of the challenge is to discover where God is at work and join Him there. There are 153 communities on the map in my region of responsibility. We have 88 churches and church plants. There are 100 communities that have no SBC church and most of those have no gospel presence at all. Most of our multiplying, sending, and partnering churches have come as a result of seeing this information and accepting the challenge in obedience.

You are now being invited to be a part of kingdom expansion by looking across town or down the road and adopt a community. You may be the next answer to someone’s Luke 10:2 prayer! Your next step could result in a vibrant gospel-centered church making an impact on peoples lives in that community just down the road.

# Ongoing Care for the Church Planter Wife

BY AMY CORBIN  
NAMB Spouse Development

I vividly remember sitting with her during a retreat I was leading, as she wept and wept and wept. She was broken, she was exhausted, and she was utterly burned out. This precious wife had been on the church planting journey for seven years and she had no idea how to continue on. Their church was doing really well, despite the typical church planting highs and lows, and she was an incredibly strong woman who was rooted deeply in the Word and in her faith. But she had reached her limit and she was just so weary.

The retreat had been a time and space for her to simply meet with Jesus and to rest (literally rest) at his feet. But this time set apart for renewal would soon be over and then she would be re-entering a life where her circumstances had not changed at all. So how do we become changed women without expecting changed circumstances? How do we deal with burn out and soul depletion without expecting a journey that is easier or more comfortable? And, if this is your wife, how can you walk alongside her and encourage her to embrace the adversity you will most certainly continue to face?

This might be one of the most important tasks as a church planter you will ever face. If your wife is drowning, your whole journey will be affected. Ongoing care for your spouse is not an option, it is a requirement. This is an issue much more complicated and intricate that one article alone could ever tackle but here are three places we can start.

## 1

**Help her become more aware of God's story in HER life.**

In the last few months, as I've lead various trainings with planter wives I have been blown



**At the end of the day though, if your wife is not also receiving ongoing care, everything you have received is for naught. She is an essential part of this journey and it is critical that she is equipped for the same battle you are being sent out for.**

away by how many are not aware of God's story in their own lives. They see it in your life. They see it in your church, and they often see it in their children. But they rarely take time to sit and process through God's story in their own heart. As Christ followers, we all need to be deeply aware of where God has brought us from, where he is currently working and where he is leading. It encourages us, it inspires us and it feeds our soul.

If your wife is burned out, there is a very good chance she has lost sight of this to some degree. She needs, just as much as you do, to know that God has a purpose and plan and is intimately involved in every detail of her life. When your wife is encouraged to intentionally process his story in her life, she is reminded of his goodness, his presence and his sovereignty. She becomes energized by her relationship with the Father and not depleted by the task set before her.

**2**

**Help her discover more about herself.**

More than likely, as a pastor or church planter you have had multiple opportunities to explore or discover your personality, your strengths, your weaknesses

and your leadership style. And more than likely, your self-awareness has made you a better leader, a better pastor and a better husband/father. Your wife would benefit greatly from some of these same opportunities.

When we become women who have a full understanding of our own strengths, weaknesses and personal tendencies, our service becomes more life-giving and soul-feeding. We are fully aware of how we respond in difficult circumstances and can counter that response with what we know is more Christ-honoring. We know well the areas where God may use us most as well as the areas where we need the most refining and transformation and we are completely open to God's work in those areas.

**3**

**Help her discover the value of investing in herself.**

I can pretty confidently say that your wife struggles with the lie that investing in herself is, at the very least selfish and lazy, and at the very most, sinful. I'm not entirely sure where the lie originated from, but I am confident that as ministry wives, we have bought into it hook, line and sinker.

Your wife desperately needs permission and encouragement

from you to care for herself along the journey. And, let's be realistic, this is going to require some sacrifice on your behalf. It may require you to "hold down the fort" for a few hours, or a few days while she can get away. But I can promise you that the small sacrifice it will require of you will be multiplied immensely in the blessing it is for her soul.

When she is given the time and space to invest in herself, she more than likely will find (or be reminded) of her freedom in Christ, which will almost always lead to finding the freedom to rest and not wrestle through her ministry role. She will more intimately understand that God's grace is essential in this role and that it is grace that enables Him to do in and through her what she cannot do for herself.

The reality is that you have received some incredible training, coaching, and mentoring along your journey that has helped you process through some of these very things. At the end of the day though, if your wife is not also receiving ongoing care, everything you have received is for naught. She is an essential part of this journey and it is critical that she is equipped for the same battle you are being sent out for.

