

TECH Soup



Speedy Delivery to Missionaries

Our church has routinely sent Sunday worship and Wednesday prayer bulletins to our missionaries. After a comment from one of our missionaries that she wished she could receive the bulletins sooner, I thought of e-mailing them. Almost all our missionaries have e-mail. Some are on Juno, an Internet provider that won't receive attachments, so we send the bulletins as a text file. For those not on Juno, we send the bulletins as "attachments" so that they can get them in the original format with clip art. Missionaries appreciate the speedy delivery. The amount we save on postage more than covers the cost of our Internet provider (Epix).

Tony Beckett, Pastor
Heritage Baptist Church
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania



Come On Over

Christmas is a special time to open our homes. The Women's Fellowship of First Baptist Church in Ceres, Calif., shares this delicious dessert:

Hollyday Mint Pie

1 cup crushed Keebler Grasshopper Fudge Mint Cookies
1 tbsp. hot water
1 graham cracker pie crust
3 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/3 cup sugar
2 tsp. milk
1/4 tsp. peppermint extract
8 oz. Cool Whip, thawed
6-10 drops green food coloring
Red hot cinnamon candies
Spearmint leaves

Mix cookies and hot water. Spoon into crust and gently spread to cover bottom.

Beat cream cheese until smooth; gradually beat in sugar, milk, and peppermint extract. Fold in whipped topping. Divide mixture in half; stir food coloring into one half until evenly colored.

Fill pie crust with alternate dollops of white and green whipped topping mixtures. Smooth top of pie with spatula. Chill 3 hours. Make berries and holly leaves, using cinnamon candies and spearmint leaves.

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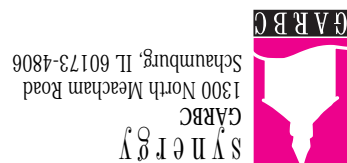
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synergy

a newsletter for pastors & wives



Vol. 2, No. 3

A note from John and Daria . . .



September is here—the full church calender says so! Why do we do all these activities? It is a good question to ponder. If our motives are sincere, our desire in life is to proclaim Christ. In this *Synergy*, "outreach" is the operative word.

To prime your evangelistic pump, three church families share their methods of spreading the gospel at Christmastime. What can you and your people do to reach others for Christ? It may be something as simple as preparing a care basket and giving it with a tract to a needy soul. Let's make our busyness count for eternity!

Toolbox

Leading through Change

Change Agents

Leaders of organizations aspire to be agents of change, but many within the organizations try to resist their efforts. Leaders challenge, "We can't stand still. Either we change and grow, or we die." Their followers ask, "Why try to fix it if it isn't broken?"

The Dilemma

Is there something inherently anti-Biblical in this contemporary leadership theme of "change"? We recognize the truth of the secular proverb, "The only thing constant is change." So why do we experience tension when change enters our lives? How do we as pastors and church leaders deal with change?

The Perspective

First, it is important to acknowledge that God's nature and truths do not change. Society is seeking a reliable and stable source of truth. Christ's saving message meets their need. Through our steady proclamation of Biblical truth, we are demonstrating obedience to God and proper handling of His Word. Furthermore, it is necessary to understand that human nature does not like change—especially when it comes too quickly or all at once. The saying "The demon you know is better than the demon you don't know" reflects our natural resistance to

change. Finally, it is essential to avoid the faulty reasoning of viewing any variation in methods as a violation of God's purposes.

The Need

Our role as leaders requires us to be Change Agents. Our society, our families, and our field of operations do not remain the same. The church must constantly find ways of bringing the changeless truths of God into a rapidly changing community. An old saying of sales management relates to this quest: "The salesman must change, not the customer—he's the CUSTOMER." In other words, don't make the customer adapt to your company before he knows what you can do for him. Leaders track trends and seek to understand the mindset of the people in their sphere of influence. It might be beneficial for them to respond to people's preferences by making changes in schedules, advertising, and style of presentation. Members of the organization seldom enjoy change, but leaders must cause it! When leaders are Biblically grounded, they affect change without violating God's unchanging truths.

The Input

Successful Change Agents are always communicating dreams and possibilities. They do not wait until the final brushstroke of plans and methods is applied to the canvass before announcing the thought. By introducing ideas be-

(continued on page 2)

Publishing Glad Tidings

To highlight Christ as Savior during the Christmas season, our church compiled a Christmas Advent devotional for families in our town. The 6" x 8" booklet contains devotionals written by church members for December 1-25. Each page includes the date, title (theme) of the devotional, a corresponding Scripture verse, the devotional (320-430 words long), the author's name, and a picture of the author with his or her family.

