

Time Out



Cedarly Pastors Retreat has expanded from their Delafield, Wisconsin, base into Michigan. The Shack Bed and Breakfast Inn is a large log structure nestled in 100 acres of woods on the shore of Robinson Lake near White Cloud, Michigan. Enjoy this five day mini-sabbatical free of charge, all meals included. Cedarly invites only couples or singles who are in full-time Christian pastoral ministry. They do not accommodate children.

Call 414-646-7772, or e-mail cedarly@execpc.com.

Harvest Outreach

Every October we host a Harvest Festival Banquet, designed to provide a low-key way for our people to invite the "unchurched" into our church. Our social committee decorates according to a theme and prepares a full course Thanksgiving dinner. We provide invitations for our people to distribute. After the dinner, a special speaker or musician presents a clear message of the gospel. Our church family looks forward to this event. The Lord has used it to break down walls of resisting hearts as unsaved spouses, loved ones, and friends have observed the love of Christ in action.

Don Shirk, pastor
Grace Baptist Church
Batavia, New York

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synergy

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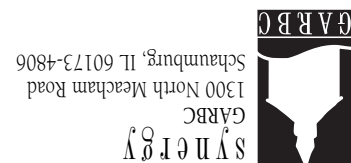
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Synergy

a newsletter for pastors & wives

Vol. 4, No. 3

A note from John and Daria . . .



Dear friends,

The creativity used by our ministry colleagues in reaching their communities for Christ is amazing! As you read these ideas for outreach, perhaps a seed thought for evangelism will be planted in your mind. We are praying for your discipleship efforts.

In service with you,
John & Daria

Toolbox



Do not merely listen to the word. . . . Do what it says (James 1:22, NIV).

When considering these words from James, do thoughts come to mind regarding the gap between what people in your flock know about God's Word and how they live out what they know? Sometimes that gap is enormous! When my family and I planted our present church, we wanted to emphasize the "doing" as much as the "hearing" (James 1:22-25.) With this goal in mind, we developed Adult/Teen Bible Fellowships (ABFs/TBFs) as part of our morning service. The primary purpose of these on-going groups is to develop Biblical relationships that accomplish the "one anothers" of Scripture and to help our congregation apply God's Word. Take a look at this brief overview of our ABFs.

Sunday Morning Service

- 9:15 A.M.** Fellowship time (pastries/juice/coffee)
- 9:30 A.M.** Morning service begins—45 minutes of praise and worship through songs, testimonies, dramas, etc. (Nursery for children 0-3 years is available all morning.)
- 10:10 A.M.** Children (4 years old-6th grade) are

dismissed to their classes. (Teens are in class for one quarter, and in the service for one quarter.)

- 10:10 A.M.** Morning sermon
- 10:50 A.M.** Invitation (On some Sundays, the invitation occurs at the end of ABF as a wrap-up.)
- 10:55 A.M.** ABF/TBF (application based on morning sermon)
- 11:20 A.M.** Service concludes

Immediately following the morning message and invitation, we transition into our ABF groups held in the same room or nearby. I choose my words carefully to explain this transition time to the people. Typically I say, "At this time we want to break up into several small groups and talk about what we just heard in this morning's message. Our service isn't over yet. In fact, we consider this a key part of our morning. We will be breaking into six groups [or however many] today." We do not categorize our groups (ages, etc.). People make their own decisions about where to go; they do a good job of clustering. I reassure visitors that they may not know what is going on and encourage them to "follow the crowd." *(continued on page 2)*

KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

IDEA Exchange



Promoting Prayer Partnership

Our church desired to give our elementary children (kindergarten—6th grade) the opportunity to experience the power of prayer and to bridge the generation gap. We developed a program called Beanie Baby Prayer Partners. Each participating senior adult (50 years old and up) adopts a specific Beanie Baby and attaches a laminated card with his or her name, photograph, birth date, and prayer requests. Each child baby-sits a Beanie Baby for one month, praying nightly for the needs of its adoptive parent. In exchange, the seniors receive laminated refrigerator magnets with their corresponding child's name, picture, birth date, and prayer requests. Adults spend time with their prayer partners and correspond with them through phone calls and cards. Each month the participants receive a different Beanie or magnet with a new prayer partner. This ministry has yielded increased prayer, new friendships, and the beginning of mentoring relationships.

