



Out of My Mind...

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FROM THE FIELD...

Pastor Dave Skelton, Calvary, Avon Lake reports on his use of "Fireproof"

If you're looking for a great outreach tool to reach couples look no further than the new movie "Fireproof". I first saw the film at a pre-screening for church leaders last summer and felt then that it could have a positive impact on our church and community. My initial feelings proved to be true. After viewing the film we decided to make the movie a major focus of our fall ministry season. We reserved a block of tickets and promoted "Fireproof" both in our services and around the community. After going together a nearby theater on opening weekend to see "Fireproof", I began an eight week series on "Building Fire-Resistant Relationships." Coupled with the small group curriculum provided by Outreach this series has already exceeded my expectations. We have seen several new couples walk through our doors and even long time members have appreciated the Christ-centered approach to building healthy marriage relationships.



One of the unique features of "Fireproof" is a book called "The Love Dare". This book combines 40 days of reflective readings along with practical steps you can take to express love to your mate. I am so impressed with "The Love Dare" I plan on giving a copy to every couple I counsel.



If you're interested in using Fireproof in your ministry you might want to check out the tools available at Outreach.com. In my opinion "Fireproof" is not just another movie; it's a powerful tool that churches can use to help save troubled marriages and strengthen healthy ones.

For Your Consideration... from Pastor Jim Eaton, written Nov 5th

I realize there are substantive reasons many feel a deep concern regarding President-elect Obama. I share some of those concerns. Starting in January he will rule a nation where 48% of the populace did not vote for him; he will govern in a time of massive and nearly-intractable challenges, which will not be solved by a hard turn to the left. But beyond the political issues... I believe last night we witnessed a sacred moment that transcends all of this.

I believe that we may be experiencing a move of God to heal our nation's greatest wounds. James Madison, in a letter to Lafayette in 1820, called slavery and the African slave trade our "original sin." And it is no longer simply a black-white issue in America. Since the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Immigration Act of 1965, we have seen an enormous increase in the diversity of our nation. 21st century America is not just white or black, it is white/black/Latino/Asian. We have moved from stereo to surround-sound.

I believe last night we had the privilege to share in a sacred moment, where God began to lace the sutures across our nation's deepest wound. You could see it in the faces of the young and old at Grant Park in Chicago. You could hear it in the songs of joy among the people of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Last night it seemed that perhaps we could finally--*finally*--begin to move beyond identity politics and begin to see one another, not merely on the basis of the color of our skin, but on the basis of our character... as humans stamped with the imprint of God. It was a sacred moment.

In My Briefcase...

Surprising Insights

by Thom Rainer

The Faith

by Charles Colson

Three Cups of Tea

by Greg Mortensen & David Oliver Relin

ON OUR PRAYER WATCH:

Jerry Sheveland

Alan Gross

Don & Marianne Hazel

Abigail Holloway

Military personnel in harms way

Out in Cyberspace...

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early church encyclopeda

Selah: "My success wasn't based on how I could push down everyone around me. My success was based on how much I could push everybody up."
George Lucas