



# INTERCOM

July/August 2005

Minnesota Church Ministries Association

Volume 9 Number 4

## Pay Attention to Three Dimensions

In the earlier years of our Association, I benefited from the wisdom of one of our Board members who was a full-time staff member in one of the Twin Cities churches when he said, "In church work, there are three elements that constantly need to be developed--curriculum, facilities, and people. If you keep working on those three--you will have continued success in ministry." As you consider the coming school year of service, let me suggest you give special consideration to these three dimensions of what you do:

**CURRICULUM**--This category, of course, does not apply simply to the narrow matter of Sunday School curriculum or small group material--but rather to the broader issue of what is the body of truth that is the center of attention for the congregation. It includes the lessons that are taught, the sermons that are preached, the songs that are sung, the published materials that are used in all areas. One of the key commitments we must always maintain is that **the Bible be the center** of our concentration. The truths of Scripture must permeate what we deal with in all of our church work. We must also be careful that **whatever studies we enter into don't simply teach the Word but teach us to DO the word**, as well. With the advent of the internet, computer software, and other hi-tech sources we have a wonderful variety of places to tap into these days for creative materials that are Bible-based as well.

**FACILITIES**--The physical surroundings as well as the equipment available in our ministries makes a big difference in facilitating the life-changing process of local church work. These physical nuts and bolts obviously do not replace the work of the Holy Spirit--but making surroundings pleasant and conducive to spiritual experience by reducing distractions and annoyances is helpful. Do a **walk-through** of your church and ask the question, *"Do we see anything as we tour the entire building that would be offensive or off-putting to a first-time visitor--something that would detract from their spiritual encounter?"* With that kind of critical eye you will identify perhaps a wish list of facility issues that need to be addressed. Décor, furnishings, floor coverings, light, heat, air conditioning, equipment--these and more will be viewed in a new light and you will see ways to reduce barriers to the Spirit's work.

**PEOPLE**--In the Church, our work is *for* people and *with* people. We do not aim to build an ecclesiastical empire to be noticed by the community; we aim to build people in faith by drawing them into a caring fellowship that worships, learns, and applies truth to life. People are always our focus--they are the lives to be changed and enriched. Those who have specific roles of teaching and serving in the church also deserve the love, respect, and accolade that is due them. As church workers are affirmed and encouraged, the whole body is built up. How are you doing in both making transformed lives your goal and encouragement for all your workers a high priority? Think through specific steps you can take to move your congregation to actively put people as a priority before any other consideration in the work of the church, as their ultimate aim is to glorify God and be expressions of love and grace.

May God give you creative ways to develop in the three dimensions of ministry: **curriculum, facilities, and people!**

Timothy A. Johnson, Exec. Director

## The Association At Work

At this writing our 5th Annual **Sunday School JumpStart** is about to take place at Crosstown Covenant in Minneapolis on July 14<sup>th</sup>, promising a great planning day for scores of Sunday School organizers.

**THE ON-TARGET Seminar ConnectNow**, helping churches develop their **ministry to first-time visitors**, with **Lloyd Jacobsen**, nationally-acclaimed consultant will be held **September 17 at Bethel Baptist in Mankato**. Contact our office to register. This half-day event was well-received in April in three other locations. Join us!

The **Minnesota CHURCH EXPO** is coming to Edinbrook Church in Brooklyn Park on **October 1**. We are pleased to have nationally known speakers **Mark Wilson and Bill Allison** as keynoters. Call for brochures!

**MCMA Africa** expands with Tim Johnson's tour in May and again in August with training, literature distribution, and Bible school development. Keep praying and giving as God directs!

### **PRAY - PRAY - PRAY!**

Pray for effectiveness and direction on:

- ◆ Our financial challenges.
- ◆ ConnectNow On-Target Seminar.
- ◆ MCMA Africa.
- ◆ EquipNow--MN Church Expo.
- ◆ Strategic Plans for 2006.

# MCMA

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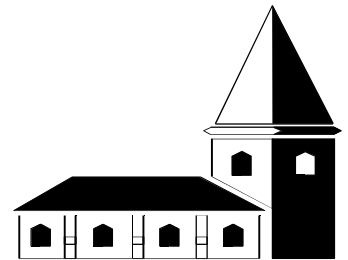
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*Calling All Church Workers*

## **Minnesota CHURCH EXPO**

### **EquipNow: Preparing Today's Church For Tomorrow's Challenge!**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005**

*Edinbrook Church - 4300 Edinbrook Pwky. - Brooklyn Park*

- ♦ **Mark Wilson** – Pastor of the Hayward Wesleyan Church - Keynoter
- ♦ **Bill Allison** - Nationally known teacher/leadership trainer and director of CADRE Ministries - Keynoter
- ♦ **Dynamic training** that will prepare leaders, teachers, and church workers for the coming year of service!
- ♦ First-rate **exhibit hall** filled with resources.

#### **A Greeting From Executive Director Tim Johnson**

As we reach the mid-point of this year, I want to let all of our friends know that ***I have stepped back from my role as Associate Pastor at Prairie Hill Free Church in Eden Prairie.*** In consultation with the MCMA Board, we decided that I needed to return to the Association's work with 100% of my energies to meet the challenges and opportunities we have both here in the United States and in Africa.

Please pray with me that an expanded number of prayer and financial partners will come forward to support this move. I invite your help, on a one-time basis or through a regular monthly, quarterly, or annual commitment.

***Tim Johnson, Executive Director***

#### **MCMA Campaign For Excellence**

*Dear MCMA—Please accept the following gift as part of the effort to reach the \$30,000 goal by September 30.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount in check made to MCMA:*

\_\_\_\$1000 \_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\$200 \_\_\_\$100  
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Return to MCMA – PO Box 1186 – Mtka, MN 55345

