



January 2012

Kansas Baptist Convention, Inc.

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*I have long maintained that when it comes to pressing into the 21st century of gadgets and hi tech goodies, I feel like a dinosaur. In fact, I have often lamented the fact that I am a “technosaurus wreck.”*

In the 90's I railed against those who *had* to carry pagers and treated every beep like an emergency... until my kids gave me a pager for Father's Day. (I'm certain their mother put them up to it.) Then I eloquently decried the *electronic leash* that tethered *lesser men* to their mobile phones ... until my congregation pushed me into the 21st century with a cell phone anniversary gift. For years the ability to make phone calls was more than sufficient ... until a well-timed text message moved me into the next stage of techno-desire. I used to say I longed for a computer as easy to use as a phone. I finally got my wish — I have trouble with both for now I have been seduced by the smart phone. It is a slippery slope. My Commodore 64 (which I never quite figured out) gave way to an Apple, which gave way to a PC, which gave way to a laptop, which is now being supplanted by the I-Pad I got for my birthday. As inept as I am with their use, my gadgets have become so important I risk panic when they're not securely attached to my belt. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul: “Wretched man that I am, who will set me free from my techno slavery?”

Now I have entered the world of apps. I need the weather; there's an app for that. I need a map; there's an app for that. I need a compass; there's an app for that. I need a calculator; there's an app for that. I even have an app to check stock market quotes, which has become a source of distraction and worry when the market goes down. I'm really not sure why it bothers me so; all my assets are creatively tied up in debt!

Just recently, however, I've found a couple of apps that are quite meaningful to me. I found the You-Version Bible app last November. It has been an incredibly useful tool for helping me stay current with my daily Bible reading. There are a number of daily reading plans from which to choose. I selected a plan that interested me and typically read first thing in the morning. The app keeps track of my progress; and if I'm late with my reading, I receive a subtle reminder and I'm back on schedule. At Christmas my nephew showed me another app that is quite remarkable. It's called SpaceJunk. This app locates my position anywhere in the world and then allows me to aim into the sky to see and identify whatever stars, planets and satellites are there. What seems amazing to me is that the app reveals what stars are overhead even when the skies are cloudy or the sun is shining. You can even point it down and see what stars appear on the other side of the earth. It is an amazing thing to have an app that allows you to see what is really there, even when you can't really see it.

Hey, there's another app like that. It's called faith. As we step into a new year, as we move toward the future God holds for us as individuals and congregations and a Region, faith is a critical app. Reading about Moses shepherding the Hebrew people out of Egypt, through the wilderness and to the edge of the Promised Land is a story about faith-steps. Moses would not move unless faith allowed him to see that God was moving. The writer of Hebrews recounts a long list of God's faithful people and then says:

“Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? *They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact* that they were transients in this world. People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. But they were after a far better country than that—heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.” (Heb.11:13-16)

What is faith allowing you to *see way off in the distance*? The beginning of a new year always seems like a good opportunity stretching forward to the great things God holds for us. Faith will allow us to see God’s preferred future for ourselves, our churches and Region, guided by the great mandates spelled out in scripture. Faithfulness to these will enable us to see off in the distance to something wonderful God has in store.

What are those great mandates?

- The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) which sends us to preach the gospel and make disciples.
- The Great Commandment (Matt. 22:36-38) which calls us to love God and one another.
- The Great Community (Rom. 12:4-6) which establishes us as the Body of Christ and members one of another.
- The Great Criteria (Matt. 25:31-46) which lays upon us the responsibility to care for the last, the least, the lost and the left-out.

Life and ministry in 2012 ... there’s an app for that. Let us look and live by faith so we can truly see the good things God has in store for us as we follow Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

**John Williams**  
Executive Minister

## Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest

**Open to all high school students in classes of 2012 & 2013**

TOPIC:

The religious beliefs and affiliations of presidential candidates often become campaign issues. Is that fair? Should presidential candidates talk about their religious beliefs? Are there certain religion-related questions each candidate should or should not have to answer?

In an essay, you must use and cite sources, such as the U.S. Constitution and news articles.

For entry forms and more information,  
visit [www.BJOnline.org/contest](http://www.BJOnline.org/contest)

**Grand Prize:** \$1,000 scholarship & trip to Washington, D.C.

**Second Prize:** \$500 **Third Prize:** \$100

**Deadline:** March 15, 2012

## *Included in this issue:*

- *Religious Liberty Essay  
Scholarship Contest*
- *Missions Moment*
- *Biennial 2013*
- *Jamboree*
- *Senior Adult Retreat*
- *Parish Paper*
- *Progress Report*
- *Planned Giving*
- *CBTS News*
- *Central Region Life  
(to share with new  
members and visitors)*

\* \* \* \* \*

- FOCUS is a newsletter published for professional church leaders in Central Region, and it is distributed monthly. It is now being produced on white paper for convenience in duplicating and sharing with others.
- The deadline for FOCUS is the first of the month of publication.
- A contact name and phone number should accompany all materials.
- An 8 1/2 X 11 format must be used for all masters submitted.
- A variation in content and format is required for copy to be printed in two or more successive issues.

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# **Missions Moment**

*by Melanie Cooper,  
Special Interest Missionary Associate/Refit*

Recently, I have been watching my daughter make “nesting” preparations at her home as they wait on the arrival of a new baby. She has been rearranging many things and working to get things in order. This preparation seems to also mean that some things have to be hauled out and other things hauled in. It will be a monumental event when the baby comes, and it is an occasion that is marked with much joy and certainly some apprehension of all the changes that will come. It seems that this passing of the torch to a new generation is a celebratory event that we honor with a certain amount of festivity and joy.

This fall Drs. Anita and Rick Gutierrez who serve in South Africa were pleased to be able to have 29 students in the Health Builder Program graduate in September. None of them have ever had a ceremony marking any graduation so this had special significance. There were 400 people to observe the event.

The graduation took place as part of the worship service at the church associated with the Izulu Orphan Project. HIV/Aids is so prevalent in this part of Africa and education efforts are constantly an issue. These health builders will go into their communities and provide health education and resource information regarding HIV/Aids, heart and artery disease, diabetes and malaria.

Five graduated in “Blood Pressure” and are employed by the Community Works Program which is administered by the Izulu Orphan Project. Twenty-four women met course requirements for blood pressure, blood sugar, and HIV screening and education and are also employed by the Community Works Program. This type of training is so relevant and needed by so many.

It is always refreshing to see people working to make a difference. This program will affect many lives, and the efforts of these 29 graduates will be significant. As a nurse myself that has worked in preventative medicine, I really appreciate the students’ work to train and know that as each individual reaches out, you get a ripple effect that makes for wonderful outreach. Also, this is another opportunity to share the love of Christ as you minister to people that receive the training.

Please pray as more health workers are trained for the Good News to be shared and lives changed. Remember that we ourselves have opportunities every day to lift our missionaries up in prayer. We are a part of the outreach that happens when these graduates share this in their world.

Pray regularly for the orphans that need our support so desperately. Only by being in that situation can we fully appreciate all that this does for them. The next time you have a special ceremony, remember these workers that are in the trenches so to speak taking the Lord’s message to the hurting and dying.

January 2012

## BIENNIAL 2013

Greetings Pastors, Church Leaders and Congregation:

*This is the second in a series of letters concerning the 2013 ABCUSA Biennial in Overland Park, Kan., Scholarship Fund. The first letter was in your November 2011 FOCUS packet. Please take just a few minutes to read this letter, and may God lead you to respond.*

A Biennial Scholarship Fund has been established to assist members of the Central Region to attend the 2013 Biennial in Overland Park, Kan. I believe this fund is very important for bi-vocational pastors who may have to choose between attending the Biennial and losing a few days of income, those on fixed incomes, lay persons and other American Baptists who might not otherwise be able to attend the ABC/USA Biennial. There are many people in our Region who have never been able to attend an ABC/USA Biennial. Will you and your congregation answer this request? (Psalm 133 NRSV) “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained His blessing, life forevermore.”

Questions and Answers: *How can we help?* With all of the congregations in the Central Region donating what God blesses them with to donate to the scholarship fund, prayerfully, we will be able to assist many to attend the 2013 Biennial. *What is the goal?* Our goal is to raise \$30,000 by the end of January 2013. *Where do we make our donations?* Contributions may be sent with your monthly mission giving, listed under “Specifics,” and designated to the Biennial Scholarship Fund. *How will the scholarship funds be used?* This depends on the need of those requesting assistance and the total amount of money collected for the scholarship fund. The fund will be available to members of cooperating ABC/CR churches. *For information, who is the point of contact?* Pastor James Callaway, Junction City, First Baptist Church (785) 238-3016.

My prayer is that those who are able to donate will be generous and that those who are not able to donate will be praying for this project. Please share this information within your congregation, with your cluster group, pastors, and any group that will partner with us. I am available to speak with you or your group about the ministry of assistance, just give me a call. May God bless you!

In Christ!

**James H. Callaway**

First Baptist Church of Junction City, KS  
2013 Biennial Scholarship Coordinator

## Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation

# Planned Giving

*A Ministry of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region*

## It's a New Year and Now Our Thoughts Turn To...

... **filing our income tax returns.** We've had the celebrations of Christmas and New Year's Day activities, football games, etc. and now it's time to also start collecting all the information for our income tax returns.

Tax laws are continually changing so it's good to review them every year whether you prepare your own return or use a qualified tax return preparer.

**Medical mileage** from January-June was \$.19 and from July-December was \$.235. You can include all trips for medical attention but not the mileage to visit someone in the hospital.

**Charitable mileage** is still only \$.14 per mile or the actual cost of gas and oil that are directly related to the use of giving service. Parking fees and tolls can be added to either amount.

**Non-cash contributions** of used clothing or household items must be in "**good used condition or better.**" There are enhanced reporting requirements for donation of cars, boats and airplanes whose value exceeds \$500. Contemporaneous written acknowledgement from the charity is only one of them. You can NOT deduct a contribution to a specific individual (even though most worthy of the gift) or to a non-qualified organization, nor can you deduct for your time or services.

**For those taking mission trips** you might want to note that travel expenses that are necessarily incurred while away from home performing services for a qualified organization are deductible ONLY if:

- 1) taxpayer is "on duty in a genuine and substantial sense throughout the trip" and
- 2) "no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation" is received by the taxpayer.  
*This applies whether paid directly by the taxpayer or indirectly through a charitable organization.*

**How do your charitable contributions compare to your gross income?** God blesses many with interest, dividends, capital gains, rental income, etc. that we don't always consider as we are making our regular tithes on cash income.

It might be good to consider a charitable gift annuity this year. You receive a charitable contribution, a portion of your annual annuity is tax free; and both you and the ministry benefits.

May I come discuss this with you at your convenience?

**Wilma Engle, Minister of Planned Giving**  
6745 Interurban, Wichita, KS 67204-1323  
Phone: 316-838-3065 Email: [wilmaengle@juno.com](mailto:wilmaengle@juno.com)

# Jamboree



## iTune...with God

Colossians 3:16

Music by: "Perfectly Broken"

Message by: Hannah Ford

February 17-19, 2012

# Wheat State Camp

# Jamboree 2011 Registration

Registration for Jamboree 2011 is \$75.00 for each participant, for registrations that are postmarked by February 6, 2012. Registrations postmarked after February 6 are \$ 80.00 for each participant.

**Cancellations:** You may substitute for any participant.

**Refunds:** 50% refund available until February 10, 2012. No refunds given for cancellations after February 10, 2012.

**Registrations should be sent to:**

**Jamboree**

**% Steve Hollingsworth**

**7421 SW Church Road**

**Augusta, KS 67010**

Questions: Contact Steve Hollingsworth, 316-775-5441 or [cbcpreacher@pixius.net](mailto:cbcpreacher@pixius.net)

Latest updates and Information available on **Facebook: Central Region Jamboree**

Sponsors: Due to insurance liability issues we are asking that sponsors accompanying youth must be a minimum of 21 years of age. We ask that you provide one sponsor for each five (5) youth attending.

**Please note the following changes with Jamboree registration this year.**

**Each participant must have the following items.**

1. Release for pictures taken at Jamboree.
2. A Health Form must be completed for each participant. Please have each participant fill out your church's standard health form and bring a copy with you to Jamboree. If your church does not have a standard health form, the region health form for camping is acceptable as a health form. It can be found at:  
<http://www.centralregioncamping.com/parents.shtml>
3. Due to the activities available at Wheat State Camp, we are asking that each participant brings a signed liability release.

# Picture and Liability Release

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to ABCCR and Jamboree to use photographs and video taken at the Jamboree event for promotion.

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to participate in supervised activities on the paintball course, golf course and climbing wall while at Wheat State Camp. I release the Central Region Youth Ministries, the Jamboree Committee, the camp, all employees, staff and volunteers of the camp, and any affiliates from liability and risks associated with participation in the low key elements challenge courses at Wheat State Camp.

