



INTERCOM

January/February 2006

Minnesota Church Ministries Association

Volume 10 Number 1

THE VISION THING 2006

In the letter to the Hebrews, there is a wonderful description of certain members of Faith's Hall of Fame who served God consistently and unstintingly, keeping their heavenly vision out in front of them, even though they did not realize the goal of their dedication in this life.

As we launch another year of service in the Church, we must take those kinds of examples of faith seriously and face the future with determination and confidence regardless of the situation in which we find ourselves. Let me suggest the following needed ingredients to keep local church work alive and well regardless of circumstances:

1. IDENTIFY A SPIRITUAL VISION FOR THE PEOPLE. Oftentimes when church leaders think about vision, they conjure up in their minds the kind of program, facility, demographic target, or annual budget they may want to achieve in the future. These are all appropriate aspects of realizing a vision. Yet, the ultimate **spiritual vision** for our people should not escape our sites: **maturity in Christ!** That is the great vision Paul pointed out in Ephesians 4--the final goal that was to be kept in view after everybody has exercised their spiritual gifts and done the work of service in the Body of Christ. Whatever programmatic or strategic means we devise--they all ought to point to **Christian maturity** as the ultimate vision. We should be praying about the future of our congregation with a mental image in mind of a group of loving people always expressing the fruit of the Spirit and the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, while reaching out to the needy world around us.

2. IDENTIFY IMMEDIATE RESOURCES TO PROMOTE THE VISION. Before the entire world can be touched and brought into the ministry of a local church, the resources within ready grasp of the congregation need to be employed. That means your congregation as it exists right now and the church building as it stands right now are your only resources available. What you see is what you got! The future can only be built on what God has put in your hands right now. Ten years from now there may be more people, more money, more talent--but right now you only have the unique combination of those commodities you have right now! God intends for you to work with those gifts and move into the future believing Him for great things!

3. IDENTIFY THE STEPS TO TAKE THIS YEAR TO MOVE TOWARD THE VISION. Remember: the heroes of Faith's Hall of Fame did not see the accomplishment of their entire vision. We, too, must recognize that we are making investments for the future that may not be fully realized in our lifetime. That is the nature of faith. And yet the eye of faith can also be focused on a few short-term achievable goals that will encourage us in our work. On one hand, we can **celebrate within the congregation the daily expressions of faith** that exist in the lives of individuals as God inspires them to be more like Jesus. Those expressions are not generated by committee action but purely by committed believers! When it comes to boards and committees--we must develop ministries that do not forsake **the fundamentals of spiritual growth: the study and application of the Scriptures to life.** Then we can publicly testify to the spiritual breakthroughs that happen as a result of this ministry--celebrating God's work as we make progress in realizing our vision.

We need not just go through the motions of church work for one more year! Let's consciously keep the spiritual vision of maturity in Christ in constant view as we move out to lead our people toward growth in grace!

Timothy A. Johnson, Executive Director

The Association At Work

MCMA is fast at work to provide some dynamic opportunities for training and enrichment for local churches in the coming year. The outer panels of this *Intercom* give you a calendar of events. Please note some of the highlights below:

- ◆ **MCMA AFRICA**--Executive Director Tim Johnson and Dean Bjorlin of Duluth Gospel Tabernacle enjoyed a two-week training mission in Togo and Nigeria just before Thanksgiving. Hundreds of pastors and laymen were touched by the team as they visited many communities in four different geographic areas in West Africa. We anticipate Africa trips this year in May in November.
- ◆ **ON-TARGET SEMINARS** expand this year with **Clergy 360** seminars led by **Michael Halleen**, a nationally-respected consultant. His program helps pastors do self-initiated evaluations of their ministries, with an eye on improving the quality of their service. We will continue to offer **ConnectNow** with Lloyd Jacobsen.
- ◆ **REGIONAL INSTITUTES** will be held in Duluth on March 11, Mankato on March 25, and Nisswa on April 1.
- ◆ **MINNESOTA CHURCH EXPO** at Edinbrook Church on Sept. 30 will include Dr. David Clark, Bill Allison, and Darrell Fraley!

PRAY – PRAY – PRAY!!!

- ◆ Exciting new programs above.
- ◆ Financial needs.
- ◆ Continued expansion of the team of supporters for Executive Director Tim Johnson--would you consider becoming a "team member?"

MCMA

Minnesota Church Ministries Association
PO Box 1186
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Non-Profit
Organization
**US POSTAGE
PAID**
Chanhassen, MN
Permit No. 3

952-934-6777
information@mcmaonline.org

MCMA 2006 MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Church Ministries Institutes	March 11 April 1 March 25	Bethany Baptist - Duluth Christ Community Church - Nisswa Bethel Baptist - Mankato
On-Target Seminars	March 9 April 6 April 22 or 29 September 16	Clergy 360--Mike Halleen--Calvary EFC Rochester Clergy 360--New Brighton Christian Church ConnectNow--Lloyd Jacobsen--Duluth Gospel Tab. ConnectNow--Eau Claire, Wisconsin
MCMA Pastors' Roundtable	Feb. 22; Mar. 22; Apr. 19;	Faith Alliance Church St. Paul
Discussion of BREAKOUT CHURCHES 9:00-10:30 am	Feb. 23; Mar. 23; Apr. 20; Feb. 16; Mar. 30; Apr. 27;	Edgewater Baptist Church Minneapolis Duluth Gospel Tabernacle
Minnesota Vespers	January 8 February 12 March 12 April 2 May 7	St. Louis Park EFC Colony Park Baptist Hope Community Church First EFC - Minneapolis Crosstown Covenant
Celebration 2005	April 27	A Twin Cities Location
Sunday School JumpStart	June 22	With a Workshop Rotation Model emphasis PLUS <i>What's Working In Today's Sunday School?</i>
Minnesota Church Expo	September 30	Edinbrook Church - Brooklyn Park With David Clark; Bill Allison; & Darrell Fraley

Helping Churches Build a Generation of Confident Leaders and Teachers

Minnesota Church Ministries Assn. - PO Box 1186 - Minnetonka, MN 55345 - 952-934-6777 - 800-474-0326
email: information@mcmaonline.org - web: www.mcmaonline.org