



2019 FBCAL SUMMIT

Florida Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders

These notes were taken in progress so please forgive any typos, exclusions, etc. Hope they help, my friends! — Mark Gonzales

Abiding to Resolve our Greatest Needs

Rick Wheeler

- [] I Cor. 3:5 "... planting... watering... God making it grow..."
- [] Isn't nice we are not the same? How can we collaborate?
- [] Break-Out groups: Top challenges? Ways to Serve each other? →

Abiding & Connecting w/Next Gen Leaders

Tim O'Carroll

- [] Busy; Pastor & AMS; Building home; Foster care/adopting
- [] Titus 1:4, 2:1 "My true son... our work... wholesome teaching..."
- 2:1 "old... young..." v. 3-4 "women..."
- [] Every Titus needs a Paul. We need to be both. Be an example.
- [] Who is your Titus? Ask about his family first, then ministry.
- [] *"I don't understand, I probably wouldn't do it that way, but I praise God for what He's doing through you and I support it!"*
- [] Shake hands with a \$20 bill: *"Take you wife out to dinner..."*
- [] "Be real, authentic, and supportive!"
- [] Don't settle for comfortable, be passionate to reach the lost!
- [] You don't have to understand the what to support the why.
- [] Get over the skinny jeans thing... your preferences... help us.
- [] *"We will do anything, short of sin, to reach people for Christ."*
- [] Don't hang out in the past— think ahead about the future.
- [] Create a culture of intern opportunities
- [] Mentoring 101. John Maxwell
- [] Let's pray our Titus will outshine us!

Challenges

- [] Geog.; Distance
- [] Apathy; No vision
- [] Walls; Disunity; Busyness; Time
- [] Communication
- [] Funding; Gifts
- [] Participation; Competition
- [] Bi-vocational pastors
- [] Strategic vision
- [] Lone rangers; Silos
- [] Motivate to ...
- [] Ministry vs. Admin.
- [] Connect: church staffs
- [] Large church involv.
- [] Hurting pastors
- [] Lack of Leadership
- [] Traditions; Auto pilot
- [] Transition; Inter. train
- [] Diverse Community
- [] Unhealthy pastors & churches
- [] Interim training
- [] Church planting
- [] Identity; Diversity
- [] Perceived value
- [] Relevant resources
- [] Train/assess church plants
- [] Revit./Replanting
- [] Cultural diversity

Serve

- [] Flexibility
- [] Technology; Zoom
- [] Raise value of Assoc.
- [] Focus
- [] Celebrating wins; Contacts
- [] Prayer
- [] Worship
- [] Networking
- [] Connecting with AMS's ; personal
- [] Crossover Assoc. meetings
- [] Stay present with church staff
- [] Friendships with lone rangers/wolf
- [] Help with resourcing
- [] Assoc. partnerships
- [] Pooling funds; Finding funds
- [] Regional collaboration
- [] Best practices
- [] Event collaboration
- [] Emotionally support of AMS's
- [] Prayer collaboration
- [] Monthly network of AMS's
- [] Coaching labs
- [] Confess common struggles
- [] Resource collective; Digital, etc.
- [] Prayer initiative
- [] God dreams; Vision engineer
- [] Mutual accountability



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Abiding Life leads to Reconciliation

Lewis Miller (hand-out provided)

- [] "Bringing our lives... under the Lordship of Jesus Christ..."
- [] Requires submission 3 ways: (James 4:7; Eph. 5:21; Romans 13:1-8)
 1. To God
 2. Others
 3. Authority (requires humility; responsibility)
- [] 3 Phases of Reconciliation
 1. CONFESSION - "saying the same words"

Address everyone involved	Avoid "if, but, maybe"
Admit specifically	Acknowledge the hurt
Accept the consequences	Alter your behavior
	Ask for forgiveness
 2. FORGIVENESS (Matt. 18:23-30)
 - [] Is always a gift; forgiving the debt
 - [] Is a response of the heart (reveals our heart with God)
 - [] Is always linked to love (Luke 7:36-48)
 - [] Frees the sinner from sin and the church from legalism
 - [] Is the power of light over darkness
 3. DISCIPLINE & RESTITUTION (Matt. 18:23-30)
 - [] God wants to do more than forgive us, He wants to change us.
 - [] All confession and forgiveness is about character.
 - [] Reconciliation = confronting a history; redeeming habits;
 - Exercising discipline and making restitution.
 - [] Discipline is the pathway to growth and maturity; calls sinners to a changed life, takes time, and always has a goal of restoration.
 - [] 4 Principles of Restitution:
 1. Be Gentle
 2. Be Relational
 3. Be Beneficial
 4. Be Purposeful
 - [] Restoration is taking away everything that is not CHRIST!

