



CHURCHIN'

"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Let me state upfront that Canadian pastor Carey Nieuwhof's article "The 3 Kinds of Leaders You See In A Crisis," is the inspiration for this month's column. Nieuwhof contends that "crisis doesn't create your leadership style, instead, it reveals and amplifies what was already there."

Crisis has the potential to eviscerate our emotions, obscure our vision and muddle our thinking. In adversity, people are more inclined to react emotionally rather than respond sensibly. One thing I believe we can all agree on is that leaders respond differently in crisis.

In a crisis, change is not a choice anymore. When we're faced with a crisis, whether it is a global pandemic or financial nonfeasance, we have to adapt in order to survive. Crisis teaches us to make adjustments in our strategy. This means that the effective leader will use the crisis as an opportunity to renew the ministry in a way that makes it better fit for the future.

So the person who leads the church and/or ministry team must view change as opportunity. In some ways a crisis is like a thermometer. It tells the temperature of how we've led up to this point. It displays the strengths and weaknesses of our preferred approach to doing ministry.

Nieuwhof asserts that there are three kinds of leaders you see in a crisis

First, there are Frozen Leaders. Nieuwhof suggests that "Some leaders just aren't ready for disruption, and when their methods get challenged, they freeze. They just don't know what to do...frozen leaders focus on what they can't control, not on what they can control. They can only see the obstacles, and as a result, miss the opportunities."

The second kind of leader, according to Nieuwhof, is a Hesitant Leader. Hesitant leaders change, but they try to make as few changes as possible.

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a crisis, the hesitant leader overanalyzes the situation and, consequently, analysis paralysis takes over. Another concern about the hesitant leader is that he or she is often riskaverse. Playing it safe is not a good strategy in times of crisis. Someone has said, "Faith is a risk, but a risk worth taking."

Finally, Nieuwhof argues that the best kind of leadership style in a crisis is Agile Leadership. He writes, "Agile leadership is flexible leadership, the ability to pivot and change not just once, but as often as changing conditions warrant. In a crisis, agility is ability."

Stephanie O'Brien, Lead Pastor of Mill City Church of Minneapolis, defines agile leadership as "the ability to take wise and effective action amid complex, rapidly changing conditions." Agile leadership in layman's terms means adapting to changes and problems to find the best possible solution for future growth. Agile leaders are able to lead rapid change. In our ever-evolving world, churches have been forced to assess how we do ministry. What was once considered a normal ministry practice has likely adapted or changed altogether. Agile leaders think differently in a crisis and lead into uncharted territory with agility and flexibility.

*dr. michael bell is Senior Pastor of Greater St. Stephen First Church FtW, a seminary adjunct professor, and a certified Life Coach. He conducts leadership seminars and conferences across the country. He is the author of a new book, Finding God in Hard Places.



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An Occupied Life

"And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come (Luke 19:13).

Being an only child for almost fourteen years, I constantly hung at my Aunt Margie's house with my three cousins. When Auntie would leave us alone so she could go to work, she would call all four of us together, give us each an assignment and instructions to 'complete the job" until she returned. We were not allowed to answer the phone unless it was the "code ring" so we never had knowledge of exactly when Auntie was coming home. We just knew she would return.

Our Savior uttered a similar command, "Occupy til I come." It is a mandate He has commissioned to every believer until the "catching up" of the Church (1 Cor. 15:51-53). It serves as a reminder that the Father frowns on idleness (Prov. 13:4). Every child of God is expected to be useful for the Master (2 Tim 2:21). We serve a Father, the Creator of all life, who knows every child by name so much so that he knows the number of hairs on our head (Luke

12:7). He paved a way for us to be saved and then gave us clear instructions to go and give the world hope through the Gospel message. He did not just call us to be His own, but He also endowed us with the necessary tools to carry out His assignment. A pound or "mina" is about three months' wages and considered valuable. This treasure housed in our earthen vessel is the great power from God that is worth sharing.

