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“Water Walking . . .”

A message from your District Executive Minister

At the 2008 District Conference I was introduced as the “new District Executive Minister.” And I am still being introduced as the “new District Executive Minister.” I guess it is better to be called the “new District Executive Minister” than the “old District Executive Minister.”

So far it has been an interesting year. However, I thought in my first year I could wade in the shallow end of the pool. But, for various reasons, I was immediately thrown into the deep end. It seems like I have been treading water ever since my first day on the job. Yet most of the time I am able to keep my head above water. One of our pastors recently told me that it seems like the entire denomination is drowning in a sea of mistrust. Another pastor standing nearby said, “Yeah, but pastors are still expected to walk on water.”

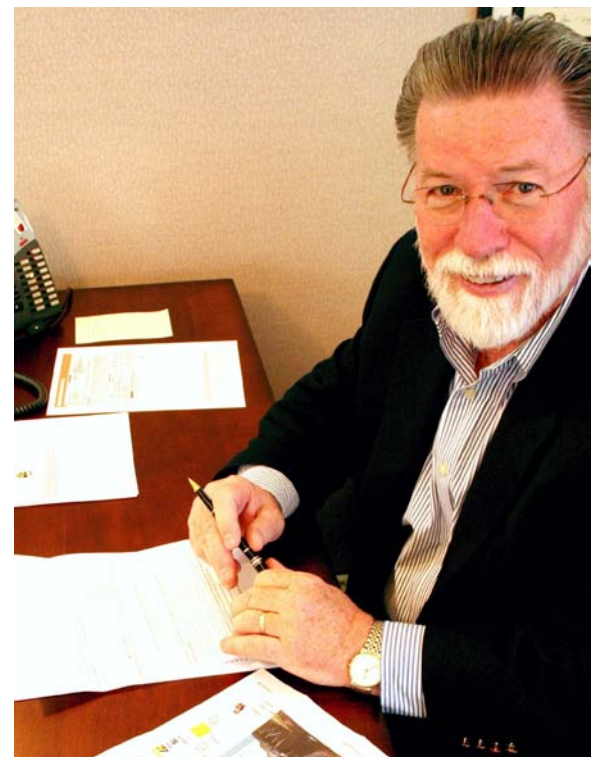
This comment caused me to look up Matthew 14:22-33. I can’t tell you how many times I have preached this text or heard sermons about it. But I can tell you that I came to a new understanding after reading it one more time. It is a familiar story and most preachers tend to end up in the same place, i.e., “All we need to do is be like Peter . . . keep your eyes on Jesus and you won’t sink.”

I like the way Eugene Peterson (*The Message*) describes the disciples as being “scared out of their wits” when they saw Jesus walking on water. To me, being scared out of our wits is a pretty good description for many of us today. Yet I don’t recall Jesus saying to Peter that walking on water was impossible.

It was only after Peter really focused on the turbulent sea around him that he began to sink. Most often I tend to focus on Peter sinking instead of his courage to get out of the

boat in the first place. I forget that Jesus called Peter to step out of the safety of the boat. I think that Peter was fully aware that Jesus was nearby and that gave him courage to walk on water. I could be wrong but I don’t think we can simply sit in the boat and say, “Woe is me.” At some point, we are called to take the first step and trust that God is with us. I think Jesus is calling us to do something new and different rather than simply sit in the boat anticipating that waves of fear will soon engulf us. May the Pacific Southwest District continue to risk stepping out in faith because Jesus is with us and we must answer the call to trust in his Word.

Don Booz





Peer through a side-door into
 La Verne Church of the Brethren

www.lavernecob.org

By Michael Wolfson

Nothing tastes better than home grown vegetables and nothing fills the heart with happiness more completely than giving to those in need. These were two of the beliefs that helped motivate the La Verne CoB to consider building a community garden. Soon a mission statement was developed proclaiming: *a community garden will encourage community involvement, promote stewardship of the earth and provide food and education to our neighbors in need.*



Pastor Susan Boyer at the dedication

Mike Wolfson, Doug Bro and Randy Miller singing "This Plot is Your Plot" to the community

After months of planning and an affirmative church council vote the long-awaited community garden, "Peace and Carrots", has had its official groundbreaking ceremony. Today the construction of the garden is in full swing. Irrigation has been installed and roto-tilling is a Saturday ritual. The location of the garden has always been a special place for the La Verne congregation because it was the LV CoB pre-school Nature Park. Recently however, due to deterioration of the play equipment, the area had become an open lawn requiring regular watering. The new community garden will make better use of the water and will supply many pounds of fresh, good quality food for the gardeners and the local food bank.



