

Senior Pastor Annual Report 2024

Introduction:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I write to share with you the various ways that I have strived to faithfully execute my office of Senior Pastor here at CBC in 2024, along with personal stories of what God has taught me. I've broken this annual report into five different sections: personal, preaching/teaching, discipleship, ministry of prayer, and conclusion.

Personal:

The most important element of my ministry is my personal devotion to Jesus Christ. A pastor who does not live out what he preaches is a threat to the church. My biggest spiritual takeaway this year has come from 1 Cor 4:1–5, specifically from verse two. Paul writes, “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” My heartbeat this year has been to model faithfulness to the Lord. Through thick and thin, ups and downs, approval and disapproval, joys and sorrows, my desire to glorify God by faithfully preaching the Bible “in season and out of season” (2 Tim 4:2). That’s how I define success—consistent-obedience over a long period of time. This is the lesson that the Lord has driven into my heart this year. Please pray that the Lord would drive it even deeper!

I recently completed a long term academic project—my dissertation. The title is, “A Critical Examination of *Sola Scriptura* in Evangelical Theology.” Though probably only ten people will read it (ha-ha!), I’m very thankful to put it to rest. All praise to God. I enjoy writing and find it profitable for ministry. I don’t know what I will write about next, but I do think and pray about that.

My beloved family remains the earthly treasure of my soul. Kathryn has been busy this year with caring for our baby, Lee. He turned one recently. What a blessing he has been! It’s amazing to see our older kids hold their baby sibling. Our routine has stabilized since having Lee. My commitment to my wife and children remains strong and sound.

Preaching/Teaching:

This year in the pulpit ministry we’ve covered Exodus, Titus, and some Psalms. I’ve enjoyed the variety. I’m still seeking the Lord’s will for my life as a preacher. Trying to find “who I am” before the Lord. Specifically, seeking to understand the proper relationship between preaching and teaching. I’ve felt that my preaching has lacked something, and I haven’t quite been able to put my finger on it. Me using more power points lately: is me seeking to find the right balance of teaching and preaching. We’ll see where I land. I’m in process! My plan for the fall is to jump between Titus and Exodus. After we finish these two books, I’m thinking about landing in a gospel—probably Matthew or Luke.

For Sunday school, I taught a class (with Rick Vallery and Keanan Fischer) on a book *12 Things God Can't Do*. I think the class was a bit of a disappointment, as it got repetitive at the end. My apologies! Right now, I'm teaching a study on Ephesians (with Joel Jundt and Rick Vallery). I love teaching this class. It's straight Bible study—parsing verbs, unpacking prepositions, and doing a deep-theological dive. I continue teaching AWANA for Senior High, along with Caleb Nordquist. We're currently investigating Colossians. Further, I teach the Thursday morning women's study, and right now we're in Isaiah. We finished a study on 1-3 John before that. I help out teaching the CBC Theology Institute with Pastor Phil on Sunday evenings. I write the "Member's Spotlights" from time to time, though I've been trying to get other brothers involved in that process, too. I started teaching a Greek 101 class in October. My heart for that is to help our church understand the Bible in an even deeper way. If you're interested in joining, let's talk!

Teaching this amount requires lots of preparation, so personal study remains an essential task for me. I spend lots of time reading—both at home and at work. The fuel of my ministry comes from these times of extended study. My days tend to follow the pattern of study, prayer, and preparation in the mornings, and in the afternoons I tend to have more appointments. This schedule works very well for me.

Discipleship:

The raising up of godly, theologically informed, able-to-teach male leaders remains the most pressing need at CBC, so discipleship remains a front-and-center concern for me. I enjoy taking "walking meetings"—visiting with brothers as we walk around town. As I said in last year's report: I want CBC to be a juggernaut of godly male leadership. To get there, we must have a culture of discipleship, and that starts with me. Please pray Matt 9:37–38 for our church: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." The brother who I spend the most time with is Pastor Phil. I'm very thankful Pastor Phil is here at CBC. We work great together. Our personalities and approaches to ministry gel really well together. We spend time talking, dreaming, discerning, and praying for the Spirit's direction for CBC.

A Ministry of Prayer:

Some of the greatest joy I've experienced this last year has come through my times of prayer. To cast one's cares upon the Lord, to experience and express complete dependence upon him, to storm the throne of grace in our time of need—few experiences in this life are as precious as prayer. As the old hymn states, "Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share." My goal is to spend hours per week in prayer (Acts 6:4). Few things are as important as this for me as a pastor. Please pray for my prayer life.

Conclusion:

Along with these responsibilities, I've engaged in other pastoral duties like administration, staff guidance, pre-marital counseling, weddings, hospital visits, home visits, and general member care. I embrace this calling of pastor with great joy and trepidation. I believe with all my heart, soul, and mind that the crucified, risen, and exalted God-man Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. He's coming back, so we have to be prepared. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of preparing our church to meet the risen Lord. Let's conquer for Christ!

Pastor Chance