



The Central FOCUS

August 2020



**Put on your church calendars:
CBA 71st Annual Meeting
Held at Tabernacle Baptist
Saturday, October 10th
9:30 Registration
10 AM-Meeting**

The IBSA Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, November 4, at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Decatur. There will be no exhibit hall or ancillary meetings. Leaders of the IBSA Pastors' Conference plan to postpone their gathering which usually meets adjacent to the IBSA Annual Meeting, or to deliver its inspirational content online.

In This Issue:

Front Page-Charting Intentional Change

Page 2-Chad Williams & Charting Change

Page 3-Sr. Adult Revival, IBSA Webinars

Back page-ACP, Block Party Trailer & Coming events

Charting Intentional Change

Article by Ben Jones, IBSA's Leadership Development Director

Continued from July Focus

Phase Two: INVEST

This is the battle for time. While the first phase is more of an essential reaction, the Invest phase is a conscious decision by the leader to lead himself and the church to emerge out of the disruptive crisis as more focused and effective disciples of Jesus. It reflects Paul's words in Ephesians 5:15-16 to redeem the time because the days are evil.

In this phase the leadership focus must shift from thinking only about the day to day and the next Sunday, to investing serious thought and energy to shifting paradigms and creating new ministry strategies.

There is a second shift in thinking during the Invest phase. During the Adjust phase, the focus was wide, trying to communicate to and connect with as many church members as possible. Now comes the need to shift a large percentage of leadership time to investing in the 20% of your congregation who have shown they really want to grow in their faith and help others grow too.



Again, the leader should be working with a team of 3-5 to shift the Adjust strategy to accomplish the 4 C's with the church's entire reach (think attenders or whole congregation). But, it's also important to create a parallel strategy to accomplish the 4 C's through investment in the more

devoted and interested people.

A simple way to think about this is "what will we ask of/communicate to everyone" versus "what will we ask of/communicate to targeted ones?" As before, work through each of the 4 C's.

1. Community: How will we continue to offer and improve our worship services and online Bible communities? What will we create or adapt to help growing disciples make disciples of others?

2. Cause: How do we continue to keep our whole congregation thinking about the mission of Jesus and looking for ways to live it out in the present environment? How do we more heavily invest in growing leaders and church members to deepen their understanding of and commitment to the mission of Jesus and the mission of our church?

(Continued on page 2)

CBA Loses Partnership Coordinator-Chad Williams

The Central Baptist Association lost its Partnership Coordinator, Chad Williams on July 13th, 2020, when he was hiking in Alaska with his wife, Jennifer, and friends, and suffered a massive heart attack and died. Chad would have turned 42 on his birthday the following Monday. Instead he celebrated that day in the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Chad leaves behind his wife of 13 years, Jennifer, and three sons, Payton, Nate and Logan and a foster daughter. Our sympathy to his immediate family and his extended family in this sudden loss. Chad was the Pastor of Rochester Baptist Church and our sympathy goes out to the church members and staff there also.

Pastor Chad's funeral was held in Kingsport, Tennessee on Monday, July 20th. The Memorial service is available on the funeral home's Youtube page: Hamlett-Dobson Funeral Home, Kingsport, TN. A Celebration of Life Service will take place at Rochester Baptist Church in the coming days. You can check on RochesterFirstBaptist.org to get information about the service.

A memorial fund has been set up for Jennifer and family in their time of need. If you'd like to donate to this, a check can be made out to: **Edward Jones** and on the memo line write Chad Williams. Please mail your check to: **Edward Jones, 1070 W. South Side Dr., Decatur, IL 62521.**



(Intentional Change cont. from front page)

3. Communication: How will we reduce the frequency of communication from the senior pastor and supplement with strategic communication (calls, video devotionals or teaching, blogs) from other key leaders in the church, to build and widen the level of disciple-making and care?

4. Cash: How can we strengthen participation in recurring online giving, resulting in stabilized giving patterns? How are we creating financial margins to fund ongoing needs that have arisen in our congregation? How are we reimagining budget items to create a plan if giving levels are reduced for months?

The Invest stage might run 4-6 weeks. This is an opportunity to innovate, try new things, and invest in people in new ways.

Phase three: ENGAGE

This is the last phase in the crisis planning process. It's the battle for the future.

This is the opportunity to see how God might have us reshape the strategy and focus of our ministry. This is where we lead toward a vision.

As leaders, we need to be asking, "How should the church be different in six months to a year?" The team needs to ask questions such as:

- * What lessons might we learn from a less program-driven, more simplified ministry?
- * What are some things we need to create to do new ministry in new ways?
- * How have we learned to be more focused on people development than program management?
- * How have we discovered more effective ways to engage people in the mission of God?
- * What have we discovered about our budget or financial security that must change for us to be viable in the future?

As in the other two phases, the key here is planning and strategy and having weekly action plans for each of the 4 C's. What has been learned through the Adjust and Invest phases? How will we convert these short-term lessons into long-range weekly actions in Community, Cause, Communication, and Cash, then strategize, chart, and act upon them to lead the church to thrive in the "new normal"?

While the change that is upon us was not one we chose, it's one through which every pastor has been chosen by God to lead. To do this will take prayer, wisdom, and dependence on the Holy Spirit, but it will also take planning, strategy, innovation, and risk.

Richard Blackaby wrote, "History has repeatedly demonstrated that society's worst mobilizes leaders to make their greatest contributions." Will we be prepared and have a plan to lead our churches out of these difficult days and into a new future, reaching people with the life changing hope of Jesus?



EDGE-Making Sharper Leaders

IBSA online courses

IBSA is partnering with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to bring biblical training courses specifically to women leaders. They're offering two EDGE/SBTS Partnership courses:

How to Teach the Bible with Dr. Katie McCoy August 18-September 22

This course provides practical knowledge, skills, and strategies for effectively studying and teaching the Bible with confidence in whatever setting a woman may be called to serve.

Course Fee: \$50

Overview of Old Testament 1 with Professor Karen Yarnell

October 6-November 10

An introductory overview of the Old Testament with attention to the authorship, audience, purpose and outstanding doctrines covering Genesis to Esther of the Old Testament.

Course Fee: \$50

Arthur Prayer Walk

July 2nd, Arthur Southern Baptist Church sponsored a Prayer Walk in Arthur. They had 35 community members show up at the Arthur grade school parking lot and went out in small groups praying over the entire town.

The walk started at 7 PM and went until 8:30 where they met at Penn Station for refreshments and informal discussion on the evening's event and fellowship.

The discreet & quiet time of prayer was set aside to pray specifically for individuals, families, businesses, schools, public servants, churches, nursing home and assisted living staff and residents, home-bound citizens, and all who make up their community.

WANTED

REVIVAL

Western Roundup

**August 11th, 2020
10:00 AM**

At Forsyth Baptist Church

Music & Messages
Food & Fun

GRUB: \$5 each
Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Slaw
Fruit Jello Salad

Round up all your friends and come to get refreshed and revived.

Wear your Western best and come with your boots on. Best western dressed man, and woman, gets a prize-Gift card to Texas Roadhouse.

Sign up at cbadecatur.com



IBSA: Church Helps Webinars



Here are the webinars IBSA has provided so far in their **Church Helps: Ministry Innovation for Uncertain Times** series.

Each webinar gives you a choice of: Webinar/ Resources. Go to <https://www.ibsa.org/church-helps-webinar-library->

Ministry Ideas as School Begins – July 23, 2020-I watched this one today and I think it

was very helpful.-CG

Sermon Ideas and Tips as You Prepare for Fall – July 16, 2020

Ministering to Senior Adults Effectively – July 9, 2020

How to Live Stream Well with Less Than \$1,000 – July 2, 2020

Ways to Reach Young Families This Summer – June 25, 2020

Starting New Groups In-Person and Online – June 18, 2020

Reopening Your Kids and Preschool Ministries – June 11, 2020

What's Working/Not Working with Reopening – June 4, 2020

[Webinars continue every Thursday at 11 a.m. Central until further notice.](https://www.ibsa.org/church-helps-webinar-library-)



Annual Church Profiles—Pastors and Clerks

The ACPs were mailed out the first week of July and are due back by August 23rd.

Please read all the instructions carefully before filling out the forms. ***There is a new instruction video on cbadecatur.com.***

The first church clerk with their ACP returned completed before the deadline will receive a gift card to be presented at the Oct. 10th Annual Meeting at Tabernacle. So get yours completed and returned before the deadline to be in the running for the gift card. If you complete it online, please send me an email to that affect so I can write down when it was turned in.

Our Sympathy

Jack Cluney, former pastor at Forsyth Baptist church passed away July 5th, 2020.

I couldn't find any additional information about the service or family.

Churches:

Argenta
Arthur
Atwood
Calvary
Emmanuel
Fellowship
Findlay
Forsyth
Galilee
Hammond
Heyworth
Lincoln
Lovington
Mt. Zion
Shiloh
Sullivan
Summit Avenue
Tabernacle
Tri-Valley

Mission Statement

Central Baptist Association exists to foster relationships among churches in order to assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission.

CBA Vision is to see churches collaborating together to build the Kingdom of God.

Block Party Trailer



Plan a Block Party



We're taking reservations for using the Block Trailer.

Call the CBA office at (217) 330-7593, or visit our website www.cbadecatur.com, to get a usage form to fill out and return with your date requested and the guidelines for using the trailer.

LOOK: We now have a blow-up movie screen and some additional games in the trailer.

It's on a first come basis, so get your dates in early.

Coming Events

August

11th at 10 AM-Sr. Adult Western Roundup Revival at Forsyth
23rd-ACPs due into the CBA office

October

10th at 9:30 AM-71st Annual Meeting at Tabernacle

Central Baptist Association

(217) 330-7593

Email: office@cbadecatur.com

650 N. Wyckles Rd.

Decatur, IL 62522

Website: www.cbadecatur.com