



The GARBC Resource Center is currently investigating group health insurance options for pastors and church and school staff. The following information is needed to determine the feasibility of an Association-wide plan.

Please complete and mail to:

GARBC—Health Insurance, 1300 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173, or fax to 847-843-3757, or respond online at www.garbc.org/insurance/insqs.html. All information is confidential. **Please respond by 7/1/01.**

GARBC Health Insurance Questionnaire

Name _____ Birth Date _____ Sex _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Spouse Birth Date _____

Dependent Children's Birth Dates _____

Attach a sheet listing the above information for all additional employees/dependents covered on your health insurance plan.

Were there any claims exceeding \$5,000 last year? _____ If yes, give medical conditions for each:

Prescription Medicines _____

What is the name of your insurance company? (not the agent's name) _____

Do you have an individual or group policy? _____

What type of health plan do you have: PPO? _____ POS? _____ HMO? _____

What amount is your deductible? _____

What is your coinsurance percentage for care providers in and out of network? (i.e., 90/70) _____

If you have a prescription drug card, what are your co-payments? _____

What is your monthly health insurance premium? _____

In order of importance, what are you looking for in an Association health plan? (1=not important to 10=extremely important; write in any number from 1 to 10)

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ cost of health plan | _____ quality and quantity of doctor and hospital network |
| _____ coverages of health plan | _____ group life insurance |
| _____ type and quality of insurance company | _____ group dental insurance |
| _____ quality of claim service | _____ group long-term disability |

What would it take for you to switch? (be specific)



Together We Can Accomplish More **GARBC**



TECH Soup



Attention youth pastors—2 Web sites to assist you!

www.studentminister.org by Bryan Waggoner, youth pastor at Bethesda Baptist Church, Brownsburg, Indiana, includes dozens of downloadable items (mostly in PDF format), including devotions for students, messages, forms, drama, student resources, mission trip resources, and links. In addition to the Web site, Bryan (317-852-3101, ext. 224) has available a book about local mission trips and a CD/book on cross-cultural mission trips.

Take a look at **www.rbpstudentministries.org** by Mel Walker, RBP student ministries director. Also, check out these e-mail newsletters!

- **rbpstudentministries-request@garbc.org** provides up-to-date student statistics, youth ministry tips, and perspectives on current news items that affect students. To subscribe, send an e-mail to the above address and type "subscribe rbpstudentministries" (without the quotes) in the message subject.
- **extras-request@garbc.org** provides discussion questions and teaching ideas that correspond to the *Real Faith in Life* student curriculum by RBP. To subscribe, send an e-mail to rbpstudentministries-request@garbc.org and type "subscribe extras" (without the quotes) in the message subject.

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Time Out

Do you need quality rest? Religious Vacations, Inc., has two houses in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, available rent free for a two-week period to pastors and their families. Each house includes three bedrooms and two baths and comes fully equipped with televisions, linens, silverware, and china. **Contact Hugh Hoffman, president of Religious Vacations, at 954-763-8400 to make your reservation.** (Call several months in advance.)

synergy

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 French Lick, Indiana
 1-888-588-1600; www.garbc.org

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Synergy

a newsletter for pastors & wives Vol. 5, No. 2

A note from John and Daria . . .



Dear friends,
 We want to serve you! The GARBC's e-mail news and information service, E-Info, offers ideas, information, resources, and assistance for your ministry. To subscribe, e-mail e-info@garbc.org and type "Subscribe E-Info" in the message subject. Let's stay in touch!



In service with you,
 John & Daria

T o o l b o x

Call to Discipleship

Developing a discipleship ministry is an ongoing goal of our church's leadership team. Our society is ignorant and misinformed about the truths of the gospel. Many people could be led to the Lord if someone would take the time and effort to lead them through Scriptural truths.

some elements in our thinking about discipleship. This realization helped us to move ahead. We compiled a *Call to Discipleship* pamphlet that summarizes what we learned. Occasionally we teach from the pamphlet to keep this acquired knowledge in mind.

Those of us who are saved sense the crying need for bringing people into the church and seeing them personally discipled. In previous generations, a moral fiber existed in the general populace. People were brought up with a sense of responsibility and personal discipline. They had basic perceptions of marriage roles and parenting. Today many people come to salvation without this fundamental knowledge. They desperately need mature Christians to nurture them and to work with them for an extended period of time. Spiritual mentors can help new believers get grounded doctrinally and learn the basics of practicing a Christian life and growing spiritually.

• *We embarked on an inductive verse-by-verse study of the book of Matthew in our adult Sunday School each week.* At the end of Matthew, the Great Commission serves as a grand commencement exercise. Very early in the book, Jesus called the disciples saying, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (4:19). The entire book of Matthew is an inspired record of how Jesus moved the men from their call to discipleship to their graduation as mature disciples. As we studied the book of Matthew, we asked ourselves, "How does this passage teach me to be a better disciple?" and "What do I learn from Jesus' model of how He discipled?" Our knowledge of discipleship continued to grow.

