



Out of My Mind...

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For Your Consideration...

I had the privilege of attending an ordination council yesterday for the worship arts pastor at one of our churches. It was wonderful to hear him share his testimony, defend his doctrinal position effectively and have the people from his church affirm his character and passion from their observations of his service. The council unanimously recommended that the congregation proceed with an ordination service.

Dr. Bruce Shelley defines ordination as "... the church's formal recognition of a divine call to a special spiritual leadership in the church and of the gifts needed to fulfillment of that call."

For reasons I will not enumerate here, I believe that ordination has taken a back seat in our movement and I would like to bring it front and center. Ordination isn't about being called "reverend" and subscribing to *REV* Magazine. Rather, it is about recognizing a pastor's calling and giftedness and conferring the office and functions of ministry accordingly.

I'd be glad to help any candidates work through the ordination process and look forward to hearing from anyone who might be interested in doing so.

ON OUR PRAYER WATCH:

Alan Gross
recovery after successful liver transplant

Abigail Holloway
relief from constant headaches



In My Briefcase...

Praying to the God You Can Trust

by Leith Anderson

Money Matters in Church

by Aubrey Malphurs

& Steve Stroope

Missional Renaissance

by Reggie McNeal



From The Field... Pastor Brian Landrum,

Mentor Baptist has this to share:

"There's a very real need in my life to live "pedal to the metal!" Maybe it's because the proverbial clock continues to tick tock or maybe it's because of the ever present squeeze of ministry obligations that loom before me! You can relate I'm sure!

I can sacrifice what I know is important (relationships) for what seems to be urgent (tasks).

What I've learned is this – our LEAD Team gatherings are fellowship times of tremendous encouragement, spiritual enrichment and genuine enthusiasm!

Roy Hession said, "The only basis for real fellowship with both God and man is to live out in the open with both!" Our LEAD Team gatherings encourage me to live out loud and in the open! As the eight to ten senior pastors gather to reflect on what God is doing in us and through us, there's a strong sense of "team!" It's very refreshing to laugh, struggle, share and encourage each other to run the race hard, enjoying every step of the adventure!!

Never before in my 30+ years of ministry have I experienced the camaraderie of strong, godly guys, committed to Jesus Christ, their families, their churches and their fellow pastors!

Pastor, I hope you invest the time to meet with your LEAD Team. You will be enriched!
Serving our Lord along side you!

Selah: "All of us as followers of Christ will flinch at times from the pain of wounds and the smart of slights, but that cost is in the contract of calling and the way of the cross"

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