



MASTER BUILDERS FELLOWSHIP NEWS LETTER

MASTER BUILDERS TO PUBLISH MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES by Pete Beck, Editor.

After fourteen years of wonderful fellowship and building relationships, the leadership team of Master Builders has worked for over a year to define our working relationships and goals in order to knit us together a little more tightly and begin to form us into more of a kingdom building fellowship. Although we have good feelings about each other, and some enjoy the covering of five fold men coming along side their churches, it was time to really decide where we are and where we want to go as a fellowship. Great things are being undertaken, such as the Master Builders Pastors College (see report) and the great missions outreach by MWOB (see report). These need stronger help and backing. More and more opportunities for unified efforts here and abroad are presenting themselves. These endeavors need to be released and better funded to come along side our member churches and help them advance the Kingdom. Neil Silverberg, team leader, will be sending out the results of our deliberations soon for your approval and agreement

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHICAGO

By Ron Juran, Pastor, Kingdom Life House of Prayer, Rolling Meadows, IL

Transformation

In October 2006 the Holy Spirit impressed upon me to focus on building His Kingdom. His promise to me was, He would care for my personal needs and for the church that He called me to pastor.

Much has happened since then. In October 2007 a fellow area pastor and I held a conference with John Mulinde of World Trumpet Missions, (WTM). The conference title was "Coming to

Desperation for Transformation." We invited church leaders, marketplace ministers, and intercessors who had a desire to see our communities transformed for Jesus. More than forty Chicagoland ministries were represented at the three-day conference.

In December 2007 we formed Chicagoland Transformation Fellowship, (CTF). CTF is a ministry dedicated to desperately seeking God for transformation in Chicagoland. Each week a small group of us meets for prayer. The third Saturday each month we hold a larger CTF meeting. We hold these meetings in different locations each month and someone from that area leads the meeting. The three hour meetings consist of worship, prayer, vision casting, and testimonies of transformation work going on in areas throughout Chicagoland. Following the meeting we build relationships over lunch.

Local Influence: Our church is in the NW suburbs of Chicago. In November 2007 I met with our mayor and police chief and told them I was gathering the pastors of Rolling Meadows to pray for them. I asked them to give me prayer requests and let me know how else we could be of service. Now each month the mayor & police chief give me their concerns for prayer. I have pulled together a diverse group of Christian pastors from our city and we are praying in unity for God's hand to be seen in the answer to these requests. As I have built these relationships, the police chief has called for hands on assistance in two police matters.

Our goal is to see Jesus lifted up and our communities changed for His glory.

www.worldtrumpet.com

www.transformchicago.org

www.KingdomLifeHouseOfPrayer.org

A MESSAGE FROM NEIL SILVERBERG

A Blessing in Disguise

by Neil Silverberg

What a year 2008 was. It was devastating for many at least in economic terms. Many witnessed the withering away of their life-savings, the loss of homes, and the slow erosion of business capital. And the start of 2009 doesn't appear to be that different, at least in the early part of this year.

Believers, like other worldlings, are not exempt from such economic downturns. But when it comes to how we deal with it, we should be categorically different from those whose hope is only in this world. And not only should we be different we must be if we hope to impact our generation with the reality of Christ. In fact, I am firmly persuaded that God has allowed this economic disaster as an amazing opportunity to confront the world with the reality of Christ. In simple terms, in the midst of economic disaster the body of Christ has a golden opportunity to hold forth the word of life both in word and deed.

Many of us can remember what it was like immediately following 9/11. Churches were packed and people seemed open and ready to listen to anyone who spoke with assurance about God and spirituality. The reason was obvious: When the institutions that people trust in are shaken to their core they instinctively turn to higher values to compensate. Unfortunately, most people give little thought to eternal things until the things they trust in are in jeopardy.

