

CCSBA Focus on Church Growth

One of the things we know so well is that church growth is not going to happen if there is no growth spiritually among the church membership. The faith of the church family is directly tied to the health of the church. And to go even further, the health of the church has a direct effect on the condition of our communities and our nation.

Thom Rainer, in his book **I Am A Church Member**, points out these things along with several ways church members directly affect, positively and negatively, their church. It all starts with God’s perspective on the church. Knowing God’s perspective will help church members not fall into Satan’s trap of expecting church membership to provide privileges and perks like membership to a country club. Rainer says, “God did not give us local churches to become country clubs...He placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to reach, to give, and, in some cases, to die for the sake of the gospel.”

Biblical church membership is what Paul wrote about to the Corinthians. He said, “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.” The church is the body of Christ with many members whom God has set in place and appointed for His pleasure and the profit of all. 1 Cor. 12:7, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22

Because of this truth, each church member must then strive to be as healthy and functioning as possible. The healthy church member will operate completely out of love. 1 Cor. 13, the Love Chapter, isn’t aimed simply at individuals, but at the body of Christ. Paul wanted the whole church to know that the greatest gift given to them is LOVE. It is that love which enables the church to be and experience all God desires.

By love the healthy member seeks to give, serve, minister to, evangelize, and bless others. By love they seek unity in the body and are unifiers for Christ’s glory. By love they have forgiving hearts and will not gossip, or promote dissension. By love they will seek to serve, give, and sacrifice for others – finding the greatest joy in putting others first while they humbly become last. By love they find and exhibit the mind of Christ. (Phil. 2:5-11)

By love the healthy church member will also pray intentionally for their pastor, leaders, and others. They become prayer warriors for the leader, his family, his reputation, his ministry, his protection, his wisdom, and his physical and mental health.

CCSBA CHURCH PRAYER FOCUS

Memorial



Dennis Ward, Pastor

First Liberty



Nathan Kirkley, Pastor

Doniphan FBC



Monty Flanigan, Pastor

Third Baptist



James Capps, Pastor

PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES

Northside Bernie

Harviell FBC

Center Hill

New Hope

Emmanuel

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 STEVE MAYO
- 18 SHERRY COOPER
- 27 AMANDA SPAIN

Calendar for October & November
Cooperative Program Emphasis Month
October 1 CCSBA Annual Meeting Memorial
Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff 3pm
Oct. 4 John Draper Luncheon
Oct. 11 Ari Hauben at Memorial 10:00 AM
Oct. 12-13 Disaster Relief Training Wildwood, MO
Oct. 22-23 MBC Annual Meeting Jefferson City
Nov. 4 Disaster Relief Appreciation Day
Nov. 3 Mission Kids at Temple
Nov. 9-10 Revitalization Training
Nov. 14-18 Mission Trip to Milwaukee

CCSBA Office Hours
 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday –Thursday
 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday

Web: www.ccsba.com
 Facebook: @CaneCreekStoddardBaptistAssociation
 Address: 2090 Three Rivers Blvd.
 Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
 Phone: 573-686-1115 Fax: 573-686-1116

Ministry Team
 Jim Gentry, DOM (ph: 870-219-2355)
 Sandy Arnold, Office Assistant
 Daniel Bray, BSU Director

Disaster Relief Training

Oct. 12-13

Contact Bob Stark at 573-300-3192

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

CCSBA Financial Status

Sept. '18 – Aug. '19

Budget need	Contributions received
\$ 9,538.48	\$ 8,712.34

Missions Lunch
Thursday – Oct 4
11:00 AM @ BSU
John Draper, NAMB

Focus on Church Growth, cont.

The healthy church member knows that membership is a gift which comes along with salvation and sanctification – and carries a responsibility for involvement and service. They treasure this gift because they know the price it cost was the blood of Jesus, and that as well motivates them to service for His glory alone. With this understanding they lovingly encourage their family to be committed to the church as an act of service to the Lord. They model Christ-like behavior before their family; lead them to study the Scripture, lead them to pray for the church and their community, and lead them in outreach to the lost in their area.

The question isn't, "Are you a church member?" The question is, "What kind of church member are you?" When you began to see membership in the church – the body of Christ – as Jesus led Paul to see it – your church will begin to grow a lot healthier and stronger.

Ari Hauben @
Memorial Baptist
Oct.11 – 11 AM
Seeing Christ in
the Jewish Feasts

CCSBA Focus on BSU

Darrick Smith in a recent blog post to Collegiate Collective did a great job defining one of my favorite things about college ministry. At a time when these students feel untethered from their past, they are in need of community that supports them through all the pressure of this new stage in their life.

"College ministries have something other organizations on campus don't—the ability to create gospel-centered community—a place where believers can come together and find strength, love, hope, accountability, and correction. A place where shame can be swallowed up by the grace that others extend. A place where needs are met. A place where loneliness can be quenched because you have a brother or sister by your side. A place where the people of God can thrive as they seek to follow Jesus and spur others on towards maturity in Christ (Colossians 1:28). A place to belong."

Pray that gospel-centered community will continue to be the greatest draw of our Baptist Student Union. "So, in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:5 NIV)