

A SMILE, BOX OF DONUTS, AND AN INVITE

MOMENTUM

ISSUE #16 • OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF COLORADO BAPTISTS

COLORADOBAPTISTS.ORG



CBDR: PARTNERING THROUGH TRAGEDY



WE ARE ALL COLORADO BAPTISTS!

I**N MY FIRST SEVEN MONTHS** as your Executive Director, I have spent considerable time on the road, getting to meet people and hearing their stories. It has been an amazing experience. And as I have had opportunity to hear from our church leaders, I have also had the opportunity to share a vision. It has been a vision born out of a passion for me. A passion to demonstrate to all Colorado churches and leaders that they are valued. Regardless of their size, location, language, or culture; every church in this state has value because we are all part of our Father's Kingdom!

I have sought to reinforce this belief everywhere I have traveled since December 1, 2021. As I have preached, met in associational gatherings, or had lunch with pastors, I have shared how we are all on the same team, that we are all in this Kingdom work together. This is reflected in the CBGC's Vision Statement, "Partnering with Churches and Associations for Accelerated Gospel Impact." This is what I am sharing in every meeting, and this is the driver behind the work we are beginning to see rolled out across our state. Now that I have shared with you what is being said, let me share with you what is being done.

From the feedback coming out of the churches across our state, I have heard expressed feelings of isolation and a desire for greater ministry cohesiveness among our churches. There has also been a clear longing to have someone in each of our regions that is dedicated to the work of building relationships and responding quickly to the needs our churches have encountered. And what I have heard is that this cannot be just anyone. It must be someone from those regions who understands the unique contexts and challenges of those regions. So, I shared this with our leadership team that includes representatives from western and

eastern Colorado, and we collectively developed a strategy for seeing Regional Directors/Next Step Guides who would be from these areas and would serve the needs of these areas.

As of May 2022, we now have four Regional Directors/Next Step Guides who are serving six of our eleven associations across the state. These Regional Directors/Guides also serve as CBGC staff members who sit on our leadership team. Together we are creating strategies that will minister to the needs of the field, because they are informed by the field. Our desire is to see every association in our state represented by a Regional Director/Guide whose primary work is to focus on the needs of the field.

While this may sound like the CBGC is dictating terms to the associations, nothing could be further from the truth. This strategy is accomplished by a partnership with each local association. We begin by having a conversation with associational leadership, and in collaboration with associational leadership, we together share the vision to every church in the association.

We make sure to answer questions and take in feedback, until there is agreement by all. We only move forward when we can move forward together!

So, what has been the response from the churches voting to embrace this strategy? I am so glad you asked. To this point each association has voted unanimously to enter into this partnership, there has not been one "No" vote.

I believe this has been a sign from the Lord that this is what our churches want, and it has been amazing to see it take place. We are seeing fully funded positions being rolled out with the association and the CBGC partnering in the funding. And, what has been equally amazing to me is that this has been funded from the CBGC side without using any additional budgeted money. We are simply using funds that were budgeted for staff we did not replace.

There is so much more taking place, but I will save that for another time. Your Colorado Baptist General Convention is working hard to roll out strategies which will better serve the churches of this great state. When you see the words "Colorado Baptists," I do not want you to think of the convention office. We are working hard to help all our churches and associations to see themselves in those words. That is why I share wherever I go, "We Are ALL Colorado Baptists!" One team, serving One Lord, seeking to reach people for Christ!

God's Blessings,
Mike Proud



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WHAT GOOD IS IT TO GAIN THE WHOLE WORD BUT FORFEIT YOUR SOUL?

BY MARK SPENCE
President of Colorado Baptists



“My dog speaks more eloquently than thee” - Hamilton

IN THE BROADWAY SMASH-HIT, **HAMILTON**, as Alexander Hamilton rises to prominence, he debates Samuel Seabury about the validity of the revolution. Seabury states his opposition to the “proceedings of the Continental Congress.” At first, Hamilton counters Seabury’s argument point-by-point, but in the second verse, Hamilton devolves into an ad hominem attack against Seabury.

An ad hominem attack occurs when instead of arguing against the merits of a perspective, an opponent resorts to insults. These ad hominem, or personal attacks, have increasingly occurred in our national convention over the course of the last few years. One of the reasons why is that ad hominem comments are incredibly effective. Maybe even worse, the ad hominem insults can be rather entertaining.

As Hamilton refutes Seabury with ad hominem comments, the pace of the song quickens. The complexity of the music increases and the volume of Hamilton crescendos. His friends cheer his insults as they become more and more clever. In short, the song becomes more and more entertaining the more biting Hamilton’s comments become.

The same is true in our national debates about the direction of the SBC. Too many pastors, leaders, and observers of the Southern Baptist Convention have devolved into throwing around insults instead of engaging in kind and well-intentioned conversation about the issues of the day. The sad part is how insults and barbs lead to bigger platforms and more followers on Twitter.

The more biting the insults, the more entertaining the argument. The more entertaining the argument the greater platform for the arguers. The increase in number of followers convinces the arguers that they are in the right, even though their methods are very much in the wrong.

