

# IDEA Exchange

## A Day of Rest?

Do you find Sunday the most exhausting day of the week? Our congregation adopted a new schedule in which we met for worship on Sunday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 and for Sunday School in the evening from 6:00 to 7:30. Instead of running a separate youth program, we organized socials through the youth Sunday School classes. Everyone loved the relaxed day on Sunday and the "unrushed" services. When arriving at church, families could sit together as a family unit rather than going to separate classes. Sunday School teachers were free to bring visitors to the worship service. We enjoyed an 80 percent return on Sunday night. Though I have accepted a new ministry position, the current pastor of the church is continuing this schedule, and the church is growing.

David Little, President  
Baptist Church Planters  
Elyria, Ohio

# Valuing Missions

## Asking the Right Questions

Have you ever been far away from somebody you care about for an extended period of time? Missionaries experience this emotional and physical chasm in their separation from supporting churches. How can these parties reconnect when missionaries return home? Conversations among pastors, missions committees, and missionaries will help churches get up to speed on the missionaries' lives and ministries.

- Goals:** What are you planning to accomplish? What's your strategy for reaching your goals? (These questions show your interest.)
- Struggles:** What's the hardest task you have to do? What are your personal struggles? (These questions are hard to answer honestly because of the fear of losing support.)
- Finances:** What are your financial needs? Are you able to pay your bills? Do you need funding for special projects? (Mission agencies can help provide this information, but the missionary can give you the most current assessment.)

**4. Support:** What can we do to help? Do you have some projects that one of our church groups can work on? Can we do something to help your stateside family?

**5. Prayer:** How can we pray specifically for you this week?

By asking the right questions, churches can learn how best to support their missions family.

Todd Daily, Church Planter  
Baptist Mid-Missions  
Ingolstadt, Germany

## synergy

Vol. 3, No. 2  
GARBC

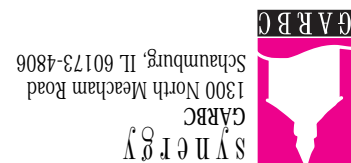
1300 North Meacham Road  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4806

Fax: 847-843-3757

E-mail: [dgreening@garbc.org](mailto:dgreening@garbc.org)  
Editors: John and Daria Greening  
Graphics: Carol Swanson

PrayerLink Network  
E-mail: [prayer@garbc.org](mailto:prayer@garbc.org)  
Phone: 888-588-1600, ext. 180

Together We Can  
Accomplish More!  
E-mail: [dgreening@garbc.org](mailto:dgreening@garbc.org)



# synergy

a newsletter for pastors & wives



Vol. 3, No. 2

## A note from John and Daria . . .



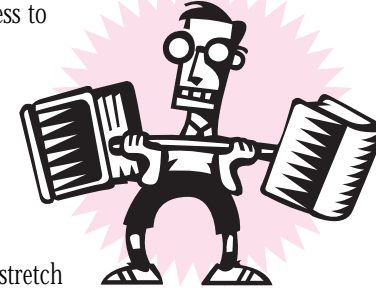
On New Year's Day, Keith Jackson of ABC Sports completed an illustrious broadcasting career by calling the play-by-play for the Rose Bowl football game. He has an interesting style in broadcasting and has created some great expressions when describing a game.

One of his comments that day was directed toward a young player: "He's a 6-foot-6-inch, 265-pound true freshman. Why, he's nothing but a pup with lots of growing ahead."

Are you still growing? Leadership requires a level of proficiency, and incompetence is inexcusable. A spirit of learning is desirable. Writers Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus share this insight: "When we asked leaders about the personal qualities they need to run their organizations, they never mention charisma, or dressing for success, or time management, or any of the other glib formulas that pass for wisdom in the popular press. Instead they talked about persistence and self-knowledge; about willingness to take risks and accept losses; about commitment, consistency, and challenge. But above all they talked about learning."

Solomon said it this way: "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning" (Proverbs 9:9, NKJV).

Keep your ministry fresh and your personal life fun by learning. Attend a seminar, read a book, try a *Synergy* idea—stretch yourself!



In service with you,  
John and Daria

## TOOLBOX

### Reaching Today's Generation

**Generation X**—the free-spirited group of young adults born between 1965 and 1983—is the source of much media attention. Though we often hear about "Gen Xers," do we understand their lifestyle or know how to reach them with the gospel? Generation X, also referred to as "Baby Busters," are defined more in terms of their attitudes than their birth dates. By understanding the characteristics of Generation X, pastors and wives can reach these young couples, singles, and teens with the hope-giving message of the gospel.