Abiding & Sharing through Technology

Mark McDonald

- [] New Brunswick crank phones to rotary phones . . .
- [] Are you trying to share the gospel on a crank phone?
- [] If we don't adjust, we are going to lose the next generation
- [] If you lose sight of your community, your church declines (80%)
- [] Abide: To put up with; endure; wait for; pay the price
- [] Technology can SIMPLIFY or COMPLICATE; Resist or Change?
- [] FLbaptist.org/witness online has twice as many stories
- [] stories@flbaptist.org ; Meet people where they are. ONLINE!
- [] Google Searching is the new library. . . A TON of content
- [] But also a TON OF NOISE; Half-listening is a HUGE problem
- [] Church too. The more we talk, the less they listen.
- [] Get rid of all of the INTERNAL LANGUAGE
- [] ELIMINATE NOISE—WORDINESS-- REDUNANCY
- [] Attention spans low & getting lower (Microsoft study—8 secs.!)
 - [] Know you audiences and ask: What do they need? EDIT !!!!
- [] People read first 3 words in a headline
- [] Website landing page: 10 secs. per page/50 words; 3 pages
- [] Story pictures; Use short videos—2 minutes or less
- [] WEBSITE PARADIGM; No one has time to read Print Stuff
- [] WEB HUB (Print; Email; Social Media) vs. PRINT HUB
- [] Scroll is best vs Click; East to SCAN!!! ; URL must be simple
- [] Google optimization is key; People google search first



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Abiding In Him—What it Means

Jim Breeden (St. Louis)

[] We have the best and worst job on the planet!

1. Interims, planting, revitalizing, projects, people !!!
2. No authority, crises, no instant gratification, other people!

How do you stay fresh? Daily grind? Healthy attitude w/ people?

[] John 15:1-8 “True vine... Fruitful... Abide... Nothing... Ask... Done”

[] Abide = stay, remain, dwell, connection/relationship

[] Value of Assoc. is from AMS abiding in Christ, not from SBC, FBC ...

[] But we can fall prey to busywork and business as usual

What is going on with Jesus and us, and us with Him?

1. Abide through His Word (v. 7). Don't just read it, let it read you.
Sin? Promise? Attitude? Commandment? Example?
Asking God those questions and listening for His answers.
2. Abide through His Work (Luke 19:10) Seek & save the lost
Not just equipping others to do the work, but doing work too!
The more we share work together, we bond together.
Are you going across the Streets? States? Seas? w/ gospel?
3. Abide through His Worship (Psalm 1)
What does a branch focus on every day? Leaves? Fruit?
No. We should focus the other way, on the Vine!
I John 4:13 “Given us His Spirit...” Focus here: Abiding Worship!
Going to churches looking for fruit, or for the Vine?

Why so important to Abide?

1. Only way to be fruitful
2. If not, we wither
3. Triggers things from above
4. That God may be glorified

Abiding and Leadership

Bob Baumgardner (hand-out provided)

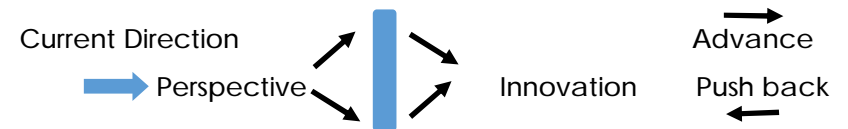
[] John 17:4 “I've completed the work (the team)...”

[] Acts 2:41-47 “3000... devoted in apostle's teaching... daily...”

What Abiding Leaders Do (Acts 6:1-7) The 12 brought changes:

[] Self Reinvention [] Systemic Reinvention [] Structural Reinvent

The point wasn't feeding the widows. It was making disciples!



[] Leading to change or vote YES, doesn't mean they will later!

[] Next is Leading through TRANSITION.

[] A short fuse or tender button signals you are not abiding.

[] Do you have the heart to learn again, or learn more?

[] Better a good surgeon with bad tools, than a bad surgeon with good tools.

[] Tugboats moving aircraft carrier don't get a running start. They come up slowly and gently push. We are tugboats.

(See Bob's hand-out for much more)



Abiding/Replanting/Revitalizing

Jim Breeden * jbreeden@stlbaptist.org

- Acts 15 "... and let's see how they are doing..."
- This is what Paul & Barnabas was doing. So should we.
- Start with Word of God; Biblical foundations
- Assoc.= "Churches Connected for the Commission (3 C's)
- How? Demographically, Doctrinally, Denominationally (3 D's)
- What? Start, Strengthen, Send Churches (street, state, sea) (3 S's)
- Used to focus on pastors, then churches, now the community!!

Revitalization or Replanting? Both needed. Which one, when?

Revitalization is deconstruction of the bad, construction of new at the same time by the same people. (70-90% are declining)

Replanting is deconstruction first, then construction by different people. It is highly emotional and difficult. Four Stages . . .

1. Assessment and Shepherding (Deep Relational Equity) (3 month)

- Two things: Practical help and Deep love
 - Shepherd them relationally and spiritually
 - Provide assurance they are not alone; there to the end
 - Just like walking with someone in their last days
- (Senior adults are as important as twenty year olds)
- Help bring clarity to their situation and issues

Take on the role of a "doctor" - Ask a lot of questions . . .

