

# Synergy

a newsletter for pastors & wives

Vol. 5, No. 1

## A note from John and Daria . . .



Dear friends,

Have you ever faced the dilemma of having too many godly leaders in your congregation? Probably not! There seems to be a shortage. Too bad we can't run to K-Mart and pick up a few. Growing leaders takes time and effort. In this issue of *Synergy*, two pastors share their training methods for developing godly leaders. Perhaps their example will spur us on to "plan our work, and work our plan!" Let's begin growing leaders now!

In service with you,  
John & Daria

## Reach Out Go-getters

As "go-getters," our church members help visitors become part of church life by encouraging them to participate in Sunday School. To qualify to be go-getters, individuals must be faithful in church attendance; growing spiritually; gifted in evangelism, mercy, or helps; and able to give 30 to 60 minutes of their time each week to this ministry. Go-getters minister to visitors by

- greeting those in their age group who visit services or Sunday School,
- introducing visitors to at least one other person,
- inviting visitors to be a part of the Sunday School class,
- following up their visit with a phone call or note during the week, and
- involving visitors in a formal or informal social.

A good initial step in assimilating visitors is to invite them to a Sunday School class social. As they begin forming relationships with class members, they are more likely to take the next step of visiting Sunday School. The brief, loving connection that go-getters initiate often makes the difference in assimilating fringe people.

Jonathon Jenks, pastor  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin



### Real Men Are Godly

The first in a series of Men's Bible Studies from RBP by John Greening. Call to order **1.800.727.4400**



Together We Can Accomplish More **GARBCC**

## T o o l b o x

# Ironmen Discipleship Ministry

Once upon a time there lived a church that was not living happily ever after. Why? The church lacked godly leadership. Its members believed that men ought to provide the church with godly spiritual leadership (1 Timothy 2:8), but that wasn't happening. Instead of the men setting an example by teaching, growing, and serving, they seemed stagnate, lethargic, and uninterested. As a result, the church was susceptible to false doctrine and divisions. Its light in the community burned dimmer.

Unfortunately this is not a fairy tale. Many churches are experiencing this reality. What can be done to turn the tide and set the church on course for living happily ever after?

Making men into disciples is the key to a healthy church. Paul wrote to Timothy these life-giving words: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

The following description highlights a disciple-making ministry that grows men into spiritual leaders. Ironmen Discipleship Groups of 8 to 12 men meet weekly for the purpose of maturing in Christ through Bible study, prayer, and accountability.

### Bible Study

A man grows spiritually through discovery and application of Biblical truth. The Bible study part of Ironmen is crucial to its success. I suggest using a three-level process of studying material:

#### Level 1 topics—basic knowledge and habits of the disciple

Building a Man from the Inside Out  
Bible Basics  
The Mind and Handling Temptation  
Becoming Men of Truth  
Disciplines of a Godly Person

#### Level 2 topics—discernment

Christian Liberty  
Handling Life's Problems Biblically  
Pillars of Truth  
Mastering the Word

#### Level 3 topics—various studies from the epistles, Bible books, and more in-depth doctrinal studies

This kind of curriculum will take several years to complete—disciple making is a long-term process. By the time a man has completed

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level three, he can disciple men in levels one and two. In a situation with multiple groups and few teachers, the pastor can serve as the surrogate teacher by videotaping the lessons. Preparing the videotape lessons in a creative manner makes the time of study more enjoyable.

## Prayer

Many times men struggle with prayer. Asking for requests is often met with pin-drop silence. To get the ball rolling, ask each man to write down two or three requests. Give the first two men opportunity to share their requests, then ask two volunteers to pray for each man's requests. Mix in church and community requests to stretch the interest beyond the group. The hour passes quickly as the men pray for one another. A helpful tool for facilitating prayer is a prayer sheet with room to record requests, updates, and answers to prayer.

## Accountability

Accountability is crucial in disciple making.

In the Ironmen Discipleship Groups, study questions and an accountability chart assist in holding the men accountable for growth. The study questions are patterned after the example of Jesus, Who held His followers accountable for learning His teachings. Each Bible lesson features both empirical and application questions. This accountability chart introduces the men to godly disciplines incrementally. Every other week a new discipline is added. By the end of nine months, the disciple has built into his life daily habits of prayer, Bible study, and family leadership.

Discipling men requires more than a program. The Ironmen Discipleship Group ministry is only a tool that can help you get the job done. Discipling men is the key to your church's present health and long-term success.

