



Saturday Edition

Penn-Del Tips

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

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Thanks for a GREAT Friday!

Our 61st Retreat kicked off with a flurry of activity. When registration officially opened at 2 PM, the men were ready and raring to start. Despite the on-going construction on campus, everyone seemed to get to the places they needed to go. A big thank you to the registration staff for all of the advance work and on-site support. And it was a great fellowship tool running the golf-cart shuttle between the buildings.

Our evening program presented an immediate challenge with a maintenance issue on the main projector, but since God has the power to provide, we only needed to shift our focus a little to be able to see the words and video associated with the program. You'll be happy to know, that as of the time of publication, the main projector is functioning and tested.

Following some great music by the praise band and a wonderful original composition by Mark, the Regional Pastors got together and presented a session on being

a "band of brothers." It's great to have brothers to share our joys and sorrows. Through it all, we support one another, but above all, God "has our rear guard" - he's "covering our six." AMEN!

The interaction among the men was great, with some fun questions and some fairly serious ones as well. We were asked to answer such innocuous "get to know you" questions as "what is your favorite TV show and why?" or "What was your first car?" That led us to such questions as "What is one quality you really value in a friend?" and "What keeps you from experiencing more of God's Presence?" Cards with all of the questions were passed out for reference and we encourage everyone to get one if you didn't already.

The praise band led us through our theme song as the men departed through "prayer tunnels." Everyone who travelled the tunnel was personally prayed over by pastors from all over the region. That is what it's like to be in a "band of brothers" in Christ's love.

Saturday Devotions with Rev. Bill Scott

For those who couldn't make it to morning devotions, Bill was kind enough to provide a recap for publication:

When Jesus addressed His disciples in Matthew 28:18, He said "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." On the basis of that affirmation, He issued the Great Commission.

What is sometimes overlooked is that the word "power" should better be translated "authority". Because of all that Jesus accomplished in fulfilling the will of the Father and in light of His complete obedience, the Father gave Jesus all authority in both the heavenly and earthly realms.

Authority, by definition, involves the possession of power and the right to use it. We grew up with parental authority. We learned about other authority figures-- baby-sitters, teachers, managers, bosses, law enforcement figures, and government employees. Their power was not necessarily in their physical strength, their training in the martial arts, or the weaponry at their disposal. Their real power came as a representative of something greater than themselves. They had been given certain rights to exercise specific authority with the knowledge that they had backup.

Ultimately all authority is derived from God. He alone has all the power and all the right to use it as He chooses. In the world, He designates specific authority to parents, teachers, employers, government and others. It is limited to the areas that He defines as appropriate.

God has made His Word authoritative. Obey Commands. Claim Promises. Receive directions. Because it is truth and comes from the ultimate authority, God's Word is to be regarded as authoritative.

Continued on back

Saturday Devotions, Continued:

As noted above, Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth, but gives to His disciples the use of His Name so that they have a measure of authority to carry out the work of the Gospel and the building of God's Kingdom. The early church understood this for they prayed in Jesus' Name, they did miracles in that Name and spread the word that there was no salvation apart from that name.

In the account of one of Jesus' healing miracles, we find someone who understood the basic principles of authority. Luke 7:1-10 records that at Capernaum, a request was made for the Lord to heal a centurion's beloved servant. He sent Jewish elders to make the request and then sent friends to advise Jesus that He didn't have to show up for a personal touch. Just An authoritative word of healing from Jesus would be sufficient.

As a soldier, the centurion understood the command structure. The authority an officer had over his soldiers and servants was absolute, commands were to be obeyed. But he also knew that his authority was not in himself, but in the chain-of-command. Because he was under authority, he had authority. He recognized in Jesus, the One under divine authority and obedient to it, which was made manifest in the powerful works Jesus did. He had power over nature, sickness, and even demons, as He exercised the authority of the Father with its attendant power.

Jesus' reaction to what he heard from the centurion's messages was also remarkable. Jesus had never seen faith like that among His own people who presumed to know God and kept the Law to please Him.

To what degree do you understand and use godly authority in your life and ministry? What does it say about your faith? How well do you carry the Name of Jesus?

If you are planning to depart early, please come by registration and let us know your plans so we can make arrangements for the return of your room key and linens.

This includes anyone planning to leave anytime on Saturday or early on Sunday.

Thanks!

How many guys with orange badges did you meet? Make sure you meet and shake hands with one every chance you get.

From The Editor—Charge The Battery

We are living in an age where everything is electronic and portable. We have mobile phones, laptops, tablet computers, electronic readers, portable video games and many other small electronic devices. All of these devices serve their specific purpose – some multiple purposes. What these items have in common is a battery. You have to charge them up. There are even portable rechargeable battery packs that you can use to recharge your other devices. Anyone who attends a technology conference can expect to find “charging stations” available for their use at locations throughout the facility. Electrical outlets are being offered now with USB ports in them so you can plug directly into them without having to use up an outlet for your charger.

Look around in a public location – especially an airport – and you will see people huddled around the only plug available sharing the power. And if you're one of those unfortunate people who was unable to get a full charge before embarking on your journey, you find yourself using the device sparingly, watching that little power indicator shrink into nothing until the device shuts down and becomes useless. Eventually, when you find power, you can bring these devices back to usefulness.

Christians have a power source: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are connected to them, charged up and sent out into the world to do ministry. We are told in John 1 that “In the beginning was The Word, and the Word was God and the Word was with God” and “The Word was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it”. In John 6:63, Jesus says, “The Spirit Gives Life” when talking to the disciples about their life in ministry when many were falling away. He continues by saying, “the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.” Through His Word, we are powered by The Holy Spirit. But left to ourselves, that battery will be depleted. We need to continually come back to His Word and be recharged. When we continue in the world without recharging, the power begins to fade and we become useless for the Kingdom.

Fortunately, there are charging stations everywhere. You can come to church, you can participate in a fellowship group – yes we can help to recharge each other, you can dive into His Word, the Bible (in paper or electronically), you can listen to Christian radio and above all, you can spend time in prayer and meditation. In John 15:1-8, Jesus tells us that we will bear much fruit for the Kingdom as long as we abide in Him and His words remain in us. If we continue to recharge ourselves, staying connected to God through Jesus and The Holy Spirit, there is no way we will ever suffer a power failure.