First Peter 1:15 and 16 give us the mandate for this generation: "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because

it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy' " (NKJV).

Douglas R. McLachlan states, "They [Busters] believe the light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming train!"

Baby Busters have little hope. We have a responsibility to share with them the hope of holiness found in Jesus Christ!

In his book *The Battle for a Generation*, Ron Hutchcraft uses twelve descriptors to define Generation X. Although these statements are generalizations, his depiction is accurate. Consider four of Hutchcraft's descriptors:

**1. "Loneliness is their heart condition."**

This condition becomes apparent when we look at the premarital sex and divorce rate within Generation X. Sex offers a brief moment of

(continued on page 2)

## GARBC Ministry Feature

### An Evangelism Booster

Does evangelism at your church need a booster? Are you at a standstill as far as church growth goes? Believers often want to share the gospel, but they are unsure of how to evangelize.

## IMPACT 2000

A GARBC Evangelism Task Force would like to boost churches' evangelism efforts by offering an outreach initiative—"Impact 2000"—for use in the year 2000. Free evangelism tools and an Impact 2000 notebook (\$29.95) filled with outreach ideas and "how to's" are available from the GARBC Ministry Resource Center. We invite every church in the Association to commit to join this evangelism effort, praying for a great harvest of souls.

### Why Participate in Impact 2000?

- We focus on God and people, leaving selfishness behind.
- We put ourselves in the path of God's blessing with our obedience.
- Our churches begin to have an outward focus rather than inward inspection.
- Our churches grow and gain energy as new believers become part of the body.

**Everyone profits when we reach people with the gospel of Christ!** An Impact 2000 information packet will be arriving at your church soon. GARBC churches may order free outreach materials and the Impact 2000 notebook (available in June) by calling Regular Baptist Press toll free at the **GARBC Resource Center (1.800.727.4440)** or by returning the order form included in the Impact 2000 mailing.

# Toolbox *continued*

intimacy to the lonely person. Over time, sexual intimacy is mistaken for love. Marriage follows, along with the reality that sex equals neither lasting intimacy nor selfless love.

**2. "Relationships matter most to them."** Understanding this one point can change the way we minister to Gen Xers. "Family" is no longer defined in terms of blood relation. The new meaning of "family" may be interpreted as "those individuals who will love enough to 'give you the shirt off their back.'" Families may consist of a custodial parent, a college friend who comes with "no strings attached," or the man/woman they have married.

**3. "Anesthetic is more important than the cure."** If you have had the privilege of counseling with Busters, you know this is true! Curing the problems of this generation is painful work. Many Gen Xers prefer the sedative, as opposed to the surgery (see Matthew 5:29ff).

**4. "They know no boundaries."** The general moral understanding of older generations is gone. Thanks to the influence of the free-wheeling 1960s, Gen Xers put their unique spin on the interpretation of sin. Presenting the plan of salvation to them is challenging. Terms we commonly use in Christian circles—e.g., "sin," "belief," "faith," "confess"—should be carefully and simply defined. For an individual who determines his own standard of right and wrong, these terms are nebulous when defined outside a Biblical framework.

Busters are extremely difficult to evangelize. The era of tent evangelism is over. In today's so-

ciety, door-to-door evangelism is often associated with door-to-door marketing. Gen Xers are rarely ready to receive gospel presentations during initial contacts. They value relationships. Establishing friendships with them takes time. By participating together in activities such as camping, bicycle trips, or retreats, you can establish relationships with them. To reach their hearts, we must gain their trust by proving our character, integrity, and consistency.

How can we help Gen Xers develop a Christ-centered lifestyle after they have received Christ as their Savior?

- We can encourage their spiritual growth by . . .
- teaching them that giving is truly better than receiving (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 8:9; Rom. 1:14);
- describing grace as the power to say no to ourselves;
- defining victory as the power to overcome sin (Titus 2:11, 12; 1 Cor. 15:57);
- giving them opportunities to practice self-sacrifice as opposed to self-indulgence (Phil. 2:3, 4; Mark 8:34-38);
- teaching them not to fear God's will but to pursue it (Eph. 5:17);
- encouraging them to cast off sexual promiscuity and cling to God's design (2 Cor. 10:3-5; Gen. 1:26-28).

Finally, we can assure them that the light at the end of the tunnel is Jesus Christ!

Brian Pierce, Associate Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Pana, Illinois

# IDEA Exchange

## Pastors' Think Tank

Markets clamor for the cutting edge as never before. To gain that edge, employees train constantly.

Pastor, are you a professional who actively benefits from training programs? Begin challenging yourself to be on the cutting edge of ministry by organizing a Pastors' Think Tank.

