



MASTER BUILDERS FELLOWSHIP QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

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EDITOR: Pete Beck, Jr.

Please send Articles and Photos to jbeck15@triad.rr.com.
 Photos of past MB events would be especially treasured!

Decision to publish or not is made by editor.

SEE OUR WEB SITE AT @ WWW.MBFELLOWSHIP.COM

A WONDERFUL TOOL

By: Mark Medley
 Trinity Chapel

Sometime ago I was asked to participate in a ministry function that I have absolutely no aptitude in. It was assumed that since I do one thing relatively well I would be a good candidate for something else. I politely turned down the opportunity, although years ago I probably would have gone for it, mostly out of my pride and insecurity. I don't have time for that any more. I have learned through the years that I don't need to do

more things, I need to do fewer things excellently.

We are good at what we are good at. We are not good at what we are not good at. Knowing the difference can save a lot of frustration and usher us into effective ministry. I believe that God made us unique as ministers and that when our soul matches our role, we make the biggest impact for the kingdom of God.

A couple of years ago, our leadership team at Trinity Chapel in Knoxville was introduced to a tool called StrengthsFinder. It helped us to transition from a team in name only to a true team. We began to recognize and appreciate our unique contribution to the ministry team. We were then able to release each other FROM what we are not so good at and release each other TO what we are good at.

We have introduced StrengthsFinder to a significant portion of our congregation. Many of our ministry teams have been revolutionized.

The leadership team of Master Builders is making the StrengthsFinder tool available to pastors within the network, along with a coaching interview to help pastors understand their strengths better. I encourage all pastors to take advantage of this tool. It may introduce new found liberty in your ministry and church teams. It did for us.

OVERSIGHT? OASIS OR MIRAGE?

By Pete Beck Jr.

IN SOME CASES IT IS A PURE MIRAGE, BUT IT CAN BE AN OASIS IN A DESERT SITUATION!

THE MIRAGE:

A mirage is something that looks very real until you come right up to it, and then it disappears; for it was not there in the first place. I am told they are commonplace in the deserts of North Africa and other places, appearing as pools of lovely water to a thirsty traveler, only to disappoint.

Over the years I have had pastors stand in front of their churches on a Sunday morning and introduce me. It would go something like this. "Brother Pete is with us today. Most of you know him. He is my pastor and the apostle (or oversight) to this church. When we have a threat, or a problem we can't solve, we can call him." I always marvel at how easily these words come out of the mouth and how impressed many of the people are. Then a crisis comes. I am solicited by the pastor and/or one of the elders. The pastor does not agree with my assessment of the situation, or that I should have been called or the counsel given. Perhaps the pastor doesn't really want outside interference in the particular situation, but it is one which is filled with future problems for him and the unity of the church and really needs some interdiction. I am cut off and really excluded from that point on. I find out pretty quickly that the "oversight" is really a mirage.

It is sort of cool, and in vogue to seem to have oversight, but not always convenient

continued on page five:

KNOW OUR CHURCHES

**OPEN HAND OF GOD, EAST MEADOW, NY
CHRISTIAN PREDA ORDAINED AS NEW
PASTOR: by Bob Canter and Christian Preda**



NEIL ORDAINING CRISTI PREDA

The Open Hand of God was established in 1983 as a result of a Bible Study that met for a few years before that in Dr. Robert Canter's apartment during his residency years at Nassau University Medical Center. Bob Canter was born again while in medical school as a result of a radio ministry outreach to the Jews. He has been serving the Lord Jesus ever since and serving the body of Christ in East Meadow at the Open Hand of God Church as the Senior Pastor.

On September 10, 2001 our Apostle, Robert Ewing, went home to be with the Lord. Pastor Bob had had a relationship with Pete Beck spanning several decades and after Robert Ewing passed away the church joined Master Builders. Pastor Bob's son-in-law, Cristian E. Preda, started serving as an elder in the church shortly after his arrival from Romania in 2001. Pastor Cristi met Pastor Bob's daughter, Stefanie, when she was on a mission trip to Romania. Cristi and Stefanie became engaged in 2000. Cristi moved to America in April of 2001 and he

and Stefanie were married on June 17, 2001. In 2004 Pete Beck laid hands on Pastor Cristi and ordained him as the Assistant Pastor.

The Open Hand of God Church was one of the first churches to support a pastor and a church in Romania after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Little did they know that they were investing in their future pastor and the pastor's future son-in-law.

