Happy New Year!

The year ahead gives us a fresh opportunity to *journey with Jesus*— participating actively in what he is doing in the Spirit to share God's love and life with all people. That participation includes equipping people to journey with Jesus as one of his disciples. It is a high calling and great blessing to share in our Lord's disciple-making ministry.
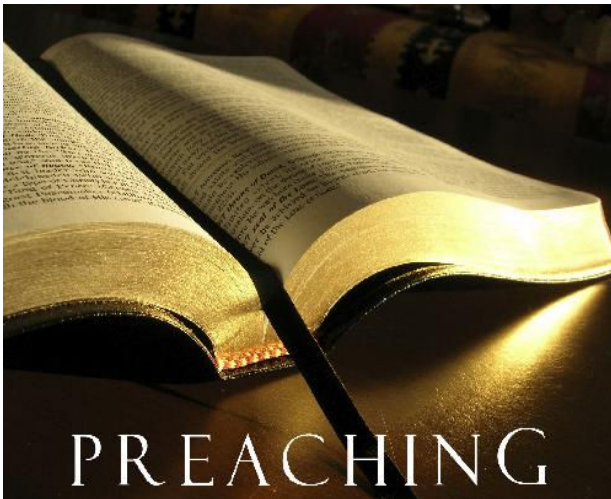
A key way that we share is through preaching—the verbal proclamation of Christ and his gospel. This is the message that transforms lives and strengthens churches, as noted by Anthony Baker in an article in the 12/2011 issue of *Christianity Today* titled, *Learning to Read the Gospel*:

> If Christians can learn, week after week, to read the story of Jesus of Nazareth—to love what we read, to be loved by what we read—then surely the future of the church would look a bit more hopeful. (p. 33)

Though the focus and primary content of the gospel is timeless, the way we preach it needs to change as our audience changes. Therefore, as preachers, we frequently need to re-tool. The resources listed on page two will help.

Those of us called to preach know it to be a time-consuming and challenging labor of love. Therefore, to all our preachers I say, *thank you!*

- Dan Rogers, CAD director

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P.S. In the United States, February is *Black History Month*. I encourage our churches to spend time celebrating some of the many ways that black men and women have contributed to the development of our nation, including its churches. You will find resources at http://www.gci.org/go/BlackHistory. For help in teaching children, go to http://www.gci.org/go/Kaboose.

Outfitting churches, ministries, pastors and ministry leaders for the disciplemaking journey with Jesus.

Preaching resources

Preaching is both a heart-felt act of worship and a developed skill. From time to time, even seasoned preachers need to hone their craft. The following resources provide help.

Articles

Following are online articles that helpfully address various aspects of the craft of preaching. You might consider using one or more of these to guide a discussion with your preaching team.

- ***What Really Makes Preaching Biblical?*** This article by John Ortberg addresses the classic approaches to sermon preparation (topical, expository, etc.) and looks for the issues that ensure that all sermons, no matter their structure, are truly biblical. Read the article at http://www.gci.org/go/Ortberg.

- ***Collaborative Approaches to Preparing and Delivering Sermons.*** CAD encourages pastors to use a team-based, collaborative approach to preaching. For a research paper from Azusa Pacific University on this topic go to http://www.gci.org/go/team.

- ***Questions for Creativity.*** In *A Primer on Biblical Preaching,* Jerry Sutton suggests that we will improve our sermons by asking seven questions. Go to http://tinyurl.com/d83c64q.

- ***8 Tips for Keeping Audience Attention.*** Rachel Bloom discusses how preachers can hold the attention of their audience. Go to http://www.gci.org/go/audience.

- ***5 Things We Do Today Instead of Preach the Word***. James MacDonald discusses ways that preachers are tempted to preach something other than the Word of God. Go to http://www.gci.org/go/word.
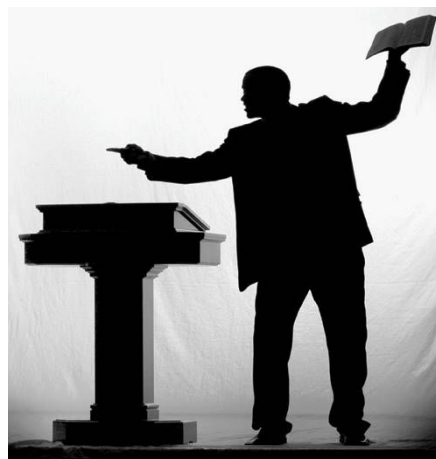
Video

In a recent *You're Included* program, Elmer Colyer discusses the relationship between theology and Scripture. This is a key issue in preparing sermons that convey the truths of Scripture as read through the lens of a sound theology. Go to http://www.gci.org/go/Colyer.

Workshop

CAD offers *Expository Preaching*, a daylong workshop that outfits preachers and teachers for preparing and delivering biblically based sermons that lead to life transformation by conveying Christ and his gospel. To schedule this workshop, contact your District Pastor; also see the Ministry Development services page at http://mindev.gci.org/services.htm.