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



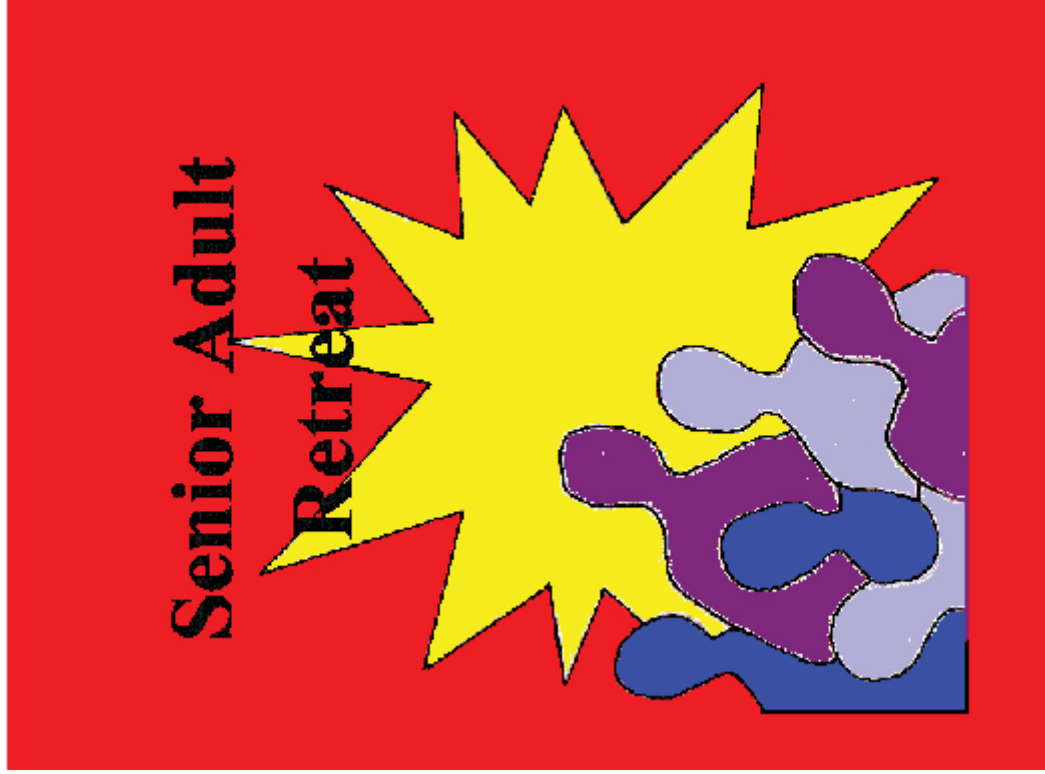
# "Cloud of Witnesses"

Hebrews 12:1

## Join the Fun!

### April 25-26, 2012

Cross Wind Conference Center  
Hesston, KS



**Dr. Alan Bearman**

Keynote Speaker

Registration materials are available at  
[www.abccr.org](http://www.abccr.org)

# ABCCR SENIOR ADULT RETREAT--APRIL 25--26, 2012

Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, Kansas

Registration Deadline is Thursday April 5, 2012

Cancellation Policy: A full refund will be given if cancelled by Thursday, April 12, 2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(If registering as a couple, please write spouse's name below.)

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be rooming with the following: \_\_\_\_\_

(Due to high demand, roommates will be assigned to those who have not specified a spouse or roommate)

## \*\*NOTE: ROOMS ASSIGNED IN ORDER OF REGISTRATION

Please reserve the following accommodations for me/us.

	<u>Number of guests</u>	<u>Total \$\$</u>
• Full Retreat (includes registration, all meals and lodging And is per person being registered.)	_____	@ \$80.00 per person _____
• Full Retreat (Incl. registration & all meals) <b>NO LODGING</b>	_____	@ \$60.00 per person _____
• Wednesday Only (Incl. Reg., lunch & supper) <b>NO LODGING</b>	_____	@ \$40.00 per person _____
• Thursday Only (Incl. Reg., breakfast & lunch) <b>NO LODGING</b>	_____	@ \$40.00 per person _____
• RV's(Incl. Reg., & all meals) \$45.00 per person	_____	_____
+\$20 RV space per night	_____	_____

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Senior Adult Retreat** and mail payment and completed registration form to:  
Leslie Freeman, PO Box 332, Concordia, KS 66901. If you have questions, call Les at (785) 243-3470.