The pastors in my area use a think tank format and meet together to

- discover changes occurring in ministries;
- learn how others resolve selected challenges;
- generate theology insights.

Some of the topics and speakers featured in the think tank have included "The Changing Role of the Ministry" (John Greening), and "The Changing Face of Missions" (Raymond Buck). Topics for future sessions include "Progressive Dispensationalism" and "The Pastor and His Money."

Pastors meet in a host church from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., three to four times a year. A speaker presents the topic for two hours, followed by a meal. The last two hours are for interaction.

A free-will offering offsets costs, absorbed by the host church. Pastors are responding enthusiastically, and the professional and ministry changes become obvious.

Daniel D. Mead, Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Faribault, Minnesota

# IDEA Exchange

## Lydia Ladies Class

Many women in our church—widows, singles, divorcées, "marrieds" with husbands who do not attend church, and women who desire fellowship with other women—enjoy attending our women's Sunday School class.

When organizing our "Lydia Ladies" class, we adopted the Adult Bible Fellowship format from Grace Chapel, Akron, Ohio. We begin each session with announcements and take a monthly offering that goes to special service projects for assisting women. Then we have a five-minute prayer time that focuses on personal requests. Our lesson consists of Regular Baptist Press women's studies on various topics, interspersed with studies on books of the Bible. We use various forms of communication—overheads, chalkboard, visuals aids on the

tables, and lots of discussion. The ladies feel free to express themselves and have grown very close. This format allows many women to participate in leadership roles, resulting in greater service in the church. We have prayed a number of husbands into the body of Christ and into our church. What great joy!

Sharon Spencer, Pastor's Wife  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Battle Creek, Michigan

# Valuing Missions

## WELCOME BACK!

Where am I going to live? Will I have a car to drive? How can I best communicate my ministry? These questions race through the mind of a missionary who will begin furlough soon. Supporting home churches can play a role in providing answers to these questions. By assisting missionaries in the following areas, churches can give missionaries a great welcome back!

- Housing**  
Arrange for a permanent place for them, making it available as soon as they get off the plane.
- Transportation**  
Supply a dependable vehicle that's practical and large enough for the family to use for the entire furlough.
- Review**  
Plan a time with the missionary to help him review his last term of service. This time will help him communicate to other supporters.
- Office space**  
Give the missionary access to the church's computer, copier, office supplies, and even the pastor's library.
- Food**  
A food shower is a great way to help ease the reverse culture shock. American grocery stores can be overwhelming!
- Clothing**  
A new suit for the man, a new dress for his wife, and clothing for the kids will help them look their best.
- Babysitting**  
Provide the missionary mom and dad some time together alone.
- Friendship**  
Remember that the missionaries' closest friends are probably thousands of miles away.
- Books**  
If you've read a good book, share it!
- Retreats**  
Send your missionary family to retreats, camps, and conferences where they are not on the program.

When churches express their compassion for missionaries in tangible terms, both ministries benefit.

Todd Daily, Church Planter  
Baptist Mid-Missions  
Ingolstadt, Germany

# GARBC Ministry Feature

## "Be All That You Can Be . . ."

Pastor, are you ready for an exciting opportunity that will enable you to expand your sphere of influence for the Lord? By ministering through the SPIRIT in the U.S. Army Reserve chaplaincy, you can reap the following benefits:

**SERVICE TO GOD**  
The motto of the Army Chaplain Corps is *pro deo et patria*, "For God and Country." You can serve the Lord and your country.

**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**  
Broaden your knowledge in areas such as Suicide Awareness and Prevention and Clinical Pastoral Education. Continuing education helps you excel in your calling.

**INCENTIVE PAY**  
The Army agrees with 1 Timothy 5:18: ". . . The workman deserves his pay" (Weymouth). Can you use supplemental pay?

**RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY**  
By honoring religious diversity, the Army permits gospel-sharing and Bible-believing soldiers and chaplains to proclaim Christ.

**INNOVATIVE MINISTRY**  
Stimulate your creativity. Are you up to the challenge of proactively meeting the spiritual needs of soldiers?

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN DIFFERENT PLACES OF MINISTRY**  
Expand your ministry "know-how" and deepen your cultural awareness.

When you become a part of the U.S. Army Reserve chaplaincy, you have everything to gain!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1.800.235.ARMY, ext. 313**, or contact John Murdoch, director of GARBC Chaplaincy Ministries, at **1.888.588.1600, ext. 178**.

Chaplain (Major) Steve Szasz  
U.S. Army 6th Recruiting Brigade