

# IDEA Exchange

## Forming Cross-generation Friendships



Interested in bridging the generation gap? This invitation to the senior citizens from the young people in our church represents an event during which these two groups enjoyed getting to know each other.

**Needed: People 60 Years Old and Older**

The youth at church want to get to know you. They are fixing you lunch, decorating the table, and waiting for you to sign up to be with them after the morning service on     (fill in date)    . Please take advantage of this opportunity to get to know our youth. They are great kids, and we know you'll enjoy yourself.

Mark Meyers, Youth Pastor  
Riverside Baptist Church  
Decatur, Illinois

# Time Out

Looking for a scenic location that provides physical, emotional, and spiritual refreshment?



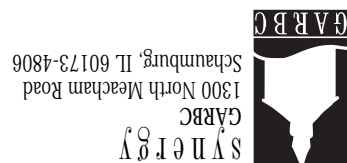
Fairhaven Ministries, located in a 100-acre mountain valley in eastern Tennessee, may be the place for you. Individual chalets and a spacious lodge in the Swiss-style village offer comfortable accommodations at reasonable prices. Several bridges and trails allow you to enjoy Fairhaven's natural beauty. All linens are furnished. Kitchens are fully equipped; but guests provide their own food. For those who need help with a crisis in their life or ministry, a professional counselor is available. For more information, contact Fairhaven Ministries, 2198 Roaring Creek Road, Roan Mountain, TN 37687, call 423.772.4269, or e-mail fhmin@aol.com.

## synergy

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# synergy

a newsletter for pastors & wives Vol. 4, No. 2

## A note from John and Daria . . .



When discussing the challenges of evangelizing a "postmodern culture," we commonly focus on reaching adults. Consider, though, that 80-85 percent of those who trust in Christ as their Savior do so before the age of 15. Statistics alone tell us that children's ministry must be a high priority in our strategic planning for evangelism. Sunday School, clubs (e.g., Awana, Word of Life Olympians, Patch the Pirate), special kids' events, and camps have great potential for yielding a harvest of souls.

Consider the children's ministry idea suggested in the "Toolbox." A new mission field may exist as close as your community's local school.

In service with you,  
John and Daria



# Toolbox

## Opening the Public School Door

Have you ever opened and walked through a door that had been closed for a very long time? If you have, then you may have found that door difficult to open. After the door was opened, you probably experienced the uncertainty of what lay on the other side. Having the desire to reach our neighborhood for Christ, my family walked through a door of opportunity in 1995. We challenge you to consider walking through the same door of having a Bible club in your local public school.



school buildings. I called the number given (1-800-USA-Learn), and ordered a document titled "Religious Expression in Public Schools" from the Department of Education.

This powerful and encouraging document is addressed to every U.S. school superintendent. Note the beginning statement

from President Clinton:  
"Nothing in the First Amendment converts our public schools into religion-free zones, or requires all religious expression to be left behind at the schoolhouse door. While the government may not use schools to coerce the consciences of our students, or to convey official endorsement of religion, the public schools also may not discriminate against private religion expressed during the school day." (continued on page 2)

KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

# IDEA Exchange

## Raising Missionary Awareness



Our leadership team wanted to update the congregation more fully on the ministries of our missionaries. Previously, we tried posting and reading prayer letters, forming missionary committees, displaying a large map of the world with photos and locations of our missionaries, and distributing prayer cards. However, the most effective form of communication takes place when families in our church become missionary representatives. A family prayerfully commits to a two-year term of representing a supported missionary. The families correspond with the missionaries to gather information to present to the church and to share church news. They make four Sunday evening presentations, using drama and skits, flashcards, or other creative ways of communicating the missionaries' needs, prayer requests, and victories. This process involves children and teens, who often participate in the presentations during the church service. The missionary awareness of our congregation is much greater!

