

the apostolic christian network

# converge

m a g a z i n e

[www.theacn.net](http://www.theacn.net)

Volume 1, Issue 4





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Fat Bones: Cheryl Wooten  
Jack Stoops

# CONTINUITY AND CHANGE CONVERGE

BY mel Linker

Even though I use technology daily, I must admit it is still overwhelming to me at times. Rapid changes can completely upset my beloved routines, yet, I sometimes think, what did I do before I owned a cell phone? Or, more recently, how did I ever manage without an iPhone? It seems my whole life is catalogued on that phone, so it is somewhat amusing that I resisted so hard the notion of purchasing one. I remember asking myself, "Why do I need all those bells and whistles"? Well, after purchasing it, I quickly found out just how handy this small gadget could be and, now, try never to leave home without it.

Just a few short years ago a discussion, recorded on a restaurant napkin, launched the ACN. Rudimentary processes began to be developed. For the fledgling General Board, it must have, at times, seemed like they were venturing into the vast unknown. Like me, trying to adjust to new technology, it must have been overwhelming and downright scary at times. As this young fellowship began to experience growth, it became necessary to quickly develop new and improved processes. Once again, this was a time of change, requiring stretching and making necessary adjustments, many times in short order. Although certainly challenging, there seemed to be a sense the ACN was evolving into a unique and exciting group, where apostolic ministries could find a place of sincere friendship and partnership.

It has been over seven years since that first restaurant meeting occurred and the ACN continues to grow – across the United States as well as in many other regions of the world. It is really extraordinary to think of all that has been accomplished in such a short period of time. Many missionaries are being supported on a regular monthly basis, youth and women's ministries are flourishing, regional as well as national activities are occurring on a regular basis and communication is increasing. It is especially a moment of celebration for this staff, as *Converge* Magazine launched at the 2009 National Conference and is now celebrating one year of being in print! Yes, like technology, the ACN continues to evolve and is constantly searching for new and more innovative ways to assist members and their respective ministries, while also providing an appealing package for prospective membership.

In light of this flurry of growth and expansion, the ACN recently began developing a plan for implementing an innovative marketing strategy, with the professional assistance of ACN member, Randy Bassin, and his company, Global Force, Inc. As part of this marketing project, Randy and his team are developing a state of the art ACN website, with plans to launch at the 2010 National Conference. In



the very near future, *Converge* will be offered online, as well as in the current format, and many other exciting features will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Yes, I freely admit, change can overwhelm, but it also can provide the necessary tools to keep the ACN advancing. The Connecticut politician, Pauline R. Kezer, once said, "Continuity gives us roots, change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights." The ACN remains rooted in the continuity of the apostle's doctrine, while stretching, and growing through emerging technology and methodology.

Mel, along with her husband Ben, oversees the House of Praise Ministries, in Lancaster, TX, acting as the ministry's Senior Administrator. Mel has a Master of Science degree in Human Relations and Business and has achieved many awards, including Cedar Valley College's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1998. In addition to her ministry, Mel developed and provided oversight to an award-winning AmeriCorps National Service Program for the Phoenix House Foundation, and has provided consultation services to many service organizations and ministries.





## CHAIRMAN James Baker

### THE POWER OF MOMENTUM

It was a cold January evening and the air was crisp. Two college football teams were finally meeting for a Bowl game to determine which team would have the honor of being called #1. The highly favored team had several championship rings to prove the hype was true. On the other side of the coin, no one had really heard much from the team who came from a small mid-western town. According to the buzz, they were the “underdogs.” Besides, everyone agreed it was a fluke they had even gotten this far. Announcers were giving the stats on both teams, pointing out the strengths of the well-known team while proclaiming loudly the weaknesses of the Cinderella team. As I settled in to watch the game, I will never forget the comment made by ABC’s Keith Jackson, when he said, “Well, boys, there’s just one thing we need to consider here. If the **Big Mo** factor ever kicks in for this underdog team, we could have ourselves a ball game!” Keith Jackson’s theory proved to be right on track; being behind most of the game, overpowered and outplayed both in offense and in defense, somehow - somehow, the small obscure team persevered. With less than two minutes left in the game, a momentum shift had taken place. **Big Mo** showed up and showed out. The team went on to win its first ever National Title and became the talk of college football. The power of momentum!

