

CHURCH VISION AND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Presented by the
Baptist Missionary and Educational State Convention of LA, Incorporated

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6-8:30 PM

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Greetings/Prayer

Why Are We Here?

The Fable of the Leaky Cabin

A man goes to visit an old friend who lives in a cabin in the woods. By the time he arrives, it's pouring rain and he's soaking wet. When his friend answers the door, he jumps inside, glad to get out of the rain, only to find that the cabin roof is leaking and water is dripping everywhere.

The newcomer asks about the leaky roof and all the buckets catching water. "Oh that," responds the host. "I barely notice it any more. You just get used to the rain in this part of the country."

"Why don't we go up on the roof and fix the leaks? I'd be happy to help," offers the newcomer.

"No," his friend replies. "It's dangerous on the roof in the rain. Plus, it's getting dark. Let's do it later."

The man agrees. After a drippy, damp night of fitful sleep, they wake up to a beautiful sunny day. The visitor turns to his friend and says, "Hey buddy, let's grab some breakfast, then get that roof repaired!"

To which his friend responds, "Why? It's not leaking now."

It is not enough to work "IN" our church. There comes a time when we must work "ON" our church.

☐ The New Evangelistic Environment [how families now look]¹

1. They are blended and often spiritually mismatched [or even conflicted].
2. They are financially strapped.
3. They don't always feel guilt and shame.
4. They are "over-calendared."
5. For them "occasional" is regular and "something" is generous.
6. They are biblically illiterate.
7. They love authenticity and transparency.
8. They may have a child with special needs.
9. They may have experienced some form of trauma in the home.
10. They want to be successful.
11. They are spiritually hungry.
12. They invite their friends if they like what they're discovering.

¹ Adapted from several articles by Brian Moss, Thom Rainer, and Carey Nieuwhof.

❑ What Every Church “MUST” Do

1. Create a great experience for **EVERY** person who comes on the campus!
2. Develop a network of happy and healthy leaders who reproduce themselves.
3. Build a culture that reflects their vision, mission, and core values.
4. Articulate what is expected of their members and design a clear, simple path for people to achieve what is expected.
5. Construct [and/or revise] dynamic systems to define and simplify the way the ministry operates.
6. Align the **spiritual** [vision, mission, core values, and strategies] and the **structural** [constitution, by-laws, policies, and procedures] dimensions of our church.



❑ DECLINE – What Happens If We Do Nothing²

5 Attributes of a Church in Decline



“Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.” [John Maxwell]

“When you are through changing you are through!” [Bruce Barton]

The Law of Entropy – “Things left to themselves will degenerate and become useless.”

Group Exercise/Ice-breaker – “The Junk Drawer”

NOTE: Churches with more than 1500 members have less programs than churches with less than 500 members.

²[https://tonymorganlive.com/2010/07/15/church-in-decline/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+TonyMorganOneOfTheSimplyStrategicGuys+\(tonymorganlive.com\)](https://tonymorganlive.com/2010/07/15/church-in-decline/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+TonyMorganOneOfTheSimplyStrategicGuys+(tonymorganlive.com))

❑ The DNA [Culture] of Your Church

1. **Vision** – If your church was perfect what would it look like?
2. **Mission** – What is the purpose of your church?
3. **Core Values** – What are the fundamentals that define who you are and direct what you do?
4. **Strategy** – How will your church accomplish its mission?

