

IT'S ABOUT A PROCESS, NOT A PROGRAM

MOMENTUM

ISSUE #8 • Official Magazine of Colorado Baptists • coloradobaptists.org

ENGAGE YOUR JOURNEY

Once you develop a road map,
it's time to engage your journey

to see culture changed and
communities transformed!

+ REACHING MY
COMMUNITY

+ RESTORATIVE
LOVE



COOPERATION FOR THE GOSPEL'S ADVANCEMENT

COLORADO IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL STATE. Everywhere you look the artwork of God is on full display. In fact, some of my favorite times are when I have the chance to simply take a walk and thank God for his creation. It is an amazing place to live and to minister. Beneath all of its majestic beauty, however, lies the devastating spiritual reality that our state is overwhelmingly lost. God, in his sovereignty, has allowed us to be ministers of his gospel in our state for such a time as this. What a great privilege. What a heavy responsibility. We must always be looking for avenues to partner together for the advancement of the gospel.

We are living in interesting times. Our world has become so accustomed to instantaneous news and information that we often embrace what we see and hear before properly researching it. It seems that at every turn we are confronted with difficulties and possible divisions. The Apostle Paul was familiar with this culture as well. In fact, in 1 Corinthians Paul takes time to address many of the issues the church was facing. In chapter nine, he even feels the pressure to defend his calling as an Apostle. In doing so, the apostle makes a statement that both encourages and challenges me. He says in verse twelve, “nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.” What a powerful statement! Paul reminds the church that although there were many differing views of his calling and how he would be provided for, the apex of their cooperation was the gospel’s advancement. In light of our culture today and the lostness among which we live, I would like to remind us again as well, that the gospel is our main rallying cry for cooperation as a network. There are three main ways we carry out this gospel cooperation.

1. We are rooted in the Bible. Our cooperation can take on many different expressions. However, we stand together in embracing and declaring the inerrant and infallible word of God. The gospel we preach is not one of cultural adaptations. Rather, it is the very gospel

unveiled in the Word of God. Since we hold to his word together, we are able to partner to reach all areas of our state! Let us stand firm on the word and trust God to move among us.

2. We work within the parameters of the BF&M 2000. One of the greatest aspects of a network the size of the SBC is the doctrinal framework provided in our faith statement. The BF&M allows us to be focused on the mission essentials together while leaving room for diversity in how those essentials are carried out. In other words, the BF&M is broad enough for us to partner together in unity without demanding uniformity, and it is narrow enough to keep us tethered to the truths of God’s word. We can all work together within this framework to reach our state for Christ!

3. We work best through the Cooperative Program. One of the most effective ways to partner together to reach Colorado and the world for Christ is through the Cooperative Program. The CP is how we lock arms with churches across our state and nation to plant and revitalize churches, send missionaries, train students, and support churches. Its effectiveness is unparalleled in the history of gospel partnerships. We are more efficient when we combine our resources and take a synergistic approach to reaching the world. God has given us the greatest mission on earth and also the greatest method to fund that mission. Let’s continue to join God in what he is doing through our Cooperative Program partnership.

We do not get to do this again. God has given us but one life to make a difference. We must recognize the urgency and significance of this moment on God’s timeline of human history. We must press forward in the mission of the gospel realizing we do not have to agree on every single issue in order to work together for the gospel’s advancement. We need to echo the sentiment of the Apostle Paul, committing together to endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. We are certainly better together. And together, we can see a movement of God. I love you and am honored to serve with you!



Dr. Nathan Lorick
Executive Director



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JEFF BAUCHMAN, Harvest Community Church, Olathe, CO

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Maybe we lay off the sheep a little. Maybe they're not so dumb. But they are weak and in need of each other and the shepherd. That sounds familiar.

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MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



LET ME BEGIN by thanking each of you, who make up Colorado Baptists, as well as Dr. Nathan Lorick, state convention officers, and staff, for your tireless efforts to make this year's annual meeting the success that it was. I'd also like to express what an honor and privilege it is to serve in the role of convention president. I am committed to prayerfully performing the duties to which I've been entrusted to the best of my abilities.

Dr. Jim Shaddix was my preaching professor at Golden Gate (Gateway) Seminary. During one of the many profound preaching lessons he taught, the one on how to title the sermon stands out to me. "Every sermon title contains an inherent question," he said. Thus, "The content of the sermon must answer the question inherent in its title." As you will recall, Forward Together, was the theme (title) of our Annual Meeting. Therefore, we must now answer the question inherent in that title—what does it mean to go forward together?