Amy Muck, member
Abbe Road Baptist Church, Elyria, Ohio

Amy has a "how-to" packet available. You may contact her by calling 440-235-1587.



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Toolbox *continued*

Key elements of effective ABFs include:

- **Mature, growing, gifted hosts and application leaders.** The hosts are those who lead the group toward relationship building; e.g., organizing prayer chains, developing a schedule of activities and outreach events. The application leaders facilitate the application discussion. On our church Web page I post an outline of my preaching notes and five or six “how-to” questions based on the text for our leaders to study ahead of time. (I include a fill-in-the-blank outline of my sermon in the bulletin.)
- **A secure pastor who delegates and allows people to minister in their areas of giftedness.** An ABF may take over the traditional responsibilities of a pastor (responsibilities such as visitation, follow-up, discipleship, and bereavement care). Pastors should not view this as a threat, but rather as the blessing of a Biblical model being carried out.
- **A group ratio of approximately 15 attendees to 1 leader.** (However, larger groups with an effective leader are preferred over smaller groups with poor leadership.)
- **An environment in which people want to enter and feel genuinely welcomed.** This does not just happen when we tell our people to be friendly. We must teach hospitality, model it, honor it, and then do it over and over again! During our evening training twice a year, we teach how to help people feel welcome and then

we model hospitality each Sunday.

- **An atmosphere that facilitates discussion.** A relaxed conversation in a group among regular members will draw visitors in naturally. Be real.
- **An emphasis on application.** A typical Sunday School is comprised of 80 percent to 90 percent teaching and 10 percent to 20 percent announcements and “one anothers.” ABFs are approximately 60 percent application and 40 percent one anothers. We ask ourselves, “What do we do with what we know, after listening to the sermon? What did we do with what we studied from God’s Word last week?”

The discussion of your sermon and God’s Word can be a tremendous help to your ministry. The immediate feedback you receive will be incredible! In turn, you will teach God’s Word with a clearer goal in mind. This kind of ministry demands that you know where your people are spiritually, and that you determine the next step they need to grow spiritually. God bless you as you lead your church in narrowing the hearing/doing gap!

*Mark A. Craig, pastor-teacher
Friendship Baptist Church
Greenwood, Indiana*

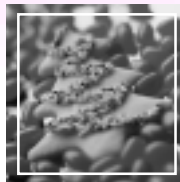
For further study, Mark recommends the book *Growing Adults on Sunday Morning* by Knute Larson.



Christmas Open House

Our city’s Annual Christmas Parade route is two blocks away from our church. Hundreds of people pass by our church going to and from the Parade; so, we hosted a Christmas Open House after the Parade. To advertise our event, we gave away candy canes and helium balloons during the Parade with the message, “You are invited to Southside Baptist Church.” Participants enjoyed the moonwalk we had rented as well as cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, and information about our church ministries. Church members mingled with people on the front lawn and distributed Christmas tracts. Feedback from the community was very positive. Many said they could not believe that a church would go through so much trouble—and everything was free! One family accepted Christ through this outreach.

*David C. Altman, pastor
Southside Baptist Church
Sebring, Florida*



TECH Soup



Interactive Gospel Tract

With the goal of getting the gospel into the hands of people who would never enter a church, I created an interactive gospel journey on computer software titled *The Romans Road*. As users travel down the Romans Road, visuals challenge them about their eternal destination and show them from Scripture how to be saved. You can e-mail this tract to share the gospel with unsaved acquaintances. I praise God for the opportunity to use our culture’s technology to further His kingdom.

*Chris Brown, youth pastor
First Baptist Church
Horseheads, New York*

To receive Chris’s *The Romans Road* interactive journey, e-mail:
fbchhny@exotrope.net.