*Duke Crawford, pastor  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa*

## TALENTS FOR CHRIST TOUR

Talents For Christ (TFC) is a program to challenge students who are actively involved in GARBC churches to develop their God-given talents for ministry. The Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches (IARBC) sponsors a Talents For Christ Tour that includes state TFC first- and second-place winners. Starting on a Saturday in early June, the teens assemble, get to know each other, and learn a couple group songs. The group then ministers in six churches from Sunday morning to Thursday night. The students learn how to minister rather than just perform.

At the end of the state TFC competition, each first- and second-place winner receives a postcard that they return to me, stating whether or not they can participate in the tour. I coordinate the itinerary, transportation, and lodging with the host churches. Each church extends an offering to cover tour expenses. Any additional money received goes into our TFC Endowment Fund that helps support our state TFC scholarships. Of the ten TFC Tour participants that went in 2000, five of them brought home national TFC trophies.

*Dave Peters, IARBC state youth representative*

## SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I?

Since pastors now have a window of opportunity to get back into the social security program, this is a good time to reevaluate your decision to be involved or not.

When some pastors dropped out of the social security program, many failed to fund the features of benefits that they surrendered.

### BENEFITS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM INCLUDE:

#### • Retirement income for pastor and/or wife beginning between ages 62 and 67

An individual with 40 quarters of social security wages will not lose his credits when leaving the system. However, the retirement income could be extremely low.

#### • Income (to retirement age) in case of disability caused by accident or sickness

A person who is disabled must have 40 quarters of credit of which 20 quarters have to have been credited in the last 10 years prior to the claim to qualify for any benefits.

#### • Life insurance in the manner of income for dependent minors to age 18

A family of a deceased pastor with an "average indexed monthly earnings" of \$3,000 would receive a maximum of \$2,192 (indexed) per month. This figure would decrease as the children reach age 18 and would stop when the youngest child reaches age 18. A spouse with no children under the age of 18 receives no social security survivor benefits until reaching age 60.

#### • Part B of medicare for a low premium (currently \$45.50 a month)

Part A (hospital) of medicare is free for those with 40 quarters of social security credits. (If an individual does not have 40 quarters of social security credits, the premium currently is \$301 per month.) Medicare part B (doctor) is available only to those on part A at \$45.50 per month. If a person has medicare part A and part B, he can purchase a medicare supplement plan.

Approximately 80 percent of a person's medical costs occur in the last 12 months of life.

Without the above medicare plans and medicare supplement policy or policies in force, there is a high probability of great financial loss and possibly a ruining of a testimony built up over a lifetime. Medical insurance, if available at 65 and beyond, could quickly exceed \$1,000 premium a month per person.

The window of opportunity to revoke your exemption for self-employment tax is January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2001. To qualify, you must have filed a Form 4361 application for exemption from self-employment tax for use by ministers and previously received IRS approval for exemption. If you submit a Form 2031 to revoke your exemption for self-employment tax any time next year, the self-employment taxes would be due for the entirety of 2001.

Pray about it.

*Dale R. Whiting, member  
Grandview Park Baptist Church, Des Moines, Iowa  
CLU, chartered financial consultant  
877-280-8080 DRWCLUCHFC@cs.com*

## 5 Tips for Handling Pastor's Wife Stress

**Stress!** Roget defines it as tension, strain, pressure, anxiety, and frustration. In today's vernacular, stress is deadlines, traffic jams, family crises, trying to do it all. In the ministry, it's finding out you have a wedding shower to go to, speaking at a ladies' meeting, attending two funerals, providing special music, listening to criticism about your husband, nursing sick kids, and keeping a dentist appointment . . . all in the same week! Now that's tension, strain, and pressure! How do you handle these times?

- 1. Take a walk or get some other type of exercise.** Just going out my front door and walking briskly through our subdivision helps me to face the pressures. Being away from everyone and the phone is refreshing. I come back ready to pick up the load again.
- 2. Read.** I enjoy biographies, especially of godly women of the past, such as missionary wives Ann Judson and Maria Taylor, who served faithfully beside their husbands. The testimony of their walk with God through the mountains and the valleys of their lives encourages me. I keep a good book beside my bed and read in the evening.
- 3. Develop a friendship outside of church with another godly woman.** God gave me such a friend after I had prayed for one. She prays for me, loves me as I am, and encourages me spiritually. She accepts me as a friend instead of regarding me as a pastor's wife.
- 4. Learn to say "no."** I feel obligated to help whenever I am asked, but I cannot do everything. There just isn't time! Asking my husband first protects me from overloading my day or week.
- 5. Lower expectations of yourself.** I have to realize that the house might not be in perfect order if I've had extra responsibilities at church that week. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are okay for supper if I have to go speak somewhere that night. This is a hard area for me, but I'm loosening up a little.

