

# Reach Out

## Good News Headlines

When considering the seven thousand people who live in our town and the thousands more who vacation here, our church asked, "How do we reach all these folks with the gospel?" We are a beginning missions work, an unknown church that meets in a storefront. Knocking on the door of every home (which we are in the process of doing) would take a long time. We already were contacting first-time visitors twice during the week following their visits and visiting all newcomers to the community. Yet we were falling short of getting the gospel out to everyone. As I looked at the options, placing a newspaper ad seemed to be the best way to expose people to the gospel. I challenged the church with the fact that we could get the gospel into every home through the ads, and they responded by authorizing the purchase of full-page color ads for three holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. We chose to place the ads

in a newspaper that is free to readers and is delivered to every household. The newspaper placed the ads, each of which pertained to the particular holiday, in a section other than the religious news. Last year we reached approximately five thousand people with each ad. Recently a couple from another denomination indicated that they had read the Easter ad word for word. The wife responded, "This is exactly what our town needs." We are not sure if anyone has been saved through the ads, but it is our responsibility to share the gospel. Salvation is God's responsibility, but the lost will never know if we don't tell them.

You can view our newspaper ads at [www.fbfchurch.com](http://www.fbfchurch.com).

Tom Shelton, Missionary Pastor  
Fairfield Baptist Fellowship  
Fairfield Glade, Tennessee

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## synergy

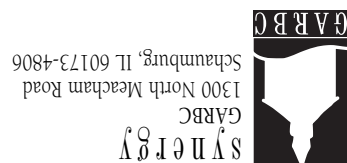
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# Synergy

a newsletter for pastors & wives

Vol. 8, No. 2

## A note from John and Daria . . .



Dear friends,

Why are we doing what we are doing? That's a question we ask ourselves not just after a hard day but also in relation to our ministry effectiveness. Have you asked yourself that question lately while thinking about your church's ministry? Why not take time to review and reflect: *What are our church's goals in ministry? Are we accomplishing our goals? What do we need to change in order to do effective ministry?* The great ideas in *Synergy* become more effective when they are part of an overall plan for leading your people toward spiritual maturity. Do you have a plan? To assist you in developing a comprehensive ministry plan, we invite you to join us for a *Blueprint Conference*, November 4, 2004, at the GARBC Resource Center in Schaumburg, Illinois (1-888-588-1600, ext. 873). This full day of training is designed to equip men and women in building spiritually vibrant churches. Knowing the "why" behind ministry choices makes all the difference.

In service with you,  
John & Daria

## Toolbox

### Up Close Communion

We often hear of the importance of slowing down to "stop and smell the roses." In Luke 11 we have the opportunity to stop and take in the glorious fragrance of Jesus' teaching on prayer. In this passage Jesus instructs us not only on the nuts and bolts of prayer but also on the important heart attitudes of prayer. Praying affectionately, reverently, submissively, humbly, persistently, and confidently to the Lord not only lifts our prone-to-wander souls but also pleases our Father and invites His blessing.

In desiring to develop the type of prayer life that Jesus described to His disciples, I find great beauty and depth in the heartfelt prayers and devotionals written by the Puritans. These men and women of God understood close communion with God. Books such as *A Quest for Godliness* by J. I. Packer and *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*, edited by Arthur Bennett, are helpful resources for

prayer. By searching the Internet for "Puritan Prayers," I found devotional prayers such as the following one from *The Valley of Vision* collection:

*Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly, Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see Thee in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold Thy glory. Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the brighter Thy stars shine; let me find Thy light in my darkness, Thy life in my death, Thy joy in my sorrow, Thy grace in my sin, Thy riches in my poverty, Thy glory in my valley.*

(continued on page 2)

## IDEA Exchange

### Mustard Seed Café

Drama sketches in our worship services are effective in illustrating Scriptural truths and applying sermons to real-life settings. By providing light moments that open hearts and minds to the truths of Scripture, we are able to issue spiritual challenges from God's Word that can lead to conviction and life change.