First and foremost, we must go forward together in our Next Step process. The Next Step process is designed to clarify the identity and mission of your church. As Denver Christian Bible Church embarks upon our next steps, the new-

found ability to clearly articulate our identity, mission, and focus has increased the preparedness of our members to share the gospel and given them the confidence to do so. We know who we are and what we are called to do, thus, pursuing lost people is no longer optional.

Secondly, we must stand together upon the word of God. As we navigate the media-driven, emotionally-charged issues of the times in which we live, such as: race relations, politics, and the complexities of the various theological views of the day, it is not my belief that the church is to remain silent and neutral on all matters. Conversely, it is my belief that the church should be the voice of God on said matters. We should speak truth clearly, profoundly, and in the forum and manner conducive to facilitating understanding rather than fostering divisiveness. Paul called the church of the living God, "...the pillar and ground of truth."-1 Timothy 3:14. If we believe that the truth makes one free (John 8:32), then we must also believe that it is the responsibility of the church, as the carrier of truth, to proclaim it. Therefore, we must make the word of God, the filter and measuring reed for all things. It is more vital now than ever to gird our loins, and prepare ourselves to

rightly divide the word of truth, for that is the only thing that will set the captives free.

Lastly, we must move forward together in our efforts to strengthen pastoral relationships through collaborative communication. This is the essence of iron sharpening iron. As I get to know my fellow pastors and leaders across Colorado, there has never been a time when I wasn't made better as a result of that interaction. Moreover, when I consider the strength and courage of Colorado pastors and leaders who are serving in the remote areas of our state, in some of the most spiritually fallow ground in the country, only then do I realize how blessed I am to be numbered among you. Let's continue to share resources and knowledge so that his will might be done in Colorado as it is in Heaven.

Until I see you again, may the Lord bless you and keep you and make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May he lift his countenance upon you and give you peace, now and forever. And if the Lord should come before I see you again in Colorado, I'll see you in the clouds. Take care.

John Moreland
President

Engage Your Journey



There are no quick fixes or short-cuts to ministry. It's a journey, but you don't have to go it alone.

Southern Baptists, for over a hundred years, have worked together through the Cooperative Program knowing that we can do more in partnership. Our mission efforts are not only enhanced through our financial pooling of resources, but also from our networking with each other, our learning from each other, and walking side by side. We are in this journey together!

Colorado Baptists is committed to coming alongside you as you Engage Your Journey! We are an extra set of eyes, ears, and perspective—a sounding board of hope looking for ways to encourage you to keep following the path in which God is leading you.

It's an integral part of our process!

Let our Next Step Guides come alongside your church to Engage Your Journey!



LEARN MORE AT COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG!

TO NEW YORK AND BACK

As a network, we are resolved to provide you with strategic opportunities to grow in relationships, networking, strategies, and leadership. In September, Colorado Baptists had the privilege of taking 56 pastors and leaders to New York to visit the Brooklyn Tabernacle. We were given the honor to spend time with Pastor Jim Cymbala and to be a part of their well-known Tuesday Night Prayer Meeting. The whole experience was nothing short of phenomenal. Pastor Jim Cymbala took time to pour into our pastors and leaders by sharing Godly wisdom, experience, and by praying over them and their ministry efforts throughout

the state of Colorado. Not only did this trip enrich lives and leadership through relationship and practical takeaways, but we were forever changed by getting to experience and understand the power of prayer in a different context than we normally experience. The Tuesday Night Prayer Meeting began with over 2,000 people lined up to get in, all coming to worship and corporately cry out to God with expectancy for him to move, and who prayed over each other and believed God for miracles. It was life-changing! The time together shaped us, gave us more of a hunger for prayer, and an eagerness to continue to pursue deeper relationships with the Lord and with each other.

“We will never experience the movement of God we so desire, until we first experience the movement of prayer we so desperately need.”

—NATHAN LORICK



John Moreland elected President



John Moreland was elected as the first African American President of the Colorado Baptist General Convention. What a monumental step for our convention of churches! For decades our missional efforts have led us to be churches from among many different cultures and languages. As we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to reach all peoples of all cultures, we praise God that our leadership, too, can become a reflection of our diverse but unified family.

John Moreland is senior pastor of Denver Christian Bible Church, a church that he planted by the grace of God in 2012. He received his Master of Divinity from Gateway Baptist Theological Seminary. John is also Captain in the Colorado Air National Guard serving as a Chaplain responsible for spiritually feeding over 1500 airmen. He is married to Kenna Moreland and has four children. With a passion for discipleship, his desire is to help people know Jesus better!

We are grateful for John's leadership and will continue to pray for him, his family, and his ministry as we move forward together!