People who believe in the inerrancy of God’s Word and in partnering for the gospel are being labeled as “liberals” or “woke” at one moment while others are being called “Pharisees” and “Fundies.” Friends are egging the personal attacks on with “likes” or retweets on social media. This will not end well unless we change how we engage those with whom we disagree on points that are certainly not primary doctrines and are rarely, if ever, even secondary ones.

In Matthew 16:26, Jesus asks, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” If I may be so bold, I would like to reframe this powerful statement of Jesus by asking, what good is it to gain the whole of God’s Word through the conservative resurgence but forfeit our soul?



The fight for the inerrancy of the Bible was a fight for the whole of God’s Word. Either the SBC would believe in the whole of God’s Word or we would abandon orthodoxy for something far less. Praise God that ours is really the only denomination in American history that teetered on the edge of liberalism only to return to biblical inerrancy.

Inerrancy is crucial. Without it, our doctrine becomes arbitrary and based on the whims of the day. What we must also cling to is the relationship between inerrancy, orthodoxy, and orthopraxy. Right belief, without right practice, is worthless.

The Lord Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to be different. His expectation of His followers is to love God with all of our being and to love our neighbor as ourselves. When it comes to how we disagree, one way to love our neighbor is to show them respect.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER. WE ARE AT OUR BEST WHEN PARTNERING WITH ONE ANOTHER. LET’S LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES PROVING THAT WE ARE A CONVENTION PASSIONATE ABOUT BELIEVING GOD’S WORD

A respectful disagreement is a conversation focused on the merits of the argument not based on who can better insult their opponent. Insinuating and assuming the worst is not respectful. Inaccurately representing someone you disagree with is disrespectful. The same disrespect happens when we throw around terms like “liberal” to everyone who disagrees with you. Especially in a group of people who affirm the inerrancy of God’s Word.

The same is true for those who respond by calling others “Pharisees.” This is not the way for followers of Jesus Christ. We are neither a family with liberals (to any great extent) or

Pharisees (to any great extent either). Let’s make the few liberals and Pharisees alike uncomfortable with our love and respect towards one another.

Here in Colorado, let’s be a family of churches who love each other as ourselves. Let’s be a group of pastors and churches who trip over one another in kindness and respect. Instead of assuming the worst, let us believe the best of each other.

We are better together. We are at our best when partnering with one another. Let’s love our neighbor as ourselves proving that we are a convention passionate about believing God’s Word and living according to God’s Word.



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Christian Challenge prepares church building for new church plant



Christian Challenge hosted a spring break mission trip to Pueblo to prepare a church building for a new church plant. They didn't have to travel far and impact was tremendous! Fourteen students partnered with David and Kathy Britton, a missionary couple, who has served Pueblo for 13 years and new church planter, Scott Godinez. They helped clear out, clean, paint, demo, install new flooring—and that was just inside the church! They also had the opportunity to meet people in the community and prayer walk. Christian Challenge plans to continue their partnership with the new church plant and we love seeing connections and partnerships grow throughout our state!



Vanguard Church celebrates 25 years of ministry

Vanguard Church in Colorado Springs celebrated 25 years in March. They have seen 3,317 people make a public profession of their faith and follow Christ in believer's baptism. What an incredible work that God has done in and through this church!



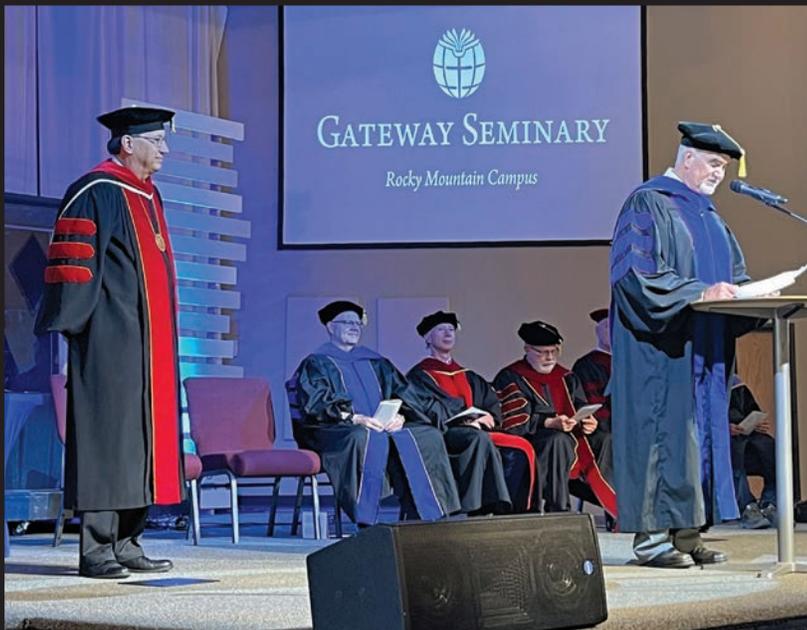
Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief receives award

Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief receives the Boulder County Sheriff's Commendation for the critical support of the Marshall Fire response and beyond. We are so thankful for the work of our Disaster Relief teams and we celebrate this well-deserved recognition!



