



INTERCOM

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Minnesota Church Ministries Association

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AVOIDING AUTOMATIC PILOT

Americans are eminently pragmatic people. They try to make things as simple and uncomplicated as possible. They try to save time and money. They avoid unnecessary work and effort. As a result, American church leaders avoid what are considered unnecessary meetings of committees or governing boards. The goal seems to be to achieve an automatic pilot arrangement where day to day operations are set in motion, not requiring regular organizational check-ups.

Well, I am as practical as any other church leader around--but I must declare a warning about this tendency toward "automatic pilotism." The urge to have just enough administrative meetings to get by will eventually rob the local church of the efficiency required to get the task of disciple-making done.

Veteran Christian Educator Howard Hendricks used to love to quote to old adage, "People don't do what we expect; they do what we inspect." In other words, just putting down what is expected of those serving in the church in a job description or even a master plan by a governing board and sending them out to do it without regularly scheduled points of accountability will result in things not getting done.

Meetings of committees can be stultifying and unproductive. The cynical definition of a committee--"*a group of people which individually can do nothing and together decide that nothing can be done*"--unfortunately is experienced in real life only too often. But--good committee meetings are also possible. What is required for good meetings to occur? Let me suggest:

1. A MASTER PLAN HELPS. Think through the mission of the church--or the specific ministry that is being superintended by the group--with the tasks clearly defined to accomplish the mission, along with individuals identified to carry them out, along with deadlines for accomplishing specific action steps. This kind of overall blueprint can be the master guideline against which progress can be measured during any one ministry season.

2. THE GOAL OF ENCOURAGEMENT SHOULD BE IN VIEW. The writer to the Hebrews admonishes us *to meet together and in the process encourage one another*. Those overseeing specific responsibilities in the master plan need to sense the planning group's commitment to what they personally have been called to do in the ministry, practical support and advice on how to overcome difficulties being experienced in carrying out the ministry, general moral support--the "atta boy, atta girl" shot-in-the-arm that can be offered, and corporate prayer for their efforts in pursuing the mission.

3. REGULARITY OF MEETING IS NECESSARY. The above dynamics must be present with repeated regularity--not just sporadically through the year. Monthly meetings can keep the engine of local ministry on track as the accountability, encouragement, and prayer for the work is maintained.

Combine the above ingredients with the leadership of a chair person that keeps the group on task, avoiding irrelevant rabbit trails--and you will discover a new breath of enthusiasm in regular governing meetings. God bless you as you organize and carry out meetings that encourage those serving in the trenches and move your church toward more effective performance as an agency for making disciples where you are!

Timothy A. Johnson, Executive Director

The Association At Work

The *Sunday School JumpStart* on July 14th was a helpful gathering for over 25 churches represented from all over our state and beyond.

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 continues to develop as Tim Johnson conducted his 6th trip to the continent August 1-17. Tim visited Nigeria and Liberia on this past trip and enjoyed **training conferences, distribution of study Bibles and other literature, and continued work on new Bible Schools**.

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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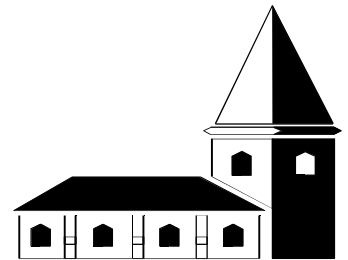
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Calling All Church Workers

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.