



May 2012

ON TARGET



One of the most difficult things I had to deal with when I was a pastor was conflict in the church. Whether I was at the center of the conflict or the conflict was between other members of the church, conflict was a source of great pain and was a major deterrent to the church fulfilling its mission.

In April I had the privilege of helping to train a group of men from around Arizona and the country to be future Transitional Pastors. A part of my assignment was to give them one hour of training in the area of conflict management. We came to recognize that most of our churches have no idea what the Bible says about dealing with conflict and have no culture that permits biblical church discipline. I know of a church where the congregation was forced to deal with a divisive person and remove him from the fellowship. They did the best they could to do this as biblically as possible and there are still people in the church who think that if you cross the pastor you will get kicked out of the church. They really don't understand what was done or why.

Pastors and church leaders, you need to be preparing your church to deal with problems. Pretending that you will never have problems is more than naïve; it is foolish. Two things can help prepare the church to deal biblically with problems and conflict:

Teach the biblical principles on conflict management. Matthew 5 and 18 contain a good deal of information on this subject, but they are certainly not the only passages that guide us in this area. John 13 tells us that the world will recognize us as followers of Jesus by our love for one another and 1 Corinthians 13 helps us see the practical definition of Christian love. In the book of Titus we find God's instruction on dealing with a divisive person (a three strike rule). We could go on and on. Peacemakers Ministry has curriculum to teach these biblical principles to the entire church. When should you teach biblical principles of conflict management? You can do it anytime, but I would suggest that the best time to teach them is when the church is not embroiled in conflict. You can't just teach this once; you will have to repeat these teachings over and over again.

Live peacemaking. Leaders must show others what it means to live out the biblical teaching on peacemaking and conflict management. People need the biblical teaching, but they must see how it is lived out in day to day life and in the midst of our relationships with one another. If we as leaders are not living this, who will? Remember that Jesus lived everything he taught, everything.

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Let us practice that ministry inside the church.

Your Brother,

Rik Danielsen

Special Guest Speakers!

Pastors' Fellowship Luncheon

Join us in an Evangelism Round-Table discussion with **Dr. Paul Smith** from FSBC, Chandler and an adjunct professor at Golden Gate Seminary and **Dr. Monty Patton** from Mountain Ridge BC, Glendale. This will be a great time to catch a vision for what God can do through our churches in winning the lost to Christ.

May 10th at Robert Rd. BC

11:30 AM

Email your RSVP to Susan@ybaoffice.com or call 928.759.2246

ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR

May 2012

- 4-5 ASBC Hispanic Women's Conference in Avondale
- 7-8 ASBC State Mission Team in Scottsdale
- 10 Pastor's Fellowship Lunch 11:30 at Robert Rd. BC
- 10 Administrative Council Meeting 1:30 at Robert Rd. BC
- 13 Mother's Day
- 21-22 ASBC Convention Council
- 23-25 ASBC Summer Mission Orientation in Tempe
- 28 Memorial Day

CHURCH EVENTS

May 2012

27 Mountain Saddle Band will be in concert at Mountain View BC at 5:30 PM. The concert is free! Enjoy refreshments after the concert. For more info: www.mtviewbaptist.com

CHURCH NEWS

From First Southern Baptist Church Mayer

FSBC Mayer's third annual Easter SonRise service had 20 in attendance! Each year it grows and grows! What a blessing to share the morning of our Savior's Resurrection with our community!

Mayer Days is May 12, 2012. FSBC-Mayer's Women Ministry will co-sponsor a booth with Reaching Out in Love Ministry at the community center in Mayer, and will also have some items available at the church. What a wonder time to minister to the lost in Mayer, without them even knowing it

From Bagdad Southern Baptist Church

Our youth - TEAM LIFE (Teens Experiencing A Meaningful Life), will be taking part in the 30 hour famine to raise funds for food for World Vision, on May 18th and 19th.

We will be working on floats for the 4th of July parade, and handing out flyers for our VBS. VBS will be held from 9:00 to noon on July 9 to 13.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about our Association please visit our website:

yavbaptists.com

Rik Danielsen

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