Ronald German, Jr., Pastor  
Bible Baptist Church  
New Hartford, New York



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# T o o l b o x *continued*

"Religion is too important in our history and our heritage for us to keep it out of our schools. . . . It shouldn't be demanded, but as long as it is not sponsored by school officials and doesn't interfere with other children's rights, it mustn't be denied."

*President Clinton, July 12, 1995*

The remainder of the document gives leeway for incredible opportunities to pursue ministry in public schools. In general, the guidelines state that religious groups are not to be discriminated against in the areas of opportunities and use of facilities. One group or club cannot be granted permission while another group or club is denied. Also, one group is not allowed to use the facilities at no cost, while another group is required to pay.

Our family decided that we would put our hand on the school doorknob and see what happened. I went to the elementary school closest to our home with a copy of these guidelines in hand. I filed a "school use permit" form at the superintendent's office and left a copy of the guidelines. A few weeks later, we received permission to have a Bible club at the school.

Opening the school door was not easy, even with authorization. We were dealing with an institution that has for many years resisted God and His Word. It took time, persistence, patience, and prayer to begin our club and to

experience acceptance.

After a few weeks of meeting in our Good News Club, I asked the children (kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) if they knew John 3:16. Of the 13 in attendance, only one knew the verse. We quickly took care of that need. After several meetings, I gave my first invitation to the children to be saved. Twelve children followed me to the hallway, where they each prayed to receive Christ as their Savior.

We will soon finish our fifth year of Good News Club. We thank God for allowing us to do this! We have seen boys and girls come to know Christ and grow in the Lord. We have built relationships with parents who allow their children to come each Thursday after school for one hour. Some have visited our church, have come to our Vacation Bible School, and have joined our Awana program. Adults from our church work with us each week, and teens teach the Bible stories. One of the greatest blessings for me is to see my own children fall in love with their neighbors.

I'm a dreamer. . . . How wonderful it would be if every school across our land had someone who was willing to walk through the public school door to share the Good News of Jesus!

*Bill Miller, Pastor  
Bible Baptist Church  
Joliet, Illinois*

## How to Get Better at What You Do



Would you like to improve your ministry skills, but are you frustrated in making it happen?

Put your desires into action with the following plan!

1. Develop a personal mission statement that includes how you will grow professionally.
2. Review your mission statement each week. My statement hangs on my wall behind my desk, and I carry a copy with me in my notebook.
3. Identify what goals or "Critical Success Factors" you want to accomplish during the

upcoming week.

4. Organize what you consider important each week. If growing professionally is a priority, schedule it first before the urgency of the week crowds it out.
5. Evaluate what progress you have made each week in achieving your goals. You will realize that what you schedule has a good chance of getting accomplished.

*Dr. David Miller, Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Walnut Creek, California*

## IDEA Exchange

### Getting Contacts for Your Church

**Did you know that the "churches" heading in the Yellow Pages gets 95 million hits per year and is the 34<sup>th</sup> most frequently referenced heading out of 2,000 headings?** Harriet Meyers, in an article titled "Yellow Page Evangelism" in *Your Church* magazine (summer 1998), cites these and other interesting statistics regarding the use of the Yellow Pages.

According to a 1996 Media Impact Study conducted by National Yellow Pages Monitor, the highest percentage of people (17 percent) named the Yellow Pages as their source of information when looking for a church. Another study, conducted by Statistical Research regarding Yellow Pages usage, found that 46 percent of people who refer to the "churches" heading are in the process of making a decision about what church to visit. Seventy-five percent of those who consult the "churches" listing contact or visit the church. Of that number, about 25 percent of people visit a church that is new to them, as the majority of these people are new in the community.

If you are contemplating listing an ad for your church, consider the following suggestions:

- think about what might attract consumers
- offer a unique strength, i.e., a strong program or ministry in your church
- use an eye-catching design
- include a map or easy-to-follow directions

Is your church listed in the Yellow Pages? If you want people to check out your church when they hit town, it will be well worth the cost of creating an attractive ad.