The Father lovingly issues a call to come to Him. The obedient child will respond to the call even though he may not know the purpose of the summons. There may be some question in your mind as to why the Father is calling you, but His Word says that whatever His will is, it is for your good (Romans 8:28). The enemy will do all he can to delay your journey because the Father's blessings enrich the life of a child of God and adds no sorrow (Prov. 10:22). Whenever you come into the presence of the Father, you bring a sacrifice. That sacrifice is the "willing" you (Rom. 12:1). Out of your obedience, the Father empowers you with His grace to accomplish His desire every day. The mandate to "occupy until I come" is to carry out the Father's business. We are



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to love others as Christ has loved us (John 15:12-13). We are to feed the poor, help the homeless, the widows, and remember those in prisons (Matthew 25:37-40). We are to do the work.

We do not want the Father to return and find that we have done nothing with what He has invested in us. When we fail to use what the Father has given us, we literally demonstrate by our lack of action that we do not care. So dear hearts, there is a work to be done and that is the Father's business. Jesus is soon to return. Be determined to be found working while it is day until we hear those blessed words, enter into the joy of the Lord."

Dr. Yolanda G. Butler is Co-Pastor and Church Administrator of Praise Center Community Church, where her husband Bishop Donald H. Butler is the Senior Pastor. She is an intercessor, evangelist, mentor, and published author. Follow her on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and at www.firstladybutlerministries.com.





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The Critical Importance of Church Choirs adapted from an article by Vince Wilc

Evidence gathered by the a recent National Congregational Study indicates that 21 percent of evangelical churches and 40 percent of mainline churches stopped using choirs regularly in worship. However, 35 percent of evangelical congregations and 37 percent of mainline churches continue to use choirs-a total of approximately 70,000 churches. That's still a lot of folks who believe in the critical importance of church choir in their worship services.

Here are seven reasons a choir can be vital to your church.

1. Choirs are biblical.

It's easy to miss, but the Book of Psalms is filled with detailed notes to the music director explaining the style, the melody, and the occasion of a particular song. Old Testament worship was led by great numbers of trained singers and musicians. And the Psalms were the hymnal of the New Testament church. This is not to say that choirs are the only valid scriptural model for worship, but to dismiss choirs altogether as archaic and irrelevant means we risk forsaking a rich biblical tradition.

2. Choirs encourage excellence in worship.

A choir rarely performs "off the cuff." Rather, the director spends time and resources finding the perfect arrangement of the perfect song. Then, the director spends time rehearsing singers and musicians to perform the song with beauty and precision. Choir members learn the parts and hopefully transcend the notes on the page-allowing the song to speak to and through them to the congregation. Ideally, a "performance" piece inspires people to praise. Likewise, using the choir for congregational songs is a powerful prompt to worship; people clearly hear the melody and join their voices as one. A practiced choir encourages

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a sense of awe and reverence through their excellence and preparation.

3. Choirs celebrate the human voice.

There is something extraordinary about hearing a group of practiced singers use their God-given instruments to worship their Creator. Their rich, passionate voices touch something deep within us. And in doing so, they connected our hearts to our Father's.

4. Choirs can inspire and lead worship.

One of the arguments against using choirs in contemporary worship services is that it relegates congregants to the role of bystanders. As if we're saving, "Let the professionals do the worshiping-you just sit here and enjoy it." Instead-the argument continues-we ought to make congregational singing as simple and inviting as possible. So we do away with hymnals that have written harmony parts and simply project lyrics on the screen to be sung in unison. But this great "dumbing down" doesn't necessarily encourage more participation. You don't have to look far to find modern worship settings where people are "spectating" just as much as they might have done with a choir.

The issue isn't as much if a choir should be used; rather, it's how a choir can be used to facilitate meaningful worship. Yes, it's possible to make your choir (or worship band, for that matter) the center of atten-

tion. But that's "worship malpractice" insomuch as it misdirects your congregation away from the true object of worship, the Lord. But properly used, a choir (or worship band) can lead your congregation to worship in Spirit and in truth.

5. Choirs can be redemptive communities.

We live in the age of the superstar worship leader and celebrity pastor. Choirs can be an antidote to this spiritual epidemic. A healthy choir affirms all its members-not just the high-profile ones. A choir can be a redemptive community where all the imperfect parts of the Body of Christ are cherished-especially when someone is going through a tough time. A choir is a place where you belong, where you are missed when you're not there, and where you can contribute your modest talent so that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.