On May 17, 2009 after 2 years of seeking the Lord, Pastor Bob, together with Pete Beck and Neil Silverberg, agreed it was from the Lord that it was time for a switch in the leadership of the church. Neil ordained Pastor Cristi as the Senior Pastor. Since that date, Pastor Cristi has been working on developing the church's strategy and vision for reaching the Kingdom mandate by reintroducing the church to the East Meadow Community,

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

MBPC REPORT

The **Master Builders Pastors' College** is designed to assist local churches in preparing and further equipping pastors and elders for successful ministry roles. Local churches can utilize MBPC in a variety of ways. **Here is how it works.** If a pastor has a person who is a valid pastoral or eldership candidate who could profit by enrolling in MBPC, he should download an application form (Link is be-

low.) and send it to the Dean, Pete Beck III. Upon approval, the candidate will submit an application to the college, using a downloadable form. (See below.) Upon acceptance, that person may enroll in the college, as a pastoral-track student or in the eldership track. Both are two-year programs, which consist of distance learning courses and weekend intensives. The pastoral track includes all courses listed below, but the eldership track can be customized to fit the needs of the individual elder or elder candidate. In some cases, credit may be given to pastoral students for previous work done in another setting, such as with TCOM (Trinity College of Ministry). This situation will be approached on an individual basis.

Another option for students is to enroll in the college on an "audit" basis, taking only those courses or intensives, which are best suited for their situation. In this case, no credit will be earned unless the student later enrolls in one of the programs. At that point, previous work will count towards completion. The Dean and local pastor will be involved with the applicant in setting up a customized program. More information, including costs and dates, can be found on the MBTI website or by [clicking here](#). The information for 2010 will be posted once the current school year has been completed.

Course Offerings

2010

Distance Learning



- Systematic Theology I
- Hermeneutics
- Spiritual Formation
- Psychology of Redemption

Intensives

- The Heart of a Leader
- Pastoral Ministry

2011

Distance Learning

- Systematic Theology II
- The Unity of Scripture
- Church History
- The New Testament Church

Intensives

- Church Organizational Structures and Processes
- Homiletics

The Application Process

Here are the steps that need to be taken to enroll.

- **The process must be initiated by the pastor of the local church.** If a person wishes to enroll in the Pastors' College, he or she must first talk to his or her pastor.
- The pastor then submits a pastor's application to the dean. In those cases in which the pastor is the enrollee, this step can be skipped.
- The dean will call the pastor to discuss the candidate..
- Upon initial approval, the pastor or dean will ask the student to submit an application form to the col-

lege along with a \$25 application fee.

- Upon acceptance by the MBPC board, the student must then pay a \$25 enrollment fee which is good for a two-year period. If any courses remain to be completed after the initial two-year enrollment, another \$25 re-enrollment fee must be paid to extend the enrollment for another two years.

- At this point the student will need to purchase any required books and contact any teachers. Usually course information will be available online.

We recommend that you use the MS Word document, complete the form on your computer, and e-mail it to the Liberty Church office - office@lifeatliberty.org. This will save you postage costs and speed up the process considerably. Otherwise, you will need to download either version of the documents, print them, complete them by hand or typewriter and mail them via the USPS. The address is on the form. The links to the documents are found below. You will also find a link that will give you more detailed information about costs, courses, books, schedules and policies.

If you have any questions, please [email Pastor Pete Beck III](#).

Important Links

[Master Builders Official Website](#)

[Additional Information about the College](#)

PDF Documents

[Overview of the School](#)

[Vision, Values and Vehicle](#)

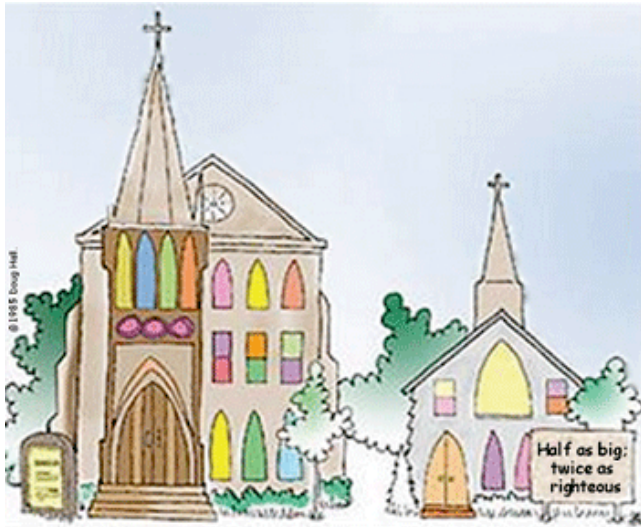
[Pastor's Recommendation Form](#)

