



Sunday Edition

Penn-Del Tips

The official newsletter of the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware

Visit us on the web at www.abmopad.org

A Saturday to remember...

The American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware spent a wonderful day in Shippensburg. From morning devotions (see the recap of TODAY's devotions below), through the workshops and finally to a powerful message from Gordon Douglas, the day had it all.

Following the election of officers for the coming year, three past-presidents of ABMOPAD gave testimonies about their time of service and how they were blessed to be part of the men's ministries. Don Bolton noted that if he had not stepped forward, he never would have met so many laymen committed to Christ. Lance Parson told us not to ignore God's calling and if you feel the pull—respond to it.

The youth presented a skit based on making decisions and trying to follow God's leading. The skit ended on the

poignant note that not making a choice is, in fact, making your choice not to follow him.

Finally, Gordon told us that God is calling us to engage in battle—and it's going to get messy. We need to train for war against evil, but no matter what, we will win, because we are in Jesus' army. As soldiers of Christ, we must be together, learn together, train together and fight together. Ultimately, we need to trust God and listen for His orders.

He told us that Desire, Talent and Opportunity are what is required for a successful mission. We don't have to be the best to do the best.

No matter how long it takes—days, months or years, God has a plan for you and you can do it!

Sunday Devotions Recap

Rev. Bill Scott shares: Some of you know that puppetry has been my hobby, and an extension of my ministry. While it is not a perfect analogy, the puppeteer/ puppet image illustrates certain aspects of the relationship between God and humanity.

Just as the puppet is designed for a purpose, so each of us has been created to be a part of God's plan. The puppet, by its self, is useless until the puppeteer animates it. Without the new life in Christ, and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, we are unable to fulfill our purpose.

When Psalms 46:1 reminds us that "God isour strength", it recognizes the dynamic of God's indwelling presence. Not only does God, as our refuge, secure us from outside dangers, He supplies the dynamic which energizes us in our weakness for action in His service.

God is also an "ever present help in trouble", which suggests that when we face problems:

When we remember Immanuel ("God with us")

- God is ready to be found
- God is "enough" for any situation
- God has a proven track record of helping His people
- He makes it easier to deal with everything
- He improves any situation we face
- He supports us in crisis
- He provides direction amidst confusion
- He meets our needs

God is our refuge, our strength, our help.

Attendance Awards

- Founder's Award (churches under 175 members) - First Baptist Church, Hollidaysburg
- President's Award (most first year registrations) - First Baptist Church, Hollidaysburg—5 First Time Attendees
- Past President's Award (most total registrations) - Calvary Baptist, Newark – 24 attendees.

Checkout Procedures

- Linens should be placed in your pillow cases and brought to the TV lounge area on the first floor
- When you check out, make sure you turn in your key to ABMOPAD registration personnel in the CUB. These keys will cost you \$100 if you lose one.
- Keep your conference meal swipe card so you are able to eat lunch before leaving.
- Please complete your evaluation forms and drop them off in the registration area when you turn in your key. If you need more time to complete the evaluation form, you can mail it to the address shown on the form.
- The blue lanyard, bag, notebook and pen you received at registration are all yours to keep.
- Have a safe trip home!

Congratulations to the 2014 Layman of the Year Mr. Donald Claypoole, Jr.



On Saturday evening, the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware honored Mr. Donald Claypoole as the 2014 Layman of the Year. Donald has been a faithful servant of the Lord for many years performing work in his home church and abroad in Haiti.

Don was joined onstage by the past Laymen of the Year and thanked those who have been very supportive of him in his Christian walk. All who know Don have said what a great selection he is for Layman of the Year.

Join us in congratulating Don!

Rev. Dr. Kevin Walden writes, "The workshops I led today focused around coming alongside your pastor. We used Exodus 17 as our text: The story of Moses being helped by Aaron and Hur. We shared with each other about the importance of men coming alongside and encouraging their pastoral leaders. They shared how they needed to take the initiative to build a relationship with their pastor and not just wait for the pastor to reach out to them. The most meaningful moment came at the end when every man took turns to pray for their pastors. We spent 20 minutes just in prayer. Thank you Lord for this experience! It was a blessing!"

From The Editor

Recently, a neighbor called asking if I had a good drill. They had recently purchased a set of bunk beds at an auction and were having trouble getting the screws in. She showed me the bed and how far they had gotten and that the screws were only about half driven in. So I put my drill-driver on it and cranked it down. She said it was great and asked if I would finish, so I proceeded to continue. As I got the first one completed, I noted that the bed seemed awfully rickety. Upon closer examination, the screws that "came with" the bed were standard 4 inch decking screws. I noted that there were holes drilled in the frame that lined up with holes in the headboards that would accept a nut and bolt. A previous owner had somehow lost the original hardware and decided to try to put it together with replacement hardware that, while it held it together, weren't really the best thing for the job. I went to the hardware store and picked up some bolts, nuts and washers in the appropriate size. Once I bolted the bed together with the proper hardware, it was very solid and I had no fear that they would fall apart when the kids went to sleep on them.

These beds have a good foundation. They are well designed and well built. The headboards, footboards, frame rails and slats are all solid wood. But what held them together was a poor substitute for the proper things. They were designed for nuts, bolts and washers, but they were held together weakly. We can be the same way. No matter how solid we are in our Christian foundations, if we

put our faith in the wrong things, we are held together weakly and while we may seem to be together, when some weight is put on us, we can fall apart.

To draw a parallel, the bolt is like God. He is in us, through us and fits exactly right. The nut is like Jesus, as he holds us to God. And like the nut and bolt, they mesh perfectly and lock tight. They bind us and hold us together just like we should be. Finally, the washers are like The Holy Spirit. While we can be held to God and Jesus without it, The Holy Spirit is a comforter, a buffer if you will. The washers are always overlooked when assembling things, but they are an important piece of the puzzle. The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit work together to hold us together, even when we don't realize it. Romans 8:26-27 says, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

The beds, though assembled correctly and solidly bear the scars of the ill-fated attempt at the wrong fasteners. Even with the extra holes in the wood, the joints are strong and the beds are strong. We all have a past and bear scars, either physical or emotional from bad decisions. We may have put our faith in the wrong things or even clung to a false gospel. When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, holding tight to God through Him and the Holy Spirit, while the scars may remain, we are solid and built to last.