Summer camps hit max capacity

Summer camps sold out for Jesus... literally! Two weeks of Summit Camp and one week of Peak Camp hit max capacity this summer! Now that's a reason to celebrate! More of our students and kids are hearing about Jesus, experiencing salvation, being disciplined, and then sent out into their communities to share the love of Christ!



34 students graduate from Gateway Seminary

Gateway Seminary Rocky Mountain Campus had 34 students walk across the stage at graduation and commissioned them to be on mission to expand God's kingdom wherever they go. We look forward to seeing what God will do through them. Congratulations, Gateway grads!





DISCIPLESHIP

A SMILE, BOX OF DONUTS, AND AN INVITE

BY DOUG HIXSON
Connection Church Longmont

A small group of mission team volunteers walk into a business with a dozen donuts and an invite to a new church plant. With smiles on their faces they give that gift to Mary, and invite her to come this Sunday to a service. Unbeknownst to them, God had been working on Mary's heart for some time. She comes to church that next Sunday. A few weeks later she gives her heart to Christ and was baptized. As the Gospel transforms her life, she begins a path of discipleship, and service that literally changes her whole persona.

All because of a mission team, a smile, a box of donuts,
and an invitation to come and hear about Jesus.

This summer, volunteers from all over the United States will make their way to Colorado. Arriving by planes, church buses and automobiles they will gather in cities across our state to help do what could not be done without their help. These volunteers will help do prayer walking, Vacation Bible School, sports camps, canvassing neighborhoods, community service projects, needed work to church buildings, and many other tasks. These jobs are done with the most important task being to love people in these cities and share the Gospel.

This all happens because of partnership. Sometimes that begins with friends and peers in ministry, other times it is because of strategic partnerships between Colorado Baptists and other state conventions or associations. Regardless of the reason, the incredible power of what can happen in a few strategic days of ministry, outreach, and evangelism is undeniable.

Church plants, revitalizations, and existing churches can all benefit from this influx of



manpower, prayer, financial support, and strategic outreach. One of the incredible blessings of being a part of the Southern Baptist Convention is that we are 47,000 churches cooperating together. We do that financially

through the Cooperative Program and missions' offerings, but it is more than just money.

This summer, Connection Church Longmont will host mission teams that for one week will be a part of reaching our city with the love of Jesus and the message of the Gospel. They will wear shirts with our name, serve our city, and show God's love to people. They will canvas neighborhoods that are filled with people far from God. Many of these people in our city are hurting, struggling, searching, floundering, and looking for answers. Without the help of strategic partners, it would literally take us years to even come close to engaging with the numbers of people we hope to connect with this summer.

As you think about the power of partnership, you may be asking what can you do or how can you get started?

1. PRAY

We often skip over this part, but it is crucial and needed to know how to proceed. Pray for God to show you the most important needs you and your church have. Pray for God to make the right connections to the right partners. The worst thing you can do is connect your church to the wrong project and the wrong team. Ask God for discernment to know where He is leading.

2. PLAN

What would you do if you had extra manpower, extra resources, and a strategic plan to do things in your community? I think identifying the needs of your community and developing a strategy and plan for how to meet them, is a vital step in planning outreach events. This will keep you from engaging with a mission team that wants to do something that will not connect with or meet the needs of your people and your city. Having a plan in place before you seek to connect with potential partners is key.

3. ASK FOR HELP

One of the biggest mistakes we often make is trying to do this alone. Don't be afraid to ask your friends, peers, and your ministry network for help. You might be surprised at how many are looking for opportunities to serve. Be clear about your plan and your strategy. Be honest about your needs, and see how the Lord provides.

God has blessed Colorado Baptists with a beautiful state and amazing people. Even so, there is also an incredible darkness. On our own, we could never bring enough light to Colorado. Gratefully, we are not alone in this battle, God is with us and as Ephesians 3:20 says, He can do more than we could ever ask or imagine. And, He has also blessed us with partners for the journey.

We are truly better together!



@cclongmontco

Kicking off our outreach this summer with some great park parties in our city! Very grateful for the different church partners that have been working hard to reach out to our city! We are praying for many Gospel convos with people this summer!



