

Generosity – What does it mean to be a generous person? Before I can teach or speak on generosity, what kind of work does God need to do in my heart as a leader? And what does it look like for a church to be a generous church? These were some of the questions that 7 MBC pastors, along with over 100 key BGC pastors and leaders considered last month as we gathered for the first ever BGC “Generous Giving” Summit in Atlanta, GA. Andy Stanley, lead pastor from North Point Community Church, Ron Blue, noted author and Christian financial planner, and several other pastors and lay leaders shared their journey of generosity. I personally, was challenged and inspired! While my own journey in generosity has matured over the years, I am coming to understand that God has more work to do in me and hopefully through me. I really do have a new appreciation for Paul’s words in I Timothy where he says: “command those who are rich . . . to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share”. (I Tim. 6: 17-18). I’m honestly hoping that we all will hear more about this generosity value as it perhaps begins to sweep across our MBC and BGC movement. I’m one who is being touched in a new and fresh way.



Coaching Recertification Completed –

Last week, 9 of our key church planting leaders met together for a day of training and recertification as church planting coaches. We focused on what it means to be a coach, and some of the practical “how tos” of coaching others. Gary Rohmayer, Director of TeAmerica for the BGC led our discussion. We interacted and shared experiences, and worked together to improve our skills and commitment to the coaching system in our church planting movement. I’m



incredibly grateful for Ron Crawford, Charles Whitaker, Nurney Mason, Michael Henderson, Bill Finley, Nathan Lozada, Kory Tedrick, John Jenkins and Michael Hall. What an awesome team of leaders we have across the MBC!

Church Planting Coordinators – Mike Henderson (New Beginnings, Charlotte) and Ron Crawford (New Vision, Bowie, MD) have been appointed, effective March 1, 2007, to serve as area Church Planting



Coordinators, joining Kory Tedrick, as pastor/practitioners in our church planting movement. They will give leadership to church planting in their



area, and they will also assist in our overall movement in key leadership areas. What an incredible team of leaders God is assembling here in the MBC. I thank God for each of these brothers, and their heart for God and for the Kingdom.



Love Lift Ukraine – On March 21st, a team of 9 leaders from the MBC will head out to Ukraine to lead “marriage and family” conferences, and to explore sister church partnerships. In addition, nearly 75 “missionaries” will be traveling to Ukraine this summer to assist in day camps, youth camps, English camps, and other ministry opportunities. After 7 years, our Love Lift Ukraine movement

is alive and growing across the MBC! Eleven MBC churches have a sister church partnership with a Ukrainian Baptist Church. Several other District churches are exploring sistering. And any MBC church can be involved in sending clothing to orphanages and institutions, or in financially supporting ministry in Ukraine. For further info, contact Janet Felton at: Janet@bgcmideast.com, or call the MBC office at 330-757-7970.



2007 Seed Money Offering Grows – Our 2007 MBC Seed Money Offering campaign for church planting is moving forward with vigor! Already, 20 MBC churches have either given toward this year’s offering, or are in the process of making plans for an offering in their church. \$58,000 has been given to date toward this year’s Seed Money fund! Praise God! Please continue to pray and plan to participate, as we together trust God for \$150,000 for church planting

grants. This year’s offering will help support 8 new church planting couples who are already serving in our District. Four additional couples are in the preparation process, and will be waiting for help. For more information on how to get involved in this year’s offering, you can contact Anna Rolland at the MBC at Anna@bgcmideast.com. Or call: 330-757-7970. Please pray for God’s provision! We’d love to see every MBC church play a part in this offering for new church plants across our District.

Woodland Valley Church, (Mars, PA) calls new pastor—Rev Norb Levesque has recently been called to begin ministry as Pastor of Woodland Valley Church in Mars, PA. Pastor Norb Levesque, his wife Angela, and their three children reside in Penn Township, approximately 6.5 miles from Woodland Valley Church. Pastor Norb came to know the Lord when he was 21 years old. Having felt the Lord calling him to preach His Word in 1994, Pastor Norb enrolled in Boston Baptist College shortly thereafter and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in 1977. Home for the Levesque family had been Massachusetts for the past 6 years, where Pastor Norb and Angela helped establish the Hillside Bible Baptist Church in the summer of 2001. Having served as the senior pastor there until this past summer, they felt God's call to come and minister to the people of western Pennsylvania about a year ago. They subsequently relocated to south Butler County this past August. Please welcome the Levesque family to Woodland Valley Church.



Maximize 2007 – MBC Annual Leadership Conference Update –
Our MBC Annual Leadership Conference is coming to Landover, MD this May 17-18, 2007. This conference promises to be a “can’t miss” event for every MBC Pastor and leader. Practical seminars/workshops will be offered, networking with other leaders in ministry, Dr. Reggie McNeal as keynote speaker, and rich fellowship with friends and coworkers in ministry are all part of this inspiring celebration! It’s not too late to take advantage of the “early bird” registration. Only \$149.00! But Hurry! **Early Bird Registration Deadline is March 31st.**

New “Nickname” for the BGC, and new regional name for MBC! – Plans are in motion at the BGC for a new nickname for our Conference; a name that more aptly describes our movement and who we are as a network of churches today. I hope you all have read President Jerry Sheveland’s recent communication on this “branding” vision. (see Jerry Sheveland’s article on the BGC web site). Here in the MBC, we also want to take this opportunity to explore a better name for our region of the country. Any and all suggestions are welcome!! I believe this will be a great opportunity to better connect with our constituents and with those not yet connected up with our movement. Be praying about all of this.

I want to thank you all for your fantastic support and encouragement for me personally. I really appreciate your prayers, and your partnership in the work of the Gospel. It’s been a great year, yet there is so much more to do. I know that God is able to accomplish even more than we could ask or imagine. Let’s continue to pray and work toward this end!

Yours in Christ,

Dan Peterson, Executive Minister
Mideast Baptist Conference