



INTERCOM

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Minnesota Church Ministries Association

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Sizing Up The Emerging Culture

For the last twenty years the philosophical underpinnings in a "post-modern" era have been charted and described in great detail. Currently, the emerging culture, as it has been labeled, is the focus of great interest on the part of leaders in both society and the Church. An *Emerging Church* movement has come to the fore that attempts to take into account some of the thinking of the post-modern world in which we live. **Tim Conder** in his book *The Church In Transition: The Journey of Existing Churches into the Emerging Culture* identifies the following distinctives:

- ◆ Suspicion of organized religion; interest in a variety of sources for spiritual experience.
- ◆ Arriving at truth with certitude is distrusted; most findings must be held tentatively and non-dogmatically.
- ◆ Spiritual, transcendent explanations of things in the world are preferred over a previous era in which there were scientific, mechanistic explanations offered.
- ◆ A yearning for community versus simple rugged individualism, with a sense that truth is discovered in "community".
- ◆ Personal experience trumps objectivity and mystery is considered more comfortable and trustworthy than certainty.

These dynamics have a direct impact on how believers in a post-modern world operate. The emerging church, that movement that seeks to respond to these cultural shifts, is marked by the following tendencies:

- ◆ The pursuit of the Gospel and truth expressed in community.
- ◆ A passion for living out "kingdom principles" in the here and now.
- ◆ Comfort with mystery and uncertainty.
- ◆ Spiritual holism that is reflected in a comprehensive, radical discipleship.
- ◆ Study of the scripture that interweaves personal experience.
- ◆ An experiential approach to both worship and the pursuit of truth.
- ◆ An honoring of the beauty of God's creation and the creative spirit found in all human beings.

The Emerging Church is doing a very conscientious work in attempting to understand the times and develop approaches that will engage the current culture. Whereas the decidedly avant garde approach that some of these churches have adopted should not be seen as mandatory innovation for existing churches, their work is still helpful to all of us as we develop our understanding of the thinking of the average person on the street.

No matter what cultural nuances we anticipate and accommodate, however, we can be assured that, in the end, all human beings will respond in the context of relational ministry that meets them where they are and leads them to a spiritual understanding fueled by the work of the Holy Spirit. God bless you as you extend yourself in that kind of ministry that has been effective in every age!

Timothy A. Johnson, Executive Director

The Association At Work

Our 6th Annual *Sunday School JumpStart* took place at Crosstown Covenant in Minneapolis on June 22nd, giving over a dozen churches first rate training and resources for their upcoming Sunday School seasons.

THE ON-TARGET Seminar ConnectNow, helping churches develop their **ministry to first-time visitors**, with **Lloyd Jacobsen**, nationally-acclaimed consultant will be held **September 16 at Eau Claire Wesleyan Church**. Contact our office to register. This half-day event has been well-received all over the State and now we are happy to launch into Wisconsin to offer it as well. Join us!

The **Minnesota CHURCH EXPO** is coming to Edinbrook Church in Brooklyn Park on **September 30**. **David Clark, Bill Allison, Darrell Fraley, and Mark Gold** are headliners! Call for brochures!

MCMA Africa was another great success May 8-June 3, with visits to **12 cities**, speaking to **over 2000** people and distributing study bibles and literature for pastors. Tim Johnson visited both Nigeria and Ghana on this trip.

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 the coming year.
- ◆ New Board member recruitment.

MCMA

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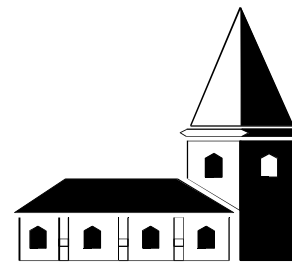
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Calling All Church Workers

Minnesota CHURCH EXPO **EquipNow: Getting Your Church Ready to Serve!**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

Edinbrook Church - 4300 Edinbrook Pwky. - Brooklyn Park



- ♦ David Clark, Bethel Seminary/Faith Covenant - Keynote Speaker
- ♦ Bill Allison - Nationally known teacher/leadership trainer and director of CADRE Ministries - Keynoter
- ♦ Dynamic training for everyone serving in your church, including such dynamic leaders as **Darrell Fraley and Mark Gold!**
- ♦ First-rate exhibit hall filled with resources.

For program information – contact **MCMA**: 952-934-6777 - email: information@mcmaonline.org

A Greeting From Executive Director Tim Johnson

As we reach the midpoint of yet another year, it is breathtaking to realize what has transpired throughout the past months. I have been dedicating 100% of my energies to MCMA, having **completed some past consultations** that required my time; we have seen **many new support team members** come on line with us; and we have moved out to accomplish **great things both here and in Africa.**

NOW--we are in need of an infusion of funds to catch our collective financial breath during these summer months, prior to the Church Expo...the period of lowest event income through the year. Please give generously to help us meet the **\$30,000 goal by September 30!**

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:

___\$5000 ___\$1000 ___\$500 ___\$200
___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$_____

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