As a church, we did three things to address the need for discipleship.
 • *We studied Matthew 28:18-20 to be sure that we knew what it was we were trying to do.* Surprisingly, we discovered that we were missing

• *We developed a ten-lesson discipleship series.* Each lesson ends with a meditation—a list of questions for the disciple to ask himself and to

(continued on page 2)

Keeping my Family a Priority



In the busyness of ministry, I want my family to realize their importance. I strive to keep them a priority by

- taking my day off each week. Also, I make sure I'm not out every other night of the week. I have teenagers, and our schedules can be hectic, but we try to maintain family mealtimes together.
- dating my wife (and my daughters)!
- taking advantage of my vacation times each year to spend time with my family. Occasionally I have attended a conference or pursued an educational opportunity, but I rarely make these substitutions. I enjoy getting away with my family for activities and fun.
- often saying no to ministry commitments that conflict with family activities so that I can show up at my kids' athletic events and school programs. There's nothing like the ministry of "presence"!
- praying like crazy for every member of my family and trusting God for His protection and fulfilling of needs.

I know it is God Who really protects and blesses families. Often I feel inadequate and inept as a husband and dad, but God is the strength of my life!

*Jim Vogel, pastor
 South Baptist Church
 Flint, Michigan*



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Toolbox *continued*

ponder whether or not he understands the material. Later he meets with his discipler to check for understanding. Before the disciple can proceed to the next lesson, the discipler signs a form stating that he believes the disciple does understand and is applying the material to his life. We encourage the pair to continue the discipleship process, to incorporate other materials when needed, and to plan toward a future point when the disciple will begin discipling someone else. We now have ten pairs meeting regularly—including two pairs from the youth group, which consist of more mature teens who are discipling others. My personal counseling load has plummeted as I have connected people with disciples to work together on a long-term basis. My disciplers tell me that they are the ones who benefit the most. The responsibility to disciple someone else motivates them to grow spiritually

themselves. As I stand at the pulpit on Sunday, it is thrilling to realize that out of the congregation of 100, 20 people are directly involved in the Great Commission. May we have many more disciples!

*Don Bixby, pastor
Fellowship Baptist Church
Winamac, Indiana*



Discipleship can begin at a young age! Call Regular Baptist Press (1.800.727.4440) to order *Welcome to the Family* (RBP5255), a thirteen-lesson course to help you disciple children who make decisions for Christ.

For adult new converts, order *Basic Bible Truths* (RBP5003).

Book Picks

Two ministry colleagues, Bruce McDonald (ABWE missionary, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey) and David Warren (OARBC State Representative, Cedarville, Ohio), suggest books they highly value.

Bruce's picks

- I read Arnold Dallimore's two-volume set on George Whitefield early in my ministry, and it has forever shaped me. George Whitefield's passion for Christ astounds me, his endurance inspires me, and his perseverance convicts and challenges me. Observing his humility and yet tenacity for truth has changed my life. He was Spurgeon's hero and is mine as well.
- *God Meant It for Good* by K. T. Kendall. This is a book I have literally worn out from reading repeatedly. This study on the life of Joseph is an incredible reminder of the sovereignty of God in all the affairs of life. This book helps me when I tend to lose heart or grow weary. Powerfully written, it is always "the word in due season."

David's pick

- *Firestorm: Preventing and Overcoming Church Conflicts* by Ron Susek and D. James Kennedy presents a realistic yet positive approach to church troubles. The authors analyze the problems and offer workable solutions. This is a must-read for every pastor.

I D E A Exchange

Sunday Evening Primetime

Our "Primetime" format for Sunday evening is proving to be an effective way of growing our Sunday evening ministry. Our time together includes

- worship songs led by a worship team;
- Bible memorization of Romans 12 in which each person learns one verse per week;
- a five-question quiz based on information shared in the morning services;
- open discussion about the morning message content; and
- Bible application from the text—the "How To."

We do not include new messages or material but focus on making life-related Bible applications. Our "Primetime" is informal, and we've seen an incredible response.

*Bob Cowman, outreach pastor
Calvary Baptist Church
Norwalk, Ohio*

Reach Out

CANDIDATES' NIGHT

To further its community outreach, Cornerstone Baptist Church held a Candidates' Night that gave both political parties a non-partisan platform for expressing their views. Rev. Duane Motley, executive director of New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedom, moderated the media event. Prior to the question-and-answer time with the candidates, the public completed and submitted a questionnaire. Rev. Motley presented the questions to the panel of candidates or candidate representatives from assembly, senatorial, congressional, vice-presidential, and presidential races. After the event, the candidates and the public visited informally during a reception held in the church gym.