Alternate accommodations can be secured at AmericInn Hotel and Suites in Hesston at (800) 396-5007

**You must make your own housing arrangements if not staying at Cross Wind**

While at the retreat, I will be staying at: \_\_\_\_\_

First time to attend a Senior Adult Retreat? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_      Registration begins Wed., 10:30 a.m.  
First event is lunch at 12:00 noon

-----  
(Cut here and retain this stub for your records and information.)

Senior Adult Retreat -- Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, KS  
April 25 & 26, 2012

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>. First event is the noon luncheon on that date.  
The conference will close at mid-afternoon on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Amount paid to Registrar: \_\_\_\_\_. Check number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller, Lyle E. Schaller, Cynthia Woolever - [www.TheParishPaper.com](http://www.TheParishPaper.com)

January 2012 - Volume 20, Number 1

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## How to Perfect Your Leadership Triangle

The most effective pastors, staff, committee chairs, and ministry-team coordinators possess three skills in equal proportions: relational, organizational, and spiritual.

### Relational Leadership

Yes, church leaders need more than relational skill. But without relational skill, other skills become irrelevant. Relational skill includes twenty qualities:

**1. Joyful Attitude**—spiritual institutions whose leaders need a joy transfusion attract few participants.

**2. Sense of Humor**—counteracts the tendency to develop an overly serious demeanor that is the personality equivalent of a turpentine bottle.

**3. Enthusiasm**—displayed in facial expressions, body language, and words.

**4. Optimism**—which the Bible calls *hope*. People who dispense this quality in their conversations tend to attract rather than repel allegiance to themselves and their goals.

**5. Caring Spirit**—genuine interest in people and a concern for their individual needs.

**6. Indiscriminate Affirmation**—praise-filled conversations, despite bushels of reasons to go in the opposite direction.

**7. Sensitivity**—the ability to understand people and their reaction patterns.

**8. Objectivity**—the ability to accurately assess and respond to reality, which protects people from seeing issues through a window of bias and emotional distortion.

**9. Forgiving Spirit**—a poor memory of wrongs done by others, which counterbalances the wrongs observed via objectivity.

**10. Nonjudgmental Nature**—the habit of communicating grace to people who do not share identical moral, ethical, or religious standards.

**11. Receptive Listener**—able to gather information and insights from conversations with people who express a wide variety of concerns and opinions.

**12. Openness to Considering New Ideas**—the inclination to express a “Why not?” attitude when listening to a proposal, instead of blocking new ideas by immediately citing several reasons why they won’t work.

**13. Forthrightness**—the courage to sensitively share concerns with others, even at the risk of alienation.

**14. Communication Skill**—the ability to clearly express ideas and goals.

**15. Effective Conflict Manager**—with regard to both personal criticism and organizational-conflict issues.

**16. Cooperative Spirit**—a team player who can mesh personal goals with those of other church leaders, in contrast to coming across as defensive, paranoid, or argumentative.

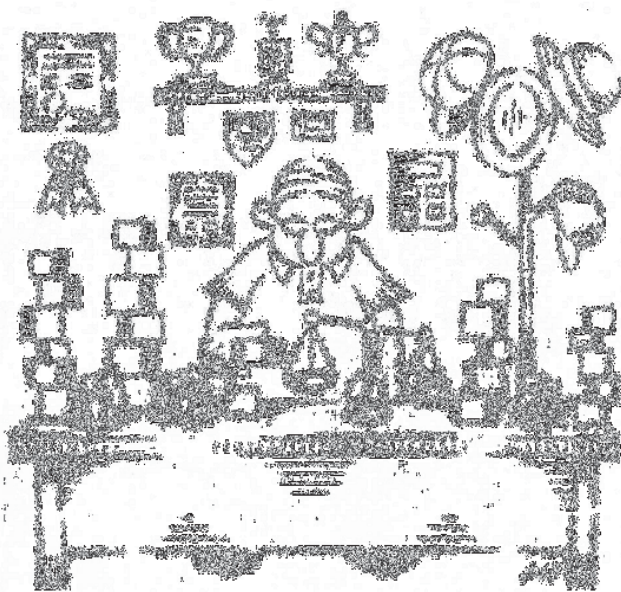
**17. Honesty and Integrity**—consistently (a) keeping promises, (b) functioning responsibly, even when tasks are not especially enjoyable, (c) leading a disciplined moral life, and (d) communicating identical information to various groups and individuals, rather than shading reality to tell people what they want to hear.

