

RESOLUTION VS TRANSFORMATION

MOMENTUM

ISSUE #9 • Official Magazine of Colorado Baptists • coloradobaptists.org

CELEBRATE YOUR

GOSPEL
IMPACT

The journey may be long and wearisome at times, but taking every opportunity to celebrate what God is doing is vital to our momentum.

+ FITTING
GOD IN

+ COLORADO BAPTISTS
BAPTISMS ON THE RISE





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FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

Travel dates:

JULY 6-15, 2020

\$4,795.00 FROM DENVER, CO

*Price includes: \$459 US & Intl. departure taxes/fuel,
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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

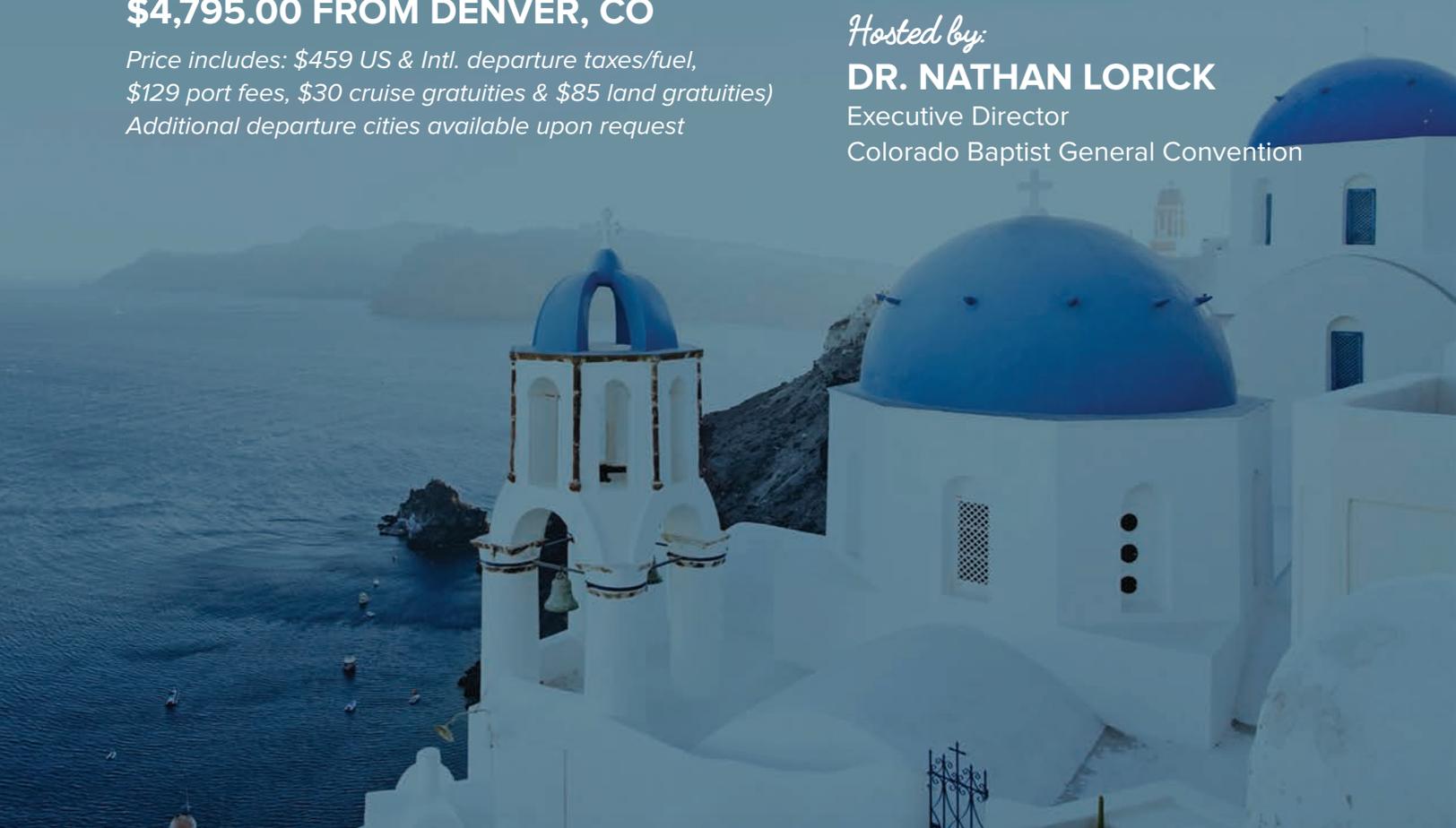


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There are 168 hours in a week.
There are 365 days in a year.
Now the uncertainty—we are not guaranteed any of these!

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I challenge myself and all preschool and children's ministry teachers and volunteers to reflect on Jesus' example and the power we hold to support and encourage our parents.