Beverly Rupel planting peas & carrots in the initial plot

Year round gardening, educational opportunities, and outreach through participation and food distribution are some of the goals of the garden committee. Winter gardening will begin on November 1, 2009 with a nominal fee of \$40.00 a year or \$25.00 for six months. The plots are 4 x 12 feet in size with a water saving irrigation system already installed. There are tools for every gardeners use.

Re-useable shopping bags, displaying the "Peace and Carrots" logo and hand-painted one hundred year old Lordsburg bricks, to be used for pathways, have been sold for fund raising. A grant from the La Verne Land Conservancy has helped defray construction costs and has helped build community interest and enthusiasm. The telephones are ringing as the congregation and the neighbors near the church are calling to ask if they to can become a part of the garden.



"Peace & Carrots" displayed on Bricks & Bags

Balancing the District Budget by 2011

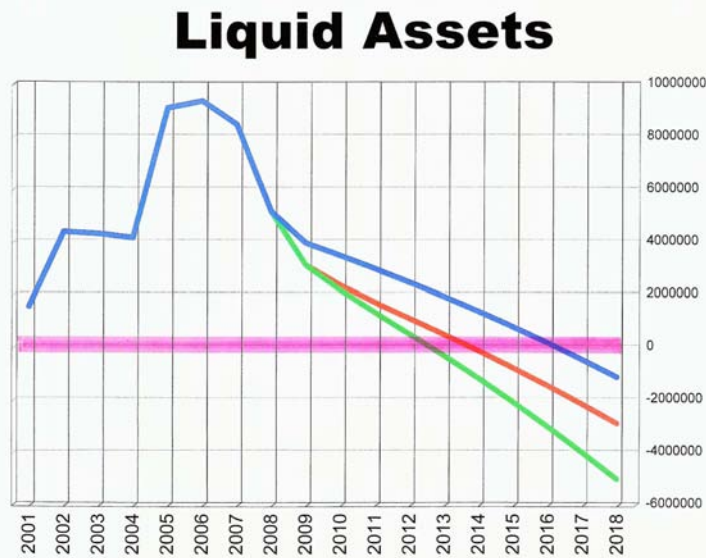
The Policy Board is committed to and has set a goal of balancing the District budget by the year 2011. To accomplish this goal, a creative and very intentional analysis of the current and future financial resources and ministry needs of the District will need to be made. This process has already begun with the creation of a Financial Planning Task Team, whose responsibility is to bring a recommendation to the Policy Board in 2010.

The Policy Board assumes some tough decisions will have to be made, but it anticipates that a forward-looking and realistic budget and financial strategy will result from a variety of voices in the District.

For many years now, total contributions to the District have been insufficient to fund the District's programs, thereby creating a budget deficit. That deficit has been funded through the sale of closed churches. In 2006, the deficit was a little over \$44,000; in 2007, the deficit increased to \$430,000; and in 2008, due to a combination of a greatly expanded grant program to churches and heavy losses in the stock market, the deficit increased to over \$3,200,000. During that period, the value of the District's assets decreased from \$9,500,000 to \$5,400,000, and it has further decreased to \$4,900,000 as of September 2009.

In other words, for at least the last 5 years, the District has relied on its liquid assets to fund its programs. When income from the District's liquid assets has been insufficient, it has used the liquid assets themselves. This has produced a downward spiral in the value of our liquid assets. Assuming this scenario to continue, the District will have no liquid assets by the year 2013 to 2015, depending on stock market returns.