That we are in such a period at this time cannot be doubted. In the face of grave economic concerns, people are once again turning to higher values. There was a reported increase in the number of people visiting religious and spiritual web sites in 2008. Many people are once again considering those things that they so easily ignore when things are rosy. Undoubtedly, this gives the Church of Jesus Christ an unprecedented opportunity. But she will not herself reap this opportunity unless she herself is reconciled to the greater values. In a word, this downturn is an open door for many believers to ascertain if they really are living with kingdom values.

I sat with a man not long ago who presently had 20 homes in foreclosure. As I attempted to commiserate, he stopped me and assured me that this has been the greatest time for him spiritually. He reported that he was discovering that his values were all wrong and that he had been caught up in consumerism. I have heard many other people say the same in recent days. We must face the fact that many Christians while touting the words of Jesus, have not been living the reality of, "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

It is so easy to reduce those words (seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness) to little more than having a devotional life or going to church on Sunday. When Jesus gave those words though the context was that disciples were not to live as the world does in constant anxiety and worry about material things. They meant much more than simply tithing—they call us to a radical reordering of our lives in which consumerism does not rule us but God's interests. Jesus was freeing us from the tyranny to things so that we could serve Him in this life and further his kingdom. Its not that he was naive about our needing money in this life, he knows that we do. But in a world that determines value by things, he radically reorients us to Himself so that things no longer possess us.

This is easy to teach but then God lets the bottom fall out we have a wonderful opportunity to discover what is really ruling us! And if we pass the test letting Him deliver us from the kingdom of Mammon, it opens a door to live in God's peace and thus exhibit to the world the life that God designed humans to live.

In many ways, I think the days we are living in are much like the days of Elijah when God commanded him to go to a brook and sustained him there (I Kings 17). Elijah had prophesied famine on the land, and he himself was not exempt from its effects when the word came to pass. But God had provision for Elijah which was the result of radical obedience. God used unconventional means (dirty birds, a brook, and a Gentile widow) to feed him. As long as he followed the Lord closely, Elijah was cared for.

Many believers have known that eventually America's economic excesses would come home to

roost. But now, like Elijah, we ourselves are not exempt from our word coming to pass. The question is, 'What will we do now?' Will this lead us to a new level of obedience to God (who remains unchanged by our circumstances) or will we panic like other worldlings? I am convinced that if we are obedient we will not only be sustained, it will usher in a new opportunity for kingdom advancement such as we have not previously known. To God be the glory.

"IF YOU ARE NOT FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM YOU WILL BE FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM !"
VINCE LOMBARDI, FAMOUS LEADER OF MEN

REPORT FROM DEAN OF MASTER BUILDERS PASTORS' COLLEGE

Master Builders Pastors' College is entering its second year of operation under the wider umbrella of the Master Builders Training Institute. MBTI has three goals.

- To assist local churches with training and equipping pastoral and eldership candidates.
- To provide quality courses and practical training for the church in general.
- To train qualified instructors in every region who can multiply the positive effects of the material and skills presented in our training events.

The Pastors' College combines distance academic courses with on-site practical intensives. For a complete listing of these, you should visit our website at www.mbfellowship.com. The distance courses cover fundamental doctrinal areas related to the pastoral ministry; whereas, the purpose of the intensives is more impartational in nature. The weekend intensives provide our students with small group "face time" with pastors and leaders who have modeled a spirit of excellence in the area they teach. Rather than simply being a series of lectures, the intensives provide time for

seeing ministry in action, asking questions and getting practical feedback.

Our students so far have had a very favorable response to what is being taught, and we are making improvements as we gain experience in how to best accomplish our mission.

MBTI offers three training events each year in addition to the school which are open to the entire church.

- World Christian Strategy Seminars use similar material to the well known Missions Perspectives course. This event will broaden and deepen a person's understanding of what it means to fulfill the Great Commission.
- Dynamic Church Planting International Training - These events will make you a more knowledgeable and better equipped church planter or mentor of church planters.
- Ministry Advantage - Learn how this dynamic ministry can come alongside your church to assist you to fulfill your God-given mission.