We are also grateful for and will be praying for our other newly elected officers:



1st Vice President Elected:
Mark Spence, Lead Pastor,
Mississippi Avenue Baptist
Church, Aurora, CO



2nd Vice President Elected:
Greg Teel, Pastor,
Calvary Baptist Church,
Delta, CO



ANNUAL MEETING 2019
BY THE NUMBERS

- + 239 Total Attendance
- + 158 Messengers
- + 81 guests



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1 STEVE STROOPE

"There is no leadership more important than that of Self-Leadership. Self-Leadership will have greater impact on your ministry than any other kind of leadership that you will exercise in your life."

2 JOHN MORELAND

"If we as the people of God, a network of churches in Colorado, if we are going to be effective on mission with Jesus, we must walk in unity. In unity we testify of salvation, we testify of the incarnation of Jesus, and we testify that we are redeemed by God and loved by him."

3 RONNIE FLOYD

"A divided church cannot call a divided nation to unity. A leader that divides will eventually forfeit their leadership. When I dream of living and leading toward the future in a divided world, I believe there must be a new leader, Christian men and women who will rise up, who will lead in the highest level and in the greatest way for the Glory of God."

4 DAVID GALE

"There was a time in America where church was hotter, when pastors seemed to be hotter, when fervor for the church of God—the things of God seemed to be on a higher level. Now we are living in a world that neither respects or even cares that you are a man or woman of God. Revelation is the notice, the warning that says, 'How about you pastor? How about your church?'"

5 NOE GARCIA

"The mistake I made, which most ministers make, is that you receive the applause and affirmation of people and you begin to forsake the dependence on the Holy Spirit and you put total dependence on your own skills and gift sets. And now you've come to a Red Sea moment where God says, 'You can't part it on your own giftings. You need to press into the Holy Spirit power of God and experience a move of God that will part the Red Sea.' Only God can do this."

6 WILLIAM CURTIS

"God could have dropped the tablets on the people through a myriad of other ways. But the faith of his leader, the trust of his leader, the patience of his leader, the maturation of his leader, the development of close experience with his leader needed and necessitated the six days that were cloudy in his presence. God wants fellowship with us more than anything else."

7 VANCE PITMAN

"They ran to Jerusalem, went into the upper room, shut that door, and got on their face before God and with one mind they devoted themselves—they began to pursue God in prayer. They grabbed ahold of the altar of God because they knew if God is not God then we're sunk. And they didn't let go until God showed up and did what only God could do."

**ROLLAND KENNESON**

Rosemont Baptist Church, Montrose, CO

"The annual meeting was amazing again this year! It was great to hear from some Colorado pastors as well as some pastors who are nationally known. I was amazed at how each sermon's theme complimented each other. Each of them spoke to me challenging me to renew my intimacy with God. The time Nathan Lorick led us in a concerted prayer for ourselves, our churches, our communities and our state was especially powerful! I was excited to have several from my church family there so they could hear what God is doing around our state. Now they are hooked and have already committed to go again next year!"

**MARK SPENCE**

Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church, Aurora, CO

"The theme for this year's annual meeting was "Forward Together: a unified network in a divided world," but it was more than just a theme. Through the worship, the preaching of the Word, and the business conducted, it was truly pleasant how our convention dwells together in unity. Of particular importance was the encouragement from the sermons to continue to be faithful in pursuing intimacy with God as we minister in His name. This year's convention left each attendee looking forward to gathering again next October at Applewood Baptist Church."

**TREE COOPER**

Cornerstone Baptist Church, Windsor, CO

"The Annual meeting of the Colorado Baptist General Convention was turned into a celebration of the mighty works of God. I am so thankful for the OVERWHELMING spirit of prayer and hope that drew our churches closer to Christ this year. That Jesus is active and preparing us for revival has never been more evident than at this gathering."



JOEL BUNDICK

Community of Grace Church, Aurora, CO

"I was thrilled to worship with our Colorado Baptists at this year's convention. I was encouraged by my fellow pastors, trained and inspired by the preaching, and encouraged by the Holy Spirit to stay the course. Nathan Lorick and his team did an excellent job organizing and lining up a great venue and speakers. I am excited to move forward together this next year."

JEFF BAUCHMAN

Harvest Community Church, Olathe, CO

"Oh, how great it was to link arms with fellow partners in the advancement of the gospel at the CBGC Annual Meeting. It was great to hear the heart of those that are pressing into God and be encouraged by so many men and women. God is truly moving in a mighty way across our state. Thank you CBGC for your continued support in reaching the lost of Colorado."

BOB BENDER

First Baptist Church Black Forest

"Is this meeting going to be worth it?" That's the question I always ask en route to any kind of conference, especially one that I have to drive 5 1/2 hours to. That's not to say I don't enjoy our annual meetings because I always do, but we always wonder about our time management. I texted Nathan Lorick after this particular meeting that it was one of the best, if not the best I had experienced of the 16 annual meetings I had attended. The preaching, worship, pastor's conference, fellowship, hands-on practical suggestions all were woven together to challenge us to take the gospel to our individual ministry environs. As a result, I am much better equipped and motivated to make a difference for Jesus in my ministry assignment. Grateful to be a Colorado Baptist."