Our pastor, Ron McDugle, gave the project coordinator the names of church members who were possible authors and a list of 25 Bible passages to assign to the writers. The devotional followed a format similar to *Our Daily Bread* by stating a Biblical principle, then illustrating and applying it. The authors wrote in a positive, humble manner, emphasizing God's grace. A style editor and theological editor reviewed each article. Adults and children illustrated the pages and front cover with black and white line drawings. The back cover features a picture of the church, its service times, address, and phone number.

We stuffed the devotionals into plastic door-knob hanger bags and distributed them in the community. Many people contacted the church to express their appreciation for the early Christmas gift and said they would read the devotional. Our church family spent much time praying that people would receive Christ as their Savior through this endeavor.

Joe and Karin Johansson, Members
First Baptist Church
Danville, Indiana

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KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

Toolbox

continued

fore they are in final form, Change Agents give the individuals who are affected some lead time to offer their opinions. Leaders set the stage for open thinking by presenting an idea and saying, “Just imagine what it might be like if we. . . .” Individuals who will be involved in the change or have the potential of assisting with it have an opportunity to help form its shape. By encouraging imaginative discussions, Change Agents gain a better understanding of their organization, and their people are more open to change.

The Process

Change Agents specialize in demonstrating the benefits that the change brings. They are always communicating their vision. They actively seek feedback to make improvements. To influence contemporary society, good leaders must make more changes than the people in their organization usually want.

The Reason

As church leaders who are communicating God’s truth, our motive for affecting change is to reach a lost society with the gospel. Could this be what Paul had in mind when he stated in 1 Corinthians 9:22, “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (NKJV)?

*Robert E. Gattorna, Pastor
Washington Baptist Church
Turnersville, New Jersey*

7 Tips for Reaching Inmates

1. Become an ally to the support service officer of the correction facility.
2. Work closely with the correction officers in scheduling counseling and services.
3. Bring your best stuff to the table as you minister.
4. Use every possible method (including music) to communicate the gospel.
5. Set a specific time and schedule for Bible studies, services, and counseling.
6. Include your congregation in this ministry.
7. Use your church to reach out to the former inmates after they are released.

*Bob Cowman, Assistant Pastor
and Huron County Jail Chaplain
Calvary Baptist Church, Norwalk, Ohio*

Father & Son in Ministry

Father

Top Ten Reasons for Staying in the Ministry

#10 It’s fun. I was a farmer, factory worker, cashier, and baggage handler, but none of these jobs measured up to the joy of being in the ministry. It is seldom boring!

#9 It’s exciting to help people. I work on a daily basis with the world’s finest people. Impacting lives spiritually is rewarding!

#8 The “perks” are out of this world. God offers a great retirement program! In what other job can you eat all three meals with your wife? The opportunity for our kids to grow up in the parsonage was a definite plus. Considering all the factors, the pay is okay. Just think—I get paid for spending hours to study my Bible!

#7 It’s one of few jobs (unless you own your business) where a husband and wife can work as a team. I always told our churches that they got two for the price of one. My wife’s behind-the-scenes work has allowed me to accomplish much more in my vocation.

#6 It fulfills my inner drive to be a leader. Some are content to follow and never lead, but I desire to be “in charge” and to “make things happen.” I guess that is why I would rather drive the car than be a passenger.

#5 The hours are flexible. Not too many jobs allow you to set your own hours. I can adjust my schedule to get my hair cut, take a day off, and get up when I want to. I hasten to add that most of us are harder on ourselves than a boss would be.

#4 The satisfaction of being in God’s service full-time—a modern-day Levite. I have grown spiritually more than I would have if I were a layman. Every problem in ministry has stretched me and taught me much about God.

#3 We will give an account at the Bema Seat. Accountability for my assignment keeps me focused upon the job that God has given me. One day I will stand before Him. What would I say if I quit?

#2 It is imperative that I stay in the center of God’s will. As Pastor Russell Camp often said, “There is no improvement on the will of God.” I know that it is God’s will for me to be in the ministry; therefore, I cannot quit.

