

# IDEA Exchange

## Serving Others

Members in our Careers Sunday School Class (comprised of single young adults) enjoy participating in service projects that reach out to church members and to the unsaved.

We distribute bag lunches and gospel tracts to the homeless on the streets of New York City. Church members and local businesses donate food, toiletries, and clothing for our annual distribution.

We also serve by raking leaves for our elderly, widowed, or handicapped church members and by cleaning up our church grounds in the spring. During the Christmas season, we carol in community neighborhoods—resulting in opportunities to tell others about our church. We enjoy getting to know other church members and planting spiritual seeds in the lives of people who need Christ.

*Philip and Linda Horn, Sunday School teachers  
First Baptist Church  
Hackensack, New Jersey*



As an adult who grew up in a pastor's home, I remember that people from our church frequently brought my family vegetables from their gardens. Two of the vegetables we seemed to get a lot of were yellow squash and zucchini. My mother had many different ways to use the squash, but my favorite recipe is the one below. This is a delicious, easy-to-make dish that is great for serving to company or taking to a church dinner. People who generally do not like squash love this casserole.

### Squash Casserole

- 2 lbs. squash
- salt, pepper to taste
- 1 can cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1 grated carrot (optional)
- shredded cheddar cheese (optional)
- 1 lg. onion

1 stick butter  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1 box chicken flavor dressing mix

Cook squash and onion until tender; drain. Add salt, pepper, butter—melt. Add remaining ingredients. Place mixture into a lightly greased 2-quart casserole dish. Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees.

*Marsha Cizauskas, Assistant Pastor's Wife  
West Cannon Baptist Church  
Belmont, Michigan*

## synergy

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KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

# synergy

a newsletter for pastors & wives



Vol. 3, No. 3

## A note from John and Daria . . .



Our daughter, Andrea, loves to watch a televised cooking show called "Emeril Live." Emeril, a Cajun cook, is quite entertaining. Often he will shout, "Let's kick it up a notch!" as he adds several shots of hot sauce into his concoction. Our challenge to you for the year 2000 is "Let's kick evangelism up a notch!"

To help you expand your church's outreach efforts, the GARBC Resource Center is offering a Y2K evangelism kit called "Impact 2000." An evangelism notebook filled with outreach ideas and "how tos," large full-color invitation postcards (and optional mailing services), and prayer commitment bookmarks are available to assist you in rekindling your church's evangelism fire. To get you started, we are offering to churches 200 postcards and bookmarks at no charge.

**Kick your evangelism efforts up a notch! Phone toll-free today 1-800-727-4440 or email: [rbporders@garbc.org](mailto:rbporders@garbc.org) to place your order.** Be Y2K soul-winning ready!

In service with you,  
John and Daria



**Be Y2K soul-winning ready!**

## T o o l b o x



### Becoming Stronger Together

John Donne, a minister and poet, once wrote, "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 18:1, "A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire" (NKJV). Nowhere is this truer than in the ministry. We are a piece of the larger work.

How are we doing at being "part of the main"? Are we seeking to form relationships with brother pastors and sister churches? Consider these soul-searching questions:

- What does God want me to do where I have been planted to serve?

(continued on page 2)



## Connecting with Your Community

### The Outreach Power of Instant Tapes

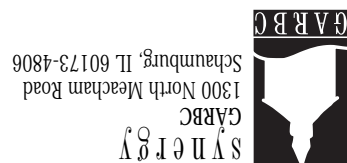
Would you like to encourage church members to share tapes of Bible teaching with unchurched neighbors, coworkers, and friends? Our church recently responded to that evangelistic challenge by purchasing a portable high-speed tape duplicator and launching our "Share a Tape Ministry."

When I say "amen" at the conclusion of the message, a worker takes the master tape from the sound booth to the foyer and makes multiple copies instantly. The tapes are labeled and placed in a protective case—ready to distribute as people leave the service. First-time guests automatically receive a complimentary copy of the morning message, and regular attendees may purchase tapes for the inexpensive price of \$1.50. Our people give tapes to those whom they have been inviting to our church as a nonthreatening introduction to our church services. How exciting to see God's Word getting into unbelievers' lives—even before they step through the church door!

*John Pletcher, Pastor  
Blair Ridge Baptist Church  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

(For more information, see *The Comprehensive Guide to Cassette Ministry* by Johnny Berguson, published by Kingdom Publishing.)

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- How do I respond when “sheep” (especially “ba-a-a-d sheep”) come to our church from a sister church?
- What do I do when I hear that a brother pastor is going through a tough time?
- How do I react when I am going through a “down” time but my brother pastor’s church is booming?
- How do I respond when someone says something detrimental against a brother pastor?
- How do I react when a disgruntled member leaves my church and finds a sympathetic audience at a sister church?



Paul gave some good counsel to the Galatian churches that we can put into the context of our working relationships with area sister churches. Think about his advice in these verses:

Galatians 5:1, 7–15: **Respect others’ freedom.** (Note especially verse 15.)

Galatians 5:16–26: **Walk in the Spirit.** The fruit of the Spirit should permeate our attitudes and actions.

Galatians 6:1 and 2: **Bear one another’s burdens.** Sharing is possible only in a cooperative (not competitive) environment.