1. Most church families commuting to church? Bad.
2. Members 20 years older than those in community? Bad.
3. No relevant programs/ministries to community? Bad.
4. Lack of young families and preschoolers? Bad.
5. Facilities still in the nineties or older? Bad.
6. String of short terms pastors? Bad.
7. More budget spent on members vs. mission? Bad.
8. Worship & SS attendance declining 5 yrs.? Bad.
9. Church ethnicity different than community? Bad.
10. Giving not keeping up with fixed expenses? Bad.

2. Replanting Plan & Process (3-12 months)

- Create a custom plan for each church for assessing the church
- For sharing & applying Gods Word
- For communicating to the whole church
- For finding solutions/partnerships; For dealing w/arriers/opposition
- For implementing the new plan
 1. Meet with lead pastors/elders; 2. Meet with staff & lay leaders
 3. Form leadership team; 4. Vote of the church; 5. Listening session
 6. Specific recommendations (repeat first 2 steps); 7. Presentations
 8. Vote on Recommendation; 9. New Replant team activated;
 10. Develop and Implement plan (2 years; We deal with the blood and guts of the process so the new pastor won't have to)
 11. Annual evaluation

3. Solutions and Partnerships (1 to 5 years)

- Must be able to move from problems to solutions
- Offer quality solutions and options for replanting
- Discovering and authenticating church partnerships
- Churches replant/revitalize churches
- Facilitate and draft partnership agreements (see stlbaptist.com)

4. Stewardship and Ownership

- Stewardship of past and present SBC assets (Unhealthy ownership)
- Objectivity is needed to properly deal with these issues
- Neither greed nor unhealthy ownership should be accepted
- Property ownership and management is big issue (Assoc. step in as temporary owners; Quit deed back when it is healthy)
- Develop healthy philosophy and plan with properties

KEY RESOURCES: 1. Assoc. Revit/Replant team; 2. NAMB/SLMBA Replant Guide; 3. Books: Hallock: Replant Roadmap and others; Clifton: Reclaiming Glory; McKinley: Church Planting is for Wimps; 4. Replanter Development and Assessment Process (Internships)



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Florida Baptist Convention updates

Tommy Green

- [] We are not quite working together well yet.
- [] 72%, 2100 churches sent in ACP's; Culture of Generosity is strong
- [] Florida the difference to send IMB missionaries, not recall them
- [] Florida 51/49% ; Ohio 50/50% ; Texas 55/45%

FBC Associational Revitalization Process (hand-out)

- Phase 1: Identify & Assess Leader & Assoc. Capacities (3 mo.)
- Phase 2: Meeting #1 w/ Guiding Coalition; Listening Session (6 mo.)
- Phase 3: Meeting #2 w/ G.C. ; Strategy development (9 mo.)
- Phase 4: Ongoing Implementation & Coaching (1 year)

- Key Elements:
- [] Buy in from pastors
 - [] Coaching AMS proficiencies
 - [] Focus: Fast, Flexible, Friendly, & Focused leadership
 - [] ID community needs; Current strengths; Passion!
 - [] Florida Bapt. Conv. will partner along the way

Shift re: church planting in Florida; Partnering more with NAMB

- [] SEND Network Florida; NAMB assessments now to be used
- [] 50/50 church planter support for 4 years, OR one time FBC gift.
- [] Could be retroactive to around a year. Must be approved.
- [] Replanting counts! Most situations. Not video campus extensions
- [] McGuire State Mission offering is for the entire state
- [] Still must have a sending/sponsor church; see NAMB.

Baptist College of FL: Blue Springs sellable; Add campus in Cent. FL !
 Lake Yale update: Made \$ last year; Sell 100 acres!
 State Convention: FBC, Orlando; Ronnie Floyd; Johnny Hunt;
 Pastor Conf./Prayer/Convention; JD Gear; No Tues. night session

Crossover Florida 2020; Orlando SBC Convention

- [] *Who's Your One?* Sunday; Ramp up prayer, evang., baptisms

Sharper Conferences 2020 Feb. 27; March 5

Evangelism Conferences 2020

- [] Lots of pastoral vacancies; Pray for them; FBC Naples
- [] No celebrity pastors; They serve as God open doors

Vision and Systems (Nehemiah 2:12; 4:6)

"No one he told what God put on my heart to do... (and others)"
 "So we built the wall... people had a mind to work" (52 days)

Closing Thoughts

- [] People will follow vision; Can't be afraid to make changes
- [] Lead with relationships, then they will follow;
- [] Be Humbly fearless!
- [] Greater sense of urgency about the world, lostness —
 I am tired of playing games.
- [] The gospel of Jesus Christ is the driving force in my life,
 not the Florida Baptist Convention. That is just a platform.
- [] If I pastored again, I'd love on people more, not just admin.
- [] Pastor friend of mine died in an 8 day span. Count each day.

Prayer for Tommy and for Hayes & Janet Wicker