In 2008, the District received approximately \$50,000 in contributions from all sources, including from individuals and congregations. The District expects to receive about the same amount in 2009. Thus, as already indicated, most of the funds for



District programs comes from the District's liquid assets. When the District held \$9.5 million in liquid assets, a 7% return on those investments yielded \$670,000 in annual income for the District, which, when combined with the \$50,000 in individual and congregational giving, provided the District with the resources to fund a modest budget. However, now that the District has

less than \$5 million in liquid assets, a 7% return on those investments (or even less, depending on the stock market) yields less than \$350,000, which, when combined with current individual and congregational giving, is insufficient to fund District programs and operations. Consequently, unless a strategy is developed to stop the spending of District assets to fund District operations and to find other sources of funding, the District will spend all of its liquid assets within the next 5 years.

With this in mind, the Policy Board is committed to creating a financial plan which ensures a balanced District budget year after year. As a necessary first step, the Policy Board voted at its January 2009 meeting to discontinue grant funding at the end of 2009. The Policy Board also froze all staff salaries and benefits for 2010. The Financial Planning Task Team is charged with developing a strategic financial plan for the District which encompasses both short term and long term financial goals within the constraints of our resources.

The Policy Board recognizes that the long-term solution is to ensure adequate funding for the District so that it can focus its attention on carrying out the Great Commission and promoting ministry growth and prosperity in the District. The Policy Board believes this can only be achieved by balancing the budget so that the combination of income from giving and income from investments covers District expenses.





Spiritual Formation and Money: Mission, Ministries, & Generosity

by John V. Clark, Wayne Whitson Floyd

For many religious people, their faith and their money live in an uneasy truce with each other. Seldom are we encouraged to see our attitudes about – and actions done with – our money as essential aspects of our spiritual formation as believers. Our wallets don't appreciate our faith meddling with their contents, and our faith wants to think of itself as above such gritty worldly issues as money and the way we spend it.

I know there are individuals, congregations, and organizations that feel and act differently about the relationship between spiritual formation and money, and recently I have gotten to know one such group, a Midwestern organization that focuses its work on stewardship and capital campaigns. The James Company describes itself as offering “a wide range of development and fundraising services and materials to help congregations cultivate and gather their resources to accomplish specific goals.”

In preparation for an upcoming series of four online webinars that the James Company will be leading for the Alban Institute, a “Year-Round Stewardship Toolkit,” I invited their president, John Clark, to reflect on what congregations need to keep in mind about their relationship with their money, particularly in these tough economic times for individuals and the faith communities to which they belong.

– **Wayne Whitson Floyd, Education Program Manager, The Alban Institute**

Wayne Floyd: John, what is your main goal in helping congregations to explore spiritual formation and their money?

John Clark: Fulfilling mission in our congregations is our primary goal. So, focus on mission. Mission consists of identity, values, and strengths for ministry. Whatever else you do, I tell them, do not let reactive decisions interfere with the congregation's ability to carry out its mission. Ask, “Will what we are choosing to do jeopardize our ability to carry out our mission?”

Oftentimes the mission is not deep enough into congregational consciousness. So be sure to communicate your reason for being, over and over. It seems self-evident, but begin by remembering your identity – who you are.

Then be sure to account for your mission effectiveness. Emphasize the real outcomes of your mission. The church that consistently and creatively articulates a compelling vision and celebrates the effectiveness of its mission will attract generosity.

Even in the midst of personally challenging times, people still want to make a difference. The church that vividly tells its story and challenges the community to live beyond itself attracts financial resources.

Wayne Floyd: How important is it for congregational leaders to assess their ministries honestly, including how they are doing with the money their members have provided for the congregation's ministries?

John Clark: Nothing substitutes for a realistic appraisal of your ministry. Bring the budget, contributions, and expenses into alignment and create a credible reality for everyone.

Rather than focusing on whether or not you are increasing the budget or meeting the budget, communicate how well you are accomplishing your ministry goals. Explain that your ministry is vital to many people and that sustained and increased giving will make a difference in people's lives.

Churches must speak more intentionally and directly about how people are dealing with day-to-day finances. People are accustomed to a consumer-driven lifestyle. People have too much debt and say they cannot even think about saving. Do we think the answer is any different about their generosity?

We need to meet people where they are in their finances. We need to teach and coach about how we manage money resources. We need to help people learn how to get out of debt. We need to teach about saving. We need to teach people to live above consumerism.