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Learning opportunities abound for leaders today. Leaders are learners who pursue personal improvement and professional development.



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MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus, our Lord. It is my hope and prayer that the blessing of Christ is upon each church within the Colorado Baptist network of churches, and that this correspondence finds you in the peace of the same. In light of our theme-Forward Together, I'd like to share with you three different pursuits, which I believe the Spirit has impressed upon my heart to encourage us toward over the course of the next year.

First, let's move forward together in our Next Steps initiative. The Next Steps process is designed to clarify the identity and mission of the local church. The state convention has made a significant and wise investment in training facilitators who are capable of walking you and your leadership team through an intense organizational assessment, resulting in clearly articulated opportunities and action steps that will help to achieve the one goal we all share—to maximize gospel impact! Our church has taken our next steps and can personally testify that we already see the results. There is a renewed conviction of our organizational identity, and a shared burden to fulfill our purpose.

Additionally, it is my prayer to strengthen pastoral relationships and collaborative communication

with one another. I'm sure we'd all agree that we are better together, without question. Over the next several months I'd like to challenge each of us to renew our commitment to relationship building with one another. Have that lunch with the pastor down the street that you've been trying to have for a few months. Grab that coffee, make the phone call, send the text to let your fellow pastor know that you're praying for him and they're not alone. We are also exploring the possibility of another opportunity to travel and learn together from thought leaders, such as our time in September with Pastor Jim Cymbala at The Brooklyn Tabernacle.

Lastly, it is my prayer that we will strengthen cross-cultural and cross-racial relationships through Kingdom-minded events and conversations. Simply stated, we need to get to know one another better. I have a fundamental belief in this area. Most people are not inherently evil, however, all of us are inherently unaware; we only know what we are taught. The cultural climate is so fragile in the area of race relations until meaningful dialogue is almost non-existent. Many in society are no longer talking to each other, but at each other, and there are some who have no interest in solving this problem, only blaming

someone else for it. I believe race to be yet one of the biggest points of division and contention within our nation. Furthermore, I believe our willingness to understand one another will have a direct impact upon our ability to fashion a network culture, which mirrors that of the Kingdom of God.

There are some who would find it easier and emotionally safer to simply be silent on the tough issues, and frankly, it probably is. But, I believe there's a different way, a better way, one that honors our creator more than simply doing what's more emotionally expedient. Let's do the hard work of overcoming the uncomfortable nature of conversations such as this, believe the best about one another's intentions, and model to the watching world what it means to walk together in Christian unity. I'll say more about this in a few months, as I lay out some steps that each of our churches may consider taking in this area.

Until we meet again, may the Lord bless and keep each of you, and I look forward to seeing your faces on the Front Range, Western Slope, or Eastern Plains. And, if the Lord should come before I see you in one of those places, then I'll see you in the sky.

John Moreland
President



Celebrate Your Gospel Impact



They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

Psalm 145:6-7

We celebrate what God is doing through us and all around us!
Our entire process is a matter of discerning where God is working
and how he wants to work through us. Not only is it our responsibility
to be faithful in obedience, but to also celebrate how God is demonstrating
his great works for his glory!

When we celebrate we recognize that all glory goes to God!
When we celebrate we encourage God's people!
When we celebrate we point to the hope we have for the future!

*Let us prioritize celebrating and create a culture
of expectation that looks forward to how God will move!*



LEARN MORE AT COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG!



**Colorado Baptists
finished 2019
with the highest
number of baptisms
recorded since 2004!**

We are so grateful for Colorado Baptist pastors and churches! God is moving among them in a great way! Let's celebrate together and pray for God to continue this movement in 2020!



Disaster Relief Awards

Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief presented the following churches with a Certificate of Appreciation at this year's CBGC Annual Meeting for hosting a weekend training at their church:

- ◆ North Metro Church, Thornton
- ◆ Majestic Baptist Church, Pueblo West
- ◆ City Park Church, Ft. Collins

► This year's recipient of the "Larry Loser" Award was George Zyznieuski from North Metro Church in Thornton. This award is presented to an outstanding CBDR Volunteer that goes above and beyond in service and ministry in bringing: Help, Hope, and Healing following disasters.



Hmong Church in Broomfield celebrates five years



On Nov. 16, the first Hmong Church in Broomfield celebrated their five-year building anniversary with approximately 175 people in attendance! It was a wonderful service with worship in their native tongue along with a scriptural challenge from Doug Lohrey. They ended their time together with a celebration of all that God has done in and through their church. Join us in praying for them as they continue to reach their community.

Orchard Latino gives Christmas gifts to community; 21 people receive Christ



Orchard Latino didn't have permission to use the school they meet in for Christmas Eve, but knew they had to do something for the community. So, they showed up on Christmas Eve at the school's parking lot with 800 toys to give out to children.

They blessed at least 125 families that day, gave out over 600 toys, prayed for each family in attendance, and the best part; at least 21 people received Jesus as their personal Savior that day!





