

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITIES

MOMENTUM

ISSUE #10 • OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF COLORADO BAPTISTS

COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG



ADVANCING GOSPEL IMPACT

Lives are being transformed as the gospel reaches across the state in new ways.

+

THE DOORS THAT
COVID OPENED

+

AMBASSADORS
ON THE MOVE



UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITIES

WOW, WHAT A TIME WE ARE LIVING IN! Who could have predicted in January as we ushered in a new decade what exactly 2020 would hold? In the coming years, COVID-19 will forever be a marker of change for the world we knew. Many things we held as absolutes are now uncertain. Things that have always been a must now have become unnecessary. The way we went about our lives is now forever altered. However, not everything about this season is uncertain. In fact, we know without a shadow of a doubt that God is Sovereign and that He is in control in these days. Yes, these are unprecedented times, but this season also brings in some unparalleled opportunities. Let me submit a few to you:

1. We have the opportunity to spend more time with Jesus. Many people have had to shift how they operate in their day-to-day lives. This pandemic has allowed many people to be mobile in their job or work from home. While the adjustment to this new way of life can be challenging, it could open the door for us to have more margin in our time to spend with Jesus. Instead of the commute to work, we can spend it in prayer or studying God's word. Let's not miss this moment of opportunity to dive deeper with Jesus.


2. We have the opportunity to love and serve our neighbors well. It seems as if COVID-19 has caused people to be much more cautious with relationships. However, there has never been a greater time for your neighbors to know that you are praying for them and are here to serve them. Whether it is just letting them know you are praying for them or going to the grocery store for them, utilize this time to love your neighbor well.

**God is Sovereign
and He is in control
in these days.**

3. Reprioritize the things that matter in your life. If you are like me, life gets super busy. As a husband, father, and ministry leader, my schedule can get full very quickly. Often my priorities begin to get out of sync and it begins to really become evident to those around me. I encourage you to take this time and begin to reestablish those rhythms in your life that draw you closer to Christ. Don't waste this opportunity to redefine what is truly important in your life. You will be glad you did.

4. Make a renewed commitment to the mission of your church. I thank God for technology. In this difficult time, churches have been able to stay engaged with reaching people for Jesus because of it. However, there is no substitute for being with God's people in person. While there are different approaches to when and how to regather, we need to seize the moment to renew our commitment to our churches. God has not stopped using the church during the pandemic. If anything, He is strengthening the church in ways He knows will further the Kingdom. I encourage you to be resolved to renew your commitment to your church. Keep going, keep giving, keep serving, and keep praying. I truly believe the church will see an unparalleled advancement of the gospel!

In times like these, we can either retreat or advance. My prayer is that we as Colorado Baptists will be resolved to see the gospel go forward like never before. Please know that we are praying for you, we are here to serve you, we believe in you, and we love you!



Dr. Nathan Lorick
Executive Director



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE THE MESSY MIDDLE

2



SERVICE AND WORSHIP DURING COVID

Many of our churches used their creativity in getting back to worship and serving their communities. Above, Fraser Valley Baptist Church, led by Pastor Dustin Wagley, began outdoor services in June by meeting in their parking lot.



PAGE 6

Grace of the Lord Church in Aurora has always had an aggressive outreach strategy, but recently it seems that people are more willing to hear about the hope inside us, and secular organizations are opening up their doors for our spiritual care.

SIGNIFICANT SEASON

8

Ministry looks and feels significantly different and we have significant questions to ask and answer.

COLORADO BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF SERVES MEALS IN AURORA, CLEANS UP IN DENVER

10

MEETING NEEDS, CHANGING LIVES

North American Missions Board's Send Relief ministry is meeting needs of healthcare workers, neighbors with food and care packages during COVID in hope of sharing the gospel.



12

⇒ AMBASSADORS ON THE MOVE ⇒

14

Al Barrera, Church Planting Catalyst, Front Range, takes a closer look at 2 Corinthians and what it means to be an ambassador of Christ.

TAKING THE OFF-RAMP TO ANOTHER MINISTRY HIGHWAY

16

GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS THROUGH THE "WHO'S YOUR ONE?" CAMPAIGN

16

MY KEEPER

18

As I have traveled through this COVID 19 season I have had all kinds of mixed emotions, but I ran across a Psalm that really touched my heart, mind, and soul.

MOMENTUM



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THE MESSY MIDDLE

GREETINGS TO EACH OF YOU.

Who would've thought that just 4 months ago we'd be where we now are? Churches are meeting virtually, parents now double as substitute teachers, face masks have become the new fashion statement, racial tensions are more "tense" than ever, Coronavirus has claimed the lives of thousands in the United States and more than a million worldwide, and we face a presidential election, with dire implications for us all, for various reasons. My heart cries out in the words of King David, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest." -Psalm 55:6

As much as we'd like to fly away and take our promised rest, there's a fair chance that you and I have more time left on earth, enough that we have to give considerable thought to the issues before us.

Doug Dameron, senior pastor of Orchard Church, and I, recently sat down with his congregation to discuss race relations in America. Doug entitled the conversation, "The Messy Middle." Those words gave vocabulary to my thoughts about where God and God's will are usually found.