Sir Isaac Newton discovered that momentum is the product of mass (weight) plus velocity (speed). His discovery proved no matter how big or heavy, small or light, an object combined with velocity, can have a dramatic effect and ultimately gain huge momentum – **but first you have to get it going!** I want to encourage pastors, evangelists

and ministers; don’t let the day of small things discourage you. Do not let circumstances or situations in your life stop your steps that are ordered of the Lord. Many times we see ourselves few in number. We experience the drag of inertia, which, in turn, creates resistance to change. Remember that even a small speedboat can run circles around an ocean liner. Once speed is up, huge momentum is generated. Momentum attracts people who like to be part of something that is going, happening, and moving. It’s the snowball effect. However, to generate momentum, you must be *willing* to move fast and this requires a *willingness to change*. You’ve heard it said before, “You’re trying to do too much, too fast. Take it slower.” In many cases this statement is made by those who may not fully understand the power of momentum.

The Nike Corporation, a few years ago, ran an ad campaign using a famous voice that said, “I’ve missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.” Those words were spoken by Michael Jordan, who was, by most standards, the greatest basketball player ever to play the game. The power of momentum always seems to follow those who are focused on what lies ahead!

♦ David would tell you it would have been easy to believe the “negative reports” his brothers were making concerning Goliath. But the Bible says, **he ran toward the Philistine and killed him.** (I Sam. 17:51)

*continued on page 8*

# BUILDING GENERATIONAL BRIDGES

al gossan, jr., D. Lit., religious education

When you were a teen-ager, did you listen to a transistor radio or an MP-3 player? Did you make calls from landlines or cell phones? Does texting, blogging, tweeting or Face booking turn you on or off...or, do you even know what they are? Does high-tech worship excite or exasperate you? Are smoke machines and colored lights, used in contemporary worship services, intriguing or irreverent to you? Are you appalled or apathetic toward what seems to be another generation's lack of respect for your religious habits (for example, wearing casual instead of formal clothing to church services)? If you find yourself on one side or the other of the above issues, you may be experiencing at least one generation gap. In fact, you may be experiencing *several* gaps between the four generations who are currently serving God as leaders and followers in the church today!

A management professor recently did research on the changing demographics in the American workplace and discovered four distinct age groups with obviously different values, working side-by-side. He found that achieving understanding among generations means less turnover, increased morale and greater productivity in the business world.

Can we bridge the generation gaps in our churches by discerning which things are non-negotiable scriptural absolutes and which things are simply cultural phenomena? And, more importantly, can we take the advice of Peter, the apostle, who wrote to the elder and younger leaders of his day?



## Advice for Elders and Young Men

*And now, a word to **you who are elders** in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor. In the same way, **you***

## FOUR GENERATIONS IN TODAY'S WORKPLACE

GENERATIONS	BIRTH YEARS	CORE VALUES
Matures	1922-1943	Dedication, hard work, respect for authority
Baby Boomers	1944-1960	Optimism, personal gratification and growth
GenX	1960-1980	Diversity, techno-literacy, fun, informality
Millenials	1981-2000	Optimism, civic duty, confidence, achievement

*younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And **all of you** [ELDERS AND YOUNGER MEN] **serve each other in humility**, for "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. (I Peter 5: 1-6 NLT)*

MUTUALLY SUBMISSIVE HUMILITY is the bridge between older and younger generations. May we all learn to build, and walk over, this bridge to effectively share the Word and Spirit with all generations. God knows we need one another to accomplish His will in His way.

Al Gossan has been enthusiastically studying and speaking about the Bible as a well-traveled minister for nearly 40 years. He is the Senior Pastor of Lighthouse Christian Fellowship in Holland, MI and a prolific author of bestselling Christian training courses, tracts, Bible studies and thought-provoking booklets. Al and his wife Jan are the grateful parents of four lovely daughters and have nine grandchildren.



## THE UNSELLABLES

BY CANDIE MCCLAIN

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At just about any given time of the day you can find programming on television featuring some sort of home makeover. HGTV features programs about interior makeovers, landscape projects, new construction, home sales, and etc. If it has to do with homes, they have a show about it! One of my recent favorites is titled *The Unsellables*. The premise of the show is professional realtors and designers visiting a less than desirable home and turning it into a “real estate gem”. The show amazingly transforms cluttered, ugly homes, which have yet to sell, into beautiful sought after properties. It really makes one realize there is incredible potential in places that seem dreadful and beyond marketability. *The Unsellables* is a neat concept and an even more important concept when you apply it to Children’s Ministry. Often we have children finding their way into our churches who are in many ways like these unsellable properties. They are in need of an insightful “designer” to see their potential. Children who have behavioral problems, poor social skills, and pitiful home lives need someone who can look beyond these obvious issues and see their full potential. HGTV is able to show us this transformation often in thirty minutes or less! Small investments of time, coupled with prayer and love, will bring about equally remarkable results.