Car Care Ministry

Our Car Care ministry assists people with their car repairs free of charge. We care for minor car repairs such as checking fluids, belts, hoses, and bulbs, and changing the oil and filters. (Recipients are asked to supply their own oil and filter.) We even offer advice regarding car problems.

We list the date, time, and place of the Car Care ministry in our church bulletin. People sign up for assistance by listing their name and anticipated repairs. Church members may donate money to help pay for others’ repairs. We provide Car Care as an outreach to our community and as a service for our church family.

*Ray Vayda, member
First Baptist Church
Lagrange, Ohio*

Quick Tips

HOW MUCH?

I am often asked by pastors, “How much should a church pay their guest speaker?” As you might expect, no pat answers exist.

Here are five suggestions that might help determine the question, “How much?”

1. Lead your people in being generous toward God’s servants. In turn, your church members will learn to be more generous toward you, their pastor.
2. Allow your people the opportunity to express their appreciation for the speaker’s ministry through contributing to an offering for him. Set a minimum gift amount.
3. Teach your people the difference between an honorarium and travel expenses. (The 2000 mileage rate is \$.325 per mile.)
4. Lead your people in establishing an average monetary amount per message, such as \$50 to \$100 for speaking at a main service and a \$25 to \$50 for a smaller gathering like Sunday School or youth group.
5. Teach your people about the time invested by the speaker in preparation for his message. The congregation needs to consider his time spent in study, travel, and work at your church instead of viewing the \$75 as an honorarium for delivering a 45-minute sermon.

*Craig Golden, state representative
Empire State Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches
Endicott, New York*



Do you need to make dessert in a hurry? Irene Jackson, wife of International GARBC Representative, Mark Jackson, shares this easy and delicious recipe.

Banana Pudding

Mix until crumbly with a pastry blender or a knife:

- 2 cups coconut, packed firmly
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup very soft butter



Place above mixture in shallow pan and bake at 300 degrees for about 45 minutes, turning occasionally until slightly brown. Allow mixture to cool. Spread 2/3 of mixture into a 9” x 13” pan. (Reserve remaining 1/3 for topping.)

Prepare 2 packages instant vanilla or French vanilla pudding according to directions on packages. Spread over mixture in pan. Slice 3 large bananas and place over pudding. Top with Cool Whip and remaining crumb mixture. Store in refrigerator.



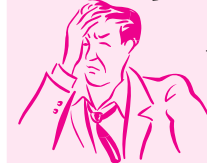
Christmas Glass Giveaway

Our church launched a three-year project of distributing Christmas beverage glasses as an outreach to our community. The etching on the glasses highlighted the names of God (God, Jehovah, Almighty, Elohim, Creator, Adonai, and El Shaddai) the first year; the names of Jesus (Emmanuel, Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Savior, Messiah, Christ, and Prince of Peace) the second year; and the names of the Holy Spirit (Holy Spirit, Pneuma, Spirit of God, Parakletos, Helper, Comforter, Holy Ghost) the third year. Each year we placed different items inside the glasses, including invitations to our Christmas program, a church brochure, tracts, and other outreach literature. A handful of candy or a candy cane added a nice touch. Our people distributed between 1,200 and 1,500 glasses each year by handing them out door-to-door or in front of local businesses. We also placed an ad in the newspaper so people could call to receive a glass.



*Keith Pannebaker, pastor
Christian Life Baptist Church
Salem, Indiana*

Ever had one of these days?



We received this e-mail from a close friend:

“Last weekend I spoke at a marriage retreat in Niagara Falls. I brought ‘the mother of all bad messages.’ I can’t even describe how poorly I did. I’ve spoken over a thousand times and have brought at least a hundred bad messages. This was off the charts. You know those dreams of being naked (or without your shoes and socks) and preaching? Well, I lived it. My wife had to keep me away from the edge of the falls. I’m looking in the want ads today. I always did want to be a park ranger!”