The church that teaches about sound, biblical financial practices will create a generous culture that supports a compelling vision of mission and ministry.

Build the trust connection with people. Tell people frequently how their financial gifts are being used and how their giving is making a difference. Celebrate generosity. Maintain an open approach about church finances. And most importantly, find as many ways as possible to say thank you.

Wayne Floyd: What are the most important questions you ask congregations as they plan to undertake the ministries they have decided are central to their identity?

John Clark: Our strategy for planning ministry is to ask three questions: What are our strengths, those things we do well? What do we do okay and should improve? What could we begin to do?

Here’s a question that is rarely asked: What is it we should stop doing? Most churches will acknowledge that there are some activities, events, programs, or ministries that they do in order to be “full service,” not because they are good at them.

Churches need to focus on their core strengths in ministry and channel their financial resources toward them. Stop ineffective ministry. People have to adjust their budgets by stopping spending that they’d rather not stop, and the church needs to do the same. We need to model how to adjust spending patterns.

Wayne Floyd: How do you get congregations to take the first crucial steps toward deepening their generosity?

John Clark: I believe that once we put aside our fear and begin to trust God, we can awaken the desire to be as generous as we have always wanted to be. Now is the time for generosity.

Churches that demonstrate generosity in their commitment to sustained mission will grow generous giving. Generosity is a spiritual issue. The church that aligns spiritual formation and money will never lack. Yet, it is hard to give generously without understanding and believing in the connection between faith and finances.

Our mission, our ministries, and our generosity are deeply bound together. Once we can start dealing with our money as a part of our spiritual formation, we will find we are more faithful with both.

“Spiritual Formation and Money: Mission, Ministries, and Generosity” by John V. Clark and Wayne Whitson Floyd is reprinted from Alban Weekly with permission from the Alban Institute.

Subscriptions to *New Life*

Our New Life publications will be distributed in two formats:

- ✓ A monthly email version that will contain current events. The distribution list will be formed through email invitation and subscription forms. The email will have an unsubscribe link at the bottom. We expect that all of our board members and credentialed ministers will enjoy this and support us in prayer.
- ✓ A quarterly paper copy through the post office that will have highlights of the email version and items of broad interest. We will begin with our current mailing list. After a few issues we will remove those who have not “renewed” their free subscription.
- ✓ *Based on time spent in content creation, mailing / printing costs, email subscription software / service fees, etc., PSWD spends about \$10 each for the 1,400 people worshipping in a district church each Sunday.*

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|---|--|---------------|--------|
| Name: | | Congregation: | |
| Address: | | | |
| | | City: | State: |
| Email: | | Zip: | |
| Telephone Numbers: | | | |
| Email Subscriptions: | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly, New Life free email letter <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional, Bulletin Spots , items of interest that are easily inserted into newsletters and bulletins. <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional, Youth & Young Adult News <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional, Memo to Ministers | | | |
| Print Subscriptions: | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter / Spring / Summer / Fall, New Life free print edition. | | | |

NYC: National Youth Conference

www.pswdcob.org/youth & www.2010nyc.org



Becky Zapata and Irene Beltran, NYC coordinators for PSWD

The time has come !

We are Becky Zapata, from the Príncipe de Paz congregation, and Irene Beltran, from the La Verne congregation, and we are your official district contacts for NYC 2010. Our vision for this conference is to restore Brethren energy in our youth and to be a resource for creating that energy in your congregations.

Our job consists of :

1. Planning transportation to and from the conference.
2. Providing resources for each congregation.
3. Keeping up with all the information from the NYC headquarters and updating each church with any changes.
4. Appropriately allocating funds on need basis (However we do expect fundraising from the youth and congregations).
5. Possibly traveling to your congregations to inform/encourage NYC participation.

Our official kick off dates are November 6th-8th at District conference.

If you have not taken a look at the National Youth Conference website please take time to browse the site, there are some helpful tools there including a monthly Sunday school guide to prepare for NYC. To stay in touch and updated also visit the PSWD site, we post links to the NYC site as well as keep an updated track of the progress made for the PSWD trip to Colorado. www.pswdcob.org/youth

We are excited to be in this position to restore Brethren energy in the future of our church peacefully, simply, and together.
We can't wait to hear from you all.