#1 I have been called of God to the ministry. I must commit myself to that call. I dare not return to my former jobs. No matter how difficult the ministry might be, I’m in it for the long haul.

As I rethink these top ten reasons, it is really God’s grace that keeps me in the ministry. “And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry, which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it” (Colossians 4:17).

*Pastor Craig Golden, State Representative
Empire State Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches*

Son

Encouraging Your Children’s Interest in Ministry

“Ministry is fun. It’s the people I can’t stand!” Although some pastors might say this expression tongue-in-cheek, it is an all-too-often complaint. This negative mind-set toward ministry can easily discourage a crucial member of the pastor’s ministry team—his children.

How can pastors and wives encourage their children’s interest in ministry?

1. Be a positive spiritual role model to your children. Pastors provide spiritual leadership in the church, but sometimes they fail to guide their children’s spiritual development. The pastor must be the spiritual leader of his family first and foremost. PKs can turn off to ministry because of the hypocrisy they see in the lifestyle of their parents. My parents model a consistent walk with the Lord. They are on their knees every morning, praying for our family, church, and ministries. Their discipline of prayer challenges me to grow in my walk with the Lord.

- What spiritual modeling are you doing for your children?
- Is there any hypocrisy in your life?

2. Be balanced in your ministry. It would be a shame to win the world for Christ but lose your children spiritually! How sad to hear reports of prodigal PKs! My father loves the church, but my brother and I never doubt our importance to him. He has maintained an appropriate balance of time spent with his family and the church.

- Are you investing quality time with your children?
- What “ministry events” could you rearrange to spend more time with your son or daughter?

3. Be authentic in your ministry. Present a realistic, not pessimistic, view of ministry. Some pastors protect their children by sheltering them from church problems. Others feel free to dump ministry difficulties on their children in full, uncensored detail. Neither approach is appropriate. To encourage your children’s interest in ministry, it is important to use discernment when you discuss church difficulties in the home. When I was younger, my parents shielded me from many issues to protect my innocence. As I grew older, I valued from their ministry insights. I observed my parents putting difficult situations in perspective and looking to the Lord for resolution.

- Are you using discernment when discussing church issues in your children’s presence at home?
- Do you use negative situations to point your family toward Christ?

4. Be sure to intentionally involve your children in your ministry. Take your children with you to pastors’ conferences, speaking engagements, and GARBC annual meetings. I felt special when my dad asked me to accompany him. My mother invited many speakers and missionaries to our home for dinner. Their stories excited me about global ministry!

- What conferences or ministry events could you bring your son or daughter to?
- Do your children have the opportunity to visit with pastors, missionaries, and speakers in your home?

Many of my fondest and funniest memories occurred in the parsonage, thanks to a loving and godly mom and dad—a dad who also happened to be my pastor!

*Paul Golden, Director of Admissions & Recruitment
Baptist Bible Seminary, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania*

Christmas Outreach

Christmas Angels

Three years ago we established a Christmas Angel Ministry. The angelic band is made up of teens who don white robes and angel wings and tell the Christmas story to community residents.

Citizens contact the church (in response to our advertisements) and schedule a Christmas angel visit to their home (Monday—Saturday evenings). We inform them that “the Christmas angel will share the ten events that make up the Christmas account, including. . . .” Then we cite the basic details of our presentation. During their visits, our teens illustrate the Christmas story, using a small nativity set. They also bring small gifts for each child—usually a screened mug or glass filled with hard Christmas candy that says, “You have been visited by the Christmas angel.”

We get many requests from nonchurch families. Often the families invite their children’s friends into their homes to experience the angel’s visit. Our own families invite neighborhood children or their friends’ and extended family members’ children to see the angel. We have had such a great demand for the Christmas angel visits that we’ve enlisted additional “angels” from our membership.

*Ted Martens, Pastor
Faith Baptist Church
Trenton, New Jersey*

Christmas Care

As Christmas approaches, we compile a list of residents in our small town who have recently lost a spouse or who are ill or recovering from surgery, and we put together care packages (fruit, home-baked goodies, candy, donated services from local businesses, a Christ-centered Christmas card, and a Christmas tract). Then we go caroling and deliver the goods (most of the recipients are unsaved). Through this outreach ministry the Lord has opened doors to connect with folks who never come to church.

*Jim and Karen Herd, Pastor and Wife
Community Baptist Church
Dixon, Montana*