

CCSBA Focus on Church Revitalization

Does your church need revitalization? A few weeks ago we had Gary Mathes from the Missouri Baptist Convention with us for a workshop on this topic. Gary said that there are currently 1907 churches which are part of the MBC. He said that at least 48% of those churches average below 50 people in attendance on Sunday morning. That number is much higher in our association, with 71% - 27 of 38 churches with 50 or fewer in Sunday services. This may be disturbing to many, but what is even more disturbing is the estimate by the MBC that roughly 75% of the population within our association are lost – unsaved.

Those tasked with helping churches revitalize believe there are six main reasons for churches becoming ineffective and obsolete in their communities. **1. They lack spiritual vitality.** They are spiritually dead, like the church of Sardis. They have lost the awe of God, and with it an obedience to His word. **2. They lack a sense of mission.** They have lost their first love, like the church of Ephesus. **3. They have ceased to be part of the community.** Their focus has turned inward rather than outward toward their neighbors. **4. They have an inefficient organizational structure.** There are too many cooks in the kitchen; too many chiefs in the tribe. **5. They have a negative attitude toward change.** They’ve become comfortable with maintaining the status quo like the church in Laodicea. **6. There is unresolved conflict within the church.** It could be manipulation of the truth or of one’s position which leads to them being like the church in Pergamos.

All of these things lead to a church having “mission drift” and a lack of vision. Please note that just because a church is small in size does not mean that it isn’t healthy. Many churches running under 50 or under 100 are healthy and fruitful for His kingdom. But, many in that range would say they need revitalization.

On the back page you’ll read about the steps necessary to begin the process of revitalization.

CCSBA CHURCH PRAYER FOCUS

Pleasant Valley



Roy Davis, Pastor

Fairview



Ralph Mayes, Pastor

Calvary Community



Shelvie Stephens, Pastor

Center Hill



PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES

Northside Bernie
Center Hill
Bloomfield FBC

Harviell FBC
New Hope
Lone Hill

“Revitalization transformation is difficult—if it weren’t you would already be doing it.”

Tom Cheney

CCSBA Office Hours

8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday

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Ministry Team

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Sandy Arnold, Office Assistant

Daniel Bray, BSU Director

2019 Disaster Relief Training

March 1-2 Macon, MO

April 5-6 Diamond, MO

September 13-14 Dexter, MO

October 4-5 Warsaw, MO

Contact Bob Stark at 573-300-3192

www.mobaptist.org/dr disasterrelief@mobaptist.org

CCSBA Focus on BSU

It's the end of another semester at the BSU. That means I have to say goodbye to some students who are moving on to new opportunities, reflect on the work done, and get ready for January. God has given Amanda and I many opportunities this semester to counsel students individually. We have seen their struggles and their triumphs as these students have learned to lean on God and friends. God has blessed the BSU with a genuine community atmosphere this year. Students have been spending a lot of their time at the BSU and getting together outside of regular BSU events. Please be praying that the community momentum continues into the Spring Semester. Also be praying for us as we take 12 students to CROSS conference in Louisville, KY, Jan. 2-5.

Calendar for December & January

**Dec. 1 Pastor/Spouse/Staff Christmas Banquet
PBFBC**

Dec. 11 Executive Board Meeting 7PM at the BSU

December 24-25 CCSBA Offices Closed

January Call to Prayer Month

January 1 CCSBA Offices Closed

January 20 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

CCSBA Financial Status

Sept. 01, 2018 – Sept. 30, 2019

Budget to date

\$ 28,615.40

Contributions received

\$ 37,705.80

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 DONNY & LINDA EMMONS
- 3 KEITH & FRED A BOYER
- 3 DON MAYO
- 6 DENNIS & BARBARA WARD
- 8 JIM PAGE
- 18 JAMES CAPPS
- 19 STEPHEN PATTERSON
- 20 JIM & CAROLYN CORNMAN
- 30 LAURA BOX
- 31 ROGER MAYO

Church Revitalization, cont.

Does your church need revitalization? If so, here are steps to take which can help you get there.

1. **PRAY** – Draw upon the strength of the Lord. Failure to pray 1st is the biggest mistake one can make. Pray for a vision from God, change to happen, wisdom, courage, strength, unity, revival, and for workers to engage the lost.
2. Put together a **Refocus** Team to help evaluate and guide the church in revitalization.
3. **Probe** the condition of the church to determine its spiritual condition, maturity, focus, and willingness for change.
4. **Picture and envision** the future of the church without changing, as well as with changing.
5. **Preach** for change!
6. **Plan** strategically and missionally for where God is leading you.
7. **Pay** the price. Having counted the cost, proceed toward goals and objectives for increased effectiveness.
8. **Proceed** with intentionality.
9. **Celebrate** as you see God move and the church become all He desires.

The MBC has help and resources for this process.

<https://mobaptist.org/church-revitalization/>

“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Jesus, Luke 18:27