**18. Humility**—serving without a demand for public recognition.

**19. High Energy Level**—the stamina to maintain a fast pace and juggle several demands simultaneously, without complaining of overwork.

**20. Positive Appearance**—clean, neat, and appropriate apparel, shined shoes, and well-kept hair.

Can you think of people serving in church roles who lack one or several of these relational qualities? Does that deficiency damage their leadership influence?



Equalizing assets will create leaders for more effective leadership.

## Organizational Leadership

Not all church leaders with high relational skills possess strong organizational abilities. An executive coach who works with both churches and corporations lists five prescriptions for successful leaders of organizations:

**1. Get clear regarding goals and standards.** Understand what you are trying to accomplish and how you plan to measure the results.

**2. Communicate goals and standards.** Make sure that everyone is clear about expectations and feels accountable for results.

**3. Set direction for and coordinate the work of others.** Develop a disposition toward delegation—the inclination to coach the team rather than try to play all of the positions.

**4. Address problems sooner rather than later.** Instead of running from potential conflict, approach it as an opportunity to care about people and increase their satisfaction with a job well done.

**5. Provide feedback to team members.** Frequently applaud actions that support the organization's goals. When things do not go well, explain why a change in approach is beneficial. [Scott Eblin, "Pastors and Managers," *Congregations*, September/October 2001, The Albin Institute, pp. 22-24]

Can you think of people serving in church roles who lack one or more of these organizational qualities? Does that deficiency damage their leadership influence?

## Spiritual Leadership

Effective church leaders possess more than relational and organizational skills. They give the overall impression that encouraging people to strengthen their spiritual connection with God is one of their primary goals.

The five behaviors listed below are not the only means by which people achieve spiritual growth. However, people in a national survey said that these five are the most powerful means by which they moved closer to God and grew in Christian discipleship. [Herb Miller, *Connecting With God* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994)]

**1. Worship:** This helps us to focus on God and to sense God's presence. Be deciding to worship, we say that we are not sufficient by ourselves. We need another God besides our own ego.

**2. Prayer:** This lets God into our lives in four primary ways. Through prayer, God (a) changes our reality, (b) speaks to us, (c) redecorates our interiors, and (d) moves us toward our life goals. Until we are ready to put ourselves second instead of first, we do not pray.

**3. Fellowship:** This is one of God's ways of reinforcing our inclination to spiritually connect with, and stay connected with, God's goals for our life. Fellowship with other Christians increases our self-esteem in ways that make us more open to (a) listening to God's guidance and (b) making positive changes in our lives.

**4. Bible Study:** This is another tool that helps us hear God speaking to us and moves us closer to God in our

thinking and behavior. Participation in a regularly meeting group that focuses on Bible study helps us stick to our values and ideals.

**5. Financial Stewardship:** Why do the four Gospels report Jesus talking more about money than about love or repentance? Then, as now, people are tempted to put the god of their money ahead of the real God; and thus, break the first commandment—"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Giving financially to God keeps money idolatry from replacing God and destroying our ability to grow spiritually.

Can you think of people serving in church roles who lack one or more of these spiritual qualities? Does that deficiency damage their leadership influence?

## Equalizing Your Triangle

The three sides of an equilateral triangle are the same length. Shortening one side changes the triangle's character. Most people serving in church roles are stronger in one of the their triangle's three sides than in the other two. They rationalize that imbalance by thinking, "If I excel in my gifted side, the other two sides will take care of themselves." That assumption is inaccurate.

Productive self-evaluation requires feedback from others. Pick six people whom you trust. Ask them to meet with you as a group for two hours. Open the meeting by asking everyone to keep the discussion confidential.

Hand each person a copy of this *Parish Paper* issue. Without discussion, ask each person to rank you on each item, using a scale of one to ten, with ten being the highest. Ask people not to sign their names.

Collect the sheets. During a break, ask someone to tabulate the answers and calculate the average score for each item. Distribute another copy of this *Parish Paper* issue. As you read the averages aloud, ask group members to write the average beside each of the items.

On the five items with the highest scores, go around the room, asking everyone to say one sentence regarding why she or he thinks that score is high.

On the five items with the lowest scores, go around the room, asking everyone to say one sentence regarding how you might strengthen that quality.

Articulate to the group any points at which you need their help or the help of other church leaders in strengthening these traits.

Close with one-sentence prayers, asking each person in the group to pray.

