



Out of My Mind...

A Publication of the Church Mobilization Unit of Converge MidAtlantic
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For Your Consideration...

According to Marian Liautaud, editor for *Your Church Resources* “A new study of more than 700 churches shows that an ‘it can’t happen here’ mindset, especially among smaller churches, may lead some to overlook or even resist implementing a child sexual abuse prevention program.” She reports that 57% of churches surveyed answer “No” or “Don’t Know” to the question: “Do you have a child sexual abuse training program for church staff or volunteers who are involved in your church activities and programs?” (Yeah, that question is worded badly.)

This is not an area in which we want Converge MidAtlantic churches to be negligent. We encourage our churches to develop a comprehensive plan for screening, supervising and training children’s workers. “All of us know each other” is not a sufficient rationale for not exercising due diligence in this area of ministry. Churches are better off erring on the side of safety and discretion in this regard.

Resources for such an effort may be found at the websites listed below or from your church’s insurance carrier or the Converge MidAtlantic office.

Thanks for taking this matter seriously.

www.ReducingTheRisk.com
child protection training resource
www.MinistrySafe.com
child protection website
www.seetheglory.com
Richard Hammar
constellation images

In The Field...

On the Move: Pastor Nate Wood is assuming the pastorate of the Ellery Baptist Church, which is being welcomed into Converge MidAtlantic at the Biennial Leadership Conference this month. We look forward to working with Nate and his wife, Cindy, as they seek God’s guidance in impacting this western NY community.

Selah: “Emergencies are not when you build character. They are when you spend the character you have already put in the bank.”
John Maxwell

ON OUR PRAYER WATCH:

Alan Gross—recovery after successful liver transplant
Abigail Holloway—chronic headache pain
Madison Allison—neurological issues

From The Field... Pastor Dan Cook, Lakewood Baptist, explains “The Grace Seat of Prayer”:

How it began?

- Almost 20 years ago, I attended a pastor’s fellowship in a nearby church where each pastor was given an opportunity to be prayed for in the “Grace Seat”
- I was so moved by having others place their hands on me and pray for my request I felt the desire to incorporate it in our church

How it is done:

- Once a quarter each small group gathers together in a circle, with an empty chair called the “Grace Seat” in the middle.
- The facilitator asks if anyone has a need, either for himself, or someone else. This person sits in the Grace Seat, shares their need and the others lay hands on him, pray over him regarding the need.
- I have rarely been a part of such a group where less than 90 % of those present share something. It usually is so personal that emotions are deeply felt, prayers are more fervent and time passes by unnoticed.
- Not everyone has to pray aloud, but I do ask everyone to pray in their heart. In order to give more time for people to share and pray, I normally request that a couple of people intercede for the request and the others agree in their hearts.
- At regular prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings, if I sense someone struggling with a burden for themselves or for someone else, we will move the tables aside and have a “Grace Seat of Prayer” right then.
- I have used this evangelistically also, by having people identify people with whom they are desirous of sharing Christ and then having them sit in the “Grace Seat” for the rest of us to pray for their courage to speak, clarity of witness and receptivity of the listener.

In My Briefcase...

The New Breed ~ by Jonathan McKee & Thomas McKee
Strengths Based Leadership ~ by Tom Rath & Barry Conchie
Opening Day ~ by Jonathan Eig