We invite you to investigate these training and equipping opportunities in greater detail by visiting the Master Builders website or by contacting Pete Beck III, the dean. (office@lifeatliberty.org)



REPORT FROM THE MISSIONS STRATEGY TEAM LEADER

By Buddy Walker

2008 REPORT A STRATEGY FOR
BUILDING TOGETHER

MWOB facilitates opportunities for leaders to go beyond fellowship into combining of their forces for the advancement of God's kingdom.

Why build together? To create synergy and accomplish more.

The local church receives a spiritual impartation through those who return from mission outreaches with fresh vision and fire

It reflects a kingdom vision.

MWOB provides planning, networking, training and coordination required in the organization of effective cooperative missions projects done with excellence.

OUTREACHES PLANNED FOR
2009

Iquitos, Peru June 13-22

Pereira, Colombia July 6-14

Haiti (TBA)

More information: [HYPERLINK](#)

["http://www.missions-without-borders.com/"](http://www.missions-without-borders.com/) <http://www.missions-without-borders.com/>

A TEACHING BY MARK FREER

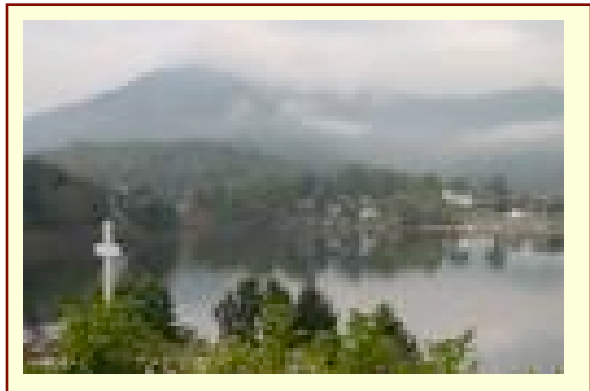
The Extreme Limitation of Human Knowledge

At the end of Romans chapter eleven, the apostle Paul is praising God for the unsearchable depths of the riches of His wisdom, knowledge, judgments and paths. He then makes a contrast between God's infinite superiority and man's finite smallness and ignorance by asking three questions that all have the same answer. The three questions

are: "Who has known the mind of the Lord?"; "Who has been his counselor?"; and "Who has ever given to God that God should repay him?". The answer to all three questions is "no one!".

Job is a good example of the first question. Job was sitting in complete misery and his three friends came by to attempt to explain to Job what has happened to him. They were trying to explain "Why bad things happen to good people." Job's friends are a lot like you and me when we assume we know what's going on in other people's lives and try and give them pat answers. Job's friends assumed that this is a moral universe of causes and effects and that God who both created and guides the world is a moral God. They said everything has a purpose and because its God's purpose it must be good. They also said evil does not triumph and virtue is rewarded. The question is why was God so unhappy with Job's friends? God said, "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?" (Job 38:2). The problem was that these men, as wise as they were, lacked the knowledge to discern what God was doing. These men knew nothing of what was happening on a cosmic level. They were ignorant of the invisible cosmic nature of the struggle. God rebuked them for their ignorance not for what they didn't know (they didn't know what was going on between God and Satan) but because they didn't understand or know even the things they could see.

Here's the point. If these men couldn't explain what they can see how could they hope to explain what they couldn't see? Who can probe God's mind? Who can contribute to God's perfect knowledge in any way? All these men could do is shut up and admit total ignorance. How much of what we say is like Job's friends? How much do we darken God's counsel with words without knowledge? Paul told Timothy to "Follow the pattern of the sound (healthy) words that you have heard from me". . . "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth". . . "Preach the word." I know that my knowledge is limited so I want to make sure what I speak is the word of God and not fables or myths.