**COLORADO
BAPTISTS
ARE
COMMITTED
TO PRAYING
FOR A
MOVEMENT
OF GOD!**



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

2020 ANNUAL MEETING • OCT. 12-13
APPLEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, LAKEWOOD, CO

REACHING MY COMMUNITY

BY DARIUS HOLLAND
True Life Church, Thornton, CO

THE BASICS:

1. Thornton, Colorado is a predominantly white, middle class city located about 10 miles north of Denver, making it one of the many communities that makes up the Metro area of the state capital.
2. I am a black man who has worked as a pastor in this area for most of my time in vocational ministry.

THE CULTURAL NORMS, MORES, AND EXPECTATIONS of those two things don't always mix easily, often causing me to feel more like a spectator than a neighbor. My wife is a Colorado native, as are our children, but I have no extended family nearby...but God sent me here. Why?

When I first moved into the area I started attending a church so I could serve. I was offered a ministry position, which I accepted even though I was unsure of exactly what my role would be. I watched more than I acted: seeing and being seen more than speaking or being heard. When I finally did speak I felt misunderstood.

I thought back on the one sermon that had the biggest impact on my life, one based on Jeremiah 29:4-7. The pastor read from Scripture, "... to all exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem and Babylon, build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their produce...seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile." Through this message I could hear the Lord say to me, "I have sent you here. Now pursue the ministry with an intent to bring *my* peace to the people." Now I

needed to know *how* to do that.

I asked God how do I reach people who speak, think, and live so much differently than I do. Furthermore, why would I? The Lord brought Romans 8:12 to mind to answer my second question. That passage says that “we are under obligation,” meaning a moral imperative that makes us indebted to either sin or righteousness. Since I place myself under the Lordship of Jesus I am indebted to his work on the cross and am obligated to fulfill the works that he prepared for me, works that he prepared beforehand to bring himself glory.

To help me answer the first question, *how* to reach this community where He placed me, I needed to become a student. I had to intentionally lay down my own cultural lens and focus in a new way. This led me to the Rocky Mountain campus of Golden Gate Seminary (now Gateway Seminary). As a student I discovered new materials, resources, and learned more about the history of our faith. I learned of ministers who stayed strong even as they truly suffered for the gospel. I saw how God could work within my family, my community, and

myself to serve effectively where he had placed me. His prerogative determined where I would serve, and His provision determined how I would serve.

I allowed myself to be open not just to the teaching of the classes but also to fellowship with the other students. Seeing so many others who were equally committed to living out God’s call in their lives broadened my perspective and made me realize that God is not bound by our traditions but is brought alive in our relationship! Our unique bond that comes from our acceptance of who he is allows transformation in our lives that provides true purpose. His ministry calling is a gift to us that brings glory to him, and he is gracious to provide all the tools we will need (1 Peter 4:11).

God made me more sensitive to people in my own church, True Life Church, who also thirsted to know more but not in the seminary classroom, people who wanted real instruction regarding ministry issues in the lay community. I realized that *this* was a way that God was calling me to help reach my community. This fall True Life launched our Center for Education

in conjunction with Gateway Seminary’s ADVANCE program which provides opportunities for church members to learn about leadership, ministry development, equipping volunteers, preaching, and multiple other necessary skills for the growth of the church.

The hope and the goal for True Life Church is to reveal God’s truth, to pierce the lies formed by confusion and culture, to transform hearts with the gospel message, and to equip believers for the work of service. I invite you to lay down your traditions as well. Take away the lens you use to see the world, and ask God to let you see through his eyes. Ask him how and why and where to act, and then pursue the knowledge that only God can provide to enable you to shape the culture in your sphere of influence.

Darius Holland is Lead Pastor at True Life Church in Thornton and also serves in the 5th Battalion 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as a chaplain. He is a former defensive tackle who played ten seasons in the NFL. He and his wife live in Commerce City with their 5 children.



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PASTORAL ROLE

SHEEP

BY DUSTIN WAGLEY
Fraser Valley Baptist Church, Fraser, CO



A S I BEGAN to prepare for this Sunday's sermon on how our church in the Fraser Valley is to be like a flock of sheep, I realized how little I really knew about sheep. Sure, I had heard countless other pastors talk about how *dumb* sheep are, but I can count on one finger the number of times I've even touched a sheep. Were these other pastors any different? Maybe everything I thought I knew about sheep had come from sermons of other pastors who had no *real* sheep experience either.

