

MOMENTUM

ISSUE #3 • OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF COLORADO BAPTISTS  COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN OUR STATE



+ PREACH THE GOSPEL
TO OURSELVES

+ FROM ELECTRICIAN TO SEMINARY GRADUATE:
BECOMING A MINISTRY LEADER

+ SHOULD WE REVEAL OR
CONCEAL OUR DOCTRINAL
DISTINCTIVES?

LOOKING FORWARD

THEY SAY THAT TIME FLIES BY WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN. The last year has been a whirlwind. We have seen God do some great things across our state through the ministry of Colorado Baptist churches. I am so grateful for each and every church partnering together to live on mission in our state. As we move closer to our Annual Meeting on October 15-16, at FBC Black Forest, I want to remind us of 3 significant things.

1) WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER One of the unique aspects of our network of churches is that we have the ability to work together for the advancement of the gospel. We are not churches who are isolated and alone. We are a family of churches seeking to fulfill the Great Commission together where God has placed us. We can do far more together than we can apart.

2) WE ARE A NETWORK OF CHURCHES While our name is the Colorado Baptist General Convention, the truth is, the Convention only meets two days a year. What we really are is a network of churches that relates to each other 365 days a year. Our network values the ongoing ministries and relationships of churches from all across our state. We are not large churches or small churches, we are simply churches working together to see a movement of God across Colorado. Every church has the utmost significant role to play in God's plan for our

state. While we may technically be known as a Convention, we are really a network identified as Colorado Baptists.

3) WE ARE MOVING INTO A BRIGHT FUTURE

Every organization must periodically assess and evaluate their vision to make sure it is efficient and effective. Over the last several months, our network's leadership consisting of pastors, lay leaders, and staff have been doing just that. On Tuesday evening of the Annual Meeting, we will be casting a new and compelling vision for Colorado Baptists. We are excited to share this innovative vision that will lead us to become the most effective partners for CBGC churches. Mark your calendar now for October 15th-16th, at FBC Black Forest. Some of our speakers include, Dr. Kevin Smith, Dr. J.D. Greear (SBC President), Dr. Jim Richards, Dr. Bob Bender, Dr. Calvin Wittman, Dr. Jimmy Draper, and Dr. Kevin Ezell. It's going to be a great time of celebrating all that God is doing across our beautiful state. I hope to see you there.

Please know that your state staff loves you and prays for you. We believe in you and know that God is using you in great ways! Let's join together in praying and moving forward in what God has for our network of churches! I am grateful for you!



Dr. Nathan Lorick
Executive Director
Colorado Baptists



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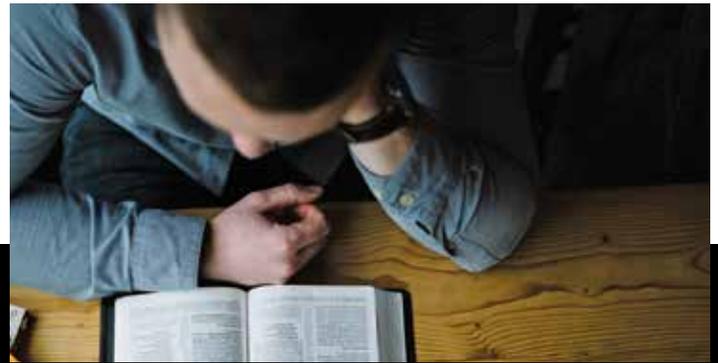


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Al Barrera was an electrician in his mid-20s when he moved to Colorado in 2000. "I had high aspirations," he joked. "I wanted to buy a house and get a dog." But connecting with Heart of the Springs Church, Colorado Springs, changed his aspirations and began his journey to graduating with a Doctorate of Ministry from Gateway Seminary, Rocky Mountain Campus track.

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STAND FIRM

READING THROUGH THE BOOK OF JOB RECENTLY, I was impressed by the honesty Job has in his response to God. As you know, Job's wife has counseled him to curse God and die. His friends are just sure that the afflictions which have beset him are just punishment for iniquity in his life. All the while Job maintains his integrity as he espouses his innocence and candidly pours his heart out to God. It's a great read, but even more, it speaks to me as a pastor.

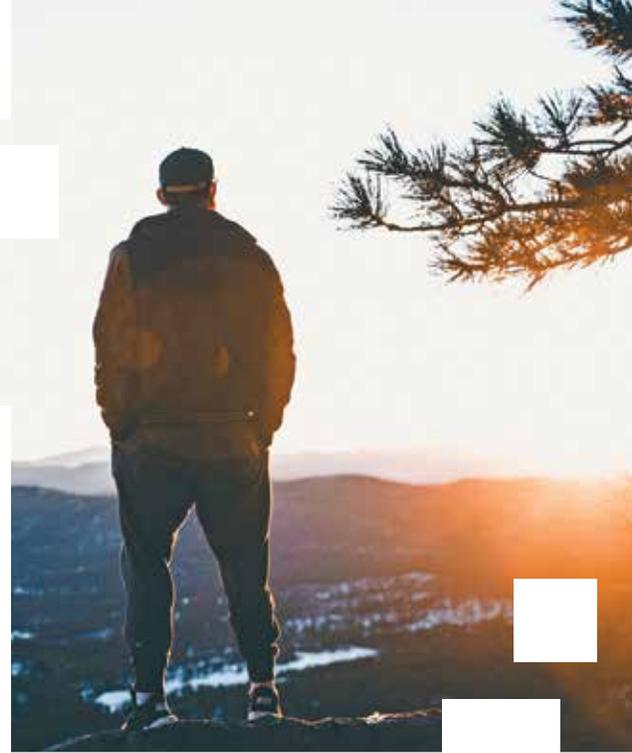
Afflictions are part and parcel of what it means to serve God. The scripture is clear that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. If that is true for the person in the pew, it is doubly true for the man behind the pulpit. The question is not whether we will endure difficulties in our ministry, the question is how we will handle them.

This truth came home to me last week when one of my neighbors asked me how people were treating me at my church. The question triggered a memory in my mind, a memory that took me back to the southern part of India, to

a place called Machilipatnam.

It was there, several years ago, while on a mission trip that one of the local pastor's wives was assigned to take our team around and show us the area. One of our team members had never been overseas before and was fascinated, not only by the sights, sounds and smells of India, but by the reality of persecution which the Christians in that region endured. In his curiosity he asked this godly woman about how the Hindus treated her, given that she was a Christian. Her response was profound and has stuck with me. She replied, "It is not important how people treat me, what is important is how I respond because I represent Jesus." I loved that response. It told us all we needed to know about who she was and Who she was living for.

As you serve God, whether it is on the wide expanse of the Eastern Plains, the majestic beauty of the Rocky Mountains, the rugged splendor of the Western Slope, or the busy reality that is called the Front Range, you are going to encounter difficulties. Sometimes those will be from outside your church, more often those challenges will come from within your church. Know this: You can be honest with God for He will always be honest with you

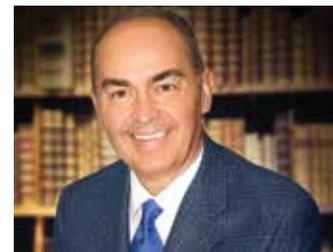


and you can trust God, because He is always faithful. But remember Who this life is all about. It's about Him, not us. Remember that we are here to further His reputation, not our own.