Most struggle with the tension of the messy middle because by nature it is unkept and uncertain, and we don't like our theological application to be uncertain. We want our answers and responses to life's issues to be firm and sure, with the edges flush and neat, but God's not usually found in those places, is he? He's usually operating in the messy middle ground. Think about it. The New Testament tells us to "come out from among them and be separate" (2 Corinthians 6:17) Yet, Jesus is often found hanging out with the likes of tax collectors and sinners. The same God who gave the Law "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13), can often be seen telling the same group of peo-

ple to kill their enemies (Think about Israel and their military battles on their way to the Promised Land). The same Jesus who said "Blessed are the peacemakers..." (Matthew 5:9), also said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth..." (Matthew 10:34). How are we to reconcile these seeming contradictions?

Lest you consider me a heretic, allow me to explain. I believe and confess that Scripture has no contradictions, when understood in context. However, I also believe and confess that to apply Scripture to the circumstances of life is not as easy as it is to read it in church or in a seminary classroom. In the hour in which we now reside, we must step into the messy middle of life, and answer the call not merely to confess what we believe, but to apply it and practice it within some of the most uncertain and challenging times that most of us have ever seen.

As I've sought the Lord in prayer and practice over the last several months, I've begun to chew on the following. These statements are not indictments, but rather, exhortations. If we are going to be effective in this present hour, I believe the following is pertinent to understand and practice:

1. We cannot abandon earth on our journey to Heaven. It's not enough to preach the gospel, if by "preach" we simply mean to herald it and declare it, in hopes that one will believe it, securing their ticket to Heaven. We must also unpack it and apply it. The gospel is not only our means of salvation, but must also be our motivation for living.

2. Two people can handle Scripture faithfully and come to different, yet Godly, conclusions. We cannot write off those with whom we disagree with as heretics. This next season will bring about tough theological questions with no easy answers. This means we must evaluate not only what we believe but why we believe it. I'm not suggesting that we abandon orthodoxy, I am suggesting that we challenge what has fallen into the category of orthodoxy, and ask ourselves-is it correctly placed?

3. Politically identifying terminology is divisive to the Body of Christ, not unifying. Conservative is not synonymous with Christian. Liberal is not synonymous with pagan. Howard Hendricks said, "Most people don't think they just rearrange prejudices." Political pundits are betting on the fact that we won't think, but that we'll be guided by inflammatory terms, which may or may not mean what we understand them to mean. We are called to represent the Kingdom, and the Kingdom is not captured in any one political identifier.

4. Faith is an exercise in risk not security. Our primary goal cannot be safety, it must be faithfulness. Faithfulness involves inherent risk - emotional risk, intellectual risk, physical risk, and the risk of change. Holding to historical practices in the name of "that's how we've always done it" doesn't make us faithful followers of Jesus.

As we walk through this season may we all remember, although times are uncertain to us, they are not uncertain to God. Heaven is still his throne, the earth is still his footstool, and Jerusalem is still his Holy City! Let's trust God together and may he grant us strength to endure.

God Bless,
John Moreland
President



BAPTISMS



Praise God for an incredible year of baptisms!

Lives are being reached and transformed.

2017 → 1,481

2018 → 1,834

2019 → 2,400!

We are grateful for your commitment
to the spread of the gospel.

Let's continue
to advance
gospel impact!

Celebrating Together



Fraser Valley Baptist Church, led by Pastor Dustin Wagley, began outdoor services in June by meeting in their parking lot. With social distancing measures in place, their congregation was eager to reunite for corporate worship.

A snowy, drive-in Easter worship service



A cold and snowy Easter didn't stop Mesa Christian Fellowship in Pueblo from meeting together for worship by holding a drive-in service.

Serving the community



Pastor Mark Spence and the people of Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church spent many weeks during COVID-19 handing out free meals to anyone who was in need. They served their community consistently by being the hands and feet of Jesus during such an uncertain time.

Worship at the Star Drive-In



Calvary Baptist Church in Monte Vista gathered with multiple churches in the area on Easter Morning at the Star Drive-In. It was an incredible time of worshipping together and some even chose to honk their horns in place of a spoken amen. What a beautiful example of churches coming together in a time of uncertainty and need to unite for their community.

Easter Service at Thunder Mountain Raceway

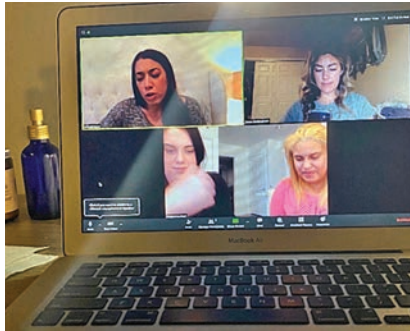


Harvest Community Church in Olathe, led by Pastor Jeff Bachman, held a drive-in Easter Service at Thunder Mountain Raceway. It was a windy but beautiful day to celebrate our risen Savior!



Church plant uses technology in the midst of pandemic to connect others to God

God has moved in a mighty way during the COVID pandemic among The Brook, a church plant led by Jason and Molly Soderstrom. As Molly was praying for Denver, God laid a couple of women she had met before COVID on her heart. Not knowing these women very well, she felt the Lord call her to reach out, so she sent a few texts and prayed. Four women responded to her invite to do a 30-minute encouragement group over Zoom to talk about life and God. Once Molly shared the gospel with the group, one woman decided to go all in and follow Jesus. She immediately began reading her Bible and inviting others to be a part of what she was discovering. God is at work and can use any platform to change lives.



