



Jerry Lambert,
Executive Director
of Planned Giving
& Advancement

Merry Makers

A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art."

"Really," answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty."

When I die, I want to die like my grandmother, who died peacefully in her sleep. Not screaming like all the passengers in her car.

A young man was sitting in class when the professor asked him if he knew what the Roe vs. Wade decision was. He sat quietly, pondering this very profound question. Finally, after giving it a lot of thought, he sighed and said, "I think this was the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware."

HOW TO GIVE \$250,000 TAX FREE TO YOUR CHILDREN

If your child has a job this year, a small gift can pay off. Consider making a contribution to a Roth IRA on his or her behalf. Contributions can be based on income they earn. You can contribute as much as \$3,000 a year if the child earns that much. Furthermore, you or anyone is allowed to give a child the money to make the Roth contribution and the child needn't use his or her own funds.

Consider the compounding effect of money. A 15-year-old who has \$2,000 in a Roth that grows an average of 8% a year will have

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helps ministries...even participating in canned food collection...as have the Boy Scouts.

During Petersburg Community Days (PCD), the church reaches out to children with free candy, helium balloons, and a clown ministry. At the Fire Department's beer tent, the church provides free sodas and designated drivers well into the night. In fact, community outreach at NLT began with a deacon's vision to serve breakfast to the volunteer fire department...at 6:00 a.m. during PCD. The firemen and chief were overwhelmed, saying, "We rarely are thanked, let alone served."

NLT has gone through a metamorphosis...a church transformation. Their culture has changed from a program model to a people

\$93,800 at age 65. If a \$2,000 contribution is made for three years when the child is age 15, 16, and 17, the account will grow to more than \$260,000 by age 65!

Roth IRAs are tax advantaged. Payouts after age 59 are not taxed in most cases.

ESTATE PLANNING

All in all this is a good way to leverage giving to your children or grandchildren. You can even purchase mutual funds for them at an earlier age with you maintaining guardianship of the money, then transfer the funds into a Roth based on the above scenario.

model...from doing church to being the church. The vision is driven from the top down, but the hands-on ministry flows from the bottom up. The church culture values loving people. They don't talk it - they walk it.

What is my vision? For every Open Bible church to love people and transform their communities.



Jeff Farmer,
President of Open
Bible Churches

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Jeff's JOURNAL

Insider Notes, News, Trends, and Resources from the President's Office

I Lived My Vision...

It is autumn. The corn is as high as an elephant's eye, and the lush, verdant forest looks like Dorothy's famed Emerald City. I am in southeast Michigan for two days of ministry. Petersburg is a small rural community...as the crow flies only two miles from the church. New Life Tabernacle (NLT) is nearly hidden on Summerfield Road, a bumpy county thoroughfare to the east of town.

Let me first flashback over an eight year "sojourn in the land of promise" (Heb. 11:9). Since my appointment in 1995, a picture has been gradually painted on the canvas of my spirit. Now in full blown technicolor, I pray it, preach it, and write it. It lives in me like Jeremiah's inferno: "...his word is in my heart like a fire shut up in my bones" (Jer. 20:9). I can taste it and smell it. When I stand on tiptoe I can almost reach it. And though for now it is God's promise (not yet reality), faith's eye can see it. I was privileged to live it for two days in Michigan.

The first hint I got something was different about NLT was during an evening dinner served in the gymnasium. All of the church leadership had been invited, from deacons to public platform ministry. In conversation with these committed servants,

I kept hearing how the gym had been used, and was being used, to reach the community:

- Three-on-three basketball tournaments
- Free food - Helping Hands Ministry
- Free clothing store - The Clothes Closet (NLT removed the bleachers to do it)
- Free use to other churches (including "help yourself to our coffee" and "set the thermostat where you'd like")
- Community events
- Youth lock-ins (has grown from 80 to 150 kids with up to 75% being unchurched)

NLT began 29 years ago - the past ten years with Open Bible. It did not always have an outreach

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Prayer & Intimacy with God
Leadership Development
Advancement Funding
Network: Communication & Technology
The Great Commission
Ethnic Ministries
Resource Churches & Leaders
Singleness of Purpose



Teri Beyer,
Secretary/Treasurer

ARE THERE LEGAL ISSUES TO HOSTING A CHURCH WEB SITE?

Many churches have Web sites and should be aware the pages can generate legal problems. Following are some (but not all) areas of concern.

1. Copyright infringement for articles, music, or pictures published on the Web site.
2. Trademark infringement.
3. Children's online Privacy Protection Act – Don't use a picture of a child without proper approval from authorized sources.
4. Defamation – Don't use your Web site for any reason to spread negative information about people. Letters to congregants about discipline of members or staff

CHURCH LAW

should be strictly prohibited on Web sites. This is not the place for making that kind of information public.

5. Political Campaign Activities – Do not put political speech(es) on your Web site and DO NOT ALLOW under any circumstances links to political sites.
6. There are federal laws that only apply for organizations engaged in commerce. If you host a Web site you are most probably engaged in commerce and will be subject to all federal laws on employment and discrimination (depending on whether or not you have the requisite number of employees).
7. If you sell items on your Web site, sales tax issues may arise.

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culture. One member spoke of a season in the church's history when there was an "entrenchment" mentality. A sort of "protectionism" was extant, personified by a "healthy Christian school where our children could be sheltered from the culture. We were a worshipping center with an upward and (sadly) inward look."

