

HARVEST (is plentiful) TIME (is running out)

by Tim Kellerman

Lately, it seems the Holy Spirit has been speaking to me about the second half of my ministry career. I think God is turning over fresh soil in my soul so that new seed will grow. However, my comfort zone is being threatened. I am not sure whether to jump for joy or run for cover. Taking the Spirit's lead, though, I have chosen to be proactive as a leader. With a group of staff and church leaders we have begun examining every layer of ministry and programming in our 90 year old church and evaluating the effectiveness of each. The results have literally driven me to my knees.

After 23 years of pastoral ministry the questions I am forcing myself to answer are, "Am I doing what I am doing because it is expected of me—because we've always done it that way or because some sort of tradition dictates it?" and "Am I doing what I am doing because I have heard from God or because it fulfills the Great Commission or because it actually results in the spiritual transformation of sinners otherwise destined for hell?" The questions have not been hard to ask. Neither have the answers come with great difficulty. In some cases they have been predictable. My problem is acting on the obvious.

While I am no expert of eschatology, God's Spirit has spoken to me about my role as a pastor in these uncertain times—I must provide leadership which results in the salvation of sinners. Nothing is more important. **This means I must be intentional and strategic regarding the Great Commission by discipling believers toward the Spirit-filled life...and there is no time to waste!**

John Ortberg tells a story about how when he was just a kid his grandmother loved to play Monopoly. Every time they played she would clean him out of all properties and money. She was vicious. However, she would always encourage John, telling him that someday he would learn to play the game.

One summer a new kid moved next door to John who was great at Monopoly. John played the game all summer long with his new friend. Finally, John's grandmother came for a visit. When John saw her he asked her to play Monopoly. Her face lit up and her eyes got narrow and she said, "You're on." At the end of the game John had totally wiped her out. He had all the property and stacks of money. While John was

[continued inside]



inside

Tracy L. Tucker,
Charlottesville, Virginia

NUMBERS

Favorite Sermon—
Power Beyond Ourselves

Books for the Pastor

HARVEST (is plentiful) TIME (is running out)

[continued]

counting his Monopoly "assets", his grandmother said, "John, now that you've learned to play the game, let me tell you something about life: *When it's all over, everything goes back in the box.*"

As ministers, I'm not sure how interested God will be in our "game pieces" (how many times a week we conduct worship or what our average weekly attendance is or whether or not we have Sunday School on Sunday morning or Sunday night). In that moment, the only thing that will matter will be if any of our efforts resulted in the increase of heaven's population. Everything else will go back into the box.

My mind is drawn to Matthew 6:19-20 where Jesus reminds us that we must invest ourselves in what has the greatest eternal value. This can be none other than those for whom Christ died.



— Tim Kellerman, Senior Pastor
First Church of the Nazarene
Conway, Arkansas

For more on making disciples . . .
*So This Is Faith: Becoming an Authentic
Disciple of Christ*
COZZ978-0-8341-2303-8 \$14.99



TRACY L. TUCKER, SENIOR PASTOR
NORTHRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF
THE NAZARENE
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

As pillars of the little Nazarene church in Ft. Pierce, Florida, my parents instilled within me a deep conviction that God had designed us for fellowship with Him. It wasn't talked about as much as it was modeled. Both of my parents had a deep personal walk with God.

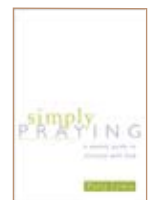
Early on I understood the importance of a regular, daily diet of prayer and the Word of God. This is the substance of communion with the Father. And early on I discovered the challenges of making that happen. It became a struggle, fueled by guilt and a desire to "get it right" as a Christian young person. But the desire for fellowship with God persisted.

In a church where I served for a number of years, several friends and colleagues experienced moral failures with broad and severe implications reaching beyond the local setting. It was my observation that one key to each of these events was a lax or absent devotional experience. I have also observed that the folks of the church I am currently serving want to know that their pastor is praying for and with them. It occurs to me that I have an obligation to my wife and children, as well as the people God has entrusted to my care, to be a man of prayer.

Observing Jesus' life and ministry has shaped my practice of communing with God. First, Jesus found a place (or places) where he could spend time undisturbed with the Father. Second, Jesus awoke early and spent time with God before the distractions of the day could claim his attention. And third, Jesus prayed continually. His life, decisions, healings, and especially His passion all happened in tandem with prayer.

Often as I step to the platform for the first time during a worship service I will preface my opening comments to the congregation with, "I prayed for you this morning." My personal spiritual practices are founded in my parent's example and my own hunger for God as He has shaped my life. Therefore, because I love God, my family and God's people, I pray.

For more resources on prayer . . .
Simply Praying: 52 Weeks with God
COZZ978-0-8341-2271-0 \$14.99



www.vbs2008.com



BRIAN WIESINGER, SENIOR PASTOR
GRACE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

SERMON TITLE: *Power Beyond Ourselves*

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:4-8

TOPIC: Power with a Purpose—To Spread His Word

PURPOSE: The first step to realizing and employing God's power to have an impact in this world is to pray, "Lord, I believe your power is for me. I believe you want to do dynamic things, in me and through me by the power of your spirit. I want to turn my world right side up for Jesus Christ."