HELPING COLLEGE STUDENTS COME TO KNOW JESUS, LEARN TO LIVE LIKE HIM, AND CHANGE THE WORLD THE WAY HE DID

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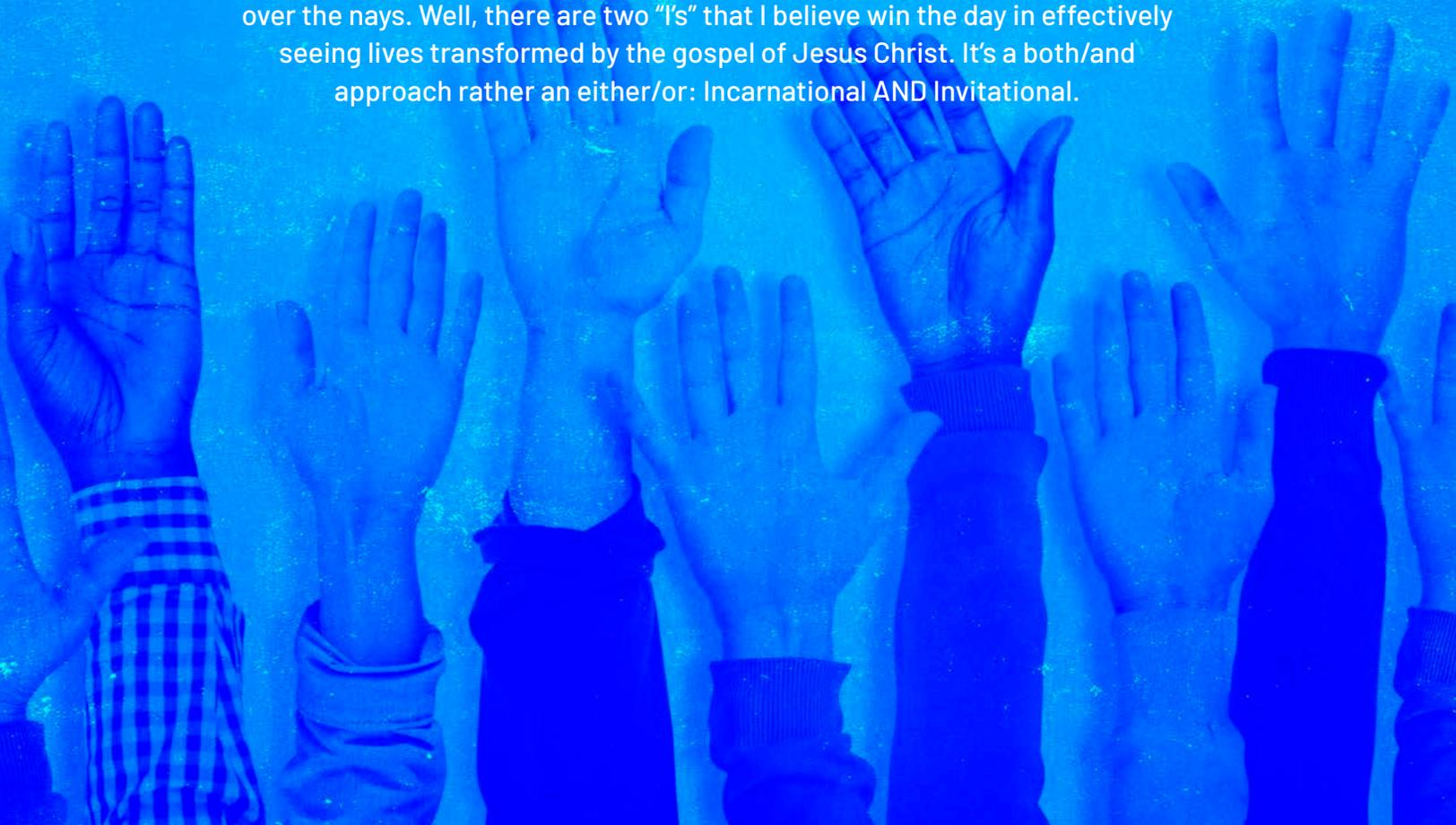
THE "I'S" HAVE IT

**BEING BOTH/AND,
INCARNATIONAL AND INVITATIONAL**

BY JOHN HOWETH

Regional Director, Longs Peak Baptist Association

As a pastor, I told the congregations I led that if I was to err, I would much rather err on not observing the Robert's Rules of Order than what the Bible had to say, specifically, the New Testament, on how to lead a church! Yet, I do know that when you say, "the 'I's' have it," that the eyes won out over the nays. Well, there are two "I's" that I believe win the day in effectively seeing lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a both/and approach rather an either/or: Incarnational AND Invitational.



As a pastor and church planter several years back, I recall a contrast in my thought process as I drove around my neighborhood. Early on, I would drive by my neighbors on the way to church on Sunday and contemplate the question, “How can I get these people to come to my church?” Years later, seeing some, but minimal impact, my perspective and therefore, my question changed. I started to ask, “How can I take my church and Jesus to my neighbors?”

What I did not realize was that the former question was a common question that the American Evangelical church has asked for years. The training that seminaries and seminars engrained in me led me to ask the invitational question. The latter question, I learned later, was more of an incarnational question. Missionaries have asked the incarnational question for centuries in other parts of the world and their answers drove the strategies they employed in reaching unreached people groups.

After over 16 years of coaching and consulting with church planters in Northern Colorado on the Front Range, I have seen repeatedly that the church plants that adopt a both/and strategy of being incarnational in their community and modeling for their people an invitational approach is a more sustainable approach to reaching people for Christ.