May God grant you the grace today to stand firm in your calling, to finish what you have started and to keep your eyes on the prize.

I love you and am privileged to serve alongside Colorado Baptist pastors, some of the finest pastors God has ever called.

In Christ,
Calvin Wittman



VBS EVENT CHANGED LIVES

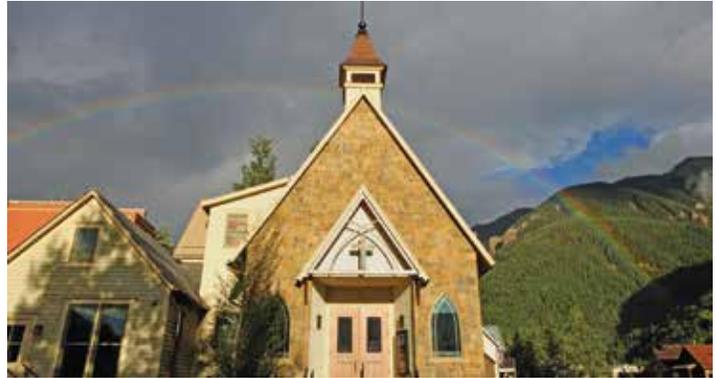


Harvest Community Church of Olathe had a great Vacation Bible School. A team of 8 from FBC Devine, Texas, came and did a great job of helping reach kids in the community. Starting off with a Sunday Block Party, they saw a high attendance of 45 kids for the week. Five students accepted Christ as their Savior! They look forward to following up with families.

RAISED TO WALK



Pinewood Church in Boulder just launched in August, and have been cultivating relationships in the community for the past year. Under the leadership of Pastor Parker Manuel the team has baptized 6 people so far! Their passion is to meet people where they are and point them to Jesus.



SIDEWALK EVANGELISM IN TELLURIDE

Alpine Chapel in Telluride recently had to set up chairs on their patio and sidewalk to accommodate all those attending services. Then, they opened all the doors and windows so people could hear and participate. Talk about sidewalk evangelism.

Breaking new ground

First Baptist Church Westcliffe has outgrown their place of worship and have broken ground on their new facility. They hope to create both worship and multipurpose space to better seek, share and show God's love in their community.



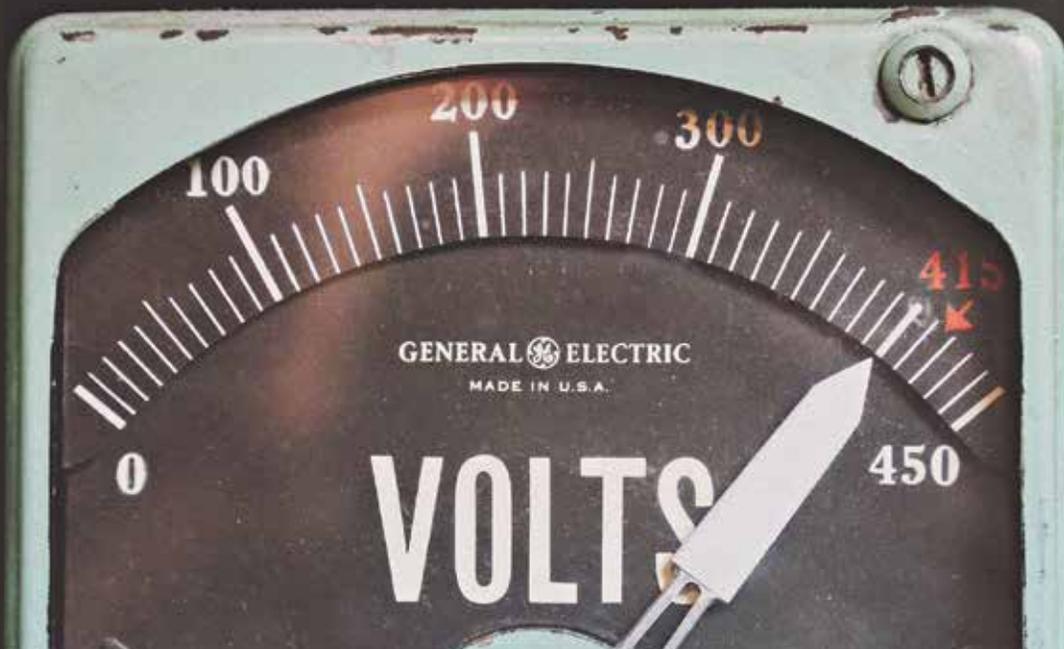
Seven Baptized at Yuma First Southern

Church planter Mike Alexander moved to Aguilar in May to plant a church and has already seen 9 teenagers and 3 adults give their lives to Christ. They recently started a Saturday night worship service.

Reaching out to children

Aberdeen Baptist Church saw over 150 come to their block party and had over 40 kids come to their sports camp. They hope to transition those kids into their once a week Arts Program this fall which they have been able to create for both the community and their church.





FROM ELECTRICIAN TO SEMINARY GRADUATE: ***BECOMING A MINISTRY LEADER***

BY CLAUDEAN BOATMAN

A L BARRERA WAS AN ELECTRICIAN IN HIS MID-20S WHEN HE MOVED TO COLORADO IN 2000. “I had high aspirations,” he joked. “I wanted to buy a house and get a dog.”

But connecting with Heart of the Springs Church, Colorado Springs, changed his aspirations and began his journey to May 12, 2018—the day Barrera graduated with a Doctorate of Ministry from Gateway Seminary, Rocky Mountain Campus track.

He joined the college ministry where leaders intentionally disciplined him. He met his wife Marcy and credits her with being “beside me at every step of this journey.”

In 2001, “I found myself being

asked to teach,” Barrera said, but he thought greeting was a better fit. “What I wanted to be was an individual who was the friendliest face and the best greeter I could be...I wanted everyone to come in and feel immediately welcome and at home. That was the bulk of what I thought I should do.” He did not picture himself in ministry leadership.

By 2002, Barrera was teaching frequently, but still not completely comfortable. The church’s transitioning of leaders left a void in the college ministry that he was asked to fill in early 2003. After praying and talking with Marcy, he accepted the position.

“I found in the midst of that, I started having moments of envisioning more for the group—more in the way of discipleship and more in the way of reaching



Al and Marcy Barrera

out to people who didn’t have a relationship with Jesus Christ.” He led with more in mind. He organized multiple ministry events, within and outside the church. He led small groups and disciplined men individually. All the while, he continued working his day job.

Then came the day God gave Barrera definite direction. It was

fall of 2003. He was working at an Air Force base, doing what electricians do. "As I'm landing hundreds of wires (it was kind of monotonous work), I had this feeling. It was a thought, but not an audible voice, that said, 'Why can't you serve in ministry leadership?' I sensed it and thought about it and said, 'Because I'm an electrician.'" A few minutes later the thought repeated, and his reply was the same. The third time Al said, "I thought it was because I'm an electrician, but I don't know."