[Student Application Form](#)

Microsoft Word Documents

[Pastor's Recommendation Form](#)

[Student Application Form](#)



have become *Certified Trainers* and we are now in position to provide regional training opportunities with the goal of every leader being trained in Church Planting. **I encourage you to make plans to attend a training event in 2010.**

Our short-term mission outreaches assist in the launching of new churches and participants return home with a greater awareness of and passion for church planting. Very soon we will announce trips scheduled for 2010 which will provide an opportunity for churches to participate together in major initiatives which incorporate networking, training, evangelism, relief and church planting strategies. We have also developed an introductory mission training course called the “*World Christian Strategy Training.*”

Contact me for more information on training and outreach opportunities. Buddy Walker
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352-978-0509

MOMENTUM BUILDING

By Buddy Walker (Missions Strategy Team Leader)

We are seeing some forward momentum building in the area of church planting at home and abroad.

Three tracks of training (Church Planting Essentials, Becoming a Mentor and Churches Planting Churches) have been introduced into the MB network. A number of our leaders

Oversight: Mirage or Oasis-continued from page two:

when put into practice. We quickly find out if we really can submit to one another in the fear of the Lord and for the good of the church.

WHAT IS OVERSIGHT?

“Oversight” is a noun describing the act of or the result of overseeing. It applies to leaders of a team; pastors, elders and fivefold persons who work together to lead and safeguard a church. It describes a trust relationship, an arrangement formed from true relationships built

over a sufficient period of time to find out character, gifts, doctrine, manner of life, purpose, stability and faith in crisis. (2 Tim 2:10) In one respect it implies "ruling". Hebrews 13:17- "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

Another is the aspect of "shepherding". Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

Another is serving. 1 Peter 5:2 "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;"

Ruling, shepherding and serving all imply a relationship. Paul wrote in 1 Cor 9:1 "Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord."

Jesus said the sheep know their shepherd. Oversight is a calling to service, not a position, and is really a result of being deeply involved and causing a relationship of trust as described above, usually by a called and proven five-fold minister. If you do not fully trust someone and what the Lord has done and is doing in that person, then for heaven's sake don't proclaim to your church that that person is your pastor and apostle, or in over-

sight! This is tantamount to trying to validate yourself by association to what you think is someone else's value in the Kingdom. When the crunch comes and you do not honor that proclaimed relationship, something goes awry in the Spirit. A really bad message of instability is sent to the church. You will probably also reap what is sown in this situation. It is far and away better to have no proclaimed oversight, than to put forth a sham to your people.

In Jeremiah 42 we see the sad story of when the leaders of the remnant left in Judah by Nebuchadnezzar wished to escape to Egypt. They submitted their request to Jeremiah and said, "Whatever the Lord says to us, we will do." (Verse 5). After 9 days, the word of the Lord came. It wasn't what they wanted to hear!

They rebelled and went to Egypt anyway, and they all died there as prophesied! It was a case of swearing to their own hurt and then turning their hands away from the plow. This is being double minded. A double minded man receives nothing. It was wrong to ask Jeremiah to intercede and swear their obedience and then do the opposite. They had given him authority in the matter. They were free not to before they did it.

It is better to test men, go slowly and be sure of the trust relationship and that God is really in it, before inviting or claiming someone as oversight to you or your church. No relationship is proved until the test comes. If you have been unsure or deceitful in laying hands suddenly on someone, the Lord will eventually expose

that, and not only you, but the sheep will suffer.

As a side thought here, how many marriages end up in divorce because a man or woman swears something at a wedding ceremony, either deceitfully or because of a lack of knowledge of the other person's real character and intent. Loyalty becomes a real issue without commitment, and commitment is difficult or even impossible without trust. Character is always a key to total commitment. That is why we can totally commit ourselves to Christ our Lord, because we know His character.

OASIS

The classic idea of an oasis is a place of water and shade in the midst of a dry desert. If you are traveling and run out of water, you will probably die if you are unable to find help and water.

SUBMISSION: BEING "UNDER" A MISSION TOGETHER.