I was blessed to see this process in action during one of our Sunday Learning classes. I frequently pop in and out of the classes to bring supplies, snacks, or just check-in. On one particular Sunday morning, I entered a classroom and was immediately met with an unpleasant odor. Sadly, I soon realized the odor was from some of the children in the room. Obviously these children had come from a home where they weren’t receiving proper care. No one had taken the time to help them bathe, clean their clothes, or style their hair. My first thought was “Oh my, this is not pleasant”. Then, the second thought, which ran through my mind, was one of anger, “Who does this to precious little children”? Fortunately, one more thought occurred to me as I was finishing up and scooting out



of the room. I noticed the class’s young teacher did not skip a beat; she lovingly interacted with all the children in her classroom. No doubt she smelled what I did and saw what I saw, but you would never have known it. I suddenly felt overwhelmed with gratitude for our Sunday Learning teacher, who so sweetly cared for these children. Our young teacher was indeed that “designer” who saw the potential to love and care for all children, with the opportunity to write a message of love and hope on their hearts. It’s easy to be uncomfortable with these types of situations, or even be angry with parents or caregivers; however, the most Christ-like reaction is to see all children for what they are; precious and lovable creations of our Lord and Savior with tons of potential. I was blessed to have such a powerful reminder of our purpose and mission on this ordinary Sunday morning.

If you are in Children’s Ministry, I encourage you to look beyond the physical or obvious traits you encounter and see the full potential of all children in your care. Just as the popular television show transforms homes, we can transform the lives of children. One by one we can spread an immeasurable message of love. Through our prayers and acceptance of all children, we will make a difference!

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Candie McClain, Sunday Learning Director, for House of Praise Ministries, Lancaster, TX, is a Senior Training Manager and Instructional Developer for AT&T Wireless. Candie is married to Dan McClain and is the mother of two sons, Caleb and Jack.



## A CONTEMPORARY PSALM

By Theresa Hunton

When the rains of this world wage war with my soul, I find solid ground in the slippery waters of confusion. For it is you, Lord, you are my solid ground, for where else can I find refuge?

Floods try to carry me away while smokescreens camouflage the path, but in the stillness of your Spirit I find truth.

I hear the call and feel sin's tug at my door, but I remember your faithfulness and your sweet sacrifice for me.

Your undying love for me is overwhelming. But it is in your presence I find myself. Your unfailing love for me drowns out the call of darkness.

So, when the hurricanes of life seem to pull me in and I feel like I'm letting you down, you remind me I am your priceless child.

*Greetings ACN Brothers and Sisters,*

*Recently, my husband and I had to go out of town for the weekend, so we called Brother Sonny Cathey from Waco, Texas to come preach for us Saturday night and Sunday morning. While we were gone, we received a call from our daughter and we could hardly hear her for the worship in the background. She was crying and said three of the youth in our church were just filled with the Holy Ghost (two were our grandchildren). God is moving in the church so powerfully. The week before, we had a woman in her 70's receive the Holy Ghost. This is exciting! I believe God has given us a breakthrough.*

*Keep us in your prayers,  
Pastors John & Lana Chapman*



## Jake's Corner



Jake and his master recently moved to a new home. After living in the bondage of a dog pen, this new location offers Jake the opportunity to run free; leading to both new adventures and challenges for Jake and his master. Jake's Corner is a series of musings from his master as he contemplates his own relationship with God.

Jake released to run in the country...uncertain about his staying home. Has his frequent dash-away with other dogs, but always home before dark. No pens, no chains; now bound only by his choice. Feels good to be Jake's "master". The MASTER'S joy was releasing man, but HIS greater joy is when we return. (Luke 15:7)

If you're a plate spinning specialist like my husband and me, you know there are times when you just have to lay the plates down and let someone else take 'em for a spin. It's either take a break or have a breakdown; you're exhausted, dry and running on empty.

Such was the case for us in May, as we arrived at the ACN North Central Regional Ministers' Retreat. Believe me, getting there was a serious battle, due to an office carpet installation project gone haywire, furniture in the hallways and a pair of missing eyeglasses. I've heard it said so many times "when you encounter resistance while trying to do something in God's Kingdom, it's a good sign it's something you **SHOULD** be doing."