Galatians 6:3: **Keep the right perspective.** Bigger (as in size of church) does not automatically mean better. On the other hand, we shouldn’t assume that a big church thinks more highly of itself than it really does.

tapes, videos, and choir music.

Helping handicapped persons. Coordinate your outreach efforts.

Inviting sister churches to special events, such as concerts, evangelistic meetings, or anniversary celebrations.

Joining together for special services—Good Friday, New Year’s Eve, Prayer Day, hymn sings, etc.

Kindling the number of opportunities to hear special speakers. Share speakers (and their expenses) with sister churches.

Linking together for group activities for senior citizens, singles, or youth. Go on outings and/or plan mission trips together.

Networking to reach community neighborhoods by holding joint Vacation Bible Schools, backyard clubs, canvassing campaigns, etc.

Praying by name for sister churches and pastors

Galatians 6:4: **Examine your own work.**

Galatians 6:7 and 8: **Realize the outcomes.** We reap what we sow.

Galatians 6:9 and 10: **Keep doing good to the household of faith.**

Galatians 6:14: **Glory in the cross of Christ.** Glory not in your own accomplishments.

We are part of a team—a family. No one wins until we all win! *No man is an island. . . . A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire.* I trust that some of these thoughts might help us as sister churches and brother pastors to cooperate, rather than compete, in the work that the Lord has called us to do. By His grace, let’s help each other cross the finish line. It might be closer than we think!

*Maynard Belt, State Representative  
Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches*

during your Sunday services.

Respecting differences in philosophy of ministries, methodology, tastes of music, etc.

Strategizing for reaching singles in your community. Sponsor events together.

Taking a break. Hold golf, softball, paint ball, or basketball tournaments together.

Uniting in peace. Seek the Lord’s will in resolving conflict as soon as possible.

Volunteering to help one another with work projects—especially building needs.

“Yoking” around with each other. Learn from each other. Enjoy being together!

*Maynard Belt, State Representative  
Michigan Association  
of Regular Baptist Churches*

## 7 Tips to Reignite Area Pastors’ Meetings

Would you like to energize and expand the ministry of your area pastors’ meetings? The following tips can help make your area of fellowship vibrant.

**1 Recognize the Potential.** The members of the executive committee lead in dreaming dreams and setting the vision for the fellowship—including the pastors’ meetings. Remember, much ability exists in your area churches! It’s true, “Together we can accomplish more!”

**2 Set Goals.** Know why you meet and what you hope to accomplish. Reaching a goal requires regular planning with your executive committee. Prior planning prevents poor performance! These are the goals for our local fellowship:

- accountability for pastors
- spiritual refreshment
- encouragement
- spiritual and intellectual challenge
- worship

**3 Be Practical.** The executive committee members need to spend time in prayer and discussion as they choose spiritually and intellectually challenging topics. Pastors should know that the time they spend attending the meetings will be well spent.

**4 Feature Special Speakers.** Invite “outside” speakers to address varying areas of ministry. Having the opportunity to listen and learn from outside speakers will allow your pastors to be on the receiving end of ministry. Ask your state representative for the names of speaker possibilities.

**5 Finances.** Involve your churches in financial contributions. Develop a way for each church to contribute financially. We suggested \$65 per church in our fellowship. Without exception, each of our participating churches agreed. Some even contribute more! This contribution gives the fellowship a workable budget and helps cover the honorariums of guest speakers.

**6 Remember Your Wives.** Allow opportunities for the pastors’ wives to become better acquainted. Don’t ask them to serve the group, but arrange for times of fellowship and refreshment. Plan some special meetings with your wives in mind.

**7 Sponsor an Annual Banquet.** Make this night one of the focal points for your area churches. This get-together will spur continued interaction with each other and, hopefully, more opportunities for service and ministry as well.

*Pastor Glenn Dunn, Assistant Pastor  
Grace Baptist Church, Westlake, Ohio  
Chairman, Hebron Fellowship*

## 6 TIPS



### for Forming a Coffee Club

Coffee Clubs can provide a great opportunity to share our faith in the Lord with unsaved friends. While these tips feature a women’s coffee club, men can form their own version.

**1** Choose an appealing coffee shop with available seating.

**2** Meet every four to six weeks. (We meet on Wednesday evening after prayer meeting.)

**3** Ask ladies to give their personal salvation testimonies to the group as they “officially” join.

**4** Invite unsaved friends and new ladies who are attending the church. (They will hear the believing ladies’ testimonies.)

**5** Prompt the women to share meaningful Scripture and what God is doing in their lives as you meet together.

**6** Keep the conversations focused on Christ. Do not discuss problems in homes, marriages, children, or church. (Appoint one lady to keep the conversation on the right track.)

The only drawback to our meeting is the next morning—it comes too quickly!

*Laura Morris, Pastor’s Wife  
First Baptist Church  
University Place, Washington*

## ABCs of Teaming Together

Accomplish great things by partnering with area churches of like faith!

### Discover the benefits of working together by

Assisting one another in church planting. Select an area and work together to start a church.

Bearing one another’s burdens. When a brother hurts, hurt with him.

Communicating openly if differences arise.

Don’t let barriers develop.

Declaring mutual Biblical convictions in areas such as pro-life and family lifestyles.

Exchanging pulpits occasionally and by sharing ministry prayer requests with one another.

Fostering healthy relationships. Do things together—your community will notice!

Gaining additional resources by sharing books,