Our drama group recently featured a six-week series of short dramas titled *The Mustard Seed Café*, which coincided with a message series on Christ's parables. We revised the published material (with permission) to fit our needs and each particular Scripture portion. As our group met weekly to pray and prepare for the dramas, we designed a café set on our platform—complete with cash register, a menu board displaying the "drama of the day," small tables with checkered tablecloths, and a kitchen "wall" with a serving counter and swinging doors. The set remained in place throughout the series. Each sketch had a specific theme related to the parable of that week and averaged ten to fifteen minutes in length. The main characters remained the same from week to week, providing a connection from one drama to the next. Making these connections increased the congregation's anticipation and their familiarity with the drama, resulting in greater spiritual impact. By including drama in our worship, we do not diminish our Biblical emphasis or focus; we enhance it.

Jim Vogel, Pastor  
South Baptist Church  
Flint, Michigan



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# Tools continued

Another tool that assists me in expressing my adoration to God is a hymnbook. By quietly singing, reciting, or simply reviewing the words of theological songs, I can express praise to God. A prayer journal helps me to organize my thoughts when communing with God. Some requests I pray daily, while other requests I pray weekly. I keep an ongoing thanksgiving list, adding two or three new entries daily. By focusing on thanksgiving, I can pray in a way similar to Paul's instruction to the Philippians, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6, NKJV).

More important than organizing for prayer is the act of praying. As pastors and church leaders, let us rise to the discipline of spending time in personal intercessory prayer, praying with our families before meals and at bedtime, and leading our church in expressing corporate prayer and praise. Let us be people of prayer. God is pleased with our prayers; God works through our prayers. As E. M. Bounds said, "Prayer moves the hand that moves the world."

Jeffrey "Duke" Crawford, Pastor  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

## Building Your Ministry



### Sunday School Teachers' Meetings

Sunday School is a key component of evangelizing the lost and training Christians in our church's Great Commission strategy. One of the tools we use to accomplish our strategy is a pre-class Sunday School teachers' meeting. Prior to class each Sunday morning, our adult class teachers meet to share prayer requests, ministry opportunities, and names of new contacts and class prospects. After the teachers learn about serious or urgent prayer needs during the meeting, they share the requests with their classes. Sharing requests throughout the Sunday School multiplies the prayer effort and builds a sense of common purpose. During the meeting we discuss ministry opportunities such as making meals for someone in need. Teachers agree on which classes will provide meals. Also we share

names of new contacts and class prospects to arrange for class members to take responsibility in inviting newcomers to Sunday School. As Sunday School members get in touch with new people, our church provides a layer of follow-up in addition to the contacts made through our midweek evangelism and ministry training. At the close of each meeting we pray, asking God to bless as the individual classes meet. A teachers' meeting takes only five or ten minutes, yet it is a great investment in our strategy for accomplishing our part of the harvest.

Randal Gilmore, Pastor  
Hamilton Hills Baptist Church  
Fishers, Indiana

## MEN'S MINISTRY

### Pre-game and Pigskin

The book *Every Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker stirred my heart as the authors challenged Christian men to wholeheartedly embrace the truth of Ephesians 5:3: "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality" (NIV). In response I spoke on the theme of sexual purity to Christian students at a local college and to our church family. To encourage our men to apply the message they heard, I introduced our "Pre-game and Pigskin" Bible study and fellowship that was to take place every other Monday evening. We met at the church at 8:00 for the "Pre-game," which began with group singing, incorporated a study from the book *Every Man's Battle* and related Scripture texts, and ended with prayer. After the Bible study, we served refreshments while the men watched Monday Night Football on a big screen TV, played darts or games, and visited together. To underscore our emphasis on sexual purity, we blacked out commercials during the football game. The response was tremendous; fourteen to twenty-six men attended each of the six sessions. They shared openly with one another about their fears and struggles and encouraged one another to be pure with God's help. Wives openly supported this ministry; they commented about changes happening at home. As a result of the men's study, seven teenage young men completed a similar study with me, using the book *Every Young Man's Battle*.