I thought to myself, I'll go spend some time on a farm and talk to some farmers who raise sheep. Even better, I'll spend some quality time with a real life shepherd and *really* figure out what sheep are like—their grazing habits, their general disposition, their flocking tendencies. And then it hit me, I'm supposed to preach this sermon in 42 hours. So I did the next best thing. I opened Safari on my trusty laptop. With low expectations I set out to research what sheep are like from *non-pastoral* sources.

All I'd heard from pastoral sources were about how *dumb* sheep are.

"Sheep are so dumb, they'll walk right off a cliff."

"Sheep are so dumb, they can't

do anything on their own."

I had used this information in other sermons. With a slight bit of pride, I had repeated these insulting pastoral quips regarding our white fluffy sleep aids. But were they true? I would soon find out.

One of the first sources I found was exactly what I was looking for—a real life shepherd, named Craig Rogers, talking about sheep, specifically their intelligence! He states:

"Over the years I have often been told, generally by non-sheep people or someone with 10 or 20 sheep that are fed from buckets, how dumb sheep are. However, if you pay attention, you cannot help but be impressed by how smart they are to have survived domestication since 10,000 B.C. Although many think of their flocking instinct to be a sign of "dumbness," it is in fact a community-based survival mechanism where they have learned that their strength is much greater in numbers and their comfort and survival is enhanced as a group rather than as an individual. You can only wonder in awe at the sustainability and intelligence of this creature."

Wow! Did you catch that? This real life shepherd connects the

sustainability and intelligence of sheep with their flocking instinct!

I immediately began to connect the dots with our church family. In a culture today that generally mocks the idea of flocking as a sign of weakness and negative dependency, this truth stands in quiet defiance. The sustainability of our church is dependent on our ability to flock together! While our current culture holds individualism as one of her highest values, may we as the church offer something different—a flock to be a part of, a flock to join, a flock to participate in. Scripture is no stranger to passages that point us to the vitality of unity and togetherness in the Body of Christ.

So, maybe we lay off the sheep a little. Maybe they're not so dumb. But they are weak and in need of each other and the shepherd. That sounds familiar. When was the last time I confessed my weakness and my great need—my need for a church family and my need for the Good Shepherd?

Jesus, may we clearly see our need for the flock and may we see your sufficiency as our Good Shepherd! Help us understand the vitality of flocking together as your body, that the world might know us and in turn know you by the love and unity we display as your flock!

Maybe we lay off the sheep a little. Maybe they're not so dumb. But they are weak and in need of each other and the shepherd. That sounds familiar.

WHAT IS THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM?

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



How does CP work?



It starts with you!

With a gracious heart and obedience to God for all he has done for you, you commit to give back to him, through your church, a portion of what he provides. (Lev. 27:30, Mal. 3:10)



Your Church

Every year your church prayerfully decides how much of its undesignated gifts will be sent through Colorado Baptists for the purpose of reaching Colorado and the world.



Your State

Colorado Baptists invests a portion of undesignated gifts to the ministries supporting our Colorado churches and associations.



Your World

Colorado Baptists sends a portion of undesignated gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention. These gifts are used by SBC entities to send and support missionaries, train pastors and leaders, and to address social, moral, and ethical concerns relating to our faith and families.

Let's do more together!

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A PROCESS NOT A PROGRAM

FOR YEARS THE CHURCH has focused its attention on finding a program for its solutions. As culture has shifted away from the Christian faith, churches are searching for new or better ways to have an impact on people. With good motives they look to other churches that are having apparent successes, and begin to implement the same actions. In some cases, they reap similar results, but in many other instances they see no results and feel “buyer’s remorse” after the amount of energy and money put into making the shift in their church. After attempting to implement a number of programs with little success, churches become skeptical of programs all together. And understandingly so.

The problem starts when we look for solutions without taking into consideration all of the variables at work. Churches are in all different kinds of communities, with different kinds of leaders, different people, and with different resources. It’s too simplistic to assume what works in one place will work in another.

This is why we use the term

“process” to describe our strategy to come alongside churches. Rather than prescribing your church a set of actions, expecting them to work in your context, we instead can lead your church through a process where you discern God’s leading, you discern your next step, and you discern the journey you will take. We are only guides in the process.

We want to lead with questions,

not answers. In order to honor the uniqueness of how God has shaped you as a local church in your community, we want to take into consideration context, leadership, people, and resources. And most importantly we want you to hear from the Holy Spirit and how he wants your church to make disciples and glorify God!