Pastoral mentors and his wife Marcy affirmed God's call. To prepare, Barrera finished his undergraduate degree at Colorado Christian. He enrolled at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, now Gateway Seminary, in 2007.

Earning his Master of Divinity, Barrera says, was the foundation that allowed him to move into ministry in a different role, pastor of Calvary, Monte Vista. "As I walked out of my MDiv process, I felt prepared with the basics and foundation for what I would encounter in ministry

leadership as pastor of a local church." Church planting classes equipped him to lead Calvary to catch a vision of being a multiplying church in southern Colorado. They planted a church in South Fork while he was pastor.

Then God moved Barrera into a new ministry position, Church Planting Catalyst in the Denver area. He enrolled in Gateway's Doctorate of Ministry program to become better equipped for the task. He trusted the training to keep him moldable, teachable, and confident in God's direction.

Barrera's Doctor of Ministry project's goal was to lead established churches to partner with church planters. Three pastors completed the six-week training he designed and are leading their churches to become planter partners. Barrera hopes his project will become a tool to equip churches to teach other churches to partner with church planters through prayer and participation, not just through financial support.

Barrera affirms the role of

**"SEMINARY
IS A GREAT TOOL
TO REFINE
YOUR CALLING"**

-AL BARRERA

Gateway in ministry preparation. "Seminary is a great tool to refine your calling," Barrera said. "It expands your view of life, totally expands your view of God and His goodness, and the depth of the Word of God. It allows you to discern your calling as a process instead of a one-time event."

At Gateway Seminary's spring commencement ceremony held on May 12, 2018, the Rocky Mountain campus graduated four Doctor of Ministry; six Master of Divinity; four Master of Theological Studies; one Master of Arts in Educational Leadership; and fifteen CLD grads received diplomas in Christian Ministry.



GATEWAY SEMINARY

Rocky Mountain Campus

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16 • 4:45-6:15 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACK FOREST



**DONOR, ALUMNI
& FRIENDS DINNER**

The Rocky Mountain Campus of Gateway Seminary will be hosting a celebration dinner for donors, alumni, and friends of the seminary during the Colorado Baptists annual meeting. There is no charge for the dinner, but seating is limited so reservations are required.

I BECAME A CHAPLAIN



BY GAY WILLIAMS *COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE CHAPLAIN*

MY WORK WITH THE COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT began when I was in seminary working on an MA in counseling. For one semester of my internship, I took a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). CPE is a chaplaincy course that requires both classroom and on-site internship hours. For my first unit of CPE, I served as a chaplain for the fire department. This opportunity opened my eyes to the ministry of chaplaincy, and my life has never been the same.

I recently celebrated eleven years of service with the Colorado Springs Fire Department. Three years ago, I was elected president of the chaplain program. It is a privilege to lead and serve with others dedicated to serving those in our community. We bring peace and warmth to an often chaotic and cold emergency scene.

The Colorado Springs Fire Department Chaplain Corp is made up of men and women from a variety of denominations. We serve the community by being available to those in crisis situations. Our services are available to anyone, regardless of belief system or worldview. The responsibilities of a chaplain in a crisis situation range from giving hugs or being a sympathetic ear to offering more traditional pastoral care.

Our duties as chaplains with the fire department are twofold. The first part of our service is directly to the fire department. We visit and ride along with on-duty fire crews. We spend time getting to know the employees of the fire department and minister to them when appropriate. We attend department functions, such as promotion ceremonies, celebrations, and award presentations. Chaplains perform funerals, weddings, and



Chaplain Gay Williams

baptisms for the firefighter families. We also visit the new recruits to the Fire Academy in order to introduce ourselves and the ministry we provide.

The other side of our service is to the community. We are on call twenty-four hours a day for a week at a time. When any station needs our services, they know they can call for the chaplain. We are most frequently called to respond

when a person has died at home, whether from natural causes or suicide. We are called to minister to the deceased's family, friends, and loved ones as they walk through this challenging time. I have provided grief counseling and led funerals. One of the most difficult funerals I helped lead was for a six-month-old baby. I consider it an honor and blessing to be able to provide the love of Christ on what may be the worst day of someone's life.

I am endorsed by the North American Mission Board as a disaster-relief chaplain, a fire-department chaplain, and a mental-health counselor. These endorsements provide validation from our denomination as I seek to serve others in the ministry I'm called to provide.

Recently I was selected as volunteer of the year for

“
WE NEVER KNOW WHAT THE LORD HAS IN MIND FOR US AND WHERE EACH STEP MIGHT LEAD. FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE LORD IS THE GREATEST ADVENTURE ANYONE CAN EXPERIENCE, AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHERE ELSE MY ADVENTURE WILL TAKE ME.
”

Community Advancing Public Safety (CAPS). CAPS is the volunteer agency for the Colorado Springs Police Department,

Fire Department, and Office of Emergency Management. The award was certainly a surprise. To be recognized for my ministry work is humbling and a great honor.

I serve the Lord by helping others. As a teen, my first ministry was serving as a counselor for GA and Acteen summer camps. Back then, I could never have imagined where my journey with the Lord would take me. I'm currently a doctoral candidate at Gateway Seminary. It is my desire to continue serving the Lord using my counseling and chaplaincy skills.

I encourage others to follow the Lord step-by-step. We never know what the Lord has in mind for us and where each step might lead. Faithful service to the Lord is the greatest adventure anyone can experience, and I can't wait to see where else my adventure will take me.

NEXT LEVEL LEADERSHIP LUNCHES



Pastors are invited to this **free** series of strategic leadership luncheons. This will be a time of encouragement and to offer networking and equipping opportunities.

Register for this free luncheon at coloradobaptists.org

NOVEMBER 7TH • 11:30 AM -1:30 PM
ROSEMONT CHURCH, MONTROSE



ED LITTON

LEADING THROUGH DIFFICULT SEASONS

NOVEMBER 8TH • 11:30 AM -1:30 PM
RIVERSIDE CHURCH, DENVER

Ed Litton has been the senior pastor of First Baptist North Mobile since 1994. Prior to coming to North Mobile, Ed served as a home missionary appointed to work in the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. From there, he and his wife, Tammy, moved to Tucson and founded the Mountain View Baptist Church. Ed holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ed and Tammy have 3 children: Josh, Tyler, and Kayla. Ed was married to Tammy for 25 years when she was killed in an automobile accident August 16, 2007. After a period of God's grace and healing, Ed married Kathy Ferguson, widow of Pastor Rick Ferguson, who was also killed in an automobile accident. Ed continues to push harder and harder for the Kingdom of God.

Lugos Make Move to Mountains

BY CLAUDEAN BOATMAN

Richard and Amy Lugo moved from Colorado's mountains nearly 20 years ago because making ends meet was almost impossible for the growing family. Amy came to faith in Christ when they lived in Vail. Richard, a native Puerto Rican, met Jesus when the family moved to Iowa, Amy's home state.

They served through Disaster Relief during Hurricane Katrina and formed relationships with other volunteers, some of whom lived in Arkansas. Visiting them prompted a move to Arkansas. There Richard received theological training from an experienced Hispanic pastor who taught Spanish-speaking men how to study the Bible and to pastor churches. Richard became a bi-vocational pastor. The Lugos also adopted their son, Joe, while they lived in Arkansas.

After a number of years, Amy "got brave enough" to voice her desires. One Sunday she told Richard, "I don't want to be here forever. I want to be in the mountains." Richard said, "Okay." They moved to Dacono, Colorado in July 2017 in search of ministry opportunities and God's next step for them.

After pastoring existing churches didn't seem like an option, Lugo

had a conversation with Frank Cornelius, Colorado Baptists' Lead Church Planting Catalyst. Cornelius affirmed the need for Hispanic church planting in nearly every area of the state. Lugo responded, "I said, 'Frank, to tell you the truth, if God opens a door for us to church plant in the Rocky Mountains, in the High Country somewhere, I would think I'm right next to heaven.'"

Lugo said Cornelius answered him something like this, "Funny you mention that. We have some people praying for this particular need, and we're having difficulty finding workers that have your background."

In January, the Lugos made three trips to the High Country, where God opened the door to work with The Church at Agape Outpost in Breckenridge.

"God is showing us how big He can be in granting the desires of our heart, as well as fulfilling a need. At the same time, we come to find out there's tons of people praying for this, and we didn't know about it," Richard said. "Prayer is, in the simplest form, our communication with God. It is one of our most effective tools and privileges we have—to be in communication with our Lord and Savior."



WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE LUGO FAMILY

Pray specifically for the Lugo family as they relocate to Breckenridge.

1. Pray for the Lugo family to find housing.
2. Ask God for jobs that will allow them to do ministry and to take care of Joe, who is a special needs child. Pray especially for Amy to work on a school schedule.
3. Pray the Lugos will quickly re-adjust to living in the High Country and recognize changes in the resort culture.
4. Ask God to provide both teachers and students for a potential English as a Second Language ministry.
5. Pray for people to attend Bible study and make commitments to Jesus. Seven attended the first Bible study.



BY GIVING THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM YOU SUPPORT COLORADO BAPTISTS CHURCH PLANTERS LIKE THE LUGOS (SEE ABOVE).

We are better together. Learn more about CP on page 9

WHY DO WE GIVE THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM?

Because we are better together.

“GO ... AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.” MATTHEW 28:19

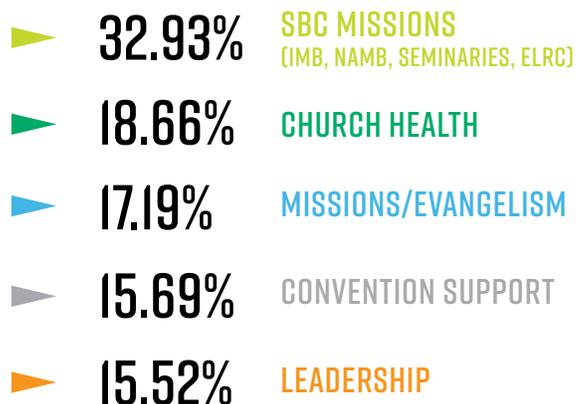
Since its launch in 1925, the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program has been dependent upon individuals, churches, state conventions, and SBC entities cooperating toward a common goal of sharing the gospel with every person on the planet.

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

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

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING BY COLORADO BAPTIST CHURCHES

\$1,989,237



PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT (NAMB, LIFEWAY & OTHERS)

\$1,497,000



Let's do more together!

coloradobaptists.org

PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES

BY SEAN COLE, LEAD PASTOR, EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, STERLING, CO

WHY DO SO MANY CHRISTIANS LIVE IN QUIET DESPERATION?

Why do so many believers either struggle with a works-based legalism on one hand and an overwhelming sense of guilt and despair on the other? Many wonder in fear if God truly accepts them in His wonderful grace and they in turn get caught up in a performance trap in order to win the approval of our heavenly Father.

The remedy to this problem is to preach the gospel to ourselves every day. When I use the term “preach the gospel” to ourselves, I do not envision a pastor standing in the pulpit on Sunday mornings, but a call to every believer to meditate upon, reflect, think deeply, and immerse him or herself in the glorious truths of the gospel on a daily basis. By doing this, we can avoid the dangerous traps of legalism and despair.

Titus 3:3-7 gives us what I call the gospel in a “nutshell”. In these five verses, we find some glorious gospel declarations that tell us what God has done for us in Christ and how we can be assured of His love for us.

Paul writes: “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

I want to encourage you with

seven gospel declarations that emerge directly from this passage of Scripture. I pray you can use them to saturate your heart and soul with the good news of God’s love for you in Christ.

GOSPEL DECLARATION #1: The gospel tells me of my former identity as an enslaved sinner before trusting Christ. Notice in verse three that Paul says we were “ONCE” these things—foolish, disobedient, enslaved to passions and pleasures, living lives of sin. In other words, that is not our identity anymore. We were once dead, blind, foolish, enslaved, and in bondage to sin, but no longer. The gospel tells me that I have a new identity. Here’s how you preach the gospel to yourself: I’m no longer an enslaved sinner. I have a new identity. Praise you Jesus that you have taken me out of the kingdom of darkness and brought me into the kingdom of light.

GOSPEL DECLARATION #2: The gospel tells me that God's awesome mercy and love have come to me personally through Jesus Christ. I'm not the source of salvation. Salvation starts in the heart of God for lost sinners and He chooses to shower us with goodness, loving kindness and mercy through sending Jesus. So here's how you preach it to yourself. You thank Jesus for His grace. You thank Him for His mercy. You bask in His love for you.

GOSPEL DECLARATION #3: The gospel tells me that salvation is all of grace and nothing that in any way I can contribute. How do you preach this to yourself? You constantly remind yourself that God is sovereign in your salvation and that you cannot do any good work to make God love you more or love you less. As a believer, God loves you perfectly—on your best day when you're doing everything great for Jesus and on your worst day when you fail miserably. God's love

for you is constant. It doesn't change based upon your performance one way or the other.

GOSPEL DECLARATION #4: The gospel tells me that I have been born again as a new creation in Christ. Remind yourself daily that God has washed you. God has regenerated your heart. God has caused you to be born again. You are a new creation in Christ. The old has gone and the new has come.

GOSPEL DECLARATION #5: The gospel tells me that God has richly given me the indwelling Holy Spirit. We have the Holy Spirit living inside of us as the very presence of Christ. We have the power of Christ in us through the Holy Spirit. We don't have to live this gospel-centered life in our own power, but through the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL DECLARATION #6: The gospel tells me that I am totally accepted by God and have an innocent record before Him. That's what it means to be justified by his grace. We are declared righteous. We are accepted

by God. Our record is wiped clean and we have the record of Christ. We stand not guilty, clothed in Christ's righteousness and not our own. God accepts us on the basis of Christ, not our performance.