Vietnamese congregation baptizes twenty-six



With COVID-19, economic crisis, and socio-political unrest, Vietnamese Central Baptist Church (VCBC), led by Rev. Liem and his family, is thriving in caring for their community. In the month of June the Vietnamese congregation baptized twenty-six Vietnamese-Americans that recently arrived in the United States. Stories of these individuals will break your heart because each main applicant has an American father, but was disconnected due to the Vietnam war. Despite many challenges, they are grateful that there is an American immigration law that provided a passage from countries affected by the Vietnam war. With the support of VCBC to process their documents, they have not only attained U.S. citizenship but more importantly secured their eternal citizenship in Heaven by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



Living Stone passes out summer swag for their community



The Living Stone Church in Broomfield handed out our Summer Swag Bags to children and families for some fun in the sun! These bags contained goodies that promoted quality time and fun memories to add some joy during the safer-at-home season!

THE DOORS THAT COVID OPENED

BY CJ COUNTS *GRACE OF THE LORD, AURORA, CO*



“

It seems
like the city is
primed for gospel
conversations and
spiritual care
in a way that really
could lead to
a large revival!

”

OUR CHURCH HAS ALWAYS had a very aggressive outreach and community engagement strategy, but recently we are seeing a higher return on our investments than ever before. It seems that people are more willing to hear about the hope inside us, and secular organizations are opening up their doors for our spiritual care where doors used to be closed to Jesus Christ.

It's not just our church having this experience. We are friends with many other ministries and churches in our city, inside and out of our great Send Network, and we are hearing similar reports from everybody we talk to! It seems like the city is primed for gospel conversations and spiritual care in a way that really could lead to a large revival!

I could give a ton of examples, but one really exciting opportunity for us has been through Arapahoe County Child Welfare system. Our relationship with this organization started about a year ago. Right after we launched our new church, we established a relationship with a number of local government leaders and programs in an effort to engage our community and get to know the ground level needs in our city. We partnered with another non-profit organization who directly connected us to help meet the needs submitted by child welfare case workers for foster and kinship families.

The idea was simple and started out small, but now has snowballed into something much greater! At first, we would hear about small items needing donated to foster families. Typically, a child would be taken from their parents in a last-minute emergency, and go

to a foster home where the new parents were unprepared. As a result, there would often be needs like a crib, or diapers, but would not be ready to afford. When we signed up, we thought "there's no way a financially unestablished small church like ours could meet any of these needs" but it turned out that we were able to meet more needs than any other church signed up to receive these requests! And we were rarely spending any money, because most of the items were donated from a collection of "hand-me-downs" from families in our network.

We personally deliver all of the items, and we bring a little care package full of soda, snacks, and our Gospel Gift Bags which contain stuff to encourage salvation and connection to our ministry programs that may be of interest. As a result, we have had families join our church, and we have personally witnessed dozens of salvations!

It was so successful that the child welfare department asked to partner with us on a Christmas Party in 2019. They promoted our party to everybody in the child welfare system and we had more people in our little space than we have ever had before! Through donations of toys from

Children's Hospital, and a potluck-style dinner, we were able to give generously and saw a number get saved that night.

Fast forward to when the COVID crisis began, we sadly had to pause our five monthly community outreach projects. However, our ministry to foster families continued stronger than ever! We were able to maintain these relational investments while cooperating with state guidelines and left an impression on the agencies.

Eventually, the case workers started to let us care for them too! We were invited to host a prayer gathering where that entire department was invited, including their HR and Finance divisions. Over 300 case workers plus the other departments got an email invite from their leadership with a video invitation from me, a Bible-thumping Jesus freak, offering to pray for them and provide Christian-based spiritual care! The prayer gathering took place via video chat, and was a big hit!

These relationships have allowed us to provide care in ways we never dreamed of when we first started. It began slow, but as of today, this ministry has become a staple in our programs, so we praise the Lord!

SIGNIFICANT SEASON

BY JEFF GIBSON

Ken Caryl Church, Littleton, CO

The past few months have certainly been an intense and unexpected course in church leadership and pastoral ministry! While there have been confusing and difficult scenarios to work through, this has also been really good for the church, at least for Ken Caryl Church. Here is some of what we have been learning.



➡ **Significant adjustments had to be made quickly.** Just like everyone else we realized around March 12 that we would not be gathering together as a church family on March 15. That presented a real challenge for us. Up until this time we had been posting audio of Sunday sermons on our church website. The question quickly became, “Can we video our church service a few days ahead, upload it to an online platform, and then invite the church to go to church together when we are not actually together? And can we have that ready by this Sunday?”

It was truly exciting to watch our staff, worship team, and volunteers figure this out. All of the details fell into place, Ken Caryl’s service was now on YouTube, and we were a church meeting in homes rather than in the building. There was even excitement when people began sharing the link to the service and saw friends and family watching, especially those who were not connected to a church. We now had access to people we did not have access to before. This was an adjustment we didn’t know we could make, but our Lord had the right people in place for this time. Our small groups moved to Zoom, which was also completely new. All of these things have been a significant adjustment that we believe is leading to significant outreach.