Cornerstone Baptist's social, steering, property, decorating, and music committees prepared for the event. Prior to the night, the steering committee notified newspapers and television and radio stations and arranged for the church's pastor to appear on a radio talk show. Local businesspeople such as printers, florists, bakers, and grocers donated products and services. Newspapers published lead-in and follow-up articles on the event. A television station sent a satellite truck and crew to conduct live interviews and to direct broadcasting from the church location. Candidates' Night not only provided a community service, but it also introduced many people to the church.

*Carol Gould, church member
Tom Shelton, former pastor
Cornerstone Baptist Church
Ames, New York*

FYI

Need a Bible repaired?

We recently became aware of The Bookmenders (1-800-538-0821; www.bookmenders.com), a studio that repairs, recovers, and restores Bibles.

I D E A Exchange

Men's Prayer-Gram

Looking for a quick and easy way to let others know that you are praying for them? The Men's Reveille (with Pastor Teddy Herron) of Glen Baptist Church, Watkins Glen, New York, meets weekly to pray for missionaries, full-time Christian workers, pastors, and fellow church members. After praying, the men send a prayer-gram (a rectangular slip of paper that fits into a business-size envelope) to tell a brother in Christ that they prayed for him. At the top of the prayer-gram is a Scripture verse related to prayer and a note telling the recipient that they prayed for him. Each man signs his name and notes a Scripture reference after his name. The group encourages a different brother each week. Many of the recipients have written back, expressing their appreciation.

ADVICE for the new pastor

"When a pastor begins a new ministry, he should not prepare new sermons for the first year, but use appropriate, proven ones. He can use the extra available time to build strong relationships with his new flock and to establish goals and strategies to lead the church forward."

—Warren Wiersbe

"The old advice for a new pastor to not lead the church in any new directions in the first year is not usually wise. Many in the church will think that is evidence that you are not a leader. Someone will lead in that vacuum and may become or continue to be the de facto leader."

—Lyle Schaller, church consultant

*Excerpts from a letter to pastors
written by Joe Hayes, state representative
Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches
Ankeny, Iowa*

Looking Inward

In the rush of doing ministry, a beneficial practice for you is to take time for self-evaluation of your ministry. Consider asking yourself the following questions:

WHAT IS the assignment given to me by the Lord? Am I faithfully fulfilling it for His glory?

WHAT IS my attitude about ministering to those who come to church on Sunday? Am I feeding them the Word of God?

WHAT IS it to me if God so willed to give ten talents to my fellow pastor? Am I using the talent that He gave me?

WHAT IS it that I can accomplish in the church with committed believers? Am I aggressively pursuing God's plan for His church?

WHAT IS my acceptance of God's will for my life? Am I content with the way He made me and is using me?

WHAT IS the best way to spend the money of God's people who tithe? Am I frugal and wise in directing our church budget?

WHAT IS my study habit? Am I diligently preparing the very best messages that I can?

WHAT IS my effort in reaching others for Christ? Am I personally modeling evangelism to the best of my ability?

WHAT IS going to be the Lord's reaction to my ministry at the Judgment Seat? Am I faithfully serving Him now?

Focus on the **WHAT IS**—not the hypothetical, but the actual **IS**. Honor the Lord by honestly evaluating your ministry.

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

Reach Out

Move Over Martha!

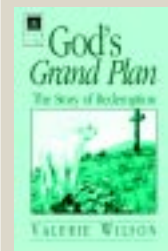
Romans 10:14–17 challenges us to reach women in our community: How will they believe unless they hear, and how will they hear unless someone tells them? We wondered how we could get ladies to sit long enough to tell them. In answer, we conceived "Move Over Martha" (Luke 10:38–42).

"Move Over Martha" provides something of interest for mothers from our community whose children attend our church's Bible club. We welcomed all ladies by advertising the ongoing event in our local newspaper. Our evening begins with "Chick Chat," an informal

time of refreshments and conversation. Next is our "Martha" time, when we make a craft or share decorating ideas. Finally, our "Mary" time is our Bible study. We are reading *The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus*, which provides an overview of Scripture and presents an opportunity for the ladies to ask questions and find answers. The group has grown in number, and the ladies have begged us to continue meeting beyond the last session of our children's club.

*Teresa Blunk & Joy Cooley, church members
Ankeny Baptist Church
Ankeny, Iowa*

Regular Baptist Press has an excellent new resource for Move Over Martha Bible studies!



God's Grand Plan by Valerie Wilson. This 10-lesson study traces God's plan of redemption from a slain animal in Genesis to the Lamb on His throne in Revelation. New believers will get an overall grasp of Scripture; mature believers will take a fresh look at redemption's plan; unbelievers will have an opportunity to understand and respond to the gospel message. Call Regular Baptist Press (1.800.727.4440) to order *God's Grand Plan* (RBP5256).

TAPE

TAPE

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Together We Can Accomplish More