The idea behind true oversight is better reflected in shepherding and serving. Submission (associated in the mind with "ruling") is a scary word to most American churchmen. Phil Cana from England, pointed out that the word "submission" really means at its basic root "under the mission"! This is a neat way to say what ruling ought to mean in the Kingdom. **If my dedication is to the "mission" of Christ as expressed in a local church, and the pastor and elders have the same dedication to the same mission, then we are all "under the mission."** We are therefore submitted

one to another. This is what Paul meant when he said to follow him as he followed Christ. This is the very heart of oversight. If the pastor, elders and congregation trust that the oversight person only has Christ's agenda, is trustworthy and has the church at heart, then everything flows. There will may be personality differences and different ways and methods of arriving at a solution, but the solution that brings Glory to the Lord is always the objective and if we see that and know and trust each other, we can survive a confrontation. A lot of what causes rifts is in the realm of flesh and pursuit of an agenda that doesn't quite match up with the Lord's and the principles of His Kingdom. A great commandment of the Lord Jesus which is gathered under the general commandment to love one another, is the command to "forbear one another", especially as it applies to leaders:

Eph 4:1-3 "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" We tend to forget that Christ's agenda (mission) and the particular mission of the local church as it coincides with His mission is where we all must submit one to another. It is pretty easy to discern when some one is swerving from "the mission". When we address such moments in the Spirit is when we find out who is mature and who isn't.

Again, trust is the key; trust in one's life orientation, manner of life, purpose (is it

to follow Christ or something else?) as Paul wrote in 2 Tim 3:10 “ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.”

You may notice, that he mentions what he suffered at Lystra. (Acts 14:19) What a display of faith and dedication to mission. Paul was stoned and left for dead by the angry Jews. He probably was actually dead, as stoning was designed to achieve that purpose. The young men gathered and prayed and he, Paul, rose up and went right back into the same city. I don't know about you, but I could trust and follow a man like that. Faithfulness and steadfastness in crisis is a must for any leader. You must find out about him in a hard place before you can put total confidence in him. The same runs true in combat; ask any Marine!

There is a great and desperate need for real fatherly oversight in churches. Someone to come along side local church leadership in times of need for good counsel and help in solving situations where the local pastor and elders may need some protection. Here I really hope you will stop and read my article on the need for relationships. You may download it from two websites; either www.mbfellowship.org or www.apostlesheart.com. It is the tragic story of the people of Laish who stood without help when the enemy came. They lost their identity and freedom.

Oversight should be viewed as trusted help and counsel: part of the leadership team of the church. They are not rulers in the sense of dictating to the church, but neither are they to be ignored or taken lightly in their counsel. If the relationship is what it should be, neither should they be discarded when their counsel is difficult to swallow. Where hearts are right, the wisdom of the Lord will filter into the whole situation and everyone who is not rebellious should be satisfied.

In Master Builders we urge every church leadership team to work on building the necessary quality relationships with some five fold minister in Master Builders who displays oversight wisdom and proven trustworthiness and character and who has made the effort to become involved and to build a trust relationship with the leadership and members of the church. This may take some time (and should). But every church should be working toward this as a goal.

MOMENTS FROM THE PAST
2001 Conference- A Father in Action





The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth by Brownscombe

"Our harvest being gotten in , our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together."

Edward Winslow

Detail from Brownscombe's First Thanksgiving at Plymouth:

In early autumn of 1621, the 53 surviving Pilgrims celebrated their successful harvest, as was the English custom. During this time, "many of the Indians coming... amongst the rest their great king Massasoit, with some ninety men."

That 1621 celebration is remembered as the "First Thanksgiving in Plymouth."

The Pilgrims did call this harvest festival a "Thanksgiving," although they did give thanks to God. To them, a Day of Thanksgiving was purely religious. The first recorded religious Day of Thanksgiving was held in 1623 in response to a providential rainfall.

LET'S ALWAYS BE THANKFUL, NOT JUST ON "THANKSGIVING DAY IN NOVEMBER, BUT 24-7-365! ; ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING!

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Lord, so often times, as any other day
When we sit down to our meal and pray

We hurry along and make fast the blessing
Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing

We're slaves to the olfactory overload
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold

But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for

For my family, my health, a nice soft bed
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head

I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know

Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure

That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace

So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided
And bless each and every person invited

Amen!
--Scott Weseman