PASTOR

FITTING GOD IN

BY MICHAEL MCVEY

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH, GUNNISON, CO

THINK ABOUT THESE CERTAINTIES:

- ◆ There are 24 hours in a day ◆ There are 168 hours in a week ◆ There are 365 days in a year

NOW THE UNCERTAINTY—we are not guaranteed any of these! This should drive us to some serious reflection in our lives as the children of God.

We are living in the busiest times in the history of the world. So much to “do” so little time to “do” it in. We are daily stressed to the limits with all the pressures that surround us and we all know what happens when too much pressure is applied to any object—an explosion generally follows.

The same is true of our lives. We live day to day, moment to moment attempting to order our lives in such a way that we keep them from either “imploding” or “exploding” depending on whether you are an introvert or an extrovert.

Because there are only 24 hours in a day we are driven to make grueling decisions every day. Calendars are filled to overflowing. Work schedules, if we work, generally are the top priority on our calendar. Next comes family events, community events, social engagements, yard work, house maintenance, car repair, helping the neighbor with a fix-it project, a meal with close friends and recreation, and don't forget school and what goes along with it. Somewhere in the busyness of life, if we are fortunate, we find a few hours to sleep.

These are all things we “do.”

Did I miss anything? Sadly, I am sure I did.

Any glaring omissions? Oh, and if there's leftover time, and I am not too exhausted, I try to find room for God, that is, if I can fit Him in.

Let's “be” real—God is often the first thing to get “squeezed” from life in order to help us create some margin for breathing.

We squeeze out the very “Breath of Life”, so that we can gasp for another quick, fleeting breath before moving on to our next assignment. After all, that is what our culture demands. So, on it goes, in a vicious, ruthless cycle until we crash—either emotionally, mentally, or physically.

Fitting God in and making room for Him means we have to choose which priorities have eternal value.

FOCUS ON SOULS

It should go without saying that eternal values focus on “souls.” We must focus on “souls.” We must build relationships with “souls.” We must make “souls” our priority. We must get back to the basics and remember that mission is about people not projects! (Please understand projects are not bad—they just should not be your top priority).

Let's take a glance at what “soul-relationships” should include.

FOCUS ON “YOUR” SOUL

The first “soul-relationship” that you must focus on is yours! Yes, YOUR soul-care, must be at the top of your list.

◆ It is through time in Scripture and transforming prayer (seeking

God's face before seeking His hand) that our souls are nourished and that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to make it through the day. This is a time to be silent and to listen to God. (By the way 20 minutes a day, 6 days a week is just over 1% of the time in your week).

◆ Another step in your soul-care is be faithful to your local church! This is often the first thing we let slip—we're tired, or make other plans, because, after all, God doesn't mind. God has designed the local church as a means for your spiritual growth and for advancing the kingdom of God in your community. (If you search the scriptures carefully you will see that He didn't give a plan “b”). American culture has bought into the concept of church-hopping which has contributed to the decline of the church. Community, with God's family, is indispensable in assisting with the care for your soul. (Once again 2 hours on Sunday is just over 1% of your weekly time).

FOCUS ON “FAMILY” SOULS

A second “soul-relationship” that you must focus on is family members. First, your spouse and your children, your grandchildren, and other extended family. I have never heard a career person in their retirement say, “I wish I would have spent less time with my family.” Then, you must also care for the “souls” of your church family—orphans, widows, the fatherless; Jeremiah 1:17; James 1:27. This is disciple-making at

its peak. Look at your calendars—where does this fit in?

FOCUS ON “LOST” SOULS

A third “soul-relationship” that you must focus on is the lost soul. The soul that needs Jesus. The broken soul. Most of us unfortunately, are more concerned about making the weekly worship a silo rather than a hospital. Making disciples begins with sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ—his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

If you are married, care for the soul of your spouse. If you have children, care for the souls

of your children. If you are a grandparent, care for the souls of your grandchildren. If you are employed, remember your job is your mission field, your neighbors are your mission. If you love Jesus and His church, invest in the lives of church members and the lost. If you are retired, invest in the souls of young adults. Invest, invest, invest in souls—your soul in the presence of Jesus yields high returns in the souls of others.

Psalm 37:24 says, “The steps of a man are ordered by the Lord.” I believe this accurately means “the days, the weeks and the years” of a

man are ordered by the Lord. Is God establishing your steps (days, weeks, years)?

“God should not be molded to fit our lives, instead, we should be molding ourselves to become more like Him. . . . When we lose sight of God, everything becomes meaningless (Ecclesiastes 1:2) ... Some of the most meaningful moments in your life will be when you are in rapturous admiration of the Godhead. . . .step out of the world’s parade and step into the loving embrace of the Father.” (Rebekah B)

How does God fit into your life?