CLARITY

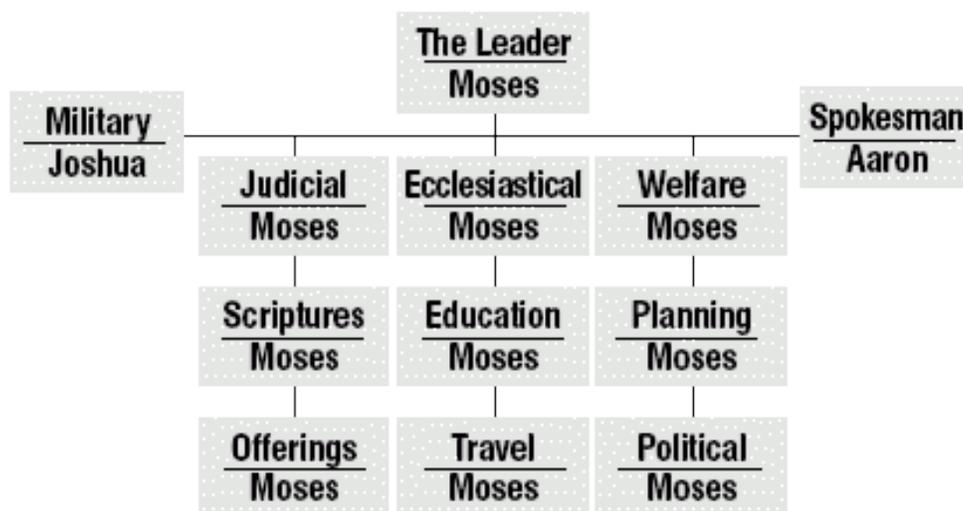
What do you do and how do you get it done?

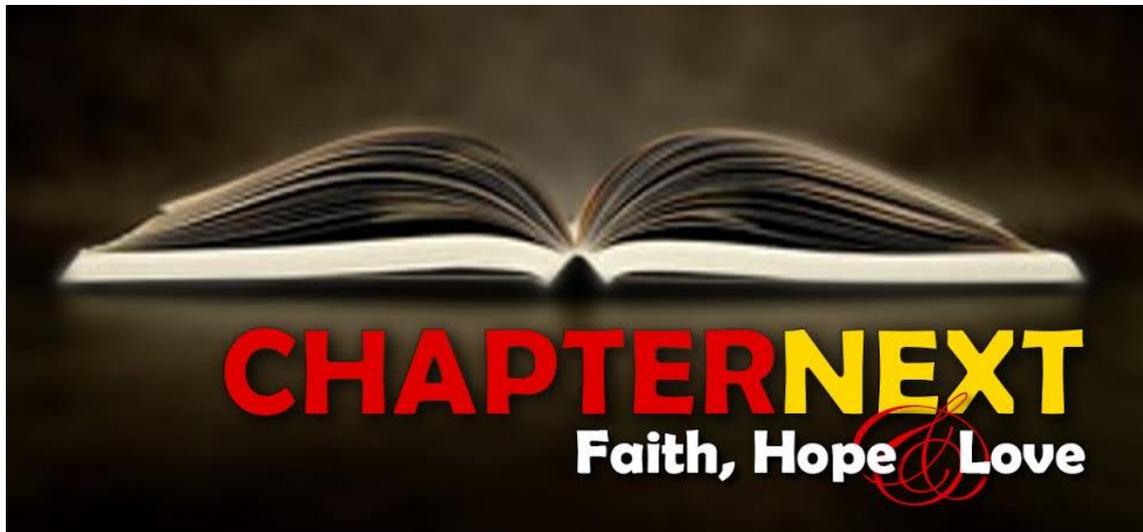
❑ What Excellence Looks Like

1. **Simple** – “less is more”
2. **Consistent** – Do the right thing, the right way – EVERY TIME!
3. **Dynamic** – Purposeful/intentional [Do it well or not at all!]
4. **Organic** – Engaging and creates life [If it’s killing us to do it, it’s killing us to do it!]
5. **Visionary** – Bigger than us!
6. **Inclusive** – Designed for the people we wish to attract [not the ones we want to keep].
7. **Relevant** – Speaks to people’s lives TODAY.

“The men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do” [I Chronicles 12:32,NIV]

❑ The Moses Mistake – Why We Need Systems





❑ **What is ChapterNext?**

ChapterNext is the collective, deliberate work to make our church the BEST EVER!

❑ **The ChapterNEXT Process**

1. **Redirect**

What is our vision?

What is our mission?

What are our core values?

What is expected of the members of our church?

What is expected of the ministries of our church?

2. Rethink

Ask the hard questions – What can/should we... [and why?]

...combine?

...expand?

...reduce?

...modify?

...add?

...eliminate?

Sometimes success isn't about what you start or add but about what you have the courage to stop.

What should we do?

What should we no longer do?

What should we do better? And how?

