

Out of My Mind...

A Publication of the Church Mobilization Unit of the Midwest Baptist Conference
Gary Schroeder, Editor ~ Linda Penney, Graphic Design ~ Vol. 3-8 August, 2007

ON THE MEND:

Eisaman Family
Barbara Wheeler Marianne Hazel

ON THE MOVE:

Pastor Kory Tedrick has resigned as pastor of Walnut Creek Community Church, Cortland, OH. Kory, Toni, Robbie, Ben and Josh have moved to the St. Louis area to plant Convergence Church in Wentzville, MO. In addition to his ministry at Walnut Creek, Kory was heavily involved in serving as head coach for the Northeast Ohio LEAD Team and the district's first area church planting coordinator. Kory's passion for ministry and church planting will be sorely missed but here at the CMU we are grateful that he is able to pursue his calling with enthusiasm and dedication in the Midwest Baptist Conference for the advancement of God's kingdom.

IN THE FOLD:

Rev Brian Main becomes pastor of Walnut Creek Community Church, having served as assistant pastor for the last two years. He and his wife, Beth along with their children Megan, Joe and Katie are well-established with the congregation, so we rejoice at this smooth and intentional transition in pastoral leadership and welcome them as they begin to serve in their new capacity.

FROM THE FIELD...

Miriam Crossman, Director of Group Life, at Grace Baptist, Erie PA writes:

In Group Publishing's Volunteer Central newsletter, Gia Garey reminds us in her article "Making Connections Intentional", that "Connecting our worship attenders into the life of the church and the body of Christ beyond the worship experience is critical, not only to spiritual growth, but to building Christian community." At Grace, we apply this principle to our guests in the following ways:

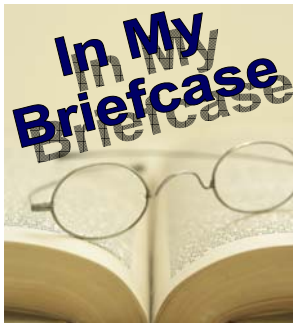
- Lobby hosts are waiting to welcome and help guests find children's ministries, etc.
- As they open the bulletin, the first page is devoted to welcoming guests and giving them pertinent information.
- A PowerPoint slide welcomes them before the service and all announcements are written and communicated with guest-understanding in mind.
- There are 2 announcements during the services that welcome them and give directions to the guest cafe. One is the at the very end of the service.
- They are encouraged to visit our Connections Cafe after each of their first 3 visits. Different gifts brand-marked with Grace's logo are included in each of 3 bags, a book that explains the plan of salvation, as well as "next steps" information on small groups and classes.
- While the Cafe is staffed by trained volunteers, staff is also present after each service. The more opportunities that guests have to meet and interact with us, the more effective the Cafe process is.

Guests have expressed feedback over the past few years that it is very clear to them that Grace values new people. Some guests have committed their lives to Jesus Christ as a result of guest packet books that include *How Good is Good Enough* by Andy Stanley. The motto of our guest teams is "Our goal is simple ... Hold on to every guest." Truly caring about each guest makes an eternal difference in people's lives.

For Your Consideration...

(Disclaimer: if you are not a pastor this is not for your eyes. Please avert them and enjoy the other material offered in this issue.) Colleagues in ministry, "can we talk?" In my six years of service to the MBC I have always been amazed at the lack of courtesy abounding in our district when it comes to answering communications. I've heard it from various sources, inside as well as outside this office. Many of you are unwilling / unable to return e-mail or phone calls in a timely manner. I hope you don't feel your day is unduly cluttered if you happen to get a message from the Poland office. It is never our intention to vex you, but rather to serve you as effectively as we can. Our concerns in writing / calling are legitimate and I don't believe our requests are burdensome. If the time demands on you are too constraining, we won't feel badly at all if you have someone else respond on your behalf.

Colleagues, this is a Golden Rule issue: are you doing to others what you would like them to do to you when you don't return calls / messages? Is this how you encourage people on your team to operate? I was once in your shoes so I'm guessing not. Please extend a little courtesy to your brothers and sisters in Christ who are trying to serve you effectively for the sake of the Kingdom. We would greatly appreciate your efforts in this regard.



Religious Literacy by Stephen Prothero
One Faith by J.I.Packer & Thomas Oden
Growing an Engaged Church

by Albert Winseman

Out In
Cyberspace

www.parsonage.org
www.sermonnetwork.com
www.CreatingChristianCommunities.com

Selah: "Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder lightning."
Karl Barth