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

*Note: Pastors, if you do not receive Your Church, it is free for the asking. Write to Your Church, 465 Gunderson Drive, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. The magazine contains helpful ideas . . . and the cartoons aren't bad either!*



## Come On Over

Summertime is the perfect time for a fish fry or cookout. Pastor-chef Scott Kigar of First Baptist in Rochester, Michigan, shares his culinary expertise. Build bridges with unsaved neighbors and acquaintances over a relaxed meal!

Meat, fish, veggie batter for frying or fondue

Mix together:

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- Sprinkle in 1/4 tsp. (or as desired to taste) of the following seasonings: paprika, turmeric, oregano, curry, garlic powder, onion powder

Stir warm water into the dry ingredients until batter reaches the desired thickness. Dry the fish or meat and dip into batter. Preheat oil in skillet or fryer to 375 degrees. For fish, cook each side 3 to 4 minutes.

Batter makes excellent coating for onion rings and can be used for fondue cooking of meat, cheese, and vegetables. Parboil vegetables such as carrots, cauliflower, and potatoes before coating and dipping.

Tips for grilling (or avoiding burnt offerings!)

- Never pierce or cut the meat. This will dry it out. Use tongs for turning.
- To check for doneness, press on the center of your meat with your tongs.

Squishy meat = rare or medium rare

Firm yet pliable meat = medium to medium well (Chicken is done at this point.)

Rigid meat = well done

- Use boneless meat for grilling. Pork loin and tenderloin cost less and stay moist.
- Cut back on the heat. Preheat the grill on high for 5 minutes; then turn it down to medium for grilling the meat.

Grilled Veggies

Looking for the perfect side dish? Cut zucchini, summer squash, or red and green peppers lengthwise (other options: portabello mushrooms or eggplant). Place in a 9" x 13" pan and coat with Italian dressing. Marinate for an hour or more. Lay veggies out on grill. Remove while still firm.



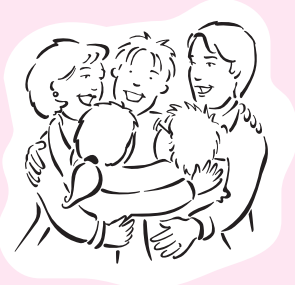
## Help Your Teachers Improve Their Instruction

*Impact Teaching* by John and Daria Greening guides teachers through the process of lesson preparation and delivery. This practical, easy-to-use workbook may be used individually or with groups. Learn not only what Christ taught, but *how* Christ taught. RBP5247. \$12.99

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## Keeping Family Togetherness

Husband-wife communication is extremely important. However, sometimes I feel as if I have used up my words for the day before I come home from work. Such "word fatigue" can present difficulties in our marital and family lives. With some creativity and work, my wife and I have found a few simple remedies. Here are six things we do to stay in touch.



- 1. Go out for breakfast.** Each Monday morning we get a good start to the week by eating at a favorite restaurant. (We even take our children.) Saturday mornings might be a better time for you.
- 2. Plan for family nights.** We dedicate every Friday evening to being together as a family. Often, my wife and I watch an acceptable video after the children go to bed.
- 3. Experience "YOU'VE GOT MAIL."** My wife and I write to each other daily on the computer. We have learned so much about each other over the last few months that our 12-year marriage had not revealed before.
- 4. Take family day trips.** At the beginning of the summer, we sit down as a family and plan our trips. We have scheduled trips for four different days this summer.
- 5. Arrange for a date night.** With four children, we need to spend time together as a couple. We enjoy going out to eat.
- 6. Write it down.** We enter a record of our family activities into our computer. At the end of the year, we take pleasure in looking at the goals our family has achieved.

Making a commitment to keep our family and marriage a high priority takes a great deal of work. Sometimes we sacrifice our social times with other people for a higher goal—our family and our marriage.

*Bob Cowman, Pastor of Outreach and Counseling  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Norwalk, Ohio*