The incarnational approach is more missional. It is being Jesus in one’s neighborhood. We see this approach by Jesus in Luke 10. He sent the disciples two by two into villages and towns and they went into the homes of the people and stayed where welcomed. It is key that we know the names of our neighbors and are praying for them. People can argue with what you say to them about Jesus, but they cannot argue with what you pray for them as you ask for their heart and minds to hear and receive the Gospel. This is what John 1:14 speaks of the incarnation of Christ where “the Word became

flesh and dwelt among them.”

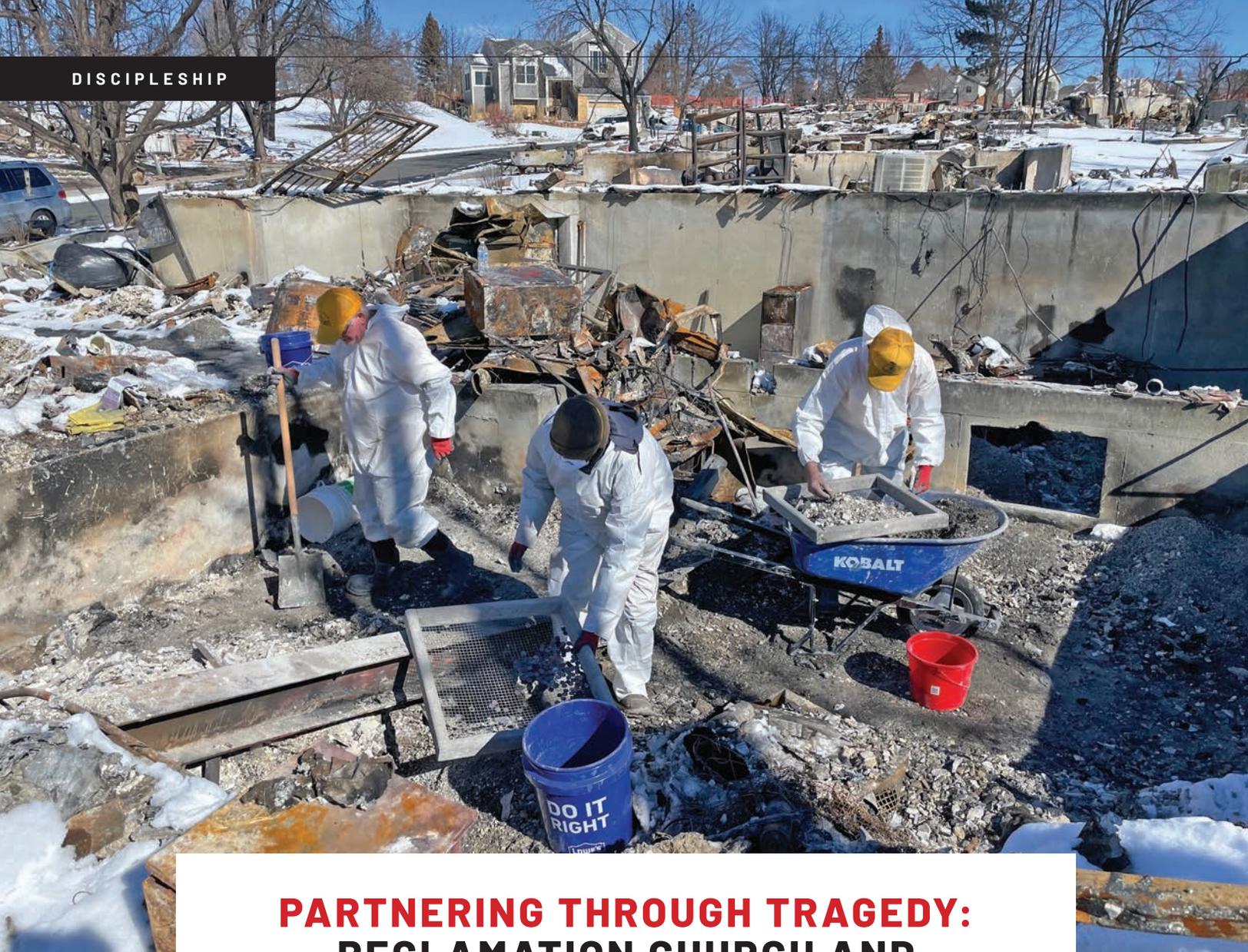
And we also see repeatedly that Jesus encouraged the invitational approach, the “come and see” strategy where the crowds came to hear Jesus’ teaching and stories. We all can remember the woman at the well where she encountered Jesus and then went to her town and declared, “Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?’ They left the town and made their way to him” (John 4:28-30). We know that Jesus could draw a crowd. We can do event evangelism that takes the church out into a park in the community where people can connect and see the church outside the “walls of the church building.”

The incarnational approach alone can be slower and foster deep relationships but take more time to see gospel impact. The invitational approach alone may draw a crowd at first but may not be sustainable without meaningful relationships being built earlier on.

In the “both/and” incarnational/invitational approach, one mantra would be “Invite them to Jesus before you invite them to church.” In essence, this affects a church ministry’s practice in that members learn not to invite people to church before they invite them to Jesus. This is dependent on Christ-followers living as Christ’s missionaries in their neighborhoods and workplaces.