➡ **Significant investments need to be made for ministry in the future.** When we realized the online presence would be here to stay for Ken Caryl, we had to determine what that would look like, even beyond the coronavirus pandemic. We really felt like a livestream option would suit the church well now, and also in the future. This would require a financial investment in equipment, installation, and upgraded internet speed in the church building. The church decided to spend a substantial

amount of money to make all of these things possible. For one, they saw the need and the opportunity. Secondly, they really appreciated the effort being made online. These upgrades became about ministry and outreach not just for now, but for the future.

Another investment we are making is in regard to how we think about ministry in the future. If any of us have ever thought to ourselves, “I would like to consider other ways to approach ministry and discipleship in the church, but I can’t find the time to do it because I’m so consumed with all of the current ministry initiatives,” well, most of what we are used to has been put on hold. It is the ideal time to think about what discipleship for kids, students, and adults looks like going forward. Having the opportunity to really evaluate and rethink is significant for us.

➤ **Significant shift in current ministry perspective.** We held our first corporate gathering on June 28, an outdoor gathering. Leading up to this we realized that some people were anxious to meet right away, some were willing to meet and also cautious about doing so, and some were clearly not going to be ready to meet with others for quite a while. We have tried to communicate to the church that each of these perspectives is okay! One is not better than the other. We have realized that ministry for us right now will mean ministering to those who are ready to gather and also ministering to those who are not yet ready to gather. We need to minister to the church online and the church in-person.

“

This is a significant season for each of our churches. We have had to make significant adjustments and investments. Ministry looks and feels significantly different and we have significant questions to ask and answer. But the Father will use this time to draw others to faith in Jesus.

”

We are now one church meeting in two different ways. This has been a significant adjustment in thinking for us.

➤ **Significant questions need to be asked.** For me personally the most prominent question that has crossed my mind is this: Had we as pastors and leaders prepared the church for this unexpected season? I have thought a lot about the “gathered church” and the “scattered church.” We are accustomed to being and functioning as a gathered church. But when the pandemic limited our ability to gather and we as a church were now scattered throughout our neighborhoods, were we ready for that? Had we prepared the church for ministry when scattered? Had we prepared the church to reach out with intentionality to those around them? Had we prepared the church to know how to spend time with the Lord in a personal and consistent way?

When Nehemiah asked for permission to go and rebuild Jerusalem I’m sure he had no idea what the work would ultimately entail and even the leadership that would be required of him. That is probably how most of us are feeling right now as pastors. But what great things the Lord accomplished through Nehemiah’s willing heart! This is a significant season for each of our churches. We have had to make significant adjustments and investments. Ministry looks and feels significantly different and we have significant questions to ask and answer. But the Father will use this time to draw others to faith in Jesus. Let’s continue to lead our churches toward this end.



DISASTER RELIEF SERVES MEALS IN AURORA

BY DENNIS BELZ

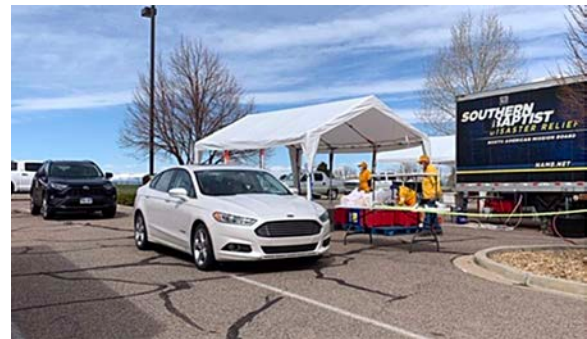
DIRECTOR, CBDR

In the midst of COVID-19 and shelter-in-place orders, while Colorado was in quarantine, the essential nature of CBDR allowed us to stand willing and ready to deploy to help people and our state in a time of need.

CBDR partnered with Community of Grace in Aurora to serve the southeast metro area by providing free lunches 3 days a week during the pandemic. The team was faithful to the job, faithful to adhere to the safety guidelines in order to serve everyone safely, and faithful to share Jesus in their conversations with community members. Bibles were distributed to those who wanted and needed them along with copies of the JESUS film.

The team put in several volunteer hours starting early each service day with set-up, food prep, followed by serving lunch, and ending our day with tear-down and clean-up. We also overcame barriers that could have halted our mission, including new safety regulations and inspections, as well as high winds that destroyed our tents, but we pressed on and God made a way for us to finish the job that we set out to do!

God was at work during the 2 months the feeding unit was stationed in the parking lot of Community of Grace. Over 4,600 meals were served and many lives touched by the gospel of Jesus Christ. We were grateful for this opportunity to serve and thankful for the partnership with Pastor Joel Bundick and his team at Community of Grace.



CBDR/COG STATS FOR COVID-19 FEEDING AT COMMUNITY OF GRACE

- **364**
VOLUNTEER DAYS
- **1,826**
WORK HOURS
- **55**
TRACTS DISTRIBUTED
- **236**
BIBLES DISTRIBUTED
(Have depleted our stock of Spanish Bibles)
- **4,693**
MEALS PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED
- **195**
MINISTRY CONTACTS

CBDR HELPS CLEAN UP DENVER

BY DENNIS BELZ

DIRECTOR, CBDR

CBDR was presented with another opportunity to serve, this time for the City of Denver. On the heels of civil unrest, our team arrived the morning of June 3rd in downtown Denver to spend time helping the city clean-up by picking up trash and debris as well as power washing business buildings that had been tagged with graffiti. This is not our usual type of work for CBDR, but because of our incredible volunteers we can now add this to our resumes.