God Bless,

Becky and Irene

Becky: 714-747-0200

Irene: 626-383-1229

Email for both of us: NYC@pswdcob.org





2002 NYC participants from California & Arizona

Frequently Asked Questions about National Youth Conference

You can find more info and register for NYC at
www.2010nyc.org

Q. When is it and where is it?

A. July 17-22, 2010 in Fort Collins, Colorado on the Colorado State University Campus. Conference will begin with registration Saturday at noon and end at noon on Thursday.

Q. Am I eligible to attend?

A. If you have just completed 9th grade through your first year of college, you are eligible to attend. (Ages 14-19).

Colorado State Univ plaza www.colostate.edu

NYC Musicians 2006 - Recognize some from PSWD?

Q. What happens at NYC!

A. There is always something to do at NYC! And we hope that there is a little something for everyone to enjoy. Worship, hiking, service projects, sports, workshops, devotion/bible study, evening concerts, CSU tours and more! This year Reilly will play at our Tuesday night concert!

Q. What's the theme?

A. The theme for NYC 2010 is "More than Meets the Eye," based on II Corinthians 4:6-10, 16-18.



Q. Who are the leaders?

A. The National Youth Cabinet is made up of young people and is the main planning body for the conference. PSWD has two Coordinators that will plan and prepare our trip to conference. Please contact Becky Zapata, from Príncipe de Paz CoB, or Irene Beltran, from La Verne CoB, with any questions or suggestions you may have at nyc@pswdcob.org. One of the worship leaders for NYC is our very own Angie Lahman Yoder from Circle of Peace in Peoria, AZ!



View from the Bus window - 2002

Q. How do I get there?

A. No problem! The district is arranging for transportation from two locations. Have a look at the "NYC Bus info" portion of the site for more information. Getting there is part of the fun!



NYC volleyball in Colorado !

Q. Sounds great, but how do I afford it?

A. Hey, nearly nothing is free, but with some good fundraising ideas you and your youth group / congregation can cover all expenses for NYC this year. The district has a wonderful list of fundraising ideas, from the wild and questionable to the trusty and reliable. Check them out

Q. Any photos from past NYC events? A. Yes at www.pswdcob.org/youth/pastevents

Q. Is there any Scholarship Money?

A. If after your fund raising activities you are still short, submit an "Individual Request for Assistance" to the district Executive Board. The district will consider supplementing the amount your NYC fundraisers bring in and your family contributes. The form is at the bottom of this web page: www.pswdcob.org/grants

THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller, Lyle Schaller, Cynthia Woolever – www.TheParishPaper.com

August 2009 - Volume 17, Number 8

Richard Bales

Shepherding Congregations through Grief Storms

Sylvia's husband died in a tragic hunting accident. Ten years later her friends described her as angry and bitter. "She never got over it," one said. "Stuck in the unfairness of her loss... can't move beyond it."

First Church's much-loved pastor retired. His replacement was an equally effective speaker, a caring pastor, and a far better administrator. But many long-term members did not like him. After four painful years, he relocated to another congregation.

Any significant life change (whether positive or negative) can cause feelings of loss and grief. As with individuals, a congregational grief experience often unfolds in the five stages that Elizabeth Kubler-Ross outlined decades ago: denial, anger, depression, bargaining, and eventually—with the passage of time—resolution and healing.

But the way congregations experience grief makes it more difficult to recognize. Church members adjust to the grief of loss like a flotilla of ships moving through a storm at sea. Some ships move safely and quickly through the wind and waves, others slowly. A few ships do not survive the grief storm and are lost at sea: they stop attending or transfer to another congregation.

What Causes Grief Storms?

During significant change some church members get stuck in one of the first four stages of grief (denial, anger, depression, or bargaining). Examples:

New building— "My parents were married in that beautiful sanctuary! Why do we have to tear it down?"

Relocation to a new site— "It may be a better location, but it just doesn't feel like church!"

New senior pastor— "I know she is a good preacher, but I think ministers should be men!"

New choir director— "Why does he have to change everything?"

Significant growth in attendance— "I feel like I don't know anyone anymore!"

