



Connection

Leading Forward

Have We Forgotten How to Wait?



Gary Loudermilk

The increasing speed of technology has created a false sense of time. My current laptop computer is only a

few months old. It boots up so rapidly in the mornings. There are occasions when I honestly believe that it becomes bored waiting on me to decide what data or information I will enter. My previous computer operated at a slower pace, more tolerant of my speed. However, it was that slower pace that became one of the deciding factors in replacing the older model with the new shiny one. Now, if I work on a slower computer, I become irritable that some processes seemingly take forever to complete.

This time issue is not limited to the computers we use. Our cell phones with their multiple capabilities have also contributed to a false sense of time. We call someone and leave a voicemail message. If we don't get a return call in a matter of minutes, we

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Churches Apply for DBA Membership

At the *DBA Executive Board Meeting* on Tuesday, February 21st, the Membership Committee will recommend three churches for associational membership. **Circle of Love Fellowship** and **Church of Celebration Metro** will be presented for provisional membership while **Green Valley Baptist Church** will be recommended for full membership. An autonomous church that was not part of a covenant start in our association always comes into the association for a one-year provisional membership. A church begun

in our association in a covenant agreement may be received as a full member once the covenant partners agree that they are a self-supporting and constituted church. The Executive Board will have the opportunity to vote on the recommendations for membership of each of these churches at the regularly scheduled meeting.



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Tax Seminar Highlights

DBA recently sponsored the **Tax Seminar** with presenter *Verne Hargrave* of *PSK Accounting*. Many different areas were covered regarding personal taxes as well as those relating to the church. Below are some of the highlights from the seminar that are vital to every church:

- ◆ A housing allowance may be given to a minister, but the allowance must be approved by the church prior to its being given. A housing allowance cannot be retroactive.
- ◆ Your church may qualify for a Health Care Tax Credit Refund if you have no

more than 25 full-time employees. For additional information go to www.irs.gov/form8941.

- ◆ Expenses reimbursed to an employee without requiring substantiation must be included in the employee's W-2 as income. This situation can be avoided by having an accountable reimbursement plan.
- ◆ The mileage reimbursement rate for 2012 is \$.555.

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Churches cont.

Circle of Love Fellowship

Pastor: Bob Ayers



Circle of Love Fellowship began in 2010 and currently has an average worship attendance of 42. They meet at 16611 FM 428 West, located east of Aubrey and southwest of Celina. FBC, Celina is their sponsoring church. Their focus is on reaching people that are in the general area of the church location. Before moving to their present location, they were located in Collin County and joined Collin Baptist Association. The pastor retired recently as the Senior Chaplain at the Denton County Jail.

Church of Celebration Metro

Pastor: Brad Wilkerson



Church of Celebration Metro began in 2008 as a church plant of Midway Baptist Church near Pilot Point. Today, COC, as they are often called, meets in the Navo Middle School in Savannah. They have a current worship attendance of 500 and have baptized over 160 in their first three years. The pastor has a real desire to connect with and work with other church planters in helping plant additional churches.

Green Valley Baptist Church

Pastor: Ronnie Allen



Green Valley was begun in 2001 as a mission of Gateway, Denton. They are located at 9901 FM 428 between Denton and Aubrey. The church averages over 100 in attendance and has built twice on their property. As a church plant, they were members of Denton Baptist Association. They joined another association several years ago so this is a return to our association by a church we have served with previously.

Resources for Technology Overload

Technology is changing so fast. Is there any way that a person can keep up with software upgrades and other computer related information? One great source for me is ***Christian Computing Magazine***. Written from a Christian perspective with the local church in mind, this free online monthly magazine provides insight into the latest software and its benefits. The entire magazine or individual articles can be printed out in PDF, or you can read the magazine online. The same group also publishes ***Christian Video Magazine***.

Another great resource that I use on a regular basis is ***Lynda.com***. While the service is not free, it is very economical. The online training, referred to as *movies*, provides help on almost anything from setting up a Facebook page or an iPhone to designing a website to using a software program. Their online library has new and archived movies that allows a person to go over the same

process multiple times at no additional charge. The movies cover a requested task step by step. I recently purchased a Mac. Not knowing much about this particular machine, I was able to locate a movie called *Mac Essential Training*. I've found it very valuable and helpful in learning an entirely new system. I've also learned more about using my PC at work. Now when I come across the unknown (at least to me) on either the Mac or the PC, I go to *Lynda.com*, find a movie on the topic, and become an expert (well, you know).