JUNALUSKA

Master Builders International Family Meeting and Conference will take place at the beautiful Methodist Junaluska Conference Center near Asheville, NC on the first week of August, 2009. This is a family camp with lots of things for the kids and grown ups too. The theme will be:

"KINGDOM MOBILIZATION"

Include your whole family in the experience of gathering with others from Master Builders to be refreshed, challenged, trained and excited about serving the Lord. This year's International Meeting at beautiful Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, will feature the ministry of Phil Cana, a prophetic brother from England. As always, worship will take you into the Lord's presence, teaching will fill you up and ministry will stir up His call and anointing in your life. The theme of "Kingdom Mobilization" has never been more appropriate for the times in which we live. Put it on your calendar to join us August 3-6 for this extremely important time together.

(Costs are similar to Lake Yale with younger children free and food much better. Further information will be posted to you as the time approaches which will include costs and the various accommodations available - including efficiency apartments for your own cooking.)

Visit www.thechurchoflife.org for more info on Church of LIFE

ATTENTION MASTER BUILDER PASTORS !

Dear Pastor,
Greetings and blessings. This is a reminder that we are having our second annual MB Pastors' Retreat March 12th-13th in Atlanta, Georgia. If you are coming please email Joe Brown at pastor@thechurchoflife.org.

Also, you must register yourself at the hotel. This time of refreshing and fellowship will be Thursday, March 12 and Friday, March 13 in Atlanta. We will be staying at the Wellesley Inn Atlanta Airport, where there is 24hour shuttle service to the airport and an easy to find location.

The cost for rooms is \$70 no matter how many in the room. Please make your reservation directly with the hotel by calling 404 762-5111 and asking for the Master Builders special rate for these dates. You can also make the reservation by email to marquitha@wellesleyinnatlanta.com.

I am writing you this note to also say that this year we are encouraging you to bring your wife if you wish. This will allow them to have a time of fellowship both with us and with each other. We have no scheduled times for the women to meet and will have them in some of the meeting times with us as well as give them ample time for fellowship with each other. We understand that not everyone can bring their wives, but it is open if you can. Please plan on coming if your wife is unable to make it;

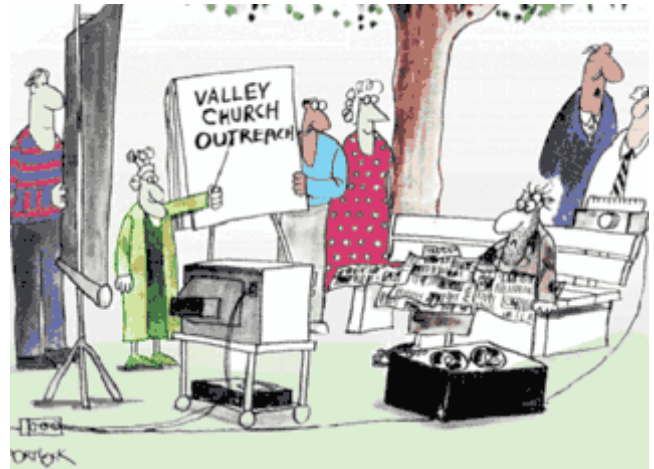
Looking forward to a rich time of fellowship and ministry together.
Neil Silverberg

Important---MB Pastors -----from Joe and Sid

Several times in the past we have sent emails with a request for an answer and find that a few don't respond. If you have changed your email address within the past year please let us know at pastor@churchoflife.org or sostet2001@yahoo.com



"And this petition requests changing 'sinner' to 'person who is morally challenged.' "



"Remember the good ol' days when we'd just give 'em a Gospel of John?"



"Clapping or nonclapping?"



"Lord, I lay before you the prayer concerns voiced this morning . . . even though most of 'em sound like whining to me."

FEEL FREE TO FORWARD ME ANY INTERESTING NEWS WITH PHOTOS REFERRING TO YOUR CHURCH OR MINISTRY THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE BRETHREN. THANKS. AND REMEMBER, "LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

Pete
jbeck15@triad.rr.com