



Out of My Mind...

A Publication of the Church Mobilization Unit of the Mideast Baptist Conference
Gary Schroeder, Editor ~ Linda Penney, Graphic Design ~ Vol. 4-4 April, 2008

For Your Consideration...

“What would happen if your church became more generous?” I suspect answers to that question raise lots of interesting possibilities in terms of ministry and outreach. The Baptist General Conference wants generous giving to become a core value throughout our movement and so it is making a generous offer of its own. On Saturday, April 26 our district is hosting the first of two Generous Church Regional Summits at New Hope, Loudonville. Pastors are encouraged to bring 5-8 leaders/influencers who can become a team seeking to develop this concept in their own church. By the end of this day long seminar you’ll have the beginning of a plan for cultivating generosity in your congregation and tools for accomplishing that purpose. All this for a total of \$149, including lunch and snacks; you will not be asked for anything else. This event is all about our commitment to local church and your team will be blessed for participating.

FROM THE FIELD...

A note received at the MBC office from Daryl Brautigam, a layman from Fredonia, NY

“Almost exactly one year ago, our church was shocked and saddened to learn one Sunday that our much-loved pastor, Vince Eisaman, was suffering from an aggressive cancer and would immediately begin intensive treatment and would not be able to perform any of his pastoral duties. As we grappled with our own shock and grief, our leaders had to come up with an interim plan to help our church body through what we knew to be at least several months of Vince’s absence. We called the MBC office to ask for two things: that Vince’s many colleagues and friends throughout the Conference be notified of Vince’s, and our, need for prayer; and secondly for help and advice. Gary, Dan and the entire MBC came through for us in a big way. First, coming to meet with our elders and giving us some very concrete advice and direction; helping us to keep our Sunday morning services up to the high standard we had come to expect by putting us in touch with a very gifted former pastor who gave us several good weeks of very high-quality speaking while we sought a more long-term solution.

That solution came, too, courtesy of the MBC, in the form of Marc Samworth, a recent Bethel Seminary of the East graduate who came as an interim and did an excellent job. The MBC even helped with his salary so that we could continue to fully compensate Vince.

What a tremendous blessing this became for our church! God used what seemed a disaster to show us the value of our conference and its leadership, to help our own church leadership grow and develop, and to expand our staff. After we grew to know and love Marc, no one could stand to let him go on, even after Vince was graciously restored to us. So Marc is now our associate pastor, our church has grown appreciably and is healthier than before, and our appreciation for the MBC and its godly leadership has never been higher.”

ON OUR PRAYER WATCH:

Barbara Wheeler
Don & Marianne Hazel
Vince Eisaman
Mark Anderson
Dawn Sheveland

www.restoringthechurch.org
Jim Van Yperen

In My Briefcase...

Hatred’s Kingdom by Dore Gold
Church is a Team Sport by Jim Putman
I Live for This by Tommy Lasorda



Selah: “The devil is the enemy of all balance and moderation. One of his favorite hobbies is to tip Christians off balance. If he cannot get us to deny Christ, he tries to make us distort Christ.”

John R. W. Stott