"What triggered the change?" I asked.

"First we closed the school. It was a painful decision, but opened a door to hire staff, train leaders, and look outward. Second, God gave us Tom and Nancy (Rupli – senior pastors), who have a heart for evangelism. Tom's favorite saying is 'Love God with all your heart, and love people.' Now evangelism is in our budget...like \$550 a month for wholesale food to give away."

What has been the impact of NLT's intentional outreach? The church has grown in attendance from 250 to 450. But the biggest impact has been to the community. A known drug and alcohol abuser who was living in a car with his girlfriend visited the Helping Hands and Clothes Closet ministry. A series of events led to his salvation, followed by congregational compassion: breakfast was served to him each morning at a member's house, a dentist fixed his teeth, a construction job was found for him, etc. The church was learning how to give, and the community witnessed the man's transformation. Multiple doors were opened to share Christ as walls of separation came down.

Now the public school has partnered with NLT, letting needy families know about the

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Prayer & Evangelism

In prayer you align yourself to the purposes and power of God, and He is able to do things through you He couldn't do otherwise

E. Stanley Jones

The whole meaning of prayer is that we may know God.

Oswald Chambers

Prayer is exhaling the spirit of man and inhaling the Spirit of God.

Edwin Keith

If you have no prayer life yourself, it is rather a useless gesture to make your child say his prayers every night.

Peter Marshall

Many people pray as if God were a big aspirin pill; they come only when they hurt.

B. Graham Dienert

The evangelical church will not survive unless it aggressively pursues unchurched lost people outside its "four walls." It must adopt an "invasion" mentality. The days have passed when the church can sit back and wait for lost people to come to it.

Aubrey Malphurs

If the Boeing Company can bring together millions of parts from 35,000 subcontractors in 25 countries to produce a 777 airplane that flies, then surely we, as the Body of Christ, can come together to bring the Gospel to every people and every person.

Phil Butler

The single most serious obstacle to the evangelization of the world is the disunity of churches.

Allan Richardson

Book Briefs

Brothers, We Are Not Professionals:

A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry

By John Piper, Broadman & Holman

304 pages, Paperback

Piper pleads with fellow pastors to abandon the professional stereotype and pursue the prophetic call of radical ministry. He states, "The world sets the agenda of the professional man; God sets the agenda of the spiritual man."

Brothers is a 30 chapter exploration of issues pastors face, e.g., what to preach, how hard to study, what is essential reading, feeling the terribleness of hell, and how to pray for our schools that train ministers. Piper, who has gathered a large congregation, expresses his opinions unreservedly. Not all he asserts is adaptable to every situation, but his key principles are worthwhile.

Pastors weary of the status quo with hungry hearts will find this book a welcome challenge.

Adapted: Thomas Lindberg, First AOG, Memphis, Tennessee

Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done

By Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan

Crown Business/Random House

278 Pages, Hardback

We usually experience breakdown between vision and results. The reason is execution. Authors Bossidy and Charan insist the leader's role in "productivity cultures" requires paying strict attention to three core processes – picking other leaders, setting the strategic direction, and conducting operations. "These actions are the substance of execution, and leaders cannot delegate them regardless of the organization's size." They explain: "The strategy process defines where a business wants to go, and the people process defines who's going to get it there. The operating process provides the path for those people."

In chapter nine you'll realize our failure to take time for buy-in is the reason many brilliant plans bite the dust. The authors declare, "Dialogue is the core of a productivity culture and the basic unit of work."

Execution is a valuable church tool.

Adapted by Ed Rowell, Tri-Lakes Chapel, Monument, Colorado

Health Hints

Ministry Requires Fresh Breath

Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent each year on fresh breath, yet mouthwashes, mints, and gum often don't solve the problem: odor caused by bacteria from decaying food particles, debris in the mouth, and poor oral hygiene. There are ways to prevent or lessen the effects of halitosis:

- Brush your tongue. The tongue is a warm harbor for bacteria, especially the back part. When you brush your teeth, spend some time on the tongue, moving slowly toward the back so as not to activate your gag reflex.
- Freshen your mouth. A dry mouth can lead to bad breath, so keep your kisser refreshed ☺. Eat oranges or celery, drink plenty of water, or try an herbal palate cleanser such as parsley (chew on it after meals) or peppermint tea.
- Switch to germicidal toothpaste. Tea tree oil is a terrific germicidal ingredient that can enhance a toothpaste product. Neem and eucalyptus are also effective toothpaste ingredients.

If your halitosis persists, contact your dentist. He or she may be able to diagnose an underlying condition causing the problem, such as gum disease.

Tips from Dr. Weil

Resource Recap

Church Health Today is a weekly newsletter featuring the research of Dr. Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Church Health Today is a unique resource for church leaders because it focuses on issues directly relating to the purposes of the church as described in Acts 2:42-47: worship, fellowship, ministry, discipleship, prayer, and evangelism. This newsletter gives people access to the material Rainer and his research team have collected *through interviews with more than 4,000 unchurched people*. Research shows pastors and church leaders are eager for information that will help them grow healthier, more fruitful ministries. The newsletter format gets the research information to the pastors quickly so they can put it to use.

To subscribe to *Church Health Today*, visit www.churchcentral.com and click on the "Church Health Today" link at the top.