3. Re-Imagine

Decide what kind of church you want to be; honor your past; define success; and model what you want. [Bob Franquiz]

- *What should your church look like in 36 months? 90 days?*
- *What will make your church unique?*
- *Why join your church?*
- *Design the “YOUR BAPTIST CHURCH” experience – what do we want to happen consistently?*
- *How can we best equip people to grow, serve, and care?*
- *What ministries are needed in this season in the life of our church?*
- *What is our next step?*
What are we willing to do in the next 30 days to move toward our future?

From *Simple Church* by Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger

Four things are needed to simplify the ministry and make it more effective and more efficient:

1. **Clarity** – Clearly define and communicate the objective of your ministry; people don’t do what they don’t understand! [Develop a ministry blueprint]
2. **Movement** – Outline “simple”, strategic, sequential steps to greater areas of commitment; remove congestion [assimilation – point out “the next step”].
3. **Alignment** – Arrange all ministries, leaders, staff, volunteers and activities around the same, simple, overarching process [complement vs. compete].
4. **Focus** – The courage and commitment to eliminate everything outside of the prescribed ministry process.

“Simple can be harder than complex. You have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it’s worth it in the end, because once you get there, you can move mountains.” [Steve Jobs]

“LESS IS MORE!”

4. Reinvent

- Design ministries to equip people to achieve what is expected of them collectively in a manner that is specific to each group –

Age [children, youth, young adults[?], and “seasoned saints”]

Gender [men and women]

Relational status [single, married, “single again”, and widowed]

Worship roles [choirs, ushers, hospitality, etc.]

QUESTION – Can the needs of a particular demographic be met by a single event rather than an ongoing ministry?

- Align the spiritual [create operational systems] and the structural [revise our constitution and by-laws] dimensions of our church.

5. Retool

Secure the necessary resources to achieve our mission –

People – Recruit and equip staff, leaders and volunteers

Places – Arrange, assign and/or acquire facilities

Procedures – Create the needed operational systems

Plans – Prepare Ministry Action Plans [MAP] for each ministry

6. Rebrand

- *Craft our image and make our church more attractive than she has ever been!*
- *Evaluate, revise and add worship services [when & where needed]*
- *Redesign our publications, media ministry [radio, television and internet broadcasts] and electronic presence [website, app, social media, etc.]*

7. Relaunch

Implement [Set date]; pray daily; celebrate success weekly; monitor monthly; evaluate and revise quarterly; and retool annually.

Alice in the Wonderland: Asking the cat for advice at the fork in the road, he asked where she was going. She said she didn't know. The cat responded, “Then it doesn't matter which way you go.”

CONCLUSION – Let’s Dream Again!

Dr. Mark Rutland wrote a book entitled *Relaunch*. This text speaks to his experience in turning around three large organizations – a megachurch and two university. One of those universities is Oral Roberts University.

The university had been in decline for a number of years and had amassed \$55 million in debt. In short, the school was a train wreck. Dr. Rutland discerned that ORU “was a great university that had forgotten how great it was.” He saw his job as that of “reminding faculty, staff, students, and alumni of that greatness.”

Thank God for the church!

“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” [Matthew 16:18]

The one thing that we cannot afford to do is to stop dreaming. Many successful churches lose their significance because they rest on their laurels. We should never stop asking – “What’s next?”

The great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright was asked which of his works was his masterpiece, he replied “The next one.”

CONCLUSION – No More Convenience!

Dreams are expensive. How much do great dreams cost? They cost EVERYTHING! A dream that isn’t worth everything is a dream that isn’t worth anything. The key to the next chapter of our ministry is commitment, not convenience.

Convenience has cost the church too much!

Gold Peak Green Tea

18.5 ounces purchased at a convenience store for \$1.97.
[11 cents per unit]

59 ounces purchased at a grocery store for \$2.48.
[4 cents per unit]

At the convenience store I effectively paid more for less.

The grocery store is exactly one mile further up the street from the convenience store. Why did I go to the convenience store? Two reasons – 1.) I thought it would be quicker and 2.) I didn’t care to go the extra mile.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [Romans 12:1,NKJ]

Convenience never leads to commitment.