I did not grow up in church. I came to Christ because my oldest brother, Dave Howeth, invited me into a relationship with Christ before he invited me to a church service. Incarnational and Invitational: it takes both tracks for the gospel train to carry the message of Jesus!

As we plant the gospel into communities in Colorado, may we do both/and: incarnationally being Christ as we invite them to experience Christ in Christian community.



PARTNERING THROUGH TRAGEDY: RECLAMATION CHURCH AND CBDR'S MARSHALL FIRE RESPONSE

BY RAGAN WASHINGTON
Lead Pastor, Reclamation Church

ON DECEMBER 30 OF LAST YEAR, my wife and I sat stunned and helpless as we watched our community of Boulder County burn from 1,000 miles away. Our church leaders scrambled to contact our people who were in the path of the fires. How could this be happening? The weather report was hopeful the 100+mph winds would die down, but God needed to intervene. The wind was driving the fires and burning homes at an alarming rate. We gathered with our family in prayer, and in

the evening, the winds changed, and turned toward the neighborhood 1 mile from Reclamation Church.

Gene and Betty Prince, a couple from Reclamation in their 90's, lived in that neighborhood and I was concerned they would not be able to get out of their home. Reports came in from our church that 3 families in our immediate congregation had most likely lost their homes that evening. Praise be to God, that none of them lost their lives, but their homes, their memories, nearly every earthly possession was wiped out in a matter of moments. The fire raged all night destroying 1,000 homes and structures along the way, almost choosing at random. Devastating.



There are so many stories from that day... neighbors driving down the street honking and shouting for people to leave their homes, nurses and hospital staff staying at Avista hospital with hoses watering hot spots from the ash raining down from the sky, firefighters, policemen and first responders alerting homeowners, leading people to safety. Then finally, midday December 31, the Lord sent snow that covered and extinguished the fire. It was a miracle! I spoke with several homeowners, and they all expressed gratitude that it happened during the day and not in the middle of the night. Devastation would not have been a strong enough word if the fire had started while people were sleeping.

Phone calls starting pouring in from all over the country. National and local Christian leaders praying and asking how Reclamation Church, its people and the community were doing. They asked how they could help. Local pastors gathered together to pray and discuss what to do. In the wake of the tragedy, we prayed, we waited on the Lord to speak and lead us.

After a few days, we connected with Dennis Belz from Colorado Disaster Relief. This was an opportunity to show our community how much we loved them and what extent we will go to serve and care for them. We agreed to house the teams at our church and waited for Boulder County to approve the help DR was offering to the community— sifting through the ashes to find any valuables that could be salvaged.

We had about 100 people from teams all over the nation pouring into our church to eat, sleep, and

serve. We loved hosting, praying, serving alongside them. They worked tirelessly for 3 months, showing up early, staying late, sharing the love of Christ, listening to the stories of the homeowners and praying over the families and for their future. They provided closure as they searched and sifted through what remained of their homes.

One homeowner gathered us all in for a group hug and prayer after we had finished sifting.

Another family wasn't hoping to find much and seemed a little reserved. As they were about to leave, I asked for the names of their children and the mother shared them and then began weeping. I told her I would be praying for them by name as we sifted.

I am so thankful the work DR did in our community. It was an honor to partner with them. The volunteers were incredible, and I am so glad the Lord allowed us to share the building that He gave us.

Reclamation was able to connect with 20 families that had asked for follow up from the church after DR ashed out their homes. Our staff prayed over every name, and I called each of them individually and was able to talk and pray with many of them. We had 5 families join us for a special lunch we hosted to bless and encourage them.

One DR team came back and shared that while they were serving in the town of Superior, a town counsel man said they had spent a lot of time chasing off churches. But after seeing the work that the church did, he admitted that maybe they were wrong and actually need a church in their community. We loved and served people so well that they just couldn't help but recognize the need for a church. What an encouraging testimony! Praise be to God and Lord make it so!!!

I know that DR, Reclamation Church, Connection Church (Longmont) and all the other partners we served alongside did not seek anything other than the glory of God expressed in being his hands and feet by sharing the Love of Christ to a world in desperate need of Jesus.

Reclamation's focus is helping people find their way back to Jesus. The church is more than a building, bigger than a denomination, greater than any earthly kingdom and when we work together and really act like the church, we truly are the radiant bride that points people to the overwhelming perfect love of Christ.

Do Disasters Ever End?

BY DENNIS BELZ
CBDR State Director

I often wonder if there is really any down time for Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief. Following our 62 straight days of feeding and recovery efforts from the Marshall Fire earlier this year, we have remained on standby for fires all around the state. I appreciate the partnership we had with Reclamation Church in Boulder as they allowed us to use their facilities for our base camp and had members come to assist us in the clean-up efforts during the Marshall Fire.

Our teams still remain on ALERT almost year-round, not only for what happens in Colorado, but also in other SBDR States. On May 10th we received a request from New Mexico SBDR for use of our CBDR Laundry Unit due to the massive fires happening in their state. Within 2 days, our volunteers delivered and set the unit up for the New Mexico SBDR volunteers to manage. This was used for cleaning clothes of evacuees within the shelter and also first responders.