Brad Pellish, Pastor  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Alma, Michigan

### New Men's Bible Study Series



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## Reach Out

### Becoming Missions-Minded

Would you like to build the missions fervor of your church? Would you like to see more people from your congregation committing to full-time service on the mission field? If so, follow the action plan of "MISSIONS."

#### Minister to your missionaries.

- Encourage each family in your church to adopt a missionary family.
- Quarterly, send care packages to your missionaries.
- Monthly, write to your missionaries; become pen pals.
- Weekly, give sacrificially to missions.
- Contact missionaries on their birthdays and on holidays.

#### Invite missionaries to speak in your services.

- Ask them to speak in Sunday School.
- If your church operates a school, ask them to speak during a class or chapel.
- Ask them to conduct a question-and-answer session.

#### Supplicate: it's the most important thing you can do for missions!

- Sincerely pray for your missionaries daily.
- Pray intelligently and specifically for requests stated in prayer letters.

#### Set aside time for missions trips.

- Plan for a group in the church to take a missions trip every year.
- Set aside money in the missions budget to send the pastor and his wife to the mission

field for a short-term ministry.

- Think about asking the senior class in your church or in your church's school to raise support and go on a missions trip.

#### Instruct your people about missions.

- Include missionary biographies in your church's library, and encourage church members to read one biography every year.
- Preach often on the Biblical command for world evangelism.
- Host a missions conference every year.
- Emphasize dedication and surrender in your preaching.

#### Openly recognize missionaries as heroes and role models.

- Speak positively about missionaries often.
- Challenge your staff, deacons, and Sunday School teachers to be missions-minded, both to those in foreign countries and at home.

#### Network those in the church who have surrendered to full-time Christian service.

- Form a group that could meet regularly to encourage one another.
- Give them opportunities to serve and develop leadership skills.

#### Surrender your people to Christian service.

- Pray Matthew 9:38 concerning your people.
- Challenge parents to surrender their children to God (1 Samuel 1:27, 28).

Dr. Ron Brooks, Field Director  
Baptist World Mission

### J.O.L.T. for 5th and 6th Graders

In response to our fifth and sixth grade students' loss of interest and lack of attendance in their Wednesday night program, our church staff introduced J.O.L.T.—*Jesus On Life's Turf*. The name reflects the energy level of the students and indicates our desire that they live out their faith in their daily lives. To help students grow in the outworking of their faith, we focus on spiritual growth, community building, and service. A club night consists of three thirty-minute segments: interaction and friendship building, games, and prayer and teaching. Students participate in sev-

eral service projects during the year to help them apply what they are learning during J.O.L.T.

After we changed the program emphasis, the group increased from a handful of students who attended sporadically to a core group of ten to twelve students, along with their visiting friends, who attend consistently. Also we are noticing a marked improvement in students' transition into our junior high program as we continue to make disciples for Christ.

Doug Baker, Youth Pastor  
Hamilton Hills Baptist Church  
Fishers, Indiana

## Inward Look

### Powerful Praying for You and Your Church

Use the following keys to develop a purposeful prayer life.

**1. Remember to Whom you are talking.** "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence" (Hebrews 4:16).

**2. Get cleaned up; confess your sins.** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

**3. Take time for worship.** "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4).

**4. Unload what you are carrying.** "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you" (Psalm 55:22).

Tell God your anxieties and burdens. Transfer them to His care.

**5. Be specific.** "That we may . . . find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Ask for God's customized grace for your specific needs.

**6. Remind God of what He promises.** "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you" (John 15:7).

**7. Pray with others.** "If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:19).

**8. Expect the supernatural.** "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

Adapted from a message by Ron Hutchcraft; included in a prayer guide by Pastor Ken Floyd for a twenty-four-hour prayer vigil at North Park Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Scripture quotations taken from the NIV.