Effective directors treat their choirs as "a ministry within a ministry." They take time to share devotional thoughts, prayer requests, and potluck dinners. Like the fabled bar in the TV show Cheers, their choir is a place "where everyone knows vour name." This is especially important in larger churches, where it's easy to remain anonymous, or worse, overlooked.

6. Choirs make us work together. Similarly, the American archetype is that of uncompromised individualism. We resist being woven into the fabric of a community-especially one where we must constantly subjugate ourselves to a leader and submit our talents to one another.

Choirs can help cure the disease of self-centeredness. To succeed, we must yield ourselves to one another. We must listen to each other. We must follow the leader's direction. continues on page 7





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Pic 1) Pastor Jason White at Cheryl Voice Play at Ft.Worth Community Arts Center; Pic 2) Board Members od Minister Derek Locke Memorial Music Scholarship Foun dation Edna Wilson-Wilkins and Preshawn Ford

21st Presentation of Scholarships on August 14, 2022.



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CHURCHIN'

65th Founder's Day, Church Anniversary & Homecoming

The St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church located at 5500 East Berry Street on the southern-most boundary of the Historic Stop Six Community celebrated sixty-five years of existence. The month-long celebration culminated on Sunday, June 26, 2022. The culmination was marked with the reunion of the members of the congregation, former members of the Junior Choir/ Praise Choir/Angel Choir along with the announcement of the 2022 T.W. Pope Memorial Scholarship recipients. SMMBC Pastor Dr. Lester E. Singleton officiated. The Anniversarv message was delivered by Guest Speaker Rev. Milton West, Pastor of the Holy Way Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

Each Sunday during the month of

(Hollywood,

my & Stellar

Award win-

Jones is back

with a brand-

new album!

Featuring the

Gram-

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topped Billboard for 47+ weeks!

CA)

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recipients:Christopher Avres and OriAnna Barnes)

June was designated with a catchphrase in an effort to promote unity, fellowship and church family comradery. First Sunday – "Bright On Time," we wore bright colors; Second Sunday - "Spirit Sunday," Church T-shirts were worn. Third Sunday – the National Juneteenth Celebration coincided with Father's Day which gave opportunity to honor both the past and the future. Fourth Sunday – "A Gold Day

in June," – attire was adorned with some form of gold.

We were proud to acknowledge our 2022 T.W. Pope Memorial Scholarship recipients. Miss OriAnna Barnes is a graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School and Mr. Christopher Avres is a graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Young Men's Leadership Academy. Both phenomenal students were actively involved in extra-curricular activities and exceeded the prerequisites of eligibility for the scholarship award. Miss Barnes plans to prepare for a career in Graphic/ Media Design. Mr. Ayres plans to prepare for a career in Kinesiology/ Nursing.

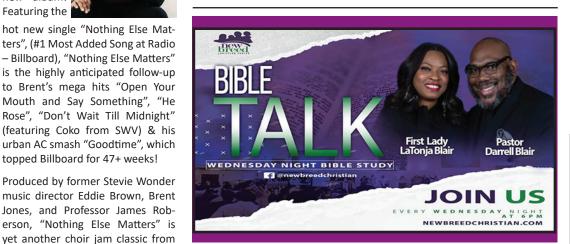
Blessings and Congratulations to our 2022 T.W. Pope Memorial Scholarship recipients and all who made our 65th Founder's Day, Church Anniversary & Homecoming a celebration to remember.

Brent Jones soars to #1 on Billboard - "Nothing Else Matters" Billboard #1 Most Added Song at Radio!!

Brent Jones.

A singer/songwriter extraordinaire who's groundbreaking work with his urban group TP Mobb set the stage for Kirk Franklin and urban contemporary gospel, JDI/Sony artist Brent Jones' new 12-song album "Nothing

Else Matters (INSTEAD OF COM-PLAINING, PRAISE HIM)" features a wide variety of inspirational music from praise & worship, contemporary gospel, traditional gospel, to urban and more. Be prepared to be blessed!





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Wednesday Services Wedn<mark>esday Prayer</mark> Se<mark>rvice & Bi</mark>ble Study 7:00 P.M.