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 STATE

Colorado Baptists invests a portion of undesignated gifts to the ministries supporting our Colorado churches and partnering to help them take their next step.



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 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! Visit coloradobaptists.org

IF I COULD DO IT OVER AGAIN

BY JOHNNY HUNT

NAMB Vice President for Evangelism & Leadership

WHEN I LOOK BACK on my 33 years of ministry at First Baptist Woodstock and think about what I could have done differently, one of the first things that comes to mind is our church campus, which might seem a strange thing to focus on. In those days, we built large buildings because we needed them to accommodate the people who were coming.

In my latter years, though, my whole heart has shifted. Looking back, I wish I led the church to take the finances we used for our facilities and invested them in different areas, specifically sending missionaries and combatting poverty.

Don't get me wrong, we've seen God do great things through our church in these areas. Our people were extraordinarily generous and accomplished much over the years, but I believe our effectiveness could have increased tenfold had we managed the development of our church campus differently.

Poverty

As a church, we have been involved in places like Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and South Africa: building churches and schools, digging wells and sponsoring children's education.

We've sought to give people a hand up rather than a handout so that they can build a life of their own by helping them develop skills to lead a productive life.

In Haiti, we build churches that also serve as schools, and our people ensure that hundreds of children are able to attend by their giving. We've partnered closely with the International Mission Board in Cuba, helping pastors who live off of \$15 a month.

I list all of these things to praise God for giving our church a heart of generosity. I grew up in poverty and never dreamed I would have the means to be extremely generous myself. Yet, we could have done more in places like Haiti, Cuba, and beyond if we had invested differently.

Sending Missionaries

Our church has been a sending church. We have a great testimony of sending people to the nations, and First Baptist Woodstock is investing in 35 church plants right now. Still, I think about how much more we could have provided for other churches if we had been more strategic in developing our campus.

When we send out church planting missionaries, we tend to send them to those cities identified as Send Cities by the North American Mission Board. The cost of living tends to be high in cities. So, it takes a lot to help those pastors move in

and establish their families.

While we also sent people out to serve internationally, more financial freedom would have deepened our impact around the globe. If I could do things over again, I would have made it a point to invest more of the gifts we received outside the walls of our church.

Investing in our campus the way that we did seemed right at the time, and doing so allowed us to serve the community in ways that other churches could not. Even so, there may have been other avenues that could have expanded our kingdom impact in North America and around the world.

Education

On a personal note, if I could go back and do my formal education over again, I would be sure to take my coursework more seriously. I'm not sure that I engaged the great education that I received to the fullest.

I am satisfied with the degrees that I acquired, but I was more intent on getting out of school. Once I finished, I was able to tell my various congregations through the years that I had earned the degrees, but I didn't make it as much of a priority to learn as broadly and deeply as I could have.

I would love to go back and tell myself to slow down and enjoy the season of learning that God had given me.

COLORADO BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF IN ACTION

BY DENNIS BELZ

DIRECTOR, CBDR

This month the CBDR Leadership Team will be having our Annual Leadership Retreat at the CBGC office. Our team has grown in numbers over the last few years. During this retreat the team evaluates, plans, and looks at ways CBDR can be the best Disaster Relief Organization in Colorado! This is a fantastic team and I am so proud of all the work they have done and will continue to do.

CBDR Units

This year we will be adding three new units to our fleet! Through SBDR and the Home Depot Funding, we received a gift of \$20K to build a new Mobile Command Unit. This unit is presently being built. You may ask why we need this unit. As most are aware, in many parts of our state we do not have many large churches that would have space for us to set up a Command Center. We will now have a portable 24' unit that can travel to any location in Colorado or around the country to assist

with disaster needs and set up in a church parking lot. CBDR and the other SBDR Western states are working together in developing our own (IMT) Incident Management Teams so we won't have to be dependent on other states to have to travel to do this for us.



Mobile Communications Unit

For many years we have used our 1979 Ford ambulance that has not been very dependable. We will be selling or donating this unit and will be replacing it with our 1997 unit that has been in

the Durango area. This will allow us to set up our communications while working in the mountains in the Western part of the United States. If you are experienced in communications, we could sure use you!

The newly updated CBDR Rapid Recovery Feeding Unit will be on line shortly and will be based in the Northern part of the state and will also be used to serve with our partnership with Wyoming. We will be training feeding teams in these areas to be ready to deploy on a very short notice. This unit was donated by the Wyoming Baptist Convention a few years ago. We have had it repainted, as well as remodeled inside and out.

I want to personally invite *you* to be a part of one of the *best kept secrets* in the Southern Baptist Convention. **It is called disaster relief!** Please pray about becoming a part of our Disaster Relief Team. Mark your calendar so you can attend the training and become certified to deploy in helping to Bring: Help, Hope, and Healing to those in need!

Looking forward to serving with you!