After finishing a long day's work, we committed to returning if the need was there. We woke up the next morning to find that the exact buildings that we had previously cleaned had been tagged again throughout the night. While it was disappointing, there is no stopping our crew.

We met up again to serve and God opened doors that could only be His divine appointments. We were able to pray with a couple of individuals including a local restaurant manager who came out to meet us and requested prayer for himself and the city of Denver. Our efforts on both days were well received by business owners, city officials, and people who passed by and saw what we were doing. We always strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus and I am proud to say that our team did a great job of representing Him. May His name be glorified in all that we do!

Thank you for your prayers and giving to CBDR as God uses them to touch lives and Bring: Help, Hope and Healing to those in need!



DENVER CIVIL UNREST CLEAN UP:

- **26**
VOLUNTEER DAYS
- **204**
WORK HOURS
- **4**
MINISTRY
CONTACTS
- **2**
PRAYERS
(with people
in community)
- **5**
JOBS COMPLETED
(debris clean-up
and graffiti removal)



MEETING needs. CHANGING lives.

BY JASON TIPTON NAMB/Send Relief Missionary

WHEN I PULLED UP TO MAKE MY FIRST FOOD DELIVERY in the middle of COVID, I grabbed the box full of groceries with a couple of additional grocery sacks stuffed with fresh fruits and vegetables. The disruption of school schedules was evident with kids playing outside and not where they would normally be at school.

I was met in the courtyard by Amina, who with great joy excitingly exclaimed, “My food! My food is here!” Since mid-April, about 40 volunteers each week (social distancing of course) come together to pack food for families who reached out for help. Each week over 175 people are served.

Derick Sherfey from the Oaks Church has been leading the way in this effort and asked Send Relief to partner with him. For the past two years The Oaks church has been building relationships at a refugee magnet school in their neighborhood that is home to families speaking 60 different languages from over 40 nations. Sherfey says, “When COVID-19 hit in mid-March they reached out to us to help meet the rising needs of this refugee community. A few weeks later we saw a network of multiple local churches, over 6 nonprofits, the City of Denver, and Denver Public School administration come together to provide the essential services to families who needed it the most. We are now beginning conversations to scale and grow



① Michael Talley and Brian Wilkerson preparing to hand out backpacks of food to those in need.



② Matt Horne of New City Church supplying burrito kits to his neighbors on East Colfax.



③ Arienne Roper from the Heights Church with care packages for hospitals and nursing homes.

these efforts in ways that will long outlast our initial response to this crisis. God is working—even in the midst of a global pandemic!”

Serving Health Care Workers

Also, in the Denver metro area several churches came together to organize a care package drive in their communities for healthcare workers. Send Relief provided snacks and needed items for care packages. These care packages were distributed to hospitals and nursing homes.

Journey Point Church was one of the churches who participated. Chris Phillips recruited several healthcare workers to distribute the care packages to local hospitals. Prior to COVID, I shared with a neighbor who was looking for a church in Stapleton to recommend to a co-worker, Amy. Months later, Amy, who works at one of the hospitals Journey Point reached out to unexpectedly received a note from Chris personally inviting her to Journey Point along with a care package.

Serving Neighbors

Matt Horne of New City Church on East Colfax typically finds himself checking on neighbors and hotel managers along East Colfax. Send Relief provided Matt with burrito kits to share with those he has been building relationships with over the past year.

Michael Talley planting in Thornton received a call from

“
**God is
 working—even
 in the midst
 of a global
 pandemic!”**
 ”

their local fire department. Michael explains, “We took them dinner one night and explained if there was any way we could help in the future, all they had to do was call.” That phone call came about a week later. Several firemen who had made house calls that day were tired of referring families to food banks when they asked for food. Michael reached out to Send Relief and received emergency backpacks that each held enough food to feed a family of 5 at least 4 meals.

These are just several example of ways Send Relief has been able to equip our churches who are serving our community. As Send Relief continues to establish a ministry center in Denver, we will to continue to execute, model and multiply compassion ministry, always looking and praying for those gospel conversations to be a part of our work!

For more information about how NAMB and Send Relief are serving communities through compassion ministry, please visit sendrelief.org.

AMBASSADORS ON THE MOVE

"... IN CHRIST, GOD WAS RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF, NOT COUNTING THEIR TRESPASSES AGAINST THEM, AND ENTRUSTING TO US THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION. THEREFORE, WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, GOD MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH US." (2 COR. 5:19-20A)

BY AL BARRERA

Church Planting Catalyst, Front Range

IN TODAY'S WORLD, THE TERM "AMBASSADOR" CARRIES VARIOUS CONNOTATIONS. A person could be an "ambassador for goodwill" advocating for a specific cause in a region or culture needing change. Another could be an "ambassador of peace" working towards negotiation or ceasing of conflict within specific circumstances. "Ambassadors of industry" promote specific brands, causing perception of that industry to change in the public eye. Ambassadors, by definition, act on behalf of a culture, as official representatives of particular beliefs or values, within a different culture.