GOSPEL DECLARATION #7: The gospel tells me that I have the hope of eternal life. Remind yourself daily that this is not your true home. You have a home in heaven. You will one day see Christ face to face. He has an inheritance waiting for you. He holds you in His grip and will never let you go. He will ensure that you make it to heaven.

There is inherent power in the gospel, not only to bring a sinner to salvation but for the daily progress in the Christian life for one who is already a believer. Meditate on these truths. Allow the power of the gospel to affect your thinking, affections, actions, and celebrate God's amazing grace for sinners in His Son Jesus Christ.

COLORADO MISSIONS OFFERING

IN HONOR OF NICY MURPHY



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

REACHING THE NATIONS

BY FRANK CORNELIUS

LEAD CHURCH PLANTING CATALYST

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Rev 7:9-10 (NASB)

I find this glimpse into the heavenly realm to be particularly exciting. The picture of worshipping the one true God with people of all nations is a thrilling visual. But there is also a challenge in this verse: the nations cannot worship as described if they have not heard and responded to the gospel.

Here are some interesting facts about our state. People from over 130 countries, speaking more than 175 languages have made Colorado their home. One in six people in Colorado speak a language other than English at home. A half-million people living in Colorado were born outside the United States. An estimated 1.3 million (23%) of Colorado's residents belong to a people group. The nations are on our doorstep.

THE WORLD IS COMING TO COLORADO

130+

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY OUR RESIDENTS

175+

SPOKEN LANGUAGES

1 in 6 

PEOPLE IN COLORADO SPEAK A
LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME

500,000

PEOPLE LIVING IN COLORADO WERE
BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

1.3 million (23%)

OF COLORADO'S RESIDENTS
BELONG TO A PEOPLE GROUP

Our responsibility as Christ followers and Colorado Baptists is to engage these people groups with the gospel. The good news is we have engaged 21 ethnic or language groups through church planting. The bad news is we have reached only a tiny fraction of Colorado's people groups. In fact, we have reached less than 1%.

Jerico DeVeyra is the Multi-ethnic Church Planting Catalyst for the Denver metro area. Jerico's responsibility is to discover people groups, find and develop church planters for those groups and encourage and support those planters as they are deployed. According to Jerico, the top four people groups in Colorado are Hispanic, Indian, Ethiopian and Russian. But, he says, "we have many other groups who also need the gospel."

In the near future, Jerico hopes to see church plants reaching people who speak Kachin, Farsi

and Hindi. He would also like to see church plants that reach Thais and Cambodians, but those are the most difficult groups to reach.

People groups are not limited to Denver or the Front Range. In eastern Colorado many communities have significant Spanish-speaking populations. Ft Morgan, for example, has become a melting pot. In addition to a large Spanish-speaking population, there are 1,000 Somalis as well as Congolese, Sudanese, and Kanjobals from Guatemala. Western Colorado also has people from many nations. Peoples from South America, Central America, Mexico, western Africa, and several European countries work in the resort areas.

How can you and your church be involved in reaching the nations here in Colorado? First, be aware. Observe the people around you. Don't be afraid to engage them in conversation and find out where

they come from. Second, pray. Pray for the Spirit of God to break through prejudices, biases and systems of false belief and touch their hearts. Third, minister to needs. People groups have needs for which the church could provide ministries. Find those needs and show the love of Christ. Finally, be prepared to lovingly share the gospel. In the era of political correctness, the church has come to fear offending people. The truth is the gospel is offensive to all people and all cultures. People from various religious backgrounds are usually open to discuss spiritual matters. Be prepared to share the hope that is within you.

My hope, my prayer is that one day when we stand before the throne many from Colorado will be counted among the nations who are worshipping our God. That will only happen if we fulfill our responsibility to share the gospel with them.

FOR STUDENTS 6TH-12TH GRADE

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WINTER CAMP

JAN. 11-13 & JAN. 18-20

Lit
MATTHEW 5:14

"You are the
light of the
world..."

CAMP PASTOR: Shane Pruitt
WORSHIP BAND: More Than This

COST: \$135 (\$25 Deposit + \$110 Balance)
Nov. 19th - Group Reservations & Deposit Deadline Due
Dec. 10th - Online Registration, Paperwork & Balance Due

FOR KIDS 4TH-6TH GRADE

BENCHMARK

FEB. 1-3

"You are the salt of the earth..."

SALTY
MATTHEW 5:13

WORSHIP BAND: Summit Collective

COST: \$135 (\$25 Deposit + \$110 Balance)
Dec. 3rd - Group Reservations & Deposit Deadline Due
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LET'S GO FISHING!

BY TIM CORBIN *DIRECTOR OF CONVENTION STRATEGIES/COO*

“What are you doing to create opportunities to meet new people?”

I had been sitting with my church planting director rehearsing everything we were doing in our first year as a church plant. When he asked this question, my first reaction was one of defense. Yes, I am creating opportunities. But that was not his question. His question was, “What are you doing?” My mind began to race as I sipped my coffee trying to come up with a good answer so that I felt competent in my work so far. At best I only came up with sporadic, unplanned, unintentional opportunities as I lived throughout the day. But that question provoked an “ah-ha” moment in my ministry.

Some of Jesus’ first words as he began his earthly ministry were, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” These simple but powerful words shared with Simon and Andrew would radically shift their mission and ultimately alter their lives forever. It set them on a trajectory that changed their values, dreams, and passions, which gave birth to the new testament church. They were fishermen who became fishers of men.

This was the essence of my church planting director’s question. We cannot control who receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We cannot even control who is receptive to the gospel or coming to our new church. We can control how and where we spend our time and share the gospel.

So, if I’m to be a fisher of men, then where am I fishing? What are my “fishing holes?”

A “fishing hole” is a place where you spend a regular amount of time developing an on-going relationship with those people that lead to gospel conversations. What are some potential fishing holes?

HOBBIES/INTERESTS

Where do you go to connect with others, besides the church? Do you have a hobby? Do you like to read, knit, run, hike, play sports, play blue grass? There are opportunities around you to connect with others who have the same interests. Meetup.com is just one online option to connect with others who share your interest. Do you like to work out? Join a gym. Whatever your hobbies or interests, find a fishing hole where you can build relationships with new people that lead to gospel conversations.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Does your community host events throughout the year? Have you checked to see if there are opportunities to serve? One church approached their community and asked if they could help at an upcoming event. With disinterest, the event organizers said that previously all churches handed out flyers that people just threw on the ground. In response, the church asked if they could be in charge of picking up all the trash at the event. The organizers agreed and were overwhelmed by the church's efforts to serve. The church did such an incredible job each year of picking up the trash, eventually the event organizers invited the church to lead a church service with worship music and preaching during the event on Sunday morning. What an incredible opportunity to proclaim the gospel to all who attended! All the while, the church was building relationships with event organizers, looking for opportunities to have gospel conversations.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Do you know the needs of your city? Your mayor and city government should. Take the opportunity to setup a quick meeting with your mayor and ask what the greatest needs are in the community. Pray for opportunities

for the church to be the God-given answer to those needs. You might even be surprised that the city is willing to cover the costs of such efforts, and are just looking for people to help. You'll also be surprised to find local businesses and organizations willing to contribute to the costs because they are also looking to serve the community. Now the church is in relationship with the city, local businesses, and organizations all the while looking for opportunities to share in gospel conversations.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