# WHAT IS THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM?

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries



## How does CP work?



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### *Your State*

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### *Your World*

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# FRIEND OF SINNERS:

## TAKING RISKS TO REACH THE LOST

BY KELLY WILLIAMS Vanguard Church, Colorado Springs, CO



**IN A POSTMODERN WORLD** we can't influence people if we are not in relationship with them—and more and more the church is becoming further removed from the society that it exists to reach. I am not talking about being relevant. I am talking about being real. I am talking about living, breathing, and rubbing shoulders with those who in Jesus' day were called “despicable and notorious sinners.”

Do you know any notorious sinners? Would you or your church be called “a friend of sinners”?

Would you be proud to take a “sinner” to your church? Would they hear the good news of Jesus Christ or just everything that is wrong with them and the rest of the world? I am not suggesting we compromise the Bible. At our church, we teach that Jesus taught about the morals of his day that translate equally into our day.

I don't want to just share information with people without also being willing to hear and understand how that information affects them. I want to share my life with others through real relationship with Jesus and them.

A number of years ago, I got a call from an independent alternative newsweekly in Colorado Springs, CO. Because of our involvement with community discussions in the past regarding world religions and social issues, they wanted to meet with us.

I met with a man I thought was a reporter from the newspaper. About halfway through the conversation I discovered that he was the founder of the paper. I was surprised.

He told us that our church had a reputation in the city of being a church that wanted to help people talk across the aisle. He saw us a moderate voice that wanted to

bring healing to the brokenness of our city.

We were honored that the community surrounding us had told him these things about us. He said that our name was mentioned to him no less than three times in one day.

Paul told Timothy “[the elder] must be well thought of by outsiders” (1 Timothy 3:7). Could this be said of your church and of your pastor and elders? Colossians 4:5 says, “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders.”

How long has it been since you have had an outsider in your office? How long has it been since you have had coffee with an outsider? How long has it been since you have done anything to reach out to the outside community beyond your preaching on Sunday morning?

Jesus came to see and to save those who were lost. We are his shepherds.



# Social media and the church

BY MALACHI O'BRIEN

MALACHI MEDIA

**I AM UNASHAMEDLY ADDICTED** to social media! From Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and even TikTok, I obsess on how we can do social media differently and for the gospel. How can we capitalize on the attention people are giving to their smart phones and tablets? Social media is one of the greatest opportunities ever for the church to reach and impact people. Every great move of God has come on the heels of a communication shift in society.

Almost everyone and almost every church has a presence on social media. The question is no longer are you going to do social media, but rather are you going to do social media well? As I meet with and consult with all sizes of ministries and churches regarding social media, I love answering all sorts of questions and thinking outside the box with the platforms we have. Let's talk about it as leaders and churches.

## Disruption is Everywhere...

- Uber has disrupted the taxi industry
- Airbnb has disrupted the hotel industry
- BuzzFeed has disrupted traditional media
- Netflix has disrupted the cable tv industry
- Amazon has disrupted the shopping industry

## What does this have to do with the local church?

We can no longer ignore the disruption. Rather we must embrace and utilize the opportunity it affords us. Every single social

media platform gives us an opportunity to reach a group of people that before we might have not reached effectively. It gives us insight to what people like and dislike; what people are feeling and thinking. Its free research. The more you know about the people you are trying to reach the better equipped you will be to reach them.

## Here are some simple social media tips

- Write down the reason

**WHY you and your church are on social media.** Don't exist on a



platform because everyone else is there. If you don't write down your reason, you will simply copy what everyone else is doing and will drown in the noise. For example, you might decide that you are on Facebook in order to build greater community within your church. You might decide that you are on Instagram in order to share great stories about the lives of people in your community. You must have a very clear reason why you are on social media. Without this you will not be able to measure success.

◆ **Make your message clear.** I mean crystal clear. This is by far one of the greatest mistakes I see people make on social media. Especially churches. They say they want to reach people but their social media does not reflect that. Rather, their social media has simply become a one-way communication piece people use to highlight past and upcoming events. If you want to reach people on social media then you need to talk about the problems people are facing and how your church or ministry can help people solve those problems. Talk about the real

issues. Talk about depression, suicide, divorce, etc.

◆ **Be social on social.** When people leave a comment, respond back to them. Build relationships with people. You could go into Instagram search bar right now and type in the name of your city and see photos and people from your

**If you want to reach people on social media then you need to talk about the problems people are facing and how your church or ministry can help people solve those problems.**

city. What if you actively sought to contribute and add value to others? What if you commented on 10 posts every day for a month? I promise you that it would help you see guest and visitors come to your church.

◆ **Build a social media team.** Make this a new ministry in your church. Develop a team of volunteers who will help you share content and do new things. Utilize all generations. Have fun.

◆ **Spend money on ads.**

Marketing is not sleazy. The front porch of homes is now the back porch. Their newsfeed is the front door you can knock on. What if you were creating meaningful encouraging content that people loved to share *and* you spent money to reach the right people? It doesn't take long to do this with precision and to do it well. Stop wasting money on things that do not work.

