



April 14, 2020

Serving and equipping our churches to fulfill the Great Commission.

For Pastors

10 Thoughts from Pastors at This Point in the COVID-19 Crisis

By Chuck Lawless

No one knows how long this crisis will continue, but here are some reflections from pastors to this point:

1. **Many of them have been forced to learn new ways to preach a sermon and receive an offering.** Churches that weren't already showing their services electronically or providing giving options online were ill-prepared for this crisis- and their pastors have had to learn and apply quickly.
2. **They've been reminded of the value of intentional communication with church members.** That's because they and their leaders made a decision, after learning their church could not meet together, to contact all their church members and check on them. For some members, that's the first time a leader has called them - and they delight in the attention.
3. **They are seeing community more essential to the church than ever before.** Many church members understood fellowship as only food and fun, but their leaders and they are learning the value of spending time with other believers- even if it's only through a computer screen. Electronic fellowship is better than no fellowship.
4. **They're learning how to preach to a computer, camera, or an empty worship center.** They may be uncomfortable with it, but circumstances have forced them to do something different. They do it because they still want to get the gospel to their congregation and the nations.
5. **They're realizing that an Internet presence for a church can actually increase their audience.** I'm not arguing here that we should do only Internet church from this point on, but I am arguing on behalf of these pastors that online worship services can be a front door to your church.
6. **They are recognizing the importance of being nimble leaders shepherding a nimble church.** A few weeks ago, their churches could meet in groups under 100. Then 50. Then 10. Then it was a "Stay at Home" mandate. What the church did successfully last week may not be an option this week-so the church must adjust again. The less nimble they are, the harder it is for them to adjust.
7. **They're faithfully worrying about finances.** I say "faithfully" because they want to trust God, but their faith is sometimes like the father of the demonized child:

"I do believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24). They worry about paying salaries and building payments in a time of economic downfall.

8. **They're using their phone to call people.** It almost seems strange today. People are calling other people, and the other people are actually taking the call. Human voices are speaking to listening ears-and it's powerful. It's good. It's ministry.
9. **They're busier than they were before the crisis hit.** They're conducting Zoom staff meetings. And discipling people via the Internet. And practicing preaching to nobody. And contacting members (often, a lot of them). And checking on missionaries their church has sent. And considering how to reduce the budget. And praying for their staff and their members. And checking out new opportunities for the church to recover some financial loss through the stimulus package recently approved. And trying to be a good spouse and parent
10. **They long for our prayers for wisdom.** Even the most trained, most equipped pastors are facing things today they've likely never faced. Suddenly, everything's changed-and pastors know they need wisdom. Only God can give that.

If you're a pastor, what would you add? [Click here](#) to go to FaceBook Page *Great Commission Conversations* to add your thoughts or to read more.

Encouragement

Announcing Winners of Church Administrators Lunch!

SYBA Is encouraging church administrators in April!

Church staff and members nominated their church administrative professionals to receive special recognition - many were nominated and three winners were randomly drawn:

Amber Ward of Troutman Baptist Church
Robin McDonald of Beulah Baptist Church
Angela Clontz of New Hope Baptist Church Statesville

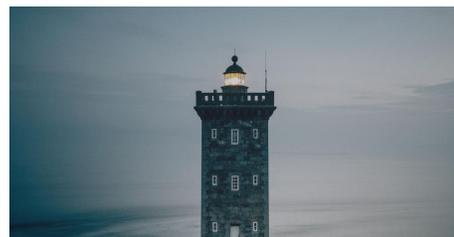
SYBA will be treating these winners to lunch in April to recognize them for their hard work! Thank you to all our administrators for all you do!!



5 Ways the COVID-19 Pandemic Points Us to the Gospel

1. It is good to be confronted with the delusion of human independence and self-sufficiency. It's only taken a single virus to shut us down...

[Read More](#)



Mobilize to share Christ's love

SYBA Updates

SYBA Food Pantry at 1431 Front Street

is currently making appointments for drive thru only for food assistance. Open Wednesdays 10 am until Noon. **Food & hygiene item donations also accepted during this time.**

SYBA Food Pantry on Amity Hill Road. Food is available by appointment.

SYBA Pastor Prayer Meetings will be held via Zoom for upcoming month. Please contact Noel Williamson if you would like to be included nwilliamson@sybaptist.org.

SYBA Clothes Closet is closed permanently.



SYBA food pantry at 1431 Front Street, Statesville is providing food assistance by drive thru appointment Wednesdays 10 am - Noon.

