

The Life-Changing
Impact of Coming to



How Faith Has Changed My View Of Church

By Bruce McLain

This message is a testimony of my life and of the impact of several local churches. I believe that one of the reasons the local church exists is to shape lives, as in Colossians 1:28, “That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” I was six at the time of my salvation. I want to talk about how my two home churches and three churches that I pastored shaped my life.

In my early years, Mrs. Barrington, the pastor’s wife, explained to me salvation and baptism. From the head usher, I learned to help pick up songbooks after the service. During my grade school years, Mrs. Gates, a godly example, taught me to be a doer of the Word. My parents, the main influence in my life, taught me joyful involvement in the church. *What I learned is to love and teach the children in your church.*

The local church shaped me in my teenage years through developing lifelong friends. I was taught how to apply the Bible to the turbulence of the 1960s and given exposure to Christian leaders and Christian colleges. *What I learned is to spend time with your teens. Listen to them. Encourage them. Train them to serve.*

When I was in college, the local church gave me opportunities to serve. I taught an adult Sunday School class one summer, using what I had learned in Bible college. I also had an internship another summer, working with junior high students. *I learned that with the college students in your churches, discuss the practical and hard questions. Talk to them about their vision for life.*

During my years of ministry, I learned from the churches I pastored. When I was at Jefferson Baptist Church in Jefferson, Ore., the local church shaped my philosophy of working with people. *People are the priority.* At Faith Baptist in Strathmore, Calif., *I had to see the big picture*, as I worked with a full church program and various boards and committees. Finally, at Pine Grove Baptist of Santa Maria, my approach to leadership was shaped. *I must invest my life in others.*

How are we shaping people’s lives through our ministry to them? How are we taking the timeless truth of God’s Word and building disciples who are committed to Jesus Christ and His church? Every age group is important. Let’s commit ourselves again to minister to the entire flock, to see lives shaped by God and His church.

Taken from Bruce’s testimony given at the CARBC Christian Workers Retreat, January 2016.

CARBC Receives \$24,000 from Brotherhood Mutual

Protecting from risk is the usual purpose of insurance. With Brotherhood Mutual, the CARBC is finding out that insurance can also be about giving.

At the April state meetings, Philip Borders of Brotherhood Mutual (pictured far right with Bruce McLain) presented the CARBC with two checks totaling \$23,946. This money comes as a dividend from the low percentage of loss from CARBC churches covered by Brotherhood Mutual. Essentially, having safe churches with few claims results in high dividends for the CARBC.

As a faith-based insurance company, Brotherhood Mutual wants to be giving, explained Borders. “We want to watch God’s kingdom grow, and we want to give back.” Every single policy includes the words of Galatians 6:2, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Every church in the association is free to choose its insurance provider. However, the more that participate with Brotherhood Mutual, the more opportunity there is for funds to come back to the CARBC. “The Brotherhood Mutual program promises to be a blessing to our association in providing an additional source of revenue,” said CARBC Representative Bruce McLain. “I am thankful for the churches who are insured with Brotherhood Mutual, and encourage all of our churches to consider Brotherhood’s products when their insurance is up for renewal.”

To find out more about Brotherhood Mutual, you can research them at brotherhoodmutual.com or e-mail Phillip at phillip@covenantwest.com.



CARBC State Conference at Victory Ranch, April 2016.

Dr. Larry Overstreet taught on worship.



Ministry Perspectives:

Bi-Vocational Ministry

by Chris Hurton

Bi-vocational ministry is hard. I don’t think any form of ministry worth doing is easy, but adding a full-time secular job creates the trifecta of masters that can prove too much for even the best of us. That’s why God’s grace is so much more real; like manna in the desert, its daily provision sustains my soul.

Paul described the reality that a single man can devote himself fully to the Lord, while a married man must also serve his wife. In bi-vocational ministry, a third is added in as I seek to love my family as Christ loved the church, work for my employer as for the Lord, and still be available at all hours to shepherd the flock that God has entrusted to me.

From white-collar work to blue-collar work, my jobs have included data entry, plumbing, pottery, flooring installation, umpiring, lifeguarding, home inspections, surveying, pool maintenance, and driving a truck full of chickens 10 hours through the night. None of these, though, was a full-time career.

In 2013 my church hit a point where giving could not support my salary, and though the generous congregation staged a yard sale to fill in the gap, my wife and I began to pray with special urgency for God to provide for our family. God made it clear that He has us in Red Bluff for a purpose, and instilled in us a confidence that He would provide in His time.

A year later God opened an opportunity for me to work as the recreation supervisor with the city of Red Bluff. Early on I found myself regularly working 10 to 12 hours in a day. Though the job itself was fun, I struggled to find time with my kids. Midnight sermon prep became the norm, and I questioned whether this was really what God had for me.

Things settled down after those early weeks, and I resolved to give my absolute best to my employer, but within 40 hours a week. I enjoyed the flexible work schedule and the ability to receive calls and visits from church members who had needs throughout the day. Another confirmation of God’s will came when I had the opportunity to sit with a coworker as she poured out her



(See Bi-Vocational cont.)