How did Jesus handle stress? He led the crowds as they followed Him, met peoples' needs, taught His disciples, performed miracles, and preached about the kingdom. But He, too, became weary. It was then that He withdrew to a quiet place to pray . . . alone. Ultimately, that private communication with the Father gave Him the fortitude to face the crucifixion. How much more do I need the sweet, quiet time of prayer with God!

*Sandy Hall, pastor's wife  
Evangel Baptist Church  
Taylor, Michigan*

## Reach Out

### Breakfast of Hope

Breakfast of Hope is an evangelism tool that we have employed with great results in our predominately Catholic area. This bridge-building approach is an effective way to expose contacts (friends, family, coworkers) to the gospel in a non-threatening way.

A local restaurant provides a much more neutral setting than the auditorium of the local church. Somehow the "breaking of bread," even among unbelievers, tends to create an openness and receptivity. And, of course, invited guests eat for free. Listening to music that is well done but less formal (in our case, often with guitar accompaniment) also helps create a nonthreatening setting.

The highlight of a Breakfast of Hope is the

testimony of salvation. Often a couple share how they came to the knowledge of Christ as Savior. Occasionally we are able to invite a musician who can sing and tell his story of redemption. Everything points to these minutes when Christ is lifted up.

Though the setting, the music, and the testimony are all integral parts of a Breakfast of Hope, the time around the tables before, during, and after the "program" is when the sowing and reaping occur. New Testaments and appropriate gospel literature are always available. Church members must be alert and prepared to share Christ, using the Breakfast as just one more opportunity to expose their friends to Jesus' love.

*Tim Vermilyea, ABWE missionary pastor  
Evangelical Baptist Church of Pont-Rouge  
Quebec, Canada*

## IDEA Exchange



### Extra Mile Institute

In an effort to take the educational ministry of our church to a higher level, we offer classes through our Extra Mile Bible Institute. Our goal is to provide a well-rounded education in the Bible and a concentration on believers' spiritual lives through an in-depth, systematic study. The classes fit within a predetermined discipline, are academically and spiritually challenging, have a high level of accountability, and provide recognition for the work accomplished. The institute includes courses that help participants grow in their teaching and preaching skills, learn more about evangelism and missions, develop in spiritual leadership, and train for counseling. We offer a certificate in Biblical studies (16 courses) and a diploma in Biblical studies (32 courses). Participants can earn a Bible college degree through our credit transfer program. We conduct our institute in six-week segments on Sunday evenings, for an hour and a half, during the months of September through May. Initially I was concerned that our people might find the idea of taking college level courses overwhelming. To my surprise, they have welcomed the challenge and responded by more than doubling our Sunday evening attendance.

*Gene Speer, Christian education pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Whitefish, Montana*



### Looking for ideas, plans, and programs for your women's ministries?

Order RBP's new *Women's Ministries Handbook* by Juanita Purcell.

**Call 1.800.727.4440**

# Time Out



My wife, Charlotte, and I greatly enjoy being outdoors together. As we hike, pick berries, and cross-country and downhill ski, I enjoy seeing my wife in a different light. One afternoon as we were floating on inner tubes down a river, she laughed and tumbled through the rapids with the careless ease of a teenager. These times away from our ministry add spice to our lives. Charlotte insists on making time to do these activities, and I'm grateful!

Dave Pestel, pastor  
Bethel Baptist Church  
Kalispell, Montana



Enjoy Charlotte's delicious taco pie after your hike!

## Southwest Taco Pie

### Crust

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup plus 1 tablespoon cornmeal, divided  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup all-purpose flour  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup milk  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil

### Filling

1 pound lean ground beef  
1 cup chunky salsa  
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Co-Jack cheese  
1 cup shredded lettuce  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped tomato  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sliced, pitted ripe olives  
Sour cream (optional)

Preheat oven to 450° F. Lightly spray stone-ware 9-inch pie plate with vegetable oil. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon of the cornmeal evenly onto bottom and sides of the prepared pie plate. For crust, combine the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of cornmeal, flour, baking powder, and salt in a 1-quart bowl. Add milk and oil; stir with fork until mixture forms a

ball. Transfer to lightly floured surface. Using lightly floured roller, roll out crust to form 10-inch circle. Place in prepared pie plate; shape edge to form rim. For filling, cook ground beef in frying pan; drain. Stir in salsa. Spoon beef mixture into piecrust; sprinkle with cheese. Bake 12–15 minutes or until crust is golden brown and cheese is melted. Top pie with lettuce, tomato, and olives. Garnish with sour cream and additional salsa, if desired. Serves 6.

## synergy

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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

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