**DISCOVER YOUR
NEXT STEP**



**DESIGN YOUR
ROAD MAP**



**CELEBRATE YOUR
GOSPEL IMPACT**



**ENGAGE YOUR
JOURNEY**

RESTORATIVE LOVE

BY JOE CHAMBERS

Mountain Heights Baptist Church, Buena Vista, CO



And be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God in Christ forgave you.

—PAUL

Every congregation is a congregation of
sinners. As if that weren't bad enough,
they all have sinners for pastors.

—EUGENE PETERSON

KNOW OF A CHURCH THAT PARTED WAYS
with her pastor in ways that left both
pastor and people wounded. The pastor
remained in the small town and continued
to raise his family there. The church members
would see him or his wife in the only grocery
store and the meeting was polite but awkward.

Perhaps leadership mistakes were made by
the pastor, but his doctrine and integrity were
beyond reproach. Yet it seemed that the pastor
and people were not a good fit. A lot of divorces
could be avoided if the marriage had never

happened in the first place.

A group in the church decided it was time to
make a change and through a series of meetings
the die was cast. Before the young pastor
was fired at a business meeting, he resigned.
Technically, the church didn't fire him, but the
result was the same.

Five years passed.

A few weeks ago, the church invited the former
pastor back for a meal to celebrate his ministry at
the church. At first, both people and the pastor
were a little reluctant about the encounter.

What do you do when you want to bring a group of people and a former pastor together?

However, the evening was a beautiful expression of what it means when Paul said, If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

What do you do when you want to bring a group of people and a former pastor together? Everyone gathered in a huge circle in the fellowship hall and held hands. A gentle prayer requesting grace to be our balm was whispered. Each person was invited to come

to the pastor and his family and tell them how much they loved them.

There were tears.
There were hugs.
There was laughter.
There was love.

During the quiet moments of that night, you could almost hear the soft sound of sandaled feet walking among the pastor and people.

Later the pastor's wife said this:

Thank you for tonight! When I walked into the fellowship hall, I felt the grace you prayed about. I felt love. I felt peace. I felt at home.



Joe leads Sacred Journey Retreats along with pastors Mike Atkinson and Jeremy Frye. These retreats

are designed for pastors and leaders to focus on rest, prayer, and identity leading to a better way to care for our souls. www.sacredjourneyretreats.org



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ENDURING PASTORS

BY ALAN SMALL

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, ELIZABETH, CO

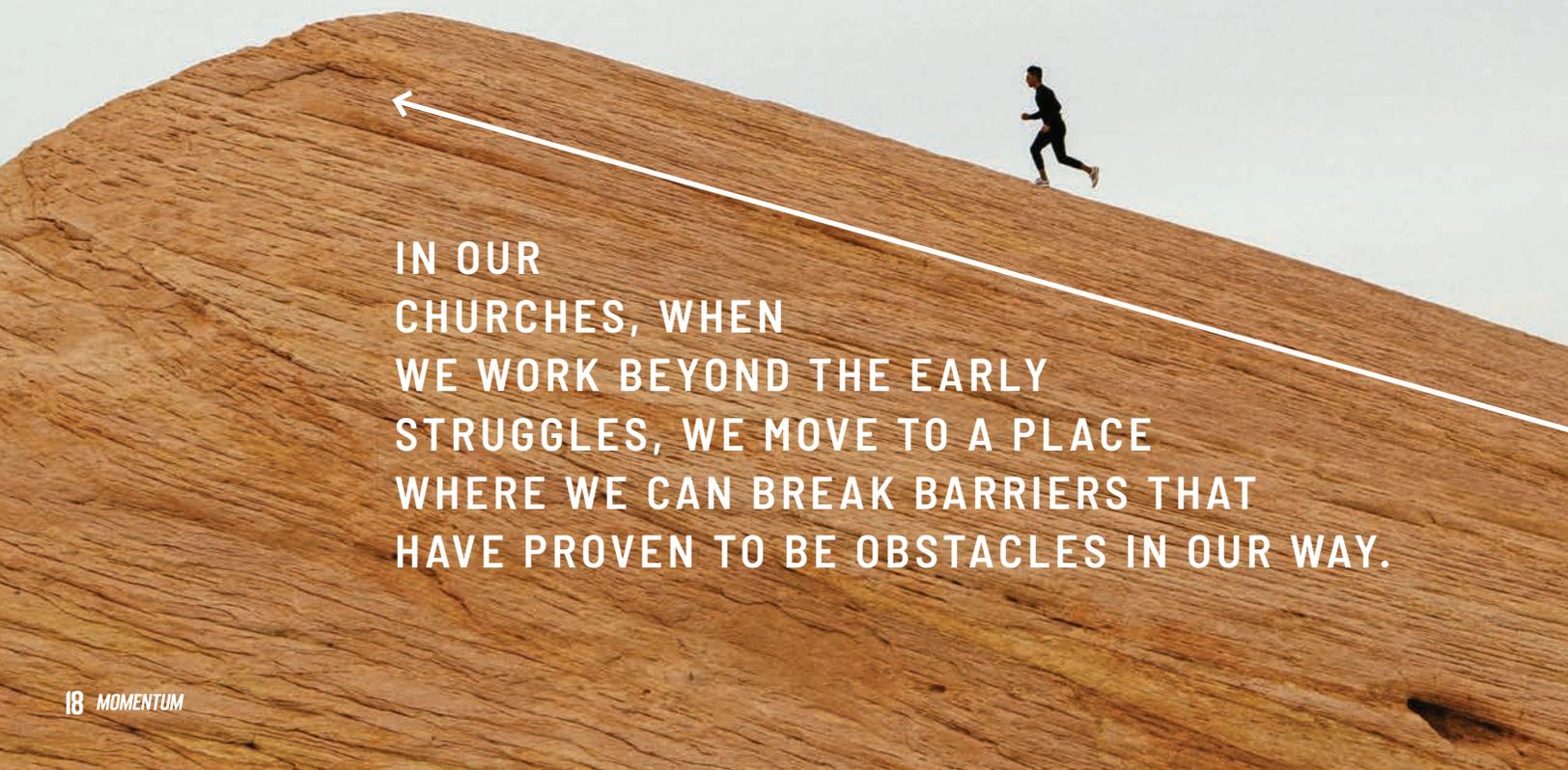
A COMMON THEME IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS ENDURANCE. In Revelation 3, in his letter to the church in Philadelphia, Christ commends and blesses the church for following the command to endure.