ADDITIONAL TOOLS USED: Pictures of tornado relief efforts in Oklahoma City; Video clip from movie "Twister".

QUOTES & ILLUSTRATIONS: Story from Max Lucado's *Just Like Jesus*, "Tapping into the Power-Are we altered?" pp. 8-9.

SERMON SUMMARY: The key focus of this sermon is the discovery of where early Christians found their power to be witnesses for Christ in the early stages of Christian history. It examines what believers must do to receive God's power and the purpose of his power in our lives.

The sermon reveals that world evangelism is a big task for the people of God and will help answer the question "where do I start?"

FAVORITE POINT: If you want God's power flooding your life, you need God's Spirit flowing in your life.

RESPONSE: This sermon has affected me by reminding me and those I serve that the greatest of man-made programs for effective ministry is really nothing without the Holy Spirit filling us with passion, wisdom, and power to carry out His mission to a world hungry for the Good News.

(For more information on this sermon contact Pastor Brian Wiesinger at 931-388-4788)

Improving Your



The Pastor



Out of the Pulpit, into the Living Room
A Pastor's Guide to Meaningful Retirement
Gene Williams
COZZ978-0-8341-2322-9
\$11.99, Beacon Hill Press
This book provides practical advice on what to do upon retirement. Gene Williams, a retired pastor, answers questions of "What do I do with my life without a church?" This conversation piece for retirement is over coffee.



A Way with Words. . .

SOME THOUGHTS ON FAITH...

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."
—Saint Augustine

"Faith consists in believing when it is beyond the power of reason to believe."
—Voltaire

"Faith is different from proof; the latter is human, the former is a gift from God."
—Blaise Pascal

"Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith."
—Henry Ward Beecher

"Faith makes all things possible... Love makes all things easy."
—Dwight L. Moody

Corny Pastor Joke

Q: Why won't lobsters share their food?

A: Because they are shellfish.



Foundations of Pastoral Care

Bruce L. Petersen
COZZ978-0-8341-2305-2
\$39.99, Beacon Hill Press, 2007



Quantum Ministry

How Pastors Can Make the Leap

D. Randy Berkner
COZZ978-0-8341-2302-1
\$14.99, Beacon Hill Press, 2007
This book deals with the unique demands of pastoral ministry today. Randy Berkner addresses the insecurity of ministry effectiveness, feelings of mediocrity, unrealistic expectations, and how pastors can move from a "good" or "mediocre" ministry to a "great" or "vibrant" ministry. This book challenges pastors struggling with burnout and feelings of underachievement.

Focusing on the fundamental elements pastors and church leaders need to care for their people, this book introduces clergy to four key areas of pastoral care. Section one deals with foundations of pastoral care, section two with pastoral care roles, section three addresses pastoral presence, and section four focuses on the pastor as a person. Every pastor should have this book on his or her shelf for insight and fresh perspective on practical pastoral care.



Crisis Manual for Christian Schools and Youth Workers

How to Prepare for and Handle Tragedy

Sandy J. Austin
COZZ978-0-8341-2310-6
\$14.99, Beacon Hill Press, 2007
Does your church and youth ministry have a plan of action for when tragedy strikes? Are you ready to be a source of healing and hope? This book could extend the ministry of your church into your community in moments of crisis. This practical book is for every board member, pastor, and youth pastor.

Books to Consider

Many women are on their own when it comes to raising children. It's a tough job—especially for moms raising boys. Named "California Woman of the Year" two times, Dana Chisholm provides insight and advice for moms raising boys in her new book, *Single Moms Raising Sons: Preparing Boys to Be Men When There's No Man Around* released by Beacon Hill Press, 2007.

Various book and online sources cite that U.S. household credit card debt can range anywhere from \$7,000 to \$8,500. Many churches are choosing to implement debt management classes to help foster economic freedom. Your church could also consider investment advisor Greg Womack's new book from Beacon Hill Press, *Wisdom and Wealth: A Christian's Guide to Managing Your Life and Finances*. This book examines stories and lessons from the life of King Solomon and provides practical insight for building a strong financial foundation.

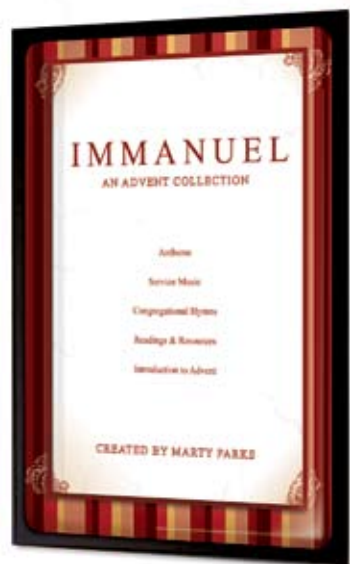
Planning your Advent service is easy with Lillenas' NEW Advent Service Collection

Includes:

- Anthems, service music, hymns, and readings for Advent
- Brief description and history of Advent; suggested readings for each Sunday of Advent
- Practical arrangements for *Any Choir*
- Length: 21 min. (without congregational hymns)

lillenasdrama.com

COZZ978-0-8341-7554-9
\$4.99



Purposeful Discipleship Plans

Thousands of churches, including yours, have plans of purpose for outreach, worship, and discipleship. To locate and pinpoint discipleship resources in a simpler way here at NPH we suggest you visit www.nph.com/go/discipleship.

STATISTICS,
SOUNDBITES,
and Suggestions

What Children and Youth Leaders Want You to Know

If you would like to be in the know on what your children and youth pastor might want you to know as their senior pastor, visit www.rev.org and search for July/August Rev! extras.

“The early spread of the gospel was not accomplished through techniques and methods, per say. It was accomplished by way of the Holy Spirit, more specifically; it was accomplished through a Spirit-filled people. Holiness is the right message for this time and place. It has not grown tired or old. In fact it is a timeless affirmation. It needs to be understood in every pastor’s study. It needs to be preached in every Nazarene pulpit. And it must be lived in the streets. Lest we forget, holiness only works when we match our believin’ with our behavin’!”

—Excerpted from the *Nazarene Messenger*, Volume 48, Issue 4, June/July 2007, “Takin’ It To The Streets” by Louisiana District Superintendent Greg Mason.

You Can Write Us

If you have a funny joke you’d like to submit, a must read book you’d like us to review, or a comment on how *Communicator* can serve you better, please email us at communicator@nph.com.

genuine discipleship doesn’t come from the pulpit or by standing at a superficial distance

-it’s done over a lunch table...

Churches today house hundreds of believers but few true disciples. Making disciples is more than witnessing to nonbelievers. It’s about building authentic relationships with our friends and helping each other follow Jesus one discussion, one conversation, one heart-to-heart talk at a time.



www.beaconhillbooks.com
COZZ978-0-8341-2300-7 \$14.99

“Henderson’s book has caused me to look at the people in my life and ask, ‘who am I investing my time, energy, and focus in?’ As a youth pastor, it’s challenged me to rethink how I spend my time when I’m with my teens, to be more intentional in my conversations and interactions with them, and to remember that discipleship happens over a long period of investment, not in a 15 minute sermon.”

—JASON MCPHERSON,
youth pastor,
Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene

 BEACON HILL PRESS
OF KANSAS CITY



www.northst.org – North St. Community Chapel Church of the Nazarene, Hingham, MA

This site includes an incredible blog announcement page. The layout requires little to no HTML knowledge. Contact the church pastor for more information.

www.quoteland.com – Finding the right quote for your sermon now becomes a bit easier at this web site. You can search hundreds of topics and resources to find a quote that will fit your preaching and teaching needs.

www.pbusa.org – Nazarene Pensions and Benefits USA

With three months remaining in the year it might be good to visit this site to update your retirement portfolio.

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

[Colossians 1:28-29]

A Word from *Matt*



“Numbers.” This past spring NPH held a Health and Wellness Fair for its employees. I went to this event thinking I was fairly healthy. But then the results came back. Let’s just say I’ve since returned to healthier eating and exercise habits due to the numbers.

There’s a couple of ways to approach the idea of numbers and church health. We can believe that numbers are an indicator or sign of reasonable health and vitality. When certain numbers are up—like morning worship and total money raised—we assume health is good. And then if numbers are down, overall health is not so good. Or we can choose to downplay an emphasis on numbers and focus more on the depth of community, service, and authenticity. With this option we don’t let numbers define our health.

Both approaches are understandable and valid. My point is that with wellness screenings or church attendance and church finance, knowing the numbers can help us evaluate our overall health. But it’s *the way* we interpret the numbers that determines how healthy our overall perspective is. When it comes to assessing our ministry as a whole we have two choices; we can either let the numbers define us, or we can work to define the numbers.

Many thanks to Pastor Michael Morris for writing our feature article for the last four editions! He’s helped us all keep what we do and who we are in healthy perspective.

— **Matthew S. Zimmer, Editor, Church Resources Manager**
Nazarene Publishing House

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE
BOX 419527, KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-6527

Communicator features. . .

STOCK NUMBER	ITEM	RETAIL PRICE	PASTOR'S DISCOUNT PRICE
COZZ978-0-8341-2310-6	Crisis Manual for Christian Schools and Youth Workers*	\$14.99	\$11.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2305-2	Foundations of Pastoral Care*	\$39.99	\$31.99
COZZ978-0-8341-7554-9	Immanuel	\$4.99	\$3.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2300-7	Making Disciples—One Conversation at a Time*	\$14.99	\$11.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2322-9	Out of the Pulpit, into the Pew*	\$11.99	\$9.59
COZZ978-0-8341-2302-1	Quantum Ministry*	\$14.99	\$11.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2271-0	Simply Praying*	\$14.99	\$11.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2303-8	So This Is Faith*	\$14.99	\$11.99
COZZVBS-2008	Custom Garage: Loving God. Serving Others	\$79.99	N/A



1.800.877.0700



www.nph.com



orders@nph.com



1.800.849.9827

* Quantity discounts available

Actual postage is charged when product is shipped. Prices subject to change without notice.