I had just moved to a new city to start a church when the local school needed help developing a community garden. The effort was on a Sunday morning, and since I wasn't leading a church yet, I decided to volunteer. I worked alongside the principal of the school as we swung hammers together and built planter boxes. At one point he looked over at the portable sign nearby. It was a church sign. There was a church meeting at his school and holding worship services at the very time we were building a community garden outside. He looked at me and said, "You know what I think of when I see churches meeting in schools?" I looked up at him for an answer. He said, "Burnt coffee." And then he continued

swinging the hammer. I gave a nervous chuckle, hoping he wouldn't ask me what I did for a profession. But in the back of my mind, I thought, "Wow! That's the best he could think of? Burnt coffee?" I vowed at that moment to be a church known for something more.

Our journey in the coming months would lead us to be a new church plant meeting in that very school. And we built a great relationship with the principal as we chose to serve that school as much as possible. We did yard work, served at all kinds of events, built relationships through the parent-teacher association, and organized appreciation for the teachers and staff. All the while we met new people and shared the gospel. Many of them were saved and baptized!

There are numerous kinds of fishing holes—coffee houses, local eateries, kid's sports and activities, community centers, work, school, neighborhood, etc. The important thing is to identify a few and keep going back to them regularly. Have your staff or team members identified their fishing holes? Do your church members know their fishing holes? I can only imagine what a movement would look like when we activate followers of Christ to find their fishing holes and be fishers of men!



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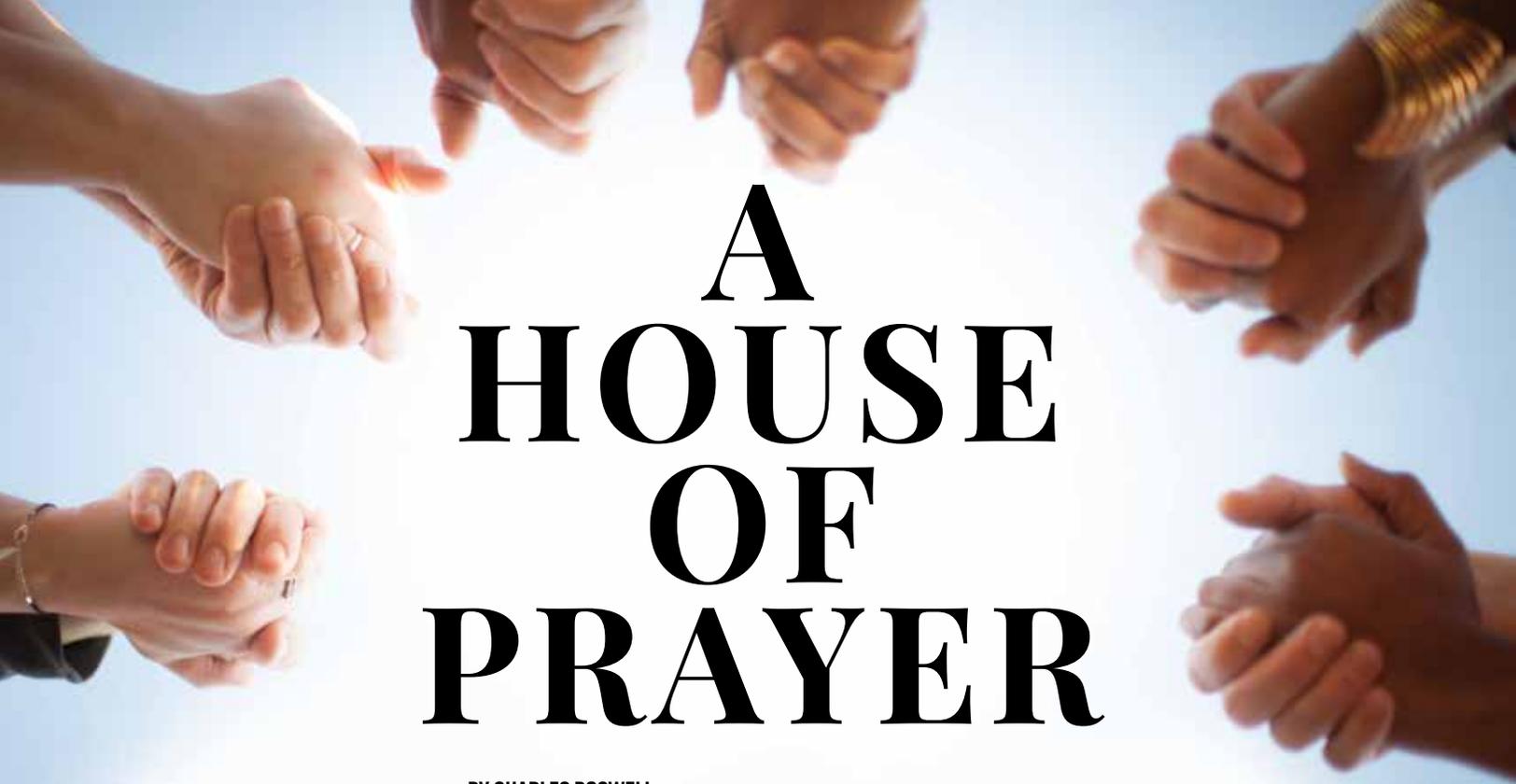
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A HOUSE OF PRAYER

BY CHARLES BOSWELL *DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE AND CHURCH HEALTH*

NOT TOO MANY YEARS AGO, churches once had what they called “Prayer Meeting.” It was a time when the church gathered to pray corporately for the needs of the congregation and community. Few churches still have mid-week “Prayer Meeting” anymore; most have discontinued the practice. Those who still have “Prayer Meeting” have made little time for prayer; their time is filled with more important things. Why have we discontinued this practice? How much praying actually goes on in His house? Have we scheduled any time for prayer? If it’s important to pray, then why aren’t we?

As Jesus enters the Temple, He’s appalled. Man has made God’s house something other than what He intended. He clearly states in Mark 11:17; “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations!” Think about those words for just a moment. Really stop, take a moment of your time and

think about what Jesus said. First, Jesus says that the “house” belongs to Him. It doesn’t belong to us, it belongs to Him. In other words, He gets to determine the purpose and use of His house. Jesus also says that His house will be “called” a house of prayer. Those who gather in His house will know His intended purpose and engage in that purpose. His purpose is prayer! The prayers that are being offered to God are prayers “for all the nations.” God’s saving grace was always meant to be inclusive, never exclusive. When Jesus finished His teaching in the Temple that day, we are informed that the people were amazed. Shouldn’t we, like Jesus, not only teach God’s word but practice it?