COLORADO BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF IN ACTION

MARCH 13-14

Cornerstone Baptist Church, Windsor
1200 Cornerstone Blvd., Windsor, CO

MAY 8-9

Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center
15235 Furrow Rd., Larkspur, CO

This will be our first ever Regional Training for Colorado.
Housing will be available on site at Ponderosa.
Please visit ColoradoDR.org for updated CBDR
information on both of these trainings, then register online!

Training Schedule:

Friday evening:

5:15 PM	Registration begins
6:30-9:00 PM	Involving Southern Baptist in Disaster Relief (mandatory class)

Saturday:

8:30 AM	Morning sessions
11:45 AM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Afternoon Sessions
4:00 PM	CBDR store open for shirts, hats and to order other clothing items

Sessions Offered:

- ✦ Introduction to SBDR
(mandatory) Friday evening
- ✦ Administration
(Incident Command)
- ✦ Ash-Out
- ✦ Assessment
- ✦ Chainsaw
- ✦ Communications
- ✦ Disaster Assistance Center
- ✦ Driving for Operating CBDR
vehicles (all day class)
- ✦ Mass Feeding (all day class)
- ✦ Mud-Out (mold mitigation,
Temporary Roofing)
- ✦ Safety (OSHA) standards
- ✦ Shower/Laundry

CHURCH LEADERSHIP COVENANT

BY BILL LIGHTY
Next Step Guide, CO Baptists

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE AND SPIRITUALLY MATURE leaders is tough. It seems that about the time you have all your leadership in place and volunteer positions filled, one fourth of them resign or move. Or you discover you have the wrong people in the wrong places for all the wrong reasons and effectiveness

is sabotaged. Here is one tool that might be helpful to keep this from happening.

Church Leadership Covenant

If you were to look through the New Testament for the phrase “make every effort,” you’d find it six times. They represent six important vows we need to make as leaders. I believe these six vows will lead to an effective and productive ministry. Having people commit and sign a

leadership covenant will go a long way in protecting the unity of the church and discerning who is ready to move into leadership. Here are some things you might put into the Covenant.

1) VOW TO MAINTAIN INTEGRITY

“Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him” (2 Peter 3:14).

Integrity is at the root of leadership. Integrity takes time and commitment to spiritual growth and disciplines. You can coach someone to develop skills and competencies but you cannot coach integrity. Someone once said, “Integrity is who you are when no one is looking.”

2) VOW TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO HURT YOU.

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up” (Hebrews 12:14-15).

In leadership you will get hurt. Someone will disappoint you, misunderstand you, misinterpret what you are trying to say, and be jealous of you. Practicing forgiveness is vital for you personally, spiritually, and emotionally. You cannot control what people think about you or who will question your motives. Granted, there are times when you need to address these issues but more often than not it is simply a matter of forgiving someone who has offended you.

3) VOW TO RELAX AND TRUST GOD.

“Anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter into God’s rest” (Hebrews 4:11).

God is large and in charge. He is the one that administers justice, not you and me. In order to practice Sabbath rest we must learn to relax and trust God with all the things we can do nothing about. Granted, most of us pastors are competitive, type A, control freaks. That is partly how God has wired us but it cannot be used as an excuse to be belligerent and unloving to others. We must learn to rest in God’s provision, purpose, and process. Remember we are here to serve Him, His Kingdom, and His Bride, the church.

4) VOW TO BE AN ENCOURAGER.

“Let us make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification” (Romans 14:19).

Being an encourager is a primary

task for every pastor. People often come to us beaten, worn down, and weary. We have the privilege to lift them and be a “balcony person.” Most people have plenty of “basement people,” people who pull them down below ground level and beat them down. Balcony people pull people up, cheer them on, believe in them, and help them see their circumstances from a higher perspective.

5) VOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).

Peacemaking is a vital skill we must learn and practice as we lead our people well. Your leaders are looking for someone to come

A leader is a lifelong learner. As you lead you must set the example of continual growth in your own life spiritually, physically, emotionally, relationally, and occupationally.

alongside them and coach them to become better leaders. Learning the skills of peacemaking will provide enormous dividends as we attempt to create a leadership culture. Oftentimes peacemaking begins with coming to the middle of a disagreement, acknowledging the other person’s perspective, and owning our part in the disagreement. I have often used the phrase, “Help me understand.” Be sure, when someone pushes

back and disagrees with you, the discussion does not become a debate but rather a conversation. Acknowledge how someone is feeling and attempt to understand before you try to be understood.

6) VOW TO NEVER STOP GROWING.

“Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive...” (2 Peter 1: 5-8).

A leader is a lifelong learner. As you lead you must set the example of continual growth in your own life spiritually, physically, emotionally, relationally, and occupationally. People need to hear you talk about your learning processes and the impact they are making on you as a person and leader. Do not be afraid to share your areas of struggle and weakness. This should be expressed routinely and engaging other leaders in sharing what is working for them. None of us have all the answers and we are better together.