Significant decline in attendance— "I remember when the sanctuary was packed! Why can't our new pastor make it that way now?"

New adult Sunday school class— "I think its ridiculous! We would like to have those new people in our class!"

Stuck in One of the Grief Stages?

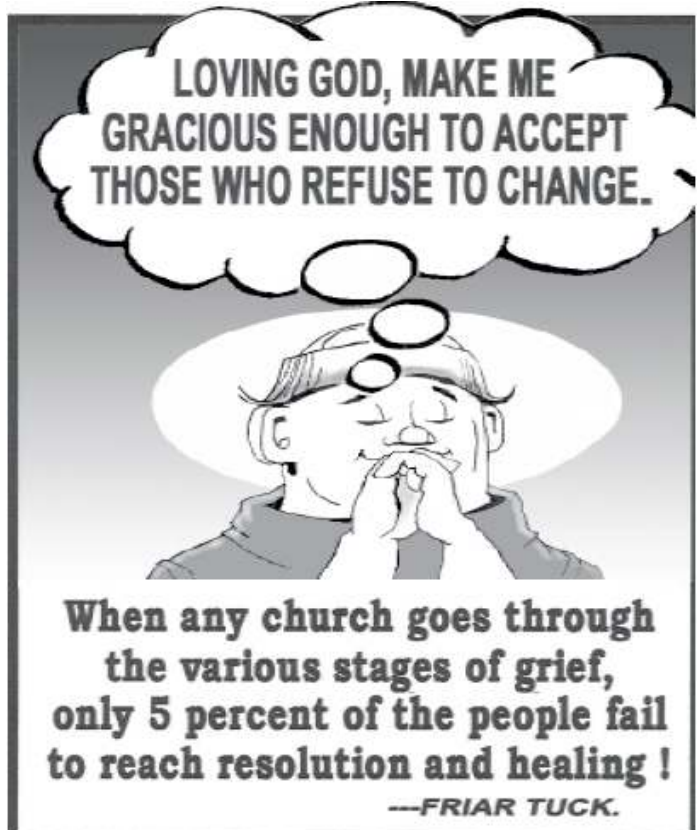
During major staff changes, some members respond with *denial*. "This can't be happening; our church cannot survive without this person!"

Members in the *anger stage* often look for someone to blame (the pastor, the personnel committee). "They just wanted to get rid of him!" Angry comments sound like pounding waves on the sea. "This will not solve the *real* problem!" "You are just jealous of her abilities!" "A good Christian wouldn't permit this!"

Some people express *depression* by avoiding people they perceive as the enemy, or by not attending worship.

People in the *bargaining stage* may think or say to God or a church leader, "I'll do this noble deed if you make things go back to the way they were."

As time passes, the congregation progresses through these early stages of grief. Most members arrive at a new understanding and hope. The majority of "ships in the storm" arrive at *resolution and healing*.



How Do We Shepherd during Grief Storms?

The first and most important step is *recognizing who is responsible for guiding a congregation through the grief process*.

With a flotilla of ships in a storm at sea, the admiral is responsible for seeing them through to safety.

In congregations, the senior pastor, staff, and lay leaders are responsible for grief-process shepherding.

Prepare mentally and spiritually. The pastor asks himself/herself biblically based theological questions such as the following:

“Shall I respond to these pounding waves of negative comments and actions with Grace or Judgment?”

“Shall I respond by feeling personally attacked?”

“Or shall I, with God’s Grace, rise above the wind and storm by recognizing that many of the inappropriate comments and actions arise out of the normal grief stages?”

Communicate, communicate, and communicate. Pastors who effectively lead congregations through grief storms repeatedly communicate four concepts:

1. Because of these events, we are entering a time of congregational grief.

2. Various members move through the five grief stages at different rates of speed.

3. Emotional responses arising from grief may seem like personal attacks; we have the privilege and responsibility of responding with Grace, not Judgment or anger.

4. We are responsible for providing tangible tools that encourage members to express their grief in appropriate ways.

Provide tangible ways to grieve.

The first reaction to a painful change is usually *denial*. For example, one church razed a beloved old sanctuary and classrooms to build a new fellowship hall, kitchen, and classrooms on the site.