My job at DBA entails producing this newsletter, so I'm constantly looking for resources and tips on design. One that I use on a regular basis is ***ChurchArt Pro***. This is an online service that provides images as well as a monthly newsletter that gives valuable tips on things from designing and adding flare to newsletters to tips on web design. Starting in February a subscription will also include a new service for sending e-newsletters, motion slides, website

templates and searchable articles on design tips.

Finally, one other resource that is becoming very common is ***Constant Contact***. The *E-Connection* is delivered electronically using Constant Contact. I also use this for many of the group emails that I send to the churches or to church staff.

Though the task of staying current when it comes to technology may seem daunting, these resources have proved helpful to me. I'd love to hear about the resources you use to help in this technology age. Contact me at rochelle@dentonbaptist.org with the resources you find most helpful and I'll post them on our Facebook page.

Web Links to listed resources:

- <http://www.ccmag.com>
- <http://www.lynda.com>
- <http://www.churchartpro.com>
- <http://www.constantcontact.com>

Tax Highlights cont.

- ◆ Unrelated business income is permitted as long as it is not a substantial part of the church's activities.
- ◆ How to determine if a worker is an employee or an independent contractor is covered in IRS Publication 15-A. This is an area where churches often make mistakes.
- ◆ There are six requirements of a charitable contribution. In order to help congregations understand these rules a church should develop a Charitable Giving Policy.
- ◆ Just because someone in the church thinks that a church can report their tax obligations a certain way, does not mean that it is correct. For direct information, use www.irs.gov.



Leading Forward cont.

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wonder what the problem is. Likewise, when we text someone, we expect an instant reply. We continually find ways to believe that we can compress time to this very moment – right now!

So, is this really all that big a deal? My answer would be a definite YES! Here is why I believe that this is an issue with which we must come to terms. Because we have an increasing expectation of instant communication, instant answers, and instant solutions, we are losing our ability to wait – to exercise patience – to the point that we begin to expect people to respond and decide as quickly as technology operates.

While we could list many areas and examples of our growing impatience, let's focus just on some of the implications for a church and her leaders. First, let's remember that the scriptures call upon us to wait and that patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit. In Psalm 27:14, David wrote: "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord." In our hurry for answers and action, we can forget that God is the one who leads; we are to be His followers.

Second, by requiring the instant answer or the instant decision, we can fail to give others all of the information they need to make a God-honoring decision or the time they need to adequately pray and seek the Lord's guidance. It is often this pushing a person into a proverbial corner that results in conflict within the church and between church leaders.

Finally, our rush for immediate answers and quick action leaves even the best of ideas and plans with potentially fatal flaws. We have all been caught by someone's penetrating question about our hastily prepared plan. Our only truthful response to those questions has been "I didn't think of that!"



In our increasingly rapid paced world, let me suggest a few things to help us incorporate waiting and patience into perspective in our 21st Century environment.

1. Follow the scriptural admonition to wait upon the Lord.

2. Pray about decisions individually and corporately.
3. Where others are involved, give them as much time as possible to come to a decision or answer.
4. Realize that technology is inanimate. We work with God-created people, not digital parts.
5. Take a deep breath – maybe two or three.
6. No one needs to be connected every minute by phone, email, computer, or iPad.
7. Very few things really are a matter of life or death. Patience may help extend your life expectancy.
8. After three years of full-time ministry with Jesus, the disciples still didn't get it.

There is a time for action. There is a time to move forward. There are some things that are a matter of urgency. But for the sake of the church, allow patience its proper place in your life and in your church. Who knows, it might just give us the time to see what great things God will do instead of having to settle for the mediocre things we may do in haste.



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DBA NEWS

Executive Board

Southmont Baptist
2801 Pennsylvania, Denton

February 21
11:45 AM

Lunch \$8 per person
Contact Lora at 940-498-5200 for reservations.

Guest speaker:
Dan Leal, Executive Director
Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County



Dan will present information on a training opportunity, detecting and preventing Child Abuse, which is available free of charge to DBA churches.

COMING FEBRUARY 20