In this passage from 2 Corinthians, as Paul addresses the Corinthian church, he calls for believers to embrace their role as ambassadors. In doing so, the church finds a personal place within Paul's call towards this identity. Paul drives the church to become "ambassadors of goodwill", forgiving the sin-laced flaws of the world for the sake of reconciliation with God. In that reconciliation, "ambassadors of peace"

can strive after a melding of heart and soul, longing for the day when human beings will stand unhindered, arm in arm, with tears of joy and gratefulness surging out of the overflow of love, basking in the forgiveness that abandons personal and corporate condemnation. Even the uniquely commercial ideal of "ambassador of industry" can be seen in this text. As the church partakes in the rebranding of "true religion", it surrenders a work's-based perspective on forgiveness for the sake of grace-driven, soul-freeing, Christ-centered salvation. God asks His ambassadors to carry this "rebranding" message to the masses as emissaries of His true intent within a sin-stricken world.

Over the past few months, the church has taken on the responsibility of becoming ambassadors of goodwill, peace, and yes, even representatives of industry. Church planters, replanters, and pastors of established churches have recognized the uniqueness of our time and grabbed hold of the opportunity to advocate for change. The "technologically challenged" have been pushed and transformed into "experts" on in-studio production, sound quality, and digitally impacted online platforms. Outreach has become strategic and the church facility has become momentarily obsolete for the sake of mission. Matt and Kirsten Funk, church planters in Parker, CO, have become "driveway worship leaders". What

a joy to see formerly spiritually-apathetic acquaintances, sitting in lawn chairs on driveways up and down the block, absorbing the words of hymns and praise songs aimed at adoring the King of Kings. David and Carrie Fox, planters in Colorado Springs, provided Chick-fil-A to two local hospitals and the result positively impacted relationships and reputation within the community. Ricardo and Molly Cardenas, pre-launch church planters in Commerce City, CO, used the time to connect more deeply with both the lost and believers, through encouraging online meetings. With each difficult and unrelenting quarantined week, Ricardo and Molly continued to encourage, instruct, and point others to Jesus. As a result, Ricardo has developed an increasingly devoted core group of community missionaries and will be launching soon even more confidently prepared for what the Lord might do through this small group of ambassadors. The list could go on

**AS WE'VE RECENTLY
DISCOVERED, SUNDAY
GATHERINGS CAN BE
QUICKLY TAKEN AWAY;
WILL THIS DISCONCERTING
REALITY DRIVE US TO
DESPAIR? OR, COULD IT
MOVE US CLOSER TO THE
CROSS AND TOWARDS
THE EVEN MORE SPECIFIC
PURPOSE FOR WHICH WE
WERE DESIGNED?**

and on with planters, replanters, and pastors making the most of a difficult time. Each one, like so many of you, saw the potential within the situation to turn what the enemy “meant for evil” into something gloriously life-altering and eternally good.

Everything changes. What “is” today will not necessarily “be” tomorrow. The question for each of us to ask is how will the events of today impact the future actions

and attitudes of the church? How will our methods of engagement continue to adapt to those who need to be reconciled to our gracious God? Public gatherings will most likely resume as they have in the past; online venues will not always be the primary source of gospel-proclamation. For followers of Jesus, what remains the same is the timeless instruction of the words of Paul to act and behave as ambassadors of God’s appeal to the people around us. Will our methods reflect our rediscovered passion not simply for gathering, but for acting as sent emissaries to the cultures in which we exist? As we’ve recently discovered, Sunday gatherings can be quickly taken away; will this disconcerting reality drive us to despair? Or, could it move us closer to the cross and towards the even more specific purpose for which we were designed? May we all embrace our roles as ambassadors on the move, and in so doing we will become proclaimers of reconciliation in ways we could have never imagined.



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TAKING THE OFF-RAMP TO ANOTHER MINISTRY HIGHWAY



BY JAMES VAUGHN

CBGC, Church Planting Catalyst (Retired)



HAVING SERVED WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD 24 YEARS in different capacities, I have retired as of June 30, 2020. It has truly been a blessing, and I feel fulfilled by serving two associations in Colorado as Director of Missions/Church Planting Strategist, State Director of Mission for the Nevada Baptist Convention, for the past eight years as a Church Planting Catalyst in Western Colorado, and as well as over twenty years of pastoring prior to working for NAMB. I am eternally grateful for these opportunities and privilege to serve our Lord through NAMB and being a part of Colorado Baptists. I am thankful for my wife, Connie, and our three sons and their families. I am grateful for their prayer and encouragement through the years.

There was a day when (that sounds like something a guy retiring would say) the church planting team here in Colorado decided that we needed to be praying for 10-year olds. Why? Because we knew it wouldn't be long until they would be the next generation of church planters. Well, here they are! For all the millennial church planters in Colorado, you were prayed for before we even knew your name. It may have been the prayers of the boomers that God answered when He called you to further His kingdom through church planting. At every Send Network Assessment, it is exciting to see all the younger guys that are going through the process. Hang in there guys—it will be worth it all when we see Jesus!

At age twenty-three First Baptist Church, Oberlin, KS called me to be their pastor. I didn't have a clue what I was doing, but I had three things going for me: 1) God's call on my life, 2) a mentor that invested his life in mine, 3) and a church that prayed for me and believed I was God's man for the task. We all have to start somewhere and that was my beginning.

When God called me to pastor, I had no idea that later he would expand that call to missions for Connie and me. I also had no idea that church planting would become the guiding culture for the rest of our lives.

In the late 90s I served as CBGC President for two terms. At one of the annual meetings our theme was, "From Generation to Generation". My Dad opened the meeting in prayer, I moderated the sessions, and one of my sons closed the annual meeting in prayer (it was a touching moment for the Vaughn family). A letter was written to all the pastors encouraging them to bring their youth to the convention, and we recognized the generations present. There was a good number of young people in attendance. Maybe it's time to start praying for 10-year olds again. Just sayin'.

Well, after twenty-four years of traveling down the NAMB freeway, it is time to take the off-ramp onto another ministry highway. That ministry will be the development of a retreat for pastors and missionaries. It is a rough road for those in vocational ministry and sometimes they just need a place to get away from it all for a while. The first cabin was started in May of this year. Pray for us as we take this new ministry journey.

Let me close by using a quote from Jimmy Draper as he was retiring from LifeWay Christian Resources, "As a minister, I will never retire. I cannot retire from ordination, the call to preach, or the compulsion of the Holy Spirit to work and witness as a Christian minister. The surgeon lays down his scalpel, the attorney shuts his law books, the engineer puts down his calculator, and the pilot turns in his wings, but the minister does not retire. Retirement from the call comes when you wake up and find yourself in the presence of the Lord."

Well said Dr. Draper and AMEN!

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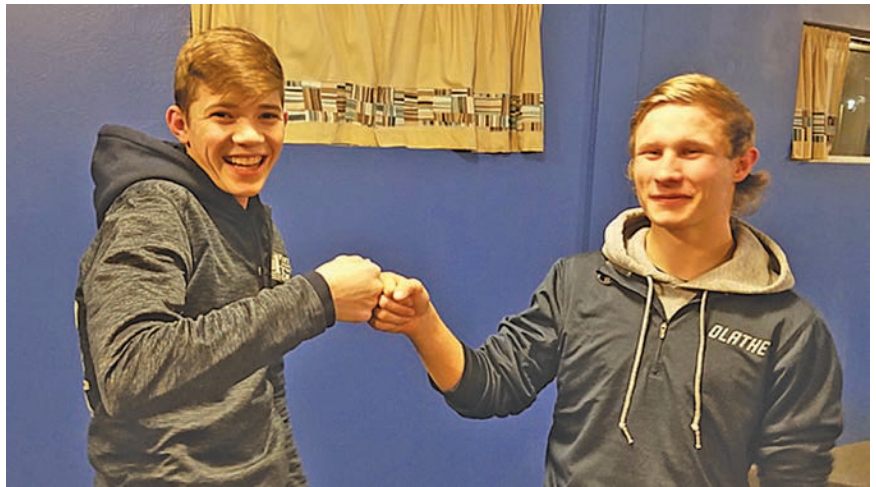
GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS THROUGH THE “WHO’S YOUR ONE?” CAMPAIGN

BY TAMMY BACHMAN

Harvest Community Church, Olathe, CO

ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 2020 Caleb invited his friend Justus to youth group. They had a great time of games, fellowship, and Bible study that evening. After youth group ended Caleb gave Justus a ride home. Little did they know God was about to move mightily on that short trip down some back-country roads. The boys made small talk for a while as they drove and then it got quiet. The conversation in the car may have ended, but the conversation in Caleb’s mind didn’t.

Seventeen-year-old Caleb Bachman has lived a lifestyle of missions. The Bachman family moved from Texas to rural western Colorado to become church planters when Caleb was 9 years old. Living in the one light town of Olathe has allowed Caleb and his 3 sisters to become well known in the community. This past October, Caleb was even voted senior class Homecoming King by his classmates. That’s an honor he didn’t take lightly since he ran against kids who have lived in Olathe their entire lives. Caleb just wrapped up his senior year



and Justus finished his sophomore year, but the boys have built a relationship through the time and dedication they have to the wrestling team.

Caleb recounts the events of the car ride that cold February evening:

“I was giving Justus a ride home. I had my hand on the steering wheel. I was nervous but excited. In my mind I kept saying, “Just do it. Just ask him. Ask him.”

I tried to stay calm and jumped into the conversation that was on my mind. I asked Justus about churches he has attended in the past. We talked about that for a little while and then I said, “So... did you accept Christ at any of those churches?” Justus said that he hadn’t. We talked about the meaning of accepting Christ and then I did it! I asked him! I said, “Well, do you want to accept Christ as your Savior now? Is that something you’d like to do?”

Justus got really excited. His face lit up and he was filled with energy as he said, “Yes.”

I parked the car in Justus’ driveway and called my dad on speaker phone. I was so excited that my voice was shaking. I said, “Dad, Justus wants to accept Christ. Will you help us?” And then my dad led Justus to Christ right there in his driveway.

It was one of the most exciting things I've ever been a part of.

My dad, Jeff Bachman, is the pastor of Harvest Community Church in Olathe. He's been leading our church through the "Who's Your One?" Campaign through the North American Mission Board. My dad asked everyone in our church to pick someone and commit to pray for their salvation.