The *denial stage* began long before the congregation approved the project. Some people said, “This building is sound; we can’t tear it down!”

Others said, “We remember all the baptisms and weddings and can’t bear to think of losing this building. Surely, we aren’t going to tear it down!”

Effective *denial-management strategies* flood the congregation with accurate information. In one church, this included a presentation by the fire marshal, who said, “A fire in the old building would also destroy the new sanctuary and classrooms—in less than ten minutes.”

Another strategy was a video presentation by the Trustees, showing water-damaged floors and stairways that no longer support even a child’s weight. Such strategies can lead congregations to move more unanimously toward joyfully launching the razing and rebuilding.

Examples of strategies for reducing *anger* and *depression*: A monthly *Building News Bulletin*, in addition to the church newsletter, that focuses on major changes the congregation is experiencing. The bulletins remind members of the creative means they used to maintain unity during previous challenges—like moving from the old sanctuary forty years ago. The *Building News Bulletins* include pictures of the project’s progress and examples of new opportunities the new facilities will provide.

One church gathered all the available wedding photos, showing happy families at the old pulpit area and altar rail. The monthly *Building News Bulletin* invited all members to see these photos, prominently displayed on a large bulletin board.

Another church lessened *anger* and *depression* with a report explaining plans to use some of the pulpit furniture and altar rail, as well as portions of the stained glass windows, in the new facilities.

Another strategy: Invite members to come to the site of the beloved old building, pick up one of the discarded bricks, and take it home as a memento.

A special event or worship service sometimes allows members to say, “Most of us have made it through the storm, and we are now ready to move on.”

Through such strategies, leaders can encourage members to move through denial, depression, anger, and bargaining, as they progress toward resolution and healing.

Do We Understand the Five-Percent Principle?

A small number of people do NOT progress to *resolution and healing*—no matter how effectively the pastor and leaders shepherd the congregation through the first four stages of grief. Up to five percent of a congregation’s members sometimes get stuck in *anger* or *depression*!

The wise pastor prepares for this common phenomenon through prayer and dependence on God’s grace. He or she resists self-blame by remembering that this five-percent group is typical across the nation.

He or she may want to orally share (do NOT print it!) this “five-percent principle” with church leaders and staff, so they also can mentally and spiritually prepare to offer grace to people in this almost inevitable group.

The Bottom Line

A storm of congregational grief—like the grief we experience at the death of a loved one—is a process, not an event.

Capable church leaders recognize that grief is a process and take responsibility for shepherding the congregation to safety and fair weather.

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District Conference Webcast

November 6-8, 2009. *See the schedule below!*

www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcasts

Friday, November 6, 2009

2:15 – 5:00pm Pacific Time

Diana Butler Bass - *This Webcast is “Live Only” (not recorded).*

PSWD Pastors Conference: Is open to all conference attendees. Ordained ministers can ask for CEU credit.



Saturday, November 7, 2009



10:30 – 11:30am Pacific Time

Charles “Chip” Arn - *This Webcast is both “Live” and recorded for later viewing.*

Session Title: **Side-Doors: Effective Church Outreach in the 21 Century.**

Most churches rely on their “front doors” (visitors to Sunday worship) to provide newcomers to grow. Unfortunately, in most congregations, there are not enough people coming in the front door to make up for those going out the back door (death, transfer, inactivity). Growing churches have discovered the power-and the fun-of building side-doors, and how they dramatically increase the potential for connecting with unchurched people. This session introduces the “what,” “why,” and “how” of building side-doors, the foundation process in the upcoming PSWD 2-year strategy: Building Side-Doors.



10:30 – 11:30am Pacific Time

Ruben Deoleo - *This Webcast is both “Live” and recorded for later viewing.*

Session Title: **COB, Organization and Polity** Briefly will teach and explain COB structure and polity, to Spanish speaking, guiding them to formulate a broad context of how congregations, agencies and the denomination work.

Título: **COB, Organización y Políticas** Brevemente explicaremos y enseñaremos la estructura y políticas, a los hispanos, guiándolos a formular un contexto amplio de cómo las congregaciones, agencias y la denominación trabaja.

The Diana Butler Bass Webcasts are “Live Only” (not recorded).

