



# Out of My Mind...

A Publication of the Church Mobilization Unit of the Midwest Baptist Conference  
Gary Schroeder, Editor ~ Linda Penney, Graphic Design ~ Vol. 3-9 September, 2007

## FROM THE FIELD...

### ON THE MEND:

Mark Anderson  
Eisaman Family  
Marianne Hazel  
Barbara Wheeler

### ON THE MOVE:

Dr. Dave Ridder is leaving the senior pastorate at Grace Point Church, Newtown PA to become the Dean of the Center for Transformational Leadership at Bethel University in Arden Hill, MN. Dave has been with the MBC just a short time but we've appreciated his cooperative spirit and trust that God will bless his new ministry at Bethel.

### IN THE FOLD:

Pastor Brian Landrum had accepted a call to serve as lead pastor at Mentor Baptist. Brian and his wife Ruthie have three adult children and come to us from Vacaville CA where he served as senior pastor in a BGC church. We welcome them to the district and look forward to serving with them in the future.





The CMU is happy to announce that Kim Wetzel has joined our District Office Team as Director of Communications & Marketing. Kim is very gifted in the area of graphic design and is working part-time with us and part-time as the worship leader for The Gate, a church plant in Columbiana, OH.

### Chris Marshall pastor of Ordinary Church in Cincinnati OH writes:

"After 16 years of ministry, I'm just now learning that caring for other's souls cannot be a replacement for caring for my own soul. I have taken a one month sabbatical from Ordinary Community just for the tending to my own soul and family. Being a bi-vocational pastor of a house church network just like all forms of ministry can be exhausting. Last year I lost two of my best friends who were doing a similar model of ministry as me and had become close brothers in Christ. Within two weeks, at the ages of 34 and 30, they both crossed over to Kingdom Fullness. One suddenly from an auto-immune disease he didn't know he had and the other after a year long battle with colon cancer (this was 2 years after his 26 year old wife died of stomach cancer). I longed, prayed and fasted for their healing. It didn't happen, at least not in the way I wanted it to happen. My heart was broken and deep down inside me, I was disappointed with God so I avoided my time with him. I continued all the ministry activity while not "abiding in Him" as John 15 says, a recipe for disaster.

So, in this time off, I've begun walking and praying and communing again with my God. It's been nothing less than invigorating and full of Grace. I am choosing times of solitude over times of busyness. I'm reading a book called "Running on Empty: Contemplative Spirituality for Overachievers" by Fil Anderson. It's hitting me right between my eyes. He describes solitude as the place where "the deepest part of me reaches out to the deepest part of God." Just giving God space to care for my soul is Pastoral Ministry 101 but for me it's a constant discipline. I am taking control of my calendar to schedule these Sabbaths with God. And when I walk and commune with my Father, I am not a pastor, I am a son who is loved fully. Our doing flows out of our being in this identity.

I'm preaching to the choir here but our God is incredibly gracious to us and offers us the kind of water that doesn't make us thirsty anymore. When I commune with God, my heart is home. It is this experience that He invites me to give to others. I'm honored to be a part of the MBC family."

	<a href="http://www.Serve-Others.com">www.Serve-Others.com</a>	<u>Juicing the Game</u> by Howard Bryant	
	<a href="http://www.PrettyGoodBooks.com">www.PrettyGoodBooks.com</a>	<u>The Divine Embrace</u> by Robert Webber	

## For Your Consideration...

It wasn't exactly front page news last month, but Rev. Gregory Clarke, an SBC pastor from AL, was convicted of willfully filing false tax returns for not reporting income given to him by his congregation to assist with a personal debt. In the years the church reported the contributions (with Form 1099), so did the pastor. There were years in which neither party reported a total of \$16,000 of income for serving as interim manager of the church's credit union, referral fees and speaking honorariums.

"Income is income, whether they call it that or not," said Ann Neptune, former president of the north AL chapter of the National Association of Church Business Administrators. "If they do a funeral or a wedding (and get paid), they're supposed to claim that." Churches and pastors need to make sure they have a professional accountant who's helping them with their tax returns.

As of this writing it remains to be seen whether New Hope Baptist Church of Birmingham AL pays the fine for Pastor Gregory, as does whether the church and pastor report the payment as income in 2007. (Just kidding!!)