Some of our Feeding Team participated in a Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) on May 3-4 in Pueblo. Our Rapid Response Feeding Unit was used to prepare meals for those that participated in this exercise. This was conducted by the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, American Red Cross and FEMA. As you may be aware CBDR/SBDR are one of the three major Disaster Organizations in the country. We partner with The American Red Cross and The Salvation Army in providing our ministry during a disaster. It is always great to participate in training to keep us all sharp and ready to deploy when called.

Due to some changes in other organizations, Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief is now the only major mass feeding unit in the state of Colorado. When a disaster occurs, we are the organization that begins providing meals immediately by deploying our Rapid Response Unit that can serve up to 500 meals. We then transition to our larger Semi unit that can prepare over 10K meals a day. Our new CBDR Feeding Task Force is actively evaluating our needs. One of the largest needs is for volunteers that can serve in different aspects of the process. Our goal is to have regional leaders across our state ready when a need arises. Please encourage your church members to consider volunteering.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL AREAS OF CBDR!

Now that the pandemic has subsided and mask mandates have been removed, we are able to schedule more training dates for 2022.



Due to some changes in other organizations, Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief is now the only major mass feeding unit in the state of Colorado.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

We need a central location between Longmont and Denver with garage parking to store and protect our CBDR vehicles, trailers and supplies when not on deployment. At the present time, when a disaster comes we have to go to several different locations to get the vehicles and supplies needed to deploy.

In addition to the above, many of our CBDR vehicles are old and in need of major repairs or replacement. During our last deployment, we experienced multiple vehicle and trailer breakdowns and are now working to replace our main recovery trailer to ensure we are prepared for next Ash-Out/Mud-Out deployment.

DID YOU KNOW THAT SOUTHERN BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF IS ONE OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS IN THE LIFE OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS?

It's time to make our members aware and be on Missions locally and across our country. Our world is changing daily and we need to be prepared for what comes next!

As your CBDR State Director, I appreciate the prayers and support that you and your churches continue to give to the Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief Ministry. This is your ministry as members of Colorado Baptist General Convention and we serve together in Bringing: Help, Hope and Healing to those in need!

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Is God doing something exciting in your church?
Do you have something worth celebrating?

Let us know!

We'd love to hear about it so we can celebrate together.



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CMO FUNDS HELP TO SERVE

BY CHRIS NASON
Souls Church

My church, Souls Church of Manitou Springs, CO, recently had a tremendous opportunity to serve our community through our local schools. The first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week in Colorado. We wanted to take this opportunity to serve our local schools in a unique way. The problem is that our church is actually quite small, possibly the smallest in the Colorado Convention, certainly the smallest in the Pikes Peak Association. So, if we were going to do anything we were going to need help to do it. Thankfully, our state convention has a place churches in need can turn to: the Colorado Missions Offering (CMO).

The idea was to provide breakfast pastries to each of the four schools that make up our district; two elementary schools, one middle and one high school. But one thing we did not want to do was compromise on quality. We wanted to use a local Dutch bakery and that meant two things: the food is amazing and high priced. We wanted the teachers to know they are appreciated, so we approached our local association with the idea. Our Regional Director Bill Lighty loved the idea and was able to allot us funds provided by the CMO. Each school employee was able to have two pastries each, including those with dietary needs. On May 4, I drove to the bakery to pick up the goods which were ready at 6:45am and then drove to the high school where a staff member and one of our church members were waiting to separate the food to go to the different schools. We had a challenging time not sampling the goods as we put them in their respective boxes.

This may seem simple and I may be providing more detail than you need, but these details matter. The result of this simple outreach, made possible by CMO funding, was the most feedback we have gotten from any outreach we have done in thirteen years. The following are comments that were emailed to me that morning from grateful teachers and staff-members:

... Oh my goodness, thank you Chris; and Souls Church! The pastries are absolutely delicious!! They brightened our rainy day, you made us feel so special! Much appreciated! God Bless

... Thank you, Pastor Nason and thank you to your congregation for thinking of the Manitou Staff. I know the pastries were much appreciated! Your kindness, thoughtfulness and sweet generosity will go a long way!

... I just wanted to shoot you an email to express my appreciation for all you and the church do to support our community and staff at Manitou Springs Elementary School. The pastries this morning were delicious and made this Wednesday morning just a bit brighter. This time of year can be difficult as an educator so I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness. I hope you have a wonderful rest of your week!

... Dear Chris and Church community, Thank you so much for the wonderful pastries delivered this morning. More importantly, thank you so much for acknowledging a heart for educators. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

••• Hi Chris and team,
On behalf of Manitou Springs Elementary School, thank you for the delightful treats today. The pastries were exceptional and an unexpected surprise. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

••• Good Morning! I wanted to drop a quick note of thanks for the delicious pastry buffet that was delivered to MSMS today—we are fortunate to have this blessing from Souls Church!

••• Thank you very much for your thoughtful and yummy gift of pastries this morning!! What a pleasant surprise! I particularly enjoyed the gluten-free pastry—it's so nice when folks remember those with dietary restrictions :-). May the blessing return to you many fold!

••• You have no idea how much you and your church community lifted spirits today. As a "gluten-free" person I so appreciate being able to enjoy treats along with my co-workers. Thank you for thinking of the Manitou school up The Pass.

As it happens I had a meeting for a board I sit on at Manitou High School that afternoon. This is where I received even more comments. My favorite was from a teacher who told me “Thanks for not getting us Safeway crap!” Detail and quality matters. When I took my seat for our meeting that day in a room with about twenty teachers and administrators, everyone applauded. They really appreciated our gesture. It was one of my greatest days as a pastor, not because of the applause but because I knew we had made a difference in the lives of our teachers. Those are the best ministry days ever. My friend Greg Bohn, the church member who helped deliver the goodies that day told me later: “It wasn't that hard for an outreach. We got up early and delivered the pastries.” Greg had handled the delivery to Ute Pass elementary and stated, “I had a hard time getting to the door because so many people wanted to thank me.”

This article has three purposes. First, I want to thank everyone who has given to the CMO. You made it possible for our little church to touch lives in our four local schools. Second, I want to encourage you to remember that there is funding available for your church to serve the community around it. It allows you to maybe plan a little bigger than you would have otherwise. Finally, please consider giving to the CMO. Although the offering is officially taken in the fall you can actually give any time of year. Your giving stays in state and helps local churches to fulfill their God-appointed mission. Thanks again for enabling Souls Church of Manitou Springs to do just that.



Chris Nation (left), pastor of Souls Church in Manitou Springs, CO, pictured in front of Manitou Springs High School with church member Greg Bohn.



TAKING THE GOSPEL

THE FINANCIAL
FUEL FOR
REACHING
EVERY PERSON
IN
EVERY TOWN,
EVERY CITY,
EVERY STATE,
AND
EVERY NATION



Church Members

Church members give back to God a percentage of their income. This is traditionally called a tithe and represents 10 percent of what God has provided.



Local Churches

Churches receive tithes and offerings from church members and commit a percentage of undesignated receipts for missions and ministries beyond the church walls.



State Missions and Ministries

Messengers from local congregations vote to retain a specific percentage for state missions and ministries and forward the balance to the SBC. State missions and ministries can include evangelism, church planting, children's homes, Christian higher education, compassion ministries, disaster relief, church health, age group ministries, and missions education.



Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries

The SBC compiles the gifts forwarded from state conventions for missions and ministries across the United States and around the world. Southern Baptist missions and ministries include North American and international missions, theological education, ethics and religious liberty, and general operating expenses.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

— MATTHEW 28:19

JOIN US FOR
COLORADO
BAPTISTS
2022 ANNUAL
MEETING



THIS WILL BE A
GREAT TIME OF

FELLOWSHIP

AS WE CELEBRATE WHAT
GOD IS DOING AMONG
COLORADO BAPTISTS.

OCTOBER 10-11, 2022 *COPPER MOUNTAIN*

Element 29 Hotel

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This will be a refreshing time to come together as a family of churches to fellowship, worship, pray, and discuss many important topics facing the denomination. This will be a great opportunity to be encouraged, renewed, and inspired as a result.



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HOTEL

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Reserve your hotel room by calling hotel before September 9th and reference "Colorado Baptist Convention22" for convention rate.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

Pastors Conference:

Leading a Movement of Prayer for Congregational Transformation and Community Impact
1:30pm-4:30pm

Womens Gathering

1:30pm-4:30pm

Annual Meeting

6:30pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Morning Session

9:00am-11:30am

Afternoon/Business Session

1:30pm-4:30pm

Evening Session

6:30pm – 8:30pm



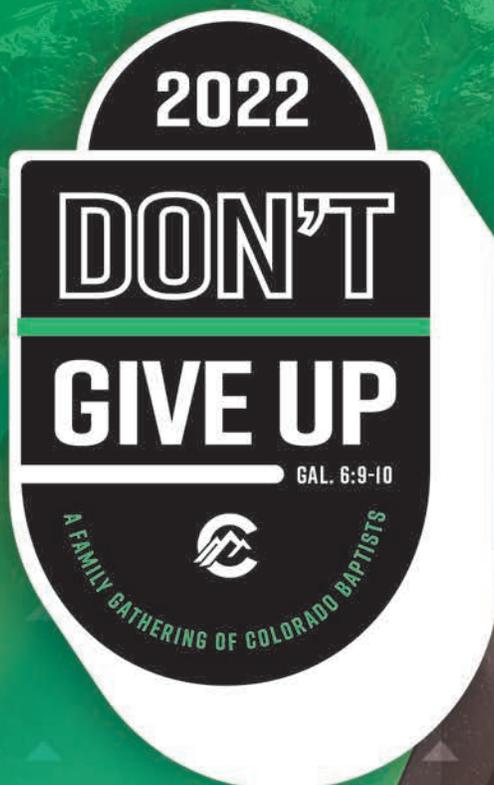


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