At times, we endure trials (James 1:12), we endure discipline (Hebrews 12:7); we endure health issues, conflict, financial insecurity, societal changes, and the list continues to grow. Recently, I heard the average tenure of pastors continues to hold steady at about three and a half years. In too many cases, churches have acted like God has placed us in a spiritual sprint and not a spiritual marathon. Tenures for pastors setting in at less than five years have little chance to propel a church forward to its best days.

Besides serving as pastor, I coach a high school cross country team. In running, our bodies hit a state where lactic acids build up and a runner feels as though they have to stop, but if they push through, they grow accustomed to that sensation and begin to break barriers. At times, developing stamina is painful, but “pressing on” as Paul put it pays off in the end. In our churches, when we work beyond the early struggles, we move to a place where we can break barriers that have proven to be obstacles in our way. Below are a few of my thoughts about how we can help endure as pastors and as churches.

Key #1: Build Your Stamina

When I first began pastoral ministry, I had no idea the amount of mental stamina it took being a pastor. The ebb and flow of serving a local congregation is challenging. Sadly, many pastors and congregations view some of the challenges that happen in ministry



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as reasons to give up and move on. Time is the only real answer for building stamina. Some suggest a pastor does not truly become the pastor until he has led a church five years. Giving up too soon is too much of an epidemic among many pastors.

Key #2: Find and Be Encouragers

I remember preaching a particularly bad sermon. As was her custom, a precious lady came to me and told how good the message was and she grabbed my hands in such a way to let me know she had not given up on me in spite of recognizing the sermon fell flat. I would never make it far without the countless people who stand around me to encourage me through the good and bad. Encouragers give us strength which give us stamina. A simple rule of thumb in finding encouragers is to become an encourager. Encouragement is contagious.

Key #3: Know progress most often comes in small increments

Like many students of the Bible, the Day of Pentecost stands out as a day I would like to have experienced. I want to see the dynamic expression of God moving among people. The reality on most days, however, is slow and steady growth. Little by little and day by day God does things that we often do not see until we take time to see how far we have come. When you do, take a few moments to celebrate the way God has worked.

Key #4: Take advantage of rest days

To coach effectively, I have had to learn that training for endurance events requires specific rest days. The amount of rest needed may vary among different philosophies, but science and wisdom have proven rest days are essential. We all need to take time to rest, to sit at the feet of Jesus and enjoy Him. Several people in my life encourage me to guard my time off and take advantage of it. Burn out is a terrible reality for too many, and it often arises from ignoring the importance of rest days.

Key #5: Whenever possible run with someone else headed in the same direction.

Most people hate meetings, but I have one that stands out as the best one ever. I was laying some groundwork to unfold a vision for our church's future. Before I could jump into it, a member from our church's board, said, "Pastor, tell us what you see." Before we left that day, my okay idea had become our great idea. Walking alongside another makes an enormous difference in our churches. Why walk alone?

My hope and prayer for our churches is that we don't merely endure but we thrive as we do.