The Rising Star Church of God in Christ 3909 Reed St. - Ft. Worth, TX 76119 - Ph: 817.534.6963 www.therisingstarcogic.com Sunday Services Sunday School 9:30 AM Morning Worship YPWW 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM Night Servic **Tuesday Services** Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Bible Band 7.00 PM Friday Services Morning Prayer Night Services 11:00 AM 7:30 PM Supt. E. Charles Barrett, Pastor Mother Ida Barrett, First Lady "If you go with us, we will do you good!"



CHURCH DIRECTORY



I'd Rather See A Sermon Poet: Edgar A. Guest

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way. The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear, Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear; And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds, For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

l soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done; I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run. And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true, But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do; For I might misunderstand you and the high advise you give, But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind. When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be. And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.

One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold; One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told. Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear, For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear. Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say, I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.



Church Choirs continued.

Looking away for even a moment can be embarrassing. Straying from the notes can be disastrous. Choirs teach us mutuality and submission within the context of an endeavor greater than ourselves.

7. Choirs can encourage musical diversity.

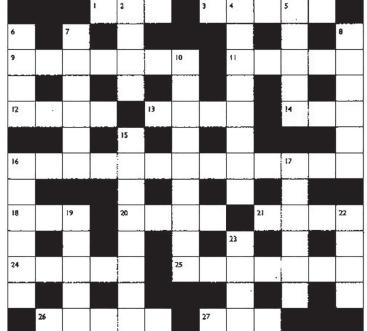
Most "choir folks" are more musically diverse than you'd think. They appreciate lots of different styles of music because-somewhere along the way-they had a choir director who had them sing a hymn or song or an a cappella arrangement of a popular song from the radio. Yes, choir nerds can be a little snooty, but I'll bet they're fans of music from several generations and not just a certain decade. In contrast, most of the top modern worship songs were written in the past 20 years. I'll go out on a limb and say that folks who sing in choirs are often more musically eclectic than those who lead worship bands.

The church is bigger than one style, and making a choir part of your worship experience can help your congregation resist the temptation of homogeneity.

Support your choir director-or recruit one if you don't have one. Set aside funds to build a library of great music. Celebrate your choir every time they sing.



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1 'The mountains melt like _ before the Lord of all the earth": bees' secretion (Ps. 97:5)

3 In the wrong way (Ps. 17:3) 9 Make provisions: settle details (Mark 14:10) 11 An open sore (Lev. 13:10)

12 "God has reserved for his children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is ____ in heaven for you, pure and undefiled"; pre-

served (I Pet. I:4) 13 Oxidation of exposed metal

- (Hag. 2:17) 14 Drain away; gradually weaker
- (Hos. 5:12) 16 Distinctive individuals
- (Acts 18:15) 18 "A dull _____ requires great
- strength; be wise and sharpen the blade" (Eccles. 10:10)
- 20 Village where Jesus resurrected a widow's son
- (Luke 7:11-14)
- 21 "Come, everyone, and _____ for joy! Shout triumphant
- s to the Lord"; applaud (Ps. 47:1)

24 "When Christ comes back, all his people will become again"; animated (1 Cor. 15:23)

25 "Love forgets mistakes; ____ about them parts the best of friends": constantly scolding (Prov. 17:9) 26 Person trained to care for others (Gen. 24:59) 27 "Jehovah keeps his _ _ upon you as you come and go and always guards you"; organ of sight (Ps. 121:8)

DOWN

2 Sister of one's father or mother (Lev. 18:13) 4 "The advice of a wise man refreshes like water from a _ spring"; elevated land higher than a hill (Prov. [3:14) 5 Bags (Gen. 44:1) 6 Strong, sudden putl (Zech. 9:7) 7 "It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve to death; for God wants his loved ones to get their rest"; suitable; right (Ps. 127:2) 8 Heavy curtains (Exod. 35:17) 10 "In this new life one's nation ity or race or ____ ___ or social position is unimportant. Whether a person has Christ

is what matters"; training by formal instruction (Col. 3:11) 15 "I will bless the Lord who

- _____ me; he gives me wisdom in the night"; advises (Ps. 16:7) 16 Public squares or markets (Mark 6:56)
- 17 Set into a surface (2 Chron 3:6) 19 Youngest of Job's four visitors

(lob 32:4) 22 What der ins exorcised from two men of Gadara went into

(Mark 5:13) 23 Offensive to look at Study Bible



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