◆ **Reach out to new guests on social media.** What if your visitor or connection cards at your church had a spot for social media information? What if a volunteer on Sunday or Monday sent a meaningful personal note, through social media, thanking the guests for coming to your church? This

could set your church apart. People want to know you care.

◆ **Kindness and empathy are currency.** This is what you need to spend on social media. Let's hijack the negative narrative and build people up and listen to people. This is free and easy. It has a long-term ROI.

These are just a few quick ideas about social media.

Social media is here to stay! Let's do this well.

*MalachiMedia; @malachiobrien*

# IDENTITY IN THE TRINITY



BY SEAN COLE Emmanuel Baptist Church, Sterling, CO

**H**ave you ever doubted your salvation? Have you ever wondered if God stopped loving you because you failed for the umpteenth time with the same besetting sin? For many years I struggled with understanding my identity in Christ. I knew that Jesus saved me by grace and that I would one day spend eternity with him in heaven, but I did not have a full grasp on the richness of the gospel. As a teenager and young adult, I lived my life trying to please God through my own effort to somehow achieve this higher plane of spirituality and victory over all known sin. After numerous failures and trips to the altar to "rededicate my life," I often questioned my salvation. I lacked both the assurance that God had saved me and also

wondered if I would ever make any progress in holiness.

Through my own personal Bible study, struggle with sin, the encouragement of godly mentors, and the writings of great theologians, I have grown in understanding my identity in the Trinity. In the opening pages of his famous book *The Confessions*, St. Augustine writes, "You stir man to take pleasure in praising You, because you have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You." That described me for many years. I was restless because I did not entirely rest in what the Triune God accomplished for me in redemption.

We exist to display God's glory, declare God's gospel, and disciple for God's Great Commission. Instead of embracing these truths,

many Christians have believed the lie that their identity in Christ does not affect how they live their lives in obedience to him. The gospel tells us that "being" (identity) comes before "doing" (obedience). This truth hit me for the first time as I sat in one of Dr. Allan Karr's Church Planting classes at the Rocky Mountain Campus of Gateway Seminary in the early 2000's. This new "paradigm" struck a nerve with me, because at that time in my life, I found my validation and security in what I did as a youth pastor in ministry and excelling as a seminary student—not in who I was as an adopted child of the Father. "Being before doing" has stuck with me ever since and I pray daily for God's grace to live in the freedom of this reality.

This lack of understanding our



gospel identity frequently results in either legalistic pride or frustrating guilt. In order to help believers understand this concept of “being before doing,” I wrote a book entitled *Your Identity in the Trinity: Discovering God’s Grace in the Gospel* recently published through Wipf and Stock and available on Amazon (foreword written by Dr. Jeff Iorg, President of Gateway Seminary). The gospel indicatives in the Bible serve as the fountain, motivation, and power for obeying the moral imperatives in the Bible. The gospel roots our assurance of salvation and motivation to obey God in our identity, not in moralism; which elevates our performance instead of exalting the finished work of Christ.

The thesis of the book is that we find our identity in the Trinity: We are chosen, adopted, and accepted in the father; purchased, forgiven, and righteous in the son; and regenerated, indwelt, and sanctified by the spirit. I hope that believers grow in their assurance of salvation

## **WE FIND OUR IDENTITY IN THE TRINITY: WE ARE CHOSEN, ADOPTED, AND ACCEPTED IN THE FATHER; PURCHASED, FORGIVEN, AND RIGHTEOUS IN THE SON; AND REGENERATED, INDWELT, AND SANCTIFIED BY THE SPIRIT.**

and gain a better understanding of the sovereignty and grace of God in the gospel. I pray that readers will learn who they truly are in the Trinity, faithfully kill sin by the power of the Spirit, and grow in their practice of the means of grace—Scripture saturation, prayer, Lord’s Supper, fellowship, and evangelism.

I am the first to admit that I am not an expert in fully understanding my identity in the Trinity. I am also not an expert in wholehearted and joyful obedience to the Lord, as I fail many times. Yet I am a pilgrim on a journey to go deeper into the depths of the gospel so that I can fully enjoy the One God who has revealed himself

to us in three distinct persons—namely, the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit. I pray that we as Colorado Baptists would joyfully discover our identity in the Trinity and then serve our great God with grateful obedience!

*Sean Cole is Lead Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Sterling, CO. He has a D. Min in Expository Preaching from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and an M. Div. from Gateway Seminary. He also serves as an adjunct instructor of Old and New Testament, Systematic Theology, and Biblical Interpretation at Colorado Christian University. He hosts a podcast called “Understanding Christianity.” His wife is Dawn and they have two boys, Aidan and Zachary.*



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