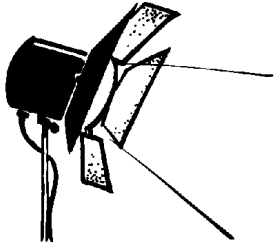


The Proactive Pulse



Spiritually Inspiring The Leaders Our Church



July/August

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Director of Resource Development

Dr. Ron Flowers

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Sonsee Sanders

Lamarr Stevens

Jimmy Trimble

Wayne & Vicki Tucker

Suzanne Zipperer

Susan knocked on Pastor Brian's door, which was open, "Can I visit with you for a few minutes?"

"Certainly. Nice to see you here this morning Susan. I bet you're here to drop off Angie at Preschool. Please sit down. How are you?"

"Not very well Pastor Brian. I am thinking about how little I have been able to get done in our Education work area since I was talked into leading that last fall. I have asked several people to be on the committee and they have all enthusiastically declined. I may not be the right person for this."

"I can see you are frustrated Susan. How did you decide who to ask to serve in this area with you?"

"Simple. I just asked the people here that are already getting things done. Many of them are running into the same problem. All of our 'yes people' are covered up with responsibilities. We just don't have anyone around who is not already over committed to church work. Can we put this in the bulletin, the newsletter, and have a sign up sheet in the hall? Maybe someone that isn't involved will be interested"

Pastor Brian said, "I would, but I have already done these very things to get volunteers to help with our Homecoming Celebration, Vacation Bible School and the Food Pantry and not one person has signed up yet. There has to be a better way than this Susan. I know that this is what we always have done and like you, I realize it is simply not working. I heard about a ministry called PEM that is working with a friend's church. They teach something called, 'Spiritual Recruiting'. It is supposed to be a way to recruit volunteers and get deeper involvement from the congregation. Sounds really different. Let me see if I can find out more about that approach. We sure need to find a way that really works so we can find spiritually reach volunteers and leaders for the ministries of the church."

Ask yourself these IMPORTANT and relevant questions:

- ➔ Are our Church Leaders serving in positions where they feel called by God, gifted spiritually and amply trained to serve?
- ➔ Are we steadily increasing the number of Leaders in our congregation from among those who are not currently in leadership? (Past Leaders OR those who have never led – for example, those in our "worship only" population).
- ➔ Is there a ministry in place that reaches out consistently and effectively to our Worship Only Population, relationally inspiring them to ministry involvement?

If your answer to any of these is "NO" then perhaps it is time to seriously consider not continuing to do the same things in the same ways. Perhaps it is time to build into our Leadership in ways that really work – resulting in our church moving to a whole new level spiritually. Call us. We would love to begin the process of moving forward by encouraging YOU.

Building IN to Build OUT... Maximum Encouraging ←

There is a **poverty** of building INTO potential leaders in congregations today. Rarely is this a priority for Pastors or members of the Lay Leadership Selection committees in congregations. How do we define “building into potential leaders” today? It takes four major elements for this to work effectively and become a priority for pastors and leaders:

- 1) Serious prayer and spiritual discernment
- 2) Consistent building into basic relationships without allowing the majority of face time be an “ask” on them
- 3) Building a comprehensive system of spiritual recruiting and spiritual discipleship that is ongoing
- 4) Investing intentional, consistent and significant personal time with potential leaders to model ministry with them in actual life settings, encouraging them to STEP UP

Want to see an illustration of this? Look at a Pastor who fills many breakfast, lunch and coffee appointments with carefully and prayerfully discerned, future leaders that he or she is getting to know well, helping them think through their calling for ministry involvement, inviting them to be in ministry mentoring in life settings, and eventually, asking them to pray about coming into leadership that fits their own calling.

Pastors who do the above do not allow their time to be “SNATCHED AWAY” by parking themselves in myriad Committee Meetings every week, most of which are designed to maintain the status quo. They BUILD into leaders that can be trusted to lead these Committee meetings and stay in close communication with them.

I recently had a Pastor tell me, “You know, I had to miss the first half of the Finance Committee meeting this month with a parishioner’s family crisis. When I walked in, the whole atmosphere perked up. Those on the Committee said, ‘Now that you’re here, we can get going.’ I don’t think this is healthy.”

The last thing we need is MORE pastor-DEPENDENT churches in which laity leaders are seen as volunteers who were “talked into helping the Pastor do church work.”

In every congregation there is a VAST population of both Inactive Member families (who live within an easy driving distance of the church) and a large “worship only” population made up primarily of *spectators*. These two groups hold amazing numbers of laity who could be “BUILT INTO” for ministry and leadership. Let’s act on this.

•→ *The Miracles of LRE: A Testimony of Loving, Relating and Encouraging* ←•

When our church first started LRE, the time hadn’t changed yet so it was getting dark as we stopped at the house with the outside light on. We knocked and the man of the house cautiously opened the door about halfway. We told him who we were and that we were just out “meeting our neighbors and making new friends”. We talked for a minute or so and then he said they were busy so we left.

Before we got four steps away, he had turned out his outside light. Although it didn’t seem like a very positive visit, when we got back to our car I had already decided that the Lord wanted us to go back there another time. Three weeks later when we went back to that house, the time had changed and it was still light out at 7:30. As soon as he opened the door I said; “Hi, you might remember us. We came by a few weeks ago, but it was dark out and I think we scared you. It’s light out now so we came back.”