Obstacles aside, we made the two-hour drive to Grand Haven, Michigan in record time. As we turned into the campground, a sign that read, "Come Apart and Rest Awhile" welcomed us. *Mmmmm. That sure sounded good to me.* Stretching, we got out of the car and breathed in the fresh air, fragrant with pine. All was quiet and peaceful. *Mmmmm. That sure felt good to me.*

Although we only knew a handful of people, we looked forward to meeting others who shared a like precious faith. We were not disappointed. Together, we worshipped the Lord while Ben and Mel Linker, pastors from House of Praise Ministries, in Lancaster, Texas, led us in group

discussions, good old-fashioned fellowship and fun team exercises - like how to build the tallest tower using two decks of cards. We had time to relax, play ping-pong and volleyball and enjoyed a walk to Lake Michigan, taking in the brisk air and Spring sunshine.

New friendships were formed, as each one openly

shared insights, thoughts, trials, victories and hopes for the future, without fear of judgment or condemnation. It's good to know there are others to encourage and support you; going it alone is like being a one-armed paperhanger - it's nearly impossible! We need each other. The writer of Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10 reminds us that, "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up." Thank God for others who are walking this same path. They know how it feels to stub a toe on a log or fall into a ditch; and they're the ones who stretch out a hand to pull you up or pull you out.

One of the most impressive things about this gathering was the complete lack of prejudice and absolute spirit of love, welcome and unity. It was like stepping into a family reunion, with family members you had not yet met! God is so good and He knows what we need and when we need it. This retreat couldn't have come at a better time for us and





I'm sure for many others. We now have new friends - a.k.a. family--from Texas, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Russia!

And in complete agreement, I can sing the chorus of William and Gloria Gaither's song, "The Family of God..."

*I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God,  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family,  
The family of God*

Cheryl Wooten has been active in church ministry for over 26 years and is currently the Music and Activities Director at Living Faith Fellowship, in Wanatah, IN, pastored by Al Gossan. With an insatiable curiosity about the world around her and the One who created it all, Cheryl authors a unique blog: *Never The Same Day Twice*. [www.neverthesame-daytwice-clw.blogspot.com](http://www.neverthesame-daytwice-clw.blogspot.com)



## The Power of Momentum *continued...*

♦ Elisha left his oxen and **ran after Elijah** so he could be the recipient of the double portion. (I Kings 19:20)

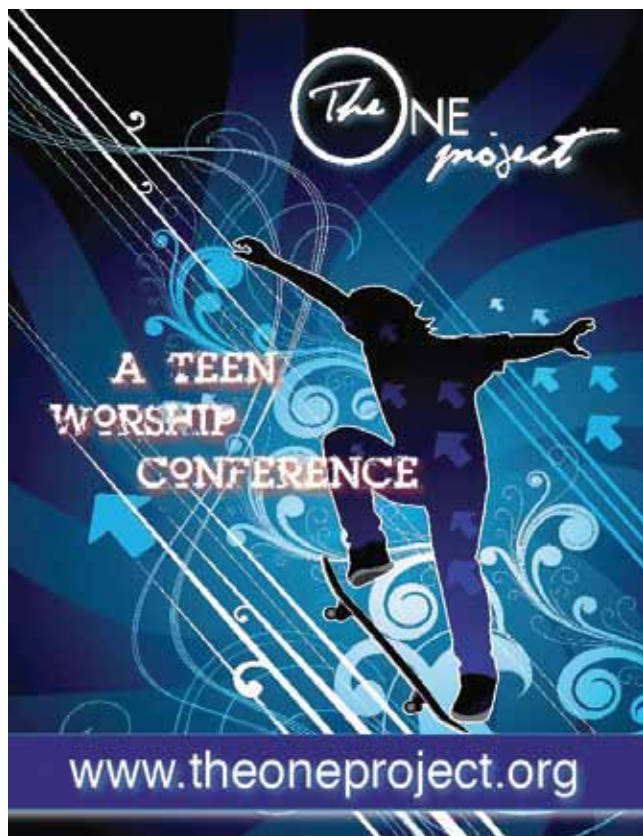
♦ Even when all hell attacked a man living in the tombs, this man **ran to Jesus!** That momentum brought complete healing and deliverance to a tormented soul. (Mark 5:6)

I have a feeling it was this kind of momentum in Paul's life that prompted him to write, "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind, **I run toward what is ahead, I press to the goal.** (Phil 3:13-14)

The **Big Mo** is here...let's seize the moment!

Reaching Forward,

James Baker



**PRIMERICA**

**Karen Rene Jenkins**  
Division Leader

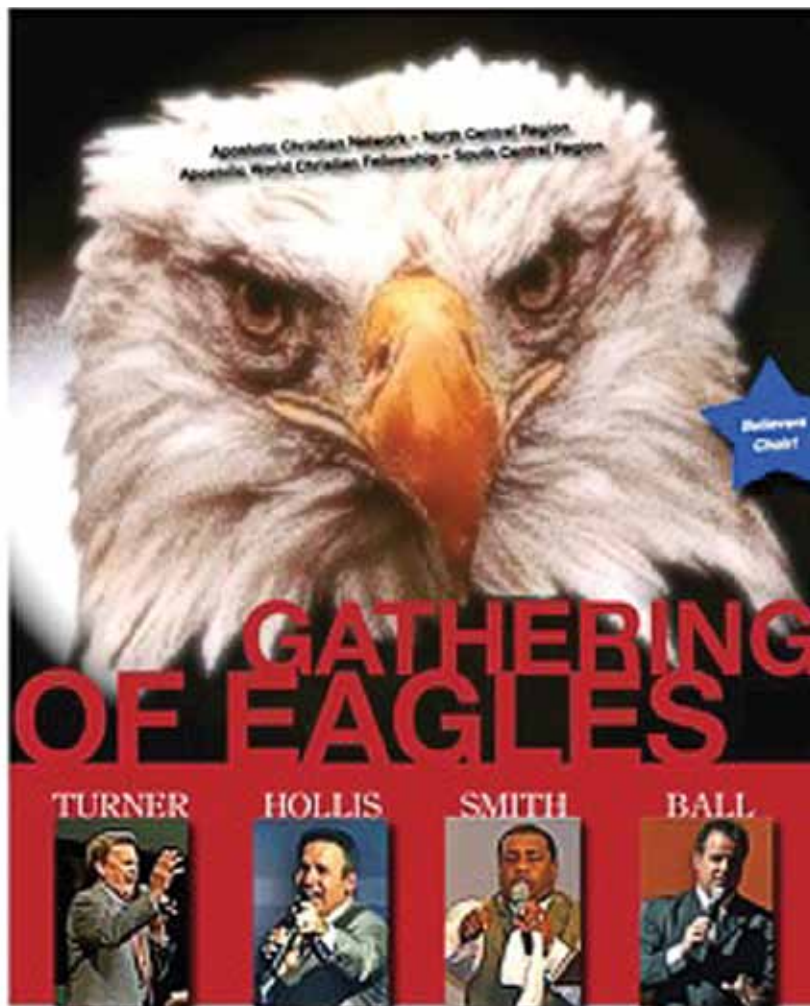
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Intercessory Prayer Leadership Training

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## DATES:

Sept 24 & 25, 2010

## LOCATION:

The Believers Church  
7905 Smyrna Pkwy, Louisville, KY

## TIMES:

Fri. 7:30 pm, Sat. 10:30 am

## CONFERENCE THEME:

THE PROPHETIC

## HOTEL:

Ask for special Believers Church Conference Rate  
Holiday Inn Airport South  
6551 Paramount Park Dr.  
502.966.0000

## INFORMATION:

Al Gossan: 616.405.5960  
agossan@att.net

## august

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### ACN SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

James King, Director

### OCTOBER

Regional Rally

Friday, October 15, 2010

Denison, Texas

Host Pastor: Larry Goodwin, The Refuge

### DECEMBER

Christmas Banquet

Friday, December 3, 2010

San Antonio, TX

Host Pastor: David Cook, IBC

### ACN NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Al Gossan, Director

### AUGUST

Weekend of Worship

with David Goldsberry

Saturday & Sunday, August 21-22, 2010

Coloma, MI

Host Pastor: Wade Blankenship,

New Freedom Church

### SEPTEMBER

Gathering of Eagles

Prophetic Conference

Friday & Saturday, September 24-25, 2010

Louisville, KY

Host Pastor: Randy Hollis,

The Believers Church

### NOVEMBER

ACN Regional Conference

with Jonathan Suber

Friday & Saturday, November 5-6, 2010

Freeport, IL

Host Pastor: Mark Tipton,

The Bridge Church

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

REFRESH - RENEW - REENERGIZE

# Destiny's Journey



Encourage • Empower • Equip  
ACN WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Greater Life Christian Center, Fredericksburg, TX  
Thursday, October 28 – Saturday, October 30, 2010

Register at the WIM Booth at the ACN National  
Conference 2010 or contact Laura Henry, ACN Women's  
Director, at [lhenry@theacn.net](mailto:lhenry@theacn.net) for more information

## CONVERGE MAGAZINE

Chief Editor: Mel Linker  
Managing Editor: Sheila Penick  
Managing Editor: Laura Henry

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**THEACN**

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN NETWORK

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