



# INTERCOM

November/December 2006

Minnesota Church Ministries Association

Volume 10 Number 6

## How Effective Are Your Relationships?

It has often been said that "all of ministry is relationships." It is true that the art of making and developing relationships with people is at the foundation of effective church work. In a recent visit to one of our member Churches, **Life Church in Eden Prairie**, I heard clinical psychologist, **Dr. Hal Baumchen** make a very engaging presentation entitled, *10 Principles For Effective Relationships*. Notice the highlights of this talk and see how they apply in your life and ministry:

- 1. Lay the Foundation Straight.** It is important our relationship with Jesus Christ is the foundation to our lives. When we have a healthy relationship with God, the stage is set for strong inter-personal relationships.
- 2. See the Battle the Way It Really Is.** Recognize that, as Scripture reminds us, we battle against spiritual forces, not just personal ones. The ultimate source of conflict between human beings is from Satan himself.
- 3. Watch Your Own Character.** This is your first responsibility. Make it your intention to maintain integrity and a good attitude that will be able to rise above temporary difficulties.
- 4. Be a Peacemaker.** Setting this as a goal in all of your relationships will go a long way in preventing and solving conflict.
- 5. Optimism Attracts; Pessimism Repels.**
- 6. Speak the Truth in Love.** Involves all three elements: speak...don't remain silent when articulating reality will help; be sure it is only the truth and not your opinion; and be sure that your pronouncements are motivated by love for the other person and not animosity.
- 7. Have Proper Expectations of Others.** Expect people to be human, flawed and prone to error and you will be much less disappointed.
- 8. Be Correctable.** Recognize your own fallibility and humbly accept correction and redirection in relationships.
- 9. Nothing Heals a Relationship Like Forgiveness.** We should forgive as God does...not because we deserve it, but because we love others.
- 10. Get Up!** Be willing to start fresh in your relationships with second chances. The Scripture says: *"The righteous man falls seven times and rises again."* Giving up is not a logical response since the power of God is available to us!

Can you see some remedies in relationships that are suffering in your experience right now? See how you might be able to apply the above principles in your own life as you aim to be more effective in this area that is fundamental to success in ministry.

*Timothy A. Johnson, Executive Director*

## The Association At Work

The **Minnesota Church Expo** at Edinbrook Church on September 30th attracted over **50 churches** from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa, with nearly **350 people**, a **50% increase** over last year. Enthusiastic evaluations confirmed the impact.

At this writing, **Executive Director Tim Johnson** is on his **9th trip to Africa**, ministering in 5 training conferences across Nigeria. Pray for the continued growth of this dynamic outreach ministry.

## **2007 EVENTS**

### **On-Target Seminars**

#### **BEYOND BOREDOM**

#### **Sunday Mornings That Engage**

Saturday, January 27th

Oxboro EFC - Bloomington

#### **Church Ministries Institutes**

March 3--Bemidji

March 10--Lakewood EFC

Baxter/Brainerd

March 17--Bethany Baptist

In Duluth

#### **Minnesota Church EXPO**

September 29

Edinbrook Church

Brooklyn Park

#### **Pastors' Roundtable**

Book discussion groups in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Brainerd--watch details!

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

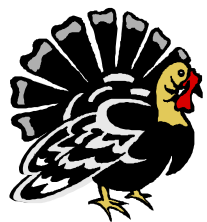
- ♦ For immediate financial needs. A \$30,000 year-end goal will help us to meet obligations.
- ♦ For God's guidance in the development of our 2007 ministry.

# MCMA

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## Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas



from your friends at  
Minnesota Church Ministries Association

May God remind you of all the blessings of 2006  
and  
May you enjoy in a new way the wonder of Christ's  
incarnation this season!

**A NEW CONFERENCE!!!—Revitalize Your Church With An MCMA ON-TARGET SEMINAR**

# ***Beyond Boredom!***

## ***Sunday Mornings That Engage***

**Make the most of your church's main event!**

What happens on a Sunday morning can make or break a church's ministry.  
Come to explore how you can maximize this main event as you engage  
your people in worship, preaching, and teaching.

**Saturday, January 27, 2007 - Oxboro EFC - 9431 Nicollet Ave. - Bloomington**