How many more years will we continue to preach the word of God without practicing it? Maybe the amazement would return if we practiced what we preach? Practicing what we preach requires awareness, intentionality, preparation, communication,

commitment and execution. We must teach the value of prayer and incorporate the practice of prayer in our gatherings if we are to enjoy the blessing and benefits of obedience. **How do I engage my church in prayer?**

CLARIFY: DISCOVER A CLEAR VISION FOR PRAYER.

Imagine what your church would become and could accomplish if the people in your congregation were united in prayer. What if dozens or hundreds of disciples were all praying specifically for the same concerns in your church and our state. Imagine the impact that would bring? Your vision and purpose should be to return and unite the church as one church, engaging in spiritual warfare, by becoming a “House of Prayer” that seeks God’s will and power as you join Him in accomplishing His mission to bring Him glory through gospel impact. The vision should include a desire to implement more than just a season

of prayer, but an ongoing prayer effort that will engage the church in prayer until God accomplishes His purposes.

FOCUS: CONCENTRATE ON UNITING IN PRAYER.

There are so many things in church life that demand our attention that prayer gets less attention than it should. We understand and believe in the value of prayer, but it's not one of those ministries that demands the most attention. No one is asking for more prayer. In forty years of ministry, I can count on one hand how many people asked for more prayer in the church. That's why we need to recruit and involve committed prayer warriors who will commit to engage in spiritual warfare on their knees, praying daily for spiritual awakening and renewal in the church, community and state.

We need to concentrate on the salvation of lost souls and for God to fill every seat in our Worship Center

with lost souls. We should pray until God fills His house (Lk. 14:23), adding to His church (Acts 2:47). We must call for Prayer Warriors to stand in the gap and pray for spiritual awakening in their lives, church, community, city, state and nation. If we believe that the battle is won on our knees and that the battle belongs to the Lord, we know that the victory is found only through Him. We must be specific about what we pray for and develop a theme for our prayer emphasis each year as we reengage and reunite the congregation in focused prayer. Prayer is not a one-time attempt or program, it's an ongoing weapon in the arsenal of spiritual warfare that's continual and must have our constant focus. (Eph. 6:18)

COMMUNICATE: PREACH/TEACH/SPEAK ON THE BIBLICAL MANDATE FOR PRAYER.

Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in

secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Mark 9:29 And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Luke 6:12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

EXECUTE: TAKE ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES TOWARD THE PRAYER INITIATIVE.

Prayer will never become the priority it needs to be unless we execute an intentional ongoing prayer strategy. We must take the lead and execute an ongoing prayer strategy.

UNIFY: DESIGN A STRATEGY FOR PRAYER:

Unless there is a clear and concise strategy that is executed and maintained, the initiative will never move beyond the initial launch. It may start strong, but it will not continue beyond the initial drive. Execution is key to long term continuation.

I. Raise awareness for prayer:

1. Develop and promote a prayer theme.
2. Coordinate Worship on Sunday Mornings with this theme in mind.
3. Prepare and deliver a series of messages on prayer.
4. Assign members to share testimonies in service on prayer.
5. Make time for prayer in service.
6. Promote a prayer campaign by posting flyers and posters, as appropriate.

II. Recruit participation in prayer:

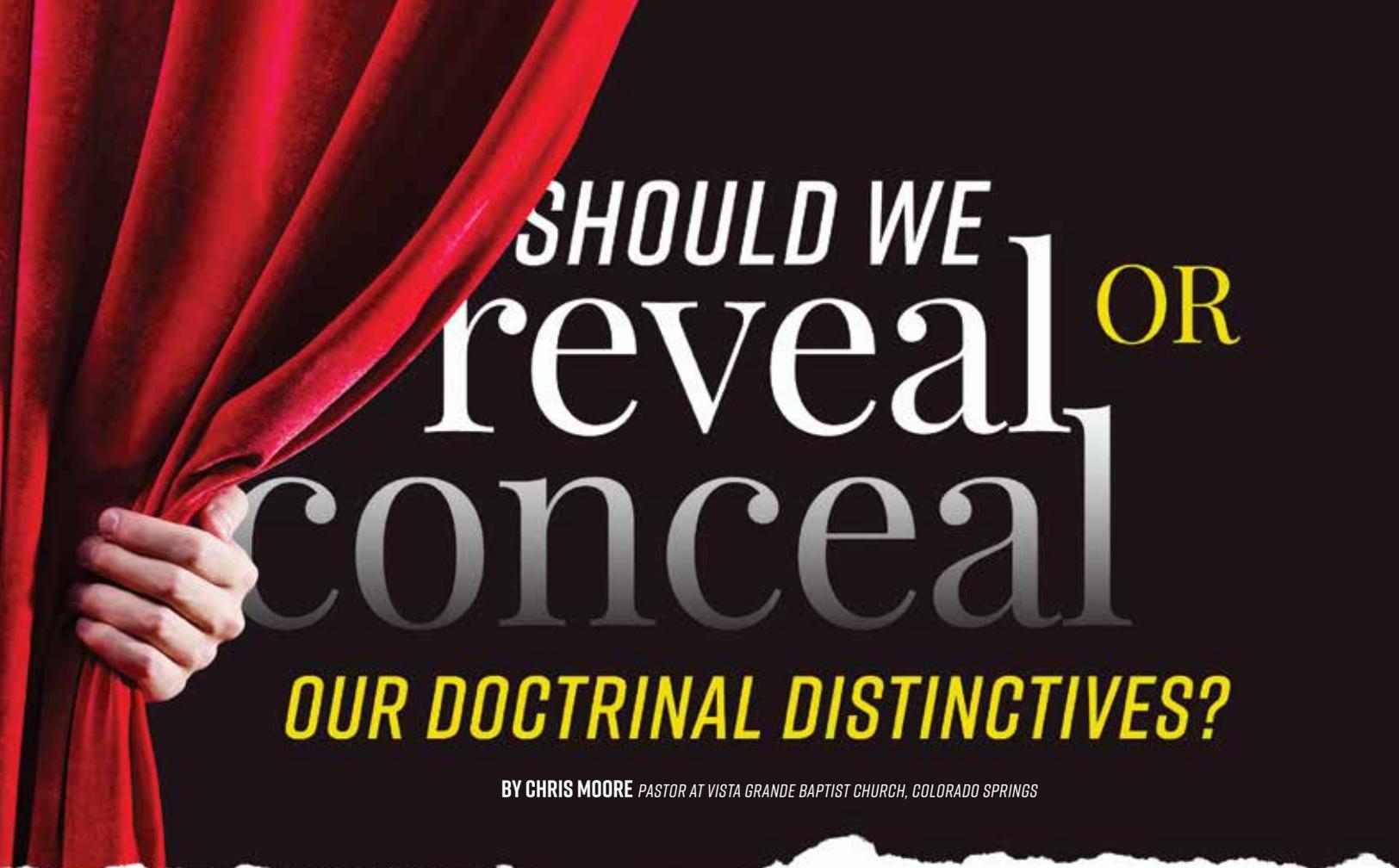
1. Call for a personal and public commitment to the prayer initiative.