This time he came outside the door, although he was careful to shut it behind him. We talked for several minutes and we found out they have a son who lives in Alabama with a rare blood disease that they are worried about. We said we would pray for him. I finally got the courage to ask his full name and when he told us I mentioned a couple of people I knew with the same name and wondered if they were relatives. He just said “there are a lot of people with our name around”. (Later we figured out that one I mentioned was his wife who years ago had come to our church (without him) and one was his daughter-in-law, but he wasn’t about to acknowledge that.)

A couple of weeks later our Pastor was eating lunch nearby and the man whom we had visited was eating at the same place. He came over to our Pastor and asked him if he was still the Pastor at Macon Evangelistic Church. Our Pastor said that he was, and this man began to tell him that some people from the church had come to visit him a couple of times and they were just the friendliest people – he really enjoyed them.

We would he would have never guessed that he would have been so positive about our visits and we are excited about visiting him again.

→ Mrs. Carolyn Berrier,
Macon Evangelistic Church, Macon, Georgia

Staff Spotlight: Suzanne Zipperer

Suzanne Zipperer has been a pastor's wife for over 35 years. She believes that she and her husband Doug are a team in ministry and has been extremely involved in each of the churches that God has called them to.

She has served as a Church Secretary, a Preschool Teacher, a Teacher's Assistant, Administrative Assistant, Christian Education Director, Pianist, and Organist. Music is an extremely important part of Suzanne's life, she has been deeply involved in the worship ministry through this gift.

Suzanne first came into contact with Proactive Evangelism Ministries at Brooksville First United Methodist Church in Florida. Doug was the pastor at that church, which gave Suzanne a unique perspective to see the effectiveness and transforming effect of the PEM ministry in the church. It was during this time that Suzanne became a part of the PEM staff. When she and Doug were appointed to the Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, they soon arranged for PEM to conduct an Envisioning and then a Discovery and Reflection Process. Soon after, the church began a two year partnership in ministry with PEM.

Suzanne has been involved in several different PEM training events including Worship Development, Sunday School Development, Prayer Ministry and Lifestyle Relational Evangelism. She is a very competent teacher and her relational style makes her an enjoyable and valuable asset to each team she serves with.

Suzanne had this to say about her involvement in PEM.

"I have been able to experience the PEM ministry as a church member in two different churches both of which had two year covenants with PEM. As a spouse of the pastor in both churches, I was able to see the transformational power of the ministry and the very godly and gifted staff of PEM in a special way.

Now, as a staff member of PEM myself, I have the opportunity to go and minister in other churches and see the miraculous transformations there. PEM brings me back to the basics. Jesus called us in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) to reach out to others in order to see them become disciples. How can we do that? It just sounds so hard. PEM comes to churches surrounded by the power of prayer. Jesus leads us as we relinquish control to Him. PEM reminds me time & time again that I must go out in His power and not mine.

When churches are equipped with the right tools, they are able to be used by God to bring others to Christ & He transforms them into beautiful vessels of His love, mercy & grace. PEM gives churches those tools. I am so thankful to God for all I have been taught through the ministry of PEM as I have watched the transformation of souls won for Christ."

See Our Calendar & More at:
www.proactive-evangelism.org

Our Calendar

August

5 Leadership Training

Chick Fil A, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

7-9 Lay Leadership Development

Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Douglasville, GA

7-9 Worship Ministry

Tavares FUMC, Tavares, FL

7-9 Faith In Action Ministry

Port Charlotte FUMC, Port Charlotte, FL

14-16 Evangelism & Outreach Ministry

Wesley UMC, Dover, DE

14-16 Launching Our Spiritual Vision

Inman Park UMC, Atlanta, GA

19 Leadership Training

Chick Fil A, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

21-23 Ministry Event

Mooreville UMC, Mooreville, IN

25 Executive Committee Meeting

Proactive Evangelism Ministries

25 Envisioning

Our Redeemer Lutheran, Philadelphia, PA

28-30 Lay Leadership Development

Warren Memorial UMC, Atlanta, GA

28-30 Lay Leadership Development

Macon Evangelistic Church, Macon, GA

September

2 Leadership Training

Chick Fil A, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

7 Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day

11-13 Lay Leadership Development

Port Charlotte FUMC, Port Charlotte, FL

11-13 Discipleship Development

Wesley UMC, Dover, DE

13-15 Spiritual Celebration Revival

Mooreville UMC, Mooreville, IN

16 Leadership Training

Chick Fil A, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

18-20 Discovery & Reflection Process

Cornelia UMC, Cornelia, GA

18-20 Lay Leadership Development

Summerton UMC, Summerton, SC

27-30 Revival

Wesley UMC, New Albany, IN

What is Inside?

PEM NEWS

Spiritually Recruiting from Our Worship Only Population...

The Miracles of LRE

Calendar

Staff Spotlight

In this issue of the Pulse, we cover another major shortage in the church related to Leadership – reaching OUT and building INTO potential leaders. This missing element can inspire and change lives. It can reach those in our Worship Only Population and bring them into ministry involvement. WOW!

In one of our four major training units on Lay Leadership Development we spend three days in our Covenant churches training laity to spiritually recruit from the Worship Only Population YEAR ROUND.

EVERY congregation has a potential “harvest of ministry participants” and potential leaders in the midst, who even sit in the pews frequently. The Lay Leadership Development Committee guides this ministry outreach.



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