It is critical as you develop a Leadership Covenant that you utilize and incorporate your church’s core values. This will assist in maintaining clarity and unity in purpose. A church’s vision and core values are not so much taught as they are caught.

RESOLUTION

VS

BY JOHN PAPPERT

Grace First Church, Colorado Springs, CO

TRANSFORMATION

WE'RE A COUPLE MONTHS INTO the new year, and that likely means that you've been guilty of, or witness to, the breaking of some resolutions. The changing of the calendar ignites within so many people a desire to make changes to better themselves, but without the right tools or teachers we often fail to reach our goals.

God doesn't have problems with getting changes made. He's big on transformation. We see that as we examine stories in the Bible.

We acknowledge it in others when we hear their stories of where they were versus where they are now. We certainly should have proof of it in our own lives. For instance, I see it in myself when I marvel at how, in the space of 20 years, He took me from non-believer to pastor.

And now, in my role as pastor, I consider what that means for the church that He has entrusted to my care.

Here in the state of Colorado we have multiple fantastic tools available to help in transforming ourselves and our churches, and it's important for us to recognize what they are. For starters, we have scripture. While that's not unique to our state, it's important to remind ourselves how fortunate we are to live in a time and place where we have so many translations readily available and the freedom to read them when and where we please. The study of scripture for us is not an illegal or subversive act, though it is perhaps an unusual one nowadays.

Second, we have our member churches. There are highly traditional churches, Cowboy churches, non-English language churches, college churches, and so many other varieties. Just as in 1 Corinthians 9:20-21 Paul tells of becoming like others to reach others, so our constituent churches strive to reach people of differing cultures and backgrounds.

Next, we have Gateway Seminary. In 2011 I heard God's call to ministry, and I knew that

I was woefully underequipped for that role. Through the teaching of some great professors and the support of so many fellow students who rapidly became friends, I advanced to being just mostly underequipped. I say that with tongue planted firmly in cheek because what I learned through my seminary journey is invaluable, but I doubt any of us in ministry ever feels truly and fully equipped. Without my seminary training I could not effectively fulfill my role as a pastor.

Gateway Seminary is such a great resource for folks in the Rocky Mountain region who want to expand their knowledge of Scripture and the depth of their relationship with the Lord. From certificate and diploma programs to Master's level teaching and doctoral degrees, there are paths of study for anyone who wants to learn. With classroom options that include traditional weekly classes, to hybrid one-week courses, to weekend classes, to "remote access" options that allow students to be in class through their computers, it's

almost impossible to NOT find an option that works for any prospective student.

Finally, as part of the Colorado Baptists, our churches have the option of enrolling in the "Next Steps" process. The church where I serve, Grace First Church in Colorado Springs, has just started this process. From the first meeting with our facilitator we felt a renewed energy within our leadership. There is a much clearer vision on how we are to work with the community we serve and what is required to transform our church from what it's been to what we believe God is calling it to be. We are excited to be part of something that pushes away from the traditional path of working with a "program" and instead has us striving to fulfill a purpose.

Resolutions are a promise that we make to and for ourselves. We tend to not be the most reliable creatures out there, so if we want to see real, lasting transformation it depends on God. Let us have the wisdom to avail ourselves of His tools and teachings as we seek change that honors Him.



GATEWAY SEMINARY

Rocky Mountain Campus

Looking to further
your ministry education?

A great opportunity for local students.

Plan a visit by emailing rmc-info@gs.edu or calling 303.779.6431.

7393 SOUTH ALTON WAY • CENTENNIAL, CO 80112 • www.gs.edu

IF NOT HERE ... WHERE?



SANDY K. BLAYLOCK
Ken Caryl Church, Littleton, CO

SAW THE LOOK IN HER EYES as she reached the children's drop-off area. No words were needed. Her eyes and mouth were communicating how sorry she was to be dropping off her screaming child to me yet, at the

same time, she was signaling her deepest need to have a glorious one-hour break. Then there was the dad, dragging his child to the children's area, suffering through a meltdown the entire length of the hallway. Same eye message, "sorry to do this to you," as he hurried off to his Life Group. Another exhausted mom, fostering a child who

had been so broken by the sins of others and acting out was her only way of releasing her frustration. The relief in her eyes as she handed over her child to me communicating, "I don't know if I can do this for one more second." Then there are the parents of a miracle child who has triumphed over so many things yet, has many

I challenge myself and all preschool and children's ministry teachers, volunteers, and staff to reflect on Jesus' example and the power we hold to support and encourage our parents.

challenges ahead that require specialized attention while at church. My thought has always been, if not here at church then where? If not my team of staff and volunteers who love children, then who? Aren't the least of these the ones that Jesus referenced and loved throughout the Bible and encouraged us by his example to do the same?