2. Designate a commitment Sunday with a commitment card.
3. Have an altar call at the end of message series, asking people to commit.
4. Enlist small groups to select a time/place to pray - provide teaching material on prayer.
5. Assign a Prayer Room on Sunday mornings, praying specifically for initiative/services.
6. Enlist participation from spiritual leadership – pastors/deacons/staff.
7. Form a Prayer Ministry Team to facilitate ongoing emphasis/encouragement.
8. Make available the Worship Center for personal and small group prayer.
9. Encourage, assist & communicate with other ministries in the church about prayer.

III. Communicate during the campaign and throughout the year:

1. Prioritize prayer in worship services weeks before, during and after the campaign.
2. Assign a Facebook account for prayer.
3. Make available reminders of the campaign

- on church web site.
4. Provide monthly prayer guides with specific requests – reports.
5. Maintain prayer as a vital part of Church Staff/Deacon/Leadership meetings.
6. Meet, educate and enlist Small Group Leadership to prayer specifically.
7. Use prayer guides and Bible Studies on prayer in small groups annually.
8. Use posters, bulletin inserts, mail outs, email, etc.
9. Other Resources:
 - a. Sign-up cards for the church for commitment Sunday each year.
 - b. File registration cards (data base) for tracking and encouragement.
 - c. Hand out a "Prayer Card" reminder that sits in a visible place at home/office.
 - d. Develop a "Prayer Guide" with specific prayer needs once a quarter.
 - e. Develop a process for reporting and tracking progress of participation.



SHOULD WE reveal OR conceal OUR DOCTRINAL DISTINCTIVES?

BY CHRIS MOORE PASTOR AT VISTA GRANDE BAPTIST CHURCH, COLORADO SPRINGS

We have been working on ways to help our new members and our regular attenders assimilate into our fellowship at Vista Grande Baptist Church. In addition to worship, we want them to connect, serve and impact. One of our strategies has been to re-work our new members class and bring more emphasis to Discovering VGBC.

We plan to better explain why it is important and why we expect them to take the next steps at VGBC so they get involved and grow as disciples. We also plan to describe clearly how to take those next steps. Another key part of this class is sharing about who we are.

To describe who we are, we must explain what we believe.

As I have been thinking about what doctrinal elements to include and exclude, I sense two extremes. On one hand, I don't want to focus on non-essential issues. For example, a new member doesn't have to understand the differences between pre-millennialism, post-millennialism, and amillennialism, and they don't have to hold to one of these positions. We can agree to disagree on this issue.

On the other hand, I don't want to be so general about our theological convictions that our new members don't understand what makes us unique as a church. How are we different from other denominations or from other

WHERE IS THIS LINE BETWEEN TOO MUCH DOCTRINAL INFORMATION AND TOO LITTLE? AND WHO GETS TO DECIDE WHAT IS ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL?

independent churches? If we are asking them to join, wouldn't it make sense we explain who we are? And how can we explain who we are if we don't explain what we believe?

Where is this line between too much doctrinal information and too little? And who gets to decide what is essential and non-essential? I believe the best resource to help answer these questions is

our doctrinal statement, The 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. We have this confessional statement that includes venerable language Baptists have affirmed for many years. This confessional statement allows us to be part of a biblical tradition much bigger than just VGBC.

I think we should lean on this document and use this document unapologetically to help explain who we are and what we believe. As I have gone through our confession of faith recently, I have highlighted some of the statements that stood out to me and I plan to include in our class. My goal is not to introduce unnecessary issues that are likely to divide. My hope is to explain in a loving manner who we are in a way that distinguishes us and unites us to a great tradition, the “faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”

(Jude 3). Excerpts from the 2000 BF&M:

✦ “[The Bible] has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.”

✦ “[Jesus Christ] honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.”

✦ “Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God’s grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

✦ “Being a church ordinance, it [baptism] is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord’s Supper.”

✦ “The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.”

✦ “In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.”

As you share with potential new members about your church, do you tend to reveal or conceal your core beliefs and distinctives?

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GOT VISION?

BY DUANE ARLEDGE

WHEN I READ BOOKS WRITTEN FOR PASTORS TODAY, very few words are used as often as vision. Pastors are told, “You need to clarify the vision for your church. You need to clearly communicate the vision for your church—and you need to do it all the time.” Those are not bad statements. But I almost never hear vision used when talking about developing individual leaders.

Nearly forty years ago, I heard a pastor define vision as the ability to see beneath the surface of what a person is presently to see what they have the real potential to become if they will let God be in control. Most people do not think they can do what God has already designed them to do! When it comes to developing leaders, you must allow God to show you how to draw out greatness in people so your church can have the leaders it needs.

Every church needs more ministry leaders. Every church needs more volunteers to serve in those ministries. Often we’re so busy “casting vision” at thirty thousand feet for the whole church that we overlook the individual that is standing next to us at ground level. That person may be the next significant leader in your church. We need to have the “vision” to see what God wants to do in that person’s life. Yes, God does reveal to leaders that He is working in other’s lives—if we listen and obey. Here’s how we can obey the vision God gives us.



WHEN IT COMES TO DEVELOPING LEADERS, YOU MUST ALLOW GOD TO SHOW YOU HOW TO DRAW OUT GREATNESS IN PEOPLE SO YOUR CHURCH CAN HAVE THE LEADERS IT NEEDS.

SEE PEOPLE. Really look with spiritual eyes. You don’t need to see how they can help you accomplish your vision. You need to see how you can be used by God to draw out the greatness God has placed within them.

PRAY FOR PEOPLE. Ask God to let you see what He sees in that person. Ask Him to allow you to forget what you already know so you can understand what He knows.

CHALLENGE PEOPLE. Ask God to give you the right words to challenge them to take the next steps God has for them. Then ask God to give you a “green light” for the right timing to share those words with them.

WALK WITH PEOPLE. Be willing to walk alongside as they take their first awkward steps of serving and/or leading. It may be frightening for you and them, but it will be rewarding as you see them grow into the leader they never thought they could be.

Got vision? Make sure your vision includes seeing individuals with God’s eyes. You will be blessed, others will be blessed, and the Lord’s church will be built up.

Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:12)

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Women in Missions • Fellowship Social, w/ refreshments
Pastor Wives Session w/ Carol Ann Draper

ANNUAL MEETING EVENING - 6:30PM-9:00PM

Calvin Wittman CBGC President and pastor of Applewood Baptist Church
Jim Richards Executive Director, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

TUESDAY, OCT. 16

ANNUAL MEETING MORNING - 8:30AM-11:30AM

Bob Bender Senior Pastor, FBC Black Forest

JD Greear SBC President and pastor of The Summit Church Durham, NC

▶ **NAMB Luncheon** 11:30am-1:00pm ☒

ANNUAL MEETING AFTERNOON - 1:30PM-4:30PM

Business Meeting

▶ **Gateway Celebration Dinner** 4:45pm-6:15pm (RSVP, space limited) ☒

ANNUAL MEETING EVENING - 6:30PM-9:00PM

Nathan Lorick Executive Director, Colorado Baptist General Convention

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