## The Bottom Line

In which side of the leadership triangle are you most gifted. How can you lengthen the other two sides?

## American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

# Mission Giving for December 2011

	2011	2010	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (% Decrease)
United Mission	\$119,696.03	\$151,266.69	-\$31,570.66	-20.87%
ABW Ministries Love Gift	\$6,933.72	\$7,420.26	-\$486.54	-6.55%
<b>American Baptist Mission Support</b>	<b>\$255,357.32</b>	<b>\$277,519.96</b>	<b>-\$22,162.64</b>	<b>-7.98%</b>

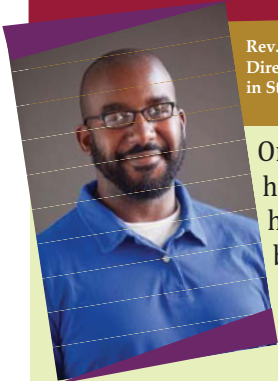
## Mission Giving December YTD

United Mission	\$1,063,211.24	\$1,116,198.47	-\$52,987.23	-4.74%
ABW Ministries Love Gift	\$54,042.68	\$51,999.09	\$2,043.59	3.93%
America For Christ offering	\$91,701.39	\$92,058.76	-\$357.37	-0.38%
One Great Hour of Sharing offering	\$134,070.36	\$202,704.81	-\$68,634.45	-0.39%
World Mission Offering	\$131,342.70	\$147,991.34	-\$16,648.64	-11.24%
Retired Ministers & Missionaries	\$65,737.37	\$76,989.48	-\$11,252.11	-14.61%
Region Offering	\$33,962.53	\$34,064.61	-\$102.08	-0.29%
Institutional Support Process	\$40,548.67	\$35,886.73	\$4,661.94	12.99%
Specifics	\$253,687.75	\$178,533.21	\$75,154.54	42.09%
<b>American Baptist Mission Support</b>	<b>\$1,902,907.27</b>	<b>\$1,939,485.06</b>	<b>-\$36,577.79</b>	<b>-1.88%</b>

## Our Church's Giving for December

United Mission	\$ _____
One Great Hour of Sharing offering	\$ _____
<b>American Baptist Mission Support</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**abccr**



Rev. Terrell Carter  
Director of FOUNDATIONS  
in St. Louis

## Needed: More Hands

One of the things that most churches, and para-church organizations, need is more hands. More hands to answer the phones. More hands to help fold bulletins. More hands to help pack and pass out food boxes. More hands to help with cleaning the bathrooms. More hands to help with the task of simply managing the day to day operations.

One way to get these extra hands is to use volunteers.

### But where can we find them?

Depending on your specific needs, there are several types of organizations that can help you find the right volunteers.

#### AARP

AARP, formerly the American Association of Retired Persons, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a membership that helps people age 50 and over have independence, choice, and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole - ways that help people 50 and over improve their lives. Through their foundation, *Create the Good*, retired seniors are given opportunities to apply the experiences they gained in their professional lives to a volunteer setting. Through their website, [createthegood.org](http://createthegood.org), retired professionals throughout the United States can be matched with volunteer opportunities that fit their life interests. You can submit volunteer opportunities for free through the website.

#### Vista Volunteers

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a nonprofit organization or local government agency. Their salaries are paid through the AmeriCorps program, so their salary costs do not become a burden for the organization where they volunteer. With passion, commitment, and hard work they can assist your organization with new program development and follow through. VISTA members generally do not provide direct services. Instead, they focus their efforts on building the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations. VISTA members develop programs to meet a need, write grants, and recruit and train volunteers. You can find out more information through their website, [americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov).

#### Local Colleges and Universities

Many students are required to participate in paid and unpaid internships or practicum experiences as a part of their college program. Community colleges and universities have departments that welcome requests for student workers. Departments are often identified as **Community Service Office, Workforce and Community Development, or Employment and Training Center**. Check out your local educational institutions' websites.

**With a brief phone call or email to the right organization, you may be able to find all of the volunteers that you need!**

#### Terrell Carter

is coordinating Central's new FOUNDATIONS ministry certificate program in St. Louis. It is set to launch on **Sunday, January, 29**, along with the **First Annual Des Peres Lecture in Congregational Health**. The program is possible, in part, because of the Des Peres Legacy gifts and will be hosted by **Third Baptist Church**.

For more info, visit [cbts.edu](http://cbts.edu).