1:00 – 2:00pm Pacific Time

Diana Butler Bass -
Plenary Session

2:15 – 3:00pm Pacific Time

Diana Butler Bass -
Question and Answer Session

2:15 – 3:00pm Pacific Time

Charles “Chip” Arn - *This Webcast is both “Live” and recorded for later viewing.*

Session Title: **Overview of the PSWD “Building Side-Doors” Two-Year Ministry**

Strategy Introduce the two-year growth strategy-Building Side-Doors-available to churches in the Pacific Southwest District. The project begins in January, 2010 and requires pastoral and board approval to participate.



Saturday, November 7, 2009

3:15 – 4:00pm Pacific Time

Mary Jo Flory-Steury - *This Webcast is both "Live" and recorded for later viewing.*

Session Title: **Creating a Culture of Call** The workshop will focus on a theology of call with practical ideas and conversation on ways the church can nurture and call out leaders for the church.

**Sunday, November 7, 2009**

11:00am – 12:00pm Pacific Time

Don Booz, District Executive, PSWD**Worship - Preaching**

The webcast will take place on Bethany Theological Seminary's "Webcast Central." For login instructions to participate live, or to access recordings of these sessions later, please visit www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcasts Try Bethany's "Webcast Central" a week before District Conference, there will be time to ask questions.

Speakers:

Charles "Chip" Arn is a widely traveled speaker, author, professor, and consultant. He is dedicated to church life and especially evangelism. Chip Arn is the president of Church Growth Institute. www.churchgrowth.net

Diana Butler Bass is a popular engaging speaker and consultant. She has authored several books including "Christianity for the Rest of Us" and "The Practicing Congregation." www.dianabutlerbass.com

Mary Jo Flory-Steury serves as Executive Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren. www.brethren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=minister_welcome

Ruben Deoleo serves as the Director of Intercultural Ministries for the Church of the Brethren. Ruben is ordained in the Church of the Brethren. www.brethren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=grow_cross_cultural

Presentations by Diana Butler Bass are being webcast "live only"

"Take Away Sessions" by Charles Arn, Mary Jo Flory-Steury, and Ruben Deoleo are being webcast live and recorded for later viewing. Internet link for workshop sessions available following the conference.

District Conference Business

www.pswdcob.org/distconf/business.htm

The Business Books for each delegate were mailed to your church office on October 7th. Copies for non-delegates will be available at District Conference. Anyone can read or print the Business Book from our website.

- ✓ Reports from district boards, committees and appointees
- ✓ Reports from agencies with Brethren beginnings
- ✓ Reports from the Church of the Brethren agencies of Annual Conference
- ✓ Business that will be voted on by the delegates from your church
 - ✓ Ballot from the Nominating Committee
 - ✓ District Budget for 2010
 - ✓ By-Laws Amendment: Gifts Discovery Team to replace Nominating Committee
 - ✓ Resolution to Reduce Paper Usage & Consumption of the Earth's Resources
 - ✓ Closure of Fellowship in Christ (Fremont)
 - ✓ Closure of Community Brethren Church (Fresno)
 - ✓ Closure of Latino Community Brethren Church (Fresno)

New Life

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Church of the Brethren
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View District Conference Workshops on the Web !

Additional details are inside on pages 10-11.

During District Conference, November 6-8, 2009, our home page www.pswdcob.org will be “tuned” to information about the “Webcast.” You will find the schedule for “Building Side-Doors,” workshops and worship at www.pswdcob.org/distconf/webcast



Church of the Brethren

Our thanks to Bethany Seminary’s Enten Eller and Congregational Life Ministry’s Stan Dueck for making this possible. The webcast will be on Bethany Theological Seminary’s “Webcast Central” page. For login instructions to participate live, or to access recordings of these sessions later, please visit www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcasts Try Bethany’s “Webcast Central” one week before District Conference, then, if you need help, you will have time to ask.

Some material will be available both during and after District Conference. But the material featuring Dr. Diana Butler Bass **will only be available live.**

- Pastors Conference: Friday, 2:15 – 5:00pm
- Plenary Session: Saturday, 1:00 – 2:00pm
- Question & Answer Session, 2:15 – 3:00pm