After raising three children to adulthood and currently raising a second adopted family of three, and having many parents and friends share about their perils of parenthood, I know all too well how these parents at church feel when dropping their children off to our preschool or children's ministry. I know the look. The exhaustion. The desperate need for someone to understand. The embarrassment you feel when your child is not behaving or is acting out. The guilt for feeling the need for a break. The hope that we will still love them and not judge them based on their children's behavior. The dread when they return to pick them up... hoping we won't express our ill content at how they behaved.

Jesus' words are clear

throughout the Bible with respect to how he felt about children. We read in numerous passages how he would take children into his loving arms and onto his lap. Jesus' actions set the stage for how important it is to show children that they have value in our eyes and in the eyes of God. He also taught us through his word to bear one another's burdens.

Matthew 19:13-14 reminds us that when the people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them, his disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

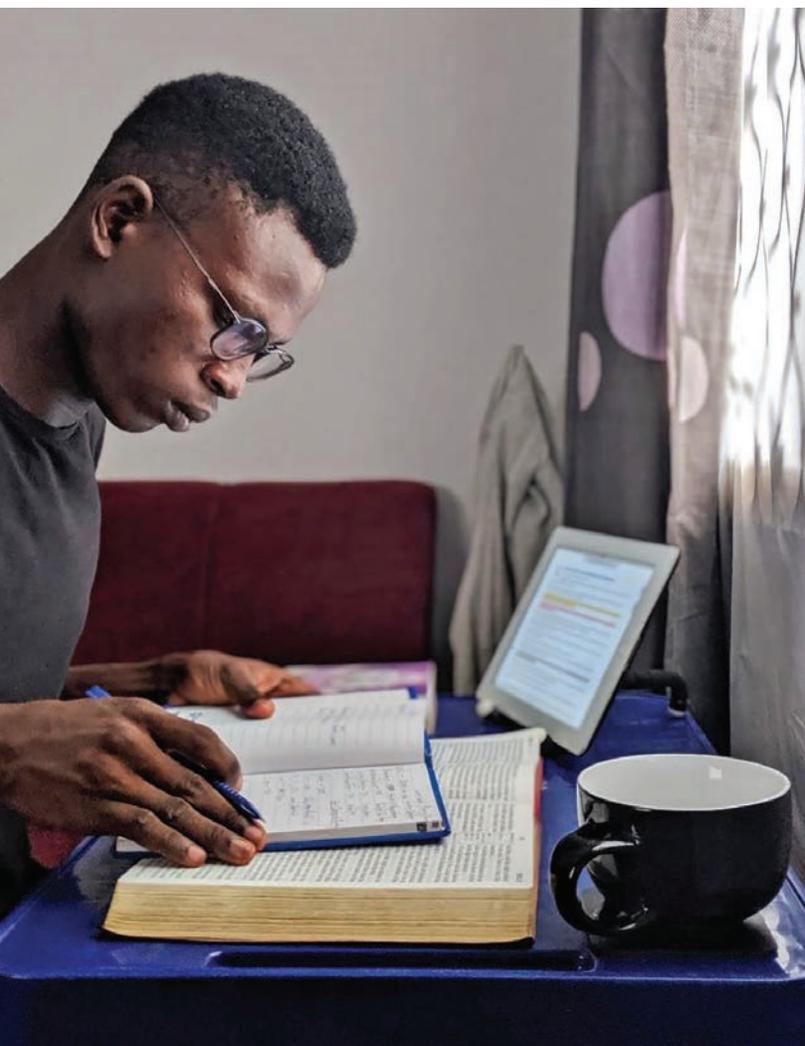
Children are valuable to our Lord and need to be valuable to us, regardless of the day they are having. In Mark 10:13-16 Jesus told the disciples, "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." God created the family, and children are a gift and blessing from Him. The Bible is clear that children are to be looked upon as a blessing, not an inconvenience

or something to be tolerated. They are a reward from God and a blessing.

As we move into a new decade, I challenge myself and all preschool and children's ministry teachers, volunteers, and staff to reflect on Jesus' example and the power we hold to support and encourage our parents. The power that love provides when we unconditionally love every child that walks into our church and classroom doors. To greet them and treat them, regardless of their behavior or needs, as Jesus would. To take the time to listen to them, to guide them, to love on them. To partner with parents on training them up in the way they should go so they will not depart from Him. To teach them about God's unconditional and sacrificial love for them through our actions and His word. To pour into them, listen to them, love them, and at times, correct them.

If not here, in our churches, then where will parents find the hope, love, spiritual guidance, and encouragement they need to weather the seasons of change that raising children brings?

IT IS WHAT YOU KNOW



Learning opportunities abound for leaders today. Leaders are learners who pursue personal improvement and professional development.

JEFF IORG

President, Gateway Seminary

LEADERSHIP EQUALS INFLUENCE so increasing your influence increases your leadership effectiveness. One important source of influence is information—what you know. There’s an old saying, “It’s not what you know, but who you know.” Sometimes that’s true. But more often, what you know is very important for influencing others. How so? Two obvious reasons, then two not-so-obvious perspectives come to mind.

First, Christian leaders are expected to know the Bible and how to use it in decision-making. Gaining information about the Bible, how to interpret the Bible, and how to apply it to complex life situations is one kind of empowering information. When you speak with authority based on biblical insight, followers respond positively.

Another kind of influence-increasing information is insight about doing your job well. My ministry has been unusual in that I have never had the same job twice. God has always given me a job I have never done before. Each time, a new information base and skill set has been required for effectiveness. My life has been one learning curve after another.

Learning opportunities abound for leaders today. Leaders are learners who pursue personal improvement and professional development. Reading books about how to do your job is one way to do this. Attending conferences and seminars, initiating mentoring conversations with more experienced leaders, and studying job-specific or job-related materials are also

helpful. As you learn to do your job more effectively, you will have more influence over others.

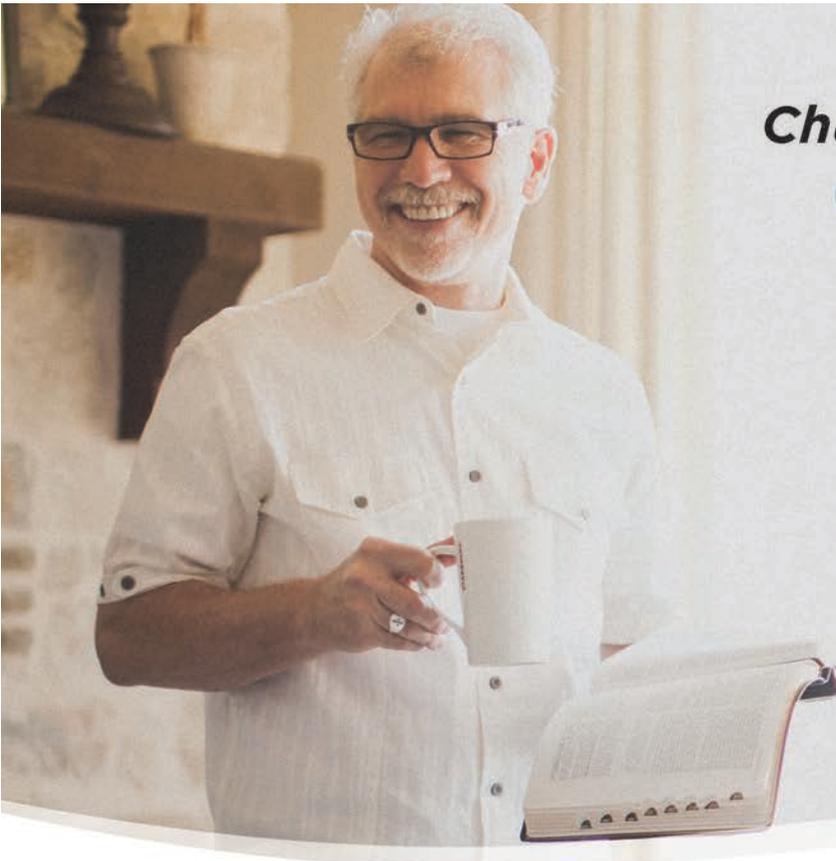
There are two other types of information that increase a leader's influence. The first is information you learn about your followers. For example, as a pastor I knew who struggled with alcohol, was a compulsive gambler, had marital problems, had troubled children, and who was struggling financially. People tell leaders, particularly pastors, their deepest secrets. Leaders must never violate this trust by using information to hurt people. But knowing these secrets brings insight into

what to preach, the timing of important decisions, needed programs your followers are likely to support, and other bases for decision-making. Your influence increases because your followers admire your stewardship of their lives and insight into meeting needs others may not even know exist.

The second source of information is experience that produces leadership intuition. I have been through many different leadership experiences in the past 40 years. There are times when I am working through a problem when leadership intuition—experience coupled with Spirit-

discernment—helps me make my decision. Sometimes, we know what to do but we don't know all the precise reasons why. Be careful with this. It's easy to be too strongly influenced by feelings. Leadership intuition is more than feelings. It's judgment seasoned by a lifetime of leadership experiences.

What you know does matter. Knowing how to use the Bible, knowing information required to do your job well, knowing about your followers, and knowing when to trust your leadership instincts all contribute to increased influence in leadership relationships.



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COLORADO MOUNTAIN TOP WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES

Every year Colorado is blessed to have more than 2 million skiers and snowboarders adorning our resort slopes. On any given winter weekend our ski resorts play host to tens of thousands of people and their families from all over the world as well as right here in Colorado. Many of the Resorts have 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



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