



# The E-Update of the Mideast Baptist Conference

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As one month is already behind us in the year 2008, God continues to bless and direct our movement of churches in powerful ways. This E-Update is a brief report on some of the key initiatives that are unfolding here in the Mideast Baptist Conference. Thanks for your partnership and for your prayers. Feel free to call, email, or contact me or our staff regarding any of these developments. Check out the MBC website at: [www.bgcmideast.com](http://www.bgcmideast.com), for the latest updates as well!

## GENEROUS CHURCH SUMMIT Coming April 26, 2008

Pastors and lay leaders from every MBC church are invited to our first ever regional Generous Church Summit, Saturday, April 26th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at New Hope Community Church in Loudonville, OH. This will be an incredible opportunity featuring Andy Stanley via video, Scott Ridout, BGC Director of Generosity, and other leaders from our movement. Lead Pastors are invited and asked to bring at least 3 lay leaders from your church to the Summit. One of our goals all across the MBC is to build a "generosity culture" in our churches. This is a key initiative for the coming year(s), and this Summit will be a great opportunity for your church to catch the spirit of generosity firsthand. One of the outcomes will be to develop "generosity champions" in every MBC church. This summit will help you. The cost for the entire Summit will be \$100 per church. Information on lodging and registration is available by contacting the MBC office.

## New BGC/MBC Name Coming

Another key initiative our National and District leaders have been working on is a branding for our movement that better describes who we are as a network of churches. While this process has been laborious, I am encouraged to report that we are close to finalizing a new movement name for the BGC and for the MBC as well. President Jerry Sheveland has been leading this process, and I am personally very excited about the direction God is leading our Conference. Be watching for an update on the new "nickname" for the BGC, and for how we can together embrace this new branding opportunity. Please be in prayer as well.

## MBC Office Building Purchase Coming Together



What a thrill it is to share with our entire MBC family, that God is putting the pieces together to purchase our current office building in Poland, OH. As of early January, a purchase agreement has been signed, a loan commitment from the BGC Cornerstone Fund has been secured for 75% of the purchase price (total purchase price of \$460,000). And God is graciously providing the balance of the funds that will be needed for the

down payment, and projected closing on February 15, 2008. As our Overseers and Executive Leadership Team have discussed and prayed about this opportunity, we see God's hand in so many ways. The building, when fully paid for, will provide an income stream in excess of \$40,000 per year that can go right back into ministry, expanding our impact in church planting, in church mobilization, in camping, and in leadership development. Owning this facility does not preclude the opportunity, at some point in the future, of opening up satellite offices in other parts of our region; this is something our Overseers have discussed. Yet, it gives us a solid base in NE Ohio from which we can build around. A number of individual and church gifts have been given to the MBC to help with the needed down payment monies. The involvement of any interested individuals or churches in a gift toward this "expanding our impact" opportunity, is still welcome!

## PASTORAL TRANSITIONS IN OUR MOVEMENT

We want to welcome Chris McCloskey as the new Lead Pastor at Grace Point Church of Newtown, PA. Chris has been on the pastoral staff at Grace Point for 17 years, and with Dave Ridder's departure, has been called to this new role as Lead Pastor. Congratulations, Chris! We also want to say farewell to Pastor Trung and Nga Nguyen, who have resigned recently from our Vietnamese Baptist General Conference Church in Fairfax, Va. Pastor Trung and his wife will be moving to California to join up with their children who live in that area.

## Thanks Again...

...for your prayers and your partnership in the work of Christ through our Mideast Baptist Conference ministry. The involvement of so many in praying, in leading, in giving, and in caring and serving is what makes this movement of churches alive and growing for Christ. Our Overseers, Executive Staff, and support staff, all say thank you for the privilege of serving Jesus together with you. You remain in our prayers and thoughts consistently.

Yours in Christ *Dan* Dan Peterson, Executive Minister, Mideast Baptist Conference

## Church Planting Sunday (Obsession Sunday)

### COMING TO YOUR CHURCH

Obsession Sunday is the theme for our 2008 Church Planting Sunday (formerly seed money emphasis) across the Mideast Conference. While we are praying that God will open up doors of opportunity for an offering for church planting in our churches, more than anything, we are passionate about sharing the vision of church planting in your church.

A team of well trained and passionate church planting leaders are prepared to come and share from God's Word and about God's obsession with lost people. They will talk about how the planting of new churches is one of God's best strategies for evangelism and Kingdom expansion. Powerful media pieces and quality printed materials will also be available for each church presentation.

Anna Rolland from the MBC office will be in contact with each MBC church in the coming days. Please welcome her call, and consider a Sunday between February and October 2008 for Church Planting Sunday in your church!

Within the last year, seven new church planters have been deployed in the MBC and seven others are in process. Your involvement in our church planting movement is crucial. Thanks for partnering with us in God's Obsession!



## LOVE LIFT FOR UKRAINE UPDATE



This spring, a team of 18 pastors and leaders from 7 MBC churches are traveling to Ukraine to explore opportunities for sistering, leading marriage and family conferences, serving in sister

churches, ministering in orphanages through Mercy Ministries, and sharing the love of Jesus in Ukraine. MBC churches involved include: Lakeshore, Christ Community-Fredonia, Millennium, Evergreen Community, Lakewood, Fite Memorial, First Baptist, New Castle, and MBC office staff. Please pray for God's blessing, protection, and empowerment as team members serve our District and serve Christ.

Dates are also in place for Children's, Youth Camps, and English camps to be held in Ukraine this summer. Dates for MBC sponsored trips are:

**July 23 – August 5, 2008**

**July 30 – August 12, 2008**