Justus was my one.

Two days later my dad met with us to talk about Justus' salvation and about him getting baptized. My dad told him about the importance of following Jesus' example of baptism. He told him about how baptism is a witness to the people of the church and how it

"God is doing amazing things and I'm excited to be a part of it!"

is also a witness to those who don't know Christ yet. He encouraged Justus to invite friends from school to come to the baptism service.

A few days later we were on the bus to a wrestling meet. I was in the back of the bus and Justus was up toward the front. I heard something and when I looked up I saw Justus pointing to the guys on the team one by one and saying

things like, "You're gonna be at my baptism, right? You're gonna come? It's important. You've got to be there to support me."

And one by one the guys all said, "Yes, I'll be there."

Justus' excitement is contagious. News of the baptism service spread and on March 15 Justus was baptized along with another one of my friends and 4 kids in our church. Seventy-seven people were there that day in our small church cheering Justus and the others on. My dad let me help baptize Justus and my other friend since I was there when they both accepted Christ as their Savior. God is doing amazing things and I'm excited to be a part of it!"

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MY KEEPER

BY DOUG LOHREY

Colorado Baptists, CFO

BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, many years ago, a soccer team member consistently asked me to try out for the team. I told that person that I knew nothing about soccer. You had to dribble the ball with your feet... that concept was so foreign to me. I played basketball where you dribble with your hands, but that person told me I needed to play goal keeper and that position is called “the keeper.” I asked what I have to do as the keeper and his reply was, “You must stop the other team from kicking the ball into our net. You’re our last line of defense! When we fail, you cover all of our mistakes!” I then asked, “Why do you think that I can do this job?” He proceeded to list a litany of reasons which for this article need not be known.

As I have traveled through this COVID 19 season I have had all kinds of mixed emotions. Frustration, anger, disappointment, and others, but I ran across a Psalm that really touched my heart, mind, and soul. Its theme is “The Keeper.”

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

²My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

³He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.
(English Standard Version)

**He is our consistent
keeper from evil.
He will keep our life.**

In Psalm 121 the word “keep” or “keeper” is used 6 times in this short chapter. I thought this word must mean something to the author. In verse 1, the author utters a plea, “from where does my help come?”. I thought to myself, “Where is my help going to come from during this strange and crazy time that we are living in?” As I read further it was very clear, my help comes from the keeper. In verse 2, the author identifies this person, “my help comes from the Lord.” Of course, that is where my help comes from during this crazy time in my life. It made a very big difference in how I see and approach every day during this season.

What does this word “keep” or “keeper” mean in the Hebrew? It is a person who manages or looks after someone. A guardian, protector, defender, bodyguard. A person who has the best in mind for another person. When I saw this definition I thought, “Yep, that’s what I need, both now in the COVID-19 situation and ALL the time,” but I saw a couple of other truths in the chapter.

First, He is my stabilizing keeper. Look at verse 3, “He will not let your foot be moved.” I like that he is my stabilizer and my foundation. When my daughter was growing up, I remember a time when we were doing some climbing. She was not the bravest of all people, so as she climbed above me she would put her foot down and then I would cover it with my hand. She climbed right up the bank and I thought about how my God is my stabilizing source. I can trust him to do this at all times, even now.

Second, He is my consistent keeper. There are other truths, but let’s jump right down to verses 7 and 8. Look at what it says, “The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.” Can it be any clearer? He is our consistent keeper from evil. He will keep our life. He will keep you while going out (with the mask on) and he will keep you as you stay in (stay at home). I think that I have an amazing keeper.

This chapter in Psalm has really helped me during this period of time. Just something simple from one person to another. HE IS MY KEEPER. He will deflect the shots of life!

Travel dates: JULY 19-28, 2021



FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Nathan Lorick,

Colorado Baptist General Convention

7393 South Alton Way, Centennial, CO 80112

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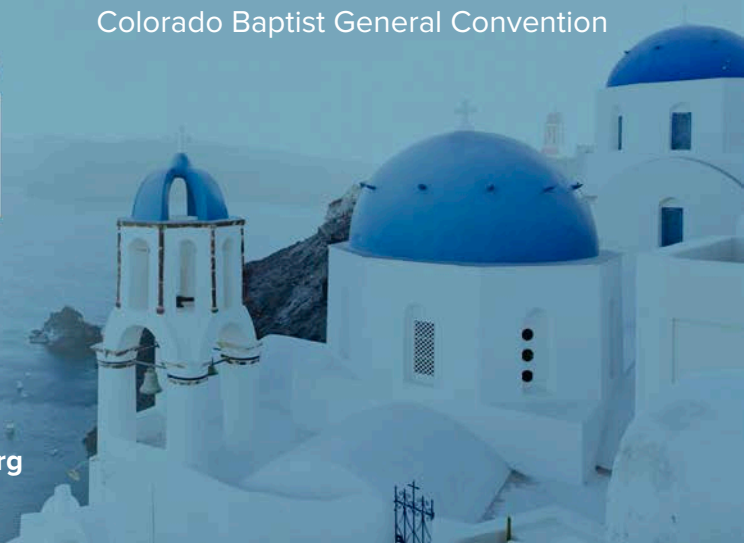
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