Dr. Alan Small is the pastor of Creekside Community Church in Elizabeth, CO. You can also catch his Enduring Churches podcast on iTunes or at enduringchurches.com



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FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

Travel Dates:
JULY 6 - 15, 2020

\$4795.00 FROM DENVER, CO

(Price includes: \$459 US & Intl. departure taxes/fuel, \$129 port fees, \$30 cruise gratuities & \$85 land gratuities)
Additional departure cities available upon request

10-DAY TOUR OF GREECE
INCLUDING A 3-NIGHT GREEK ISLE CRUISE
w/ *Optional Rome Extension*

Hosted by:
DR. NATHAN LORICK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COLORADO
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION



SAVE THE DATE:
SEPT 5-7, 2020 (LABOR DAY WEEKEND)

PONDEROSA IS CELEBRATING ITS 60TH BIRTHDAY!

Have you ever served on staff or been a volunteer? Maybe you've been a group leader or camper? Part of a work crew? Graciously given your time, treasure, or talents? Or maybe you've *never* visited Ponderosa! Mark your calendar for Labor Day Weekend 2020 - reminisce with past campers and friends, observe the latest improvements, enjoy food & activities, hear how God is moving and has provided... and given us a vision for the future. *We want to celebrate with you* so watch for more details @ VisitPonderosa.com, Facebook, or Instagram. Prefer updates via email or mail? Call our office 719-481-2482 ext #17, or email trawls@visitponderosa.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Grades 6th-12th:

Ps. 90:12 "Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (NIV)

Camp Pastor: Ryan Young

Worship Band: More Than This

SESSION A: Jan. 10-12

SESSION B: Jan. 17-19

Only \$145 (A \$25 deposit secures your spot!)

Grades 4th-6th

From Ephesians 1:

Learn how God really sees you!

Camp Pastor: James Wagstaff

Worship Band: Summit Collective

Jan. 31-Feb. 2

Only \$145 (A \$25 deposit secures your spot!)



COLORADO SKIER MOUNTAIN TOP WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES

Every year Colorado is blessed to have more than 2 million skiers adorning our resort slopes. On any given winter weekend our ski resorts play host to tens of thousands of skiers and their families from all over the world as well as right here in Colorado. Many of the Resorts have Skier Worship Services hosted by the local Church. It is a beautiful thing to Worship the Creator in His Creation.

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



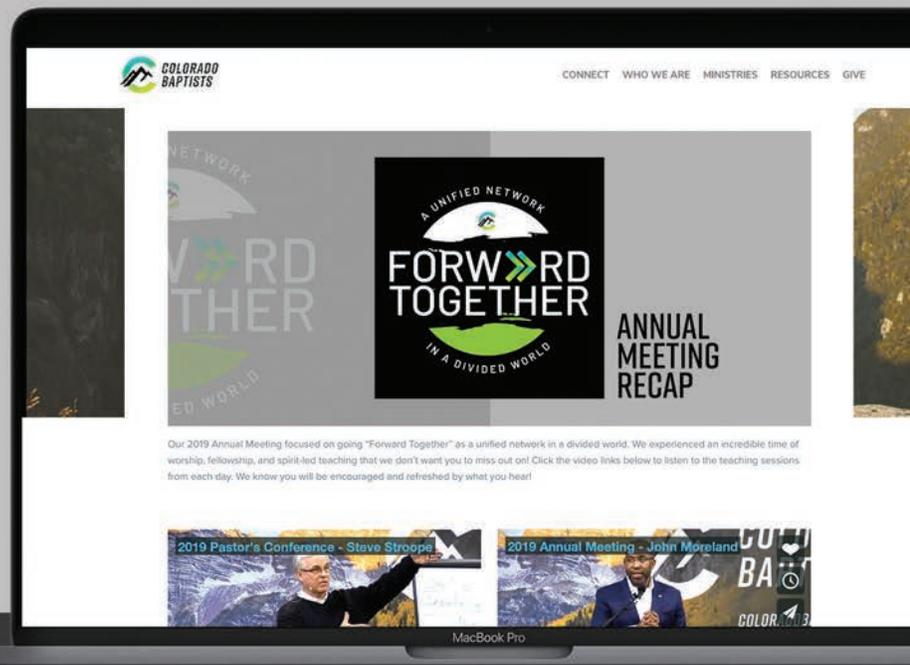
**COLORADO
BAPTISTS**

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CENTENNIAL, CO 80112

COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG

NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING? DON'T WORRY. WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

Our 2019 Annual Meeting focused on going “Forward Together” as a unified network in a divided world. We experienced an incredible time of worship, fellowship, and spirit-led teaching that we don’t want you to miss out on! Go to ColoradoBaptists.org to watch the teaching sessions from each day. We know you will be encouraged and refreshed by what you hear!



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