Reaching Others in an age of social distancing

April 15, 2020 @ 10 am

Times of crisis may foster fear, but they also present opportunities to love and serve others. But how can we share the hope we have in Christ amid social distancing and stay-at-home orders?



Join members of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Strategic Focus Team as they share ways you can reach and serve others and equip them to do the same in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Discover a host of resources that are available now and how you can use them to respond and meet immediate needs that exist in your community. Special emphasis will be given to developing a long-range plan for ongoing outreach and ministry.

More Information

Cris Alley * 919-830-9769 * calley@ncbaptist.org

Kailyn Eskridge * (800) 395-5102 ext. 5557 * keskridge@ncbaptist.org

[Click here](#) to register.

Covid- 19: WAYS TO SERVE

As we wash our hands, here are opportunities to wash others' feet
Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina

This moment has created the opportunity for us to serve others in many ways - from uplifting our seniors to making medical masks.

[Click here](#) for details on creative ideas!



Resources

Church Grants for Coronavirus Response

SYBA churches can register for a grant of up to \$1000 for their coronavirus response. Baptists on Mission is committing \$100,000 to these grants. Thank you for your church's generosity in the past and in the future which makes this possible. We want to help you serve your communities. [Click here](#) for more information.

Gospel Conversations Trainings on Facebook live!

As we all make adjustments to our daily lives, we're taking Gospel Conversations training online. Be equipped and encouraged to share the hope you have in Christ with others in these uncertain days.

Join us on Facebook Live from noon to 1 p.m. on the dates listed below. These sessions are designed to go deeper with some basic tools for gospel conversations. Bring questions, comments and a prayerful expectation that God is at work during these days. **Note: Live sessions are recorded for viewing later as well.**



[Click here to go to FaceBook page.](#)

March 31, 2020 - Recorded version available
3 Circles: A Framework for Understanding & Sharing God's Story

April 14, 2020
6 Words: A Framework for Understanding & Sharing Your Story

April 21, 2020
Sphere of Influence Map: A Pathway for Intercession and Engagement

April 28, 2020
Discovery Bible Study: Gospeling around the Word in Groups

#NoCampusLeft

The Collegiate Partnerships Team partners with local churches to impact every college and university campus in North Carolina so that there is "No Campus Left" without a reproducing gospel presence.



[Click here](#) for more info and creative ways to engage with your students during the

crisis.

Additional Resources

[BSCNC COVID-19 Resources](#)[NCDHHS Coronavirus Info](#)

[Baptists on Mission Resources](#)[CDC Resources for Faith-Based Leaders](#)

Partner in Prayer

Monthly Pastor Prayer Groups

Not Just for Senior Pastors - All Pastors Welcomed!

Please join other SYBA pastors in prayer!

Our prayer meetings will be held via Zoom.

Please contact Noel for meeting ID

nwilliamson@sybaptist.org.



April

15 SYBA Pastors' Prayer Group/8:00 a.m.

May

6 SYBA Pastors' Prayer Group/8:00 a.m.

13 SYBA Pastors' Prayer Group/8:00 a.m.

20 SYBA Pastors' Prayer Group/8:00 a.m.

You are SYBA!

Our Mission

Our Mission is to Serve & Equip Our Churches to Fulfill the Great Commission.

Our Vision

Our vision is to serve our South Yadkin Baptist Association churches so they fulfill the Great Commission. We aspire to design services and tools specific to their needs to equip them to serve Christ effectively, fulfill their calling to disciple and reach those unchurched in our community. We aspire to bring value to our churches and help them to be a do all that God has called of them for His kingdom.

Our Values

Our five values of the South Yadkin Baptist Association define the way we do ministry together as a network of churches. The drive behind our values is a solid faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to fulfill our calling to serve, equip, encourage and care for our churches, pastors and their staff.

Partner in Prayer

We encourage and pray for our pastors, churches and unchurched friends through planned events and systems to pray corporately, in small groups and through our prayer network.

Encourage Pastors

We appreciate our pastors and will give care, personal visits and consistent contact with associational leaders to affirm their ministry in the local church.

Do More Together

We engage our churches in relationship with each other to network on initiatives to build the body of Christ and proclaim the name of Christ in our community and wherever God leads.

Help Fulfill Ministry Needs

We help, provide and assist churches with resources to fulfill their mission and help them minister to needs.

Mobilize to Share Christ's Love

We mobilize churches to share the gospel with unchurched friends in our community, some of whom will accept Christ as Savior.

STAY CONNECTED:

