

## 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](http://www.abmopad.org)

## Good Morning! Here's A Recap

Saturday of our 56th Retreat started off bright and early with devotions, led by our Executive Vice President, Larry Battle. Larry related a story about dolphins and their trainer. It was pointed out that the dolphins who were trained using negative reinforcement (such as the denial of food until a behavior was demonstrated) committed suicide. Larry compared this to our condition—are we forcing ourselves and not following the Holy Spirit? We lose our “oneness” of working together for Christ when we do this. He finished by challenging us to not deny others the food of the Spirit. We must open our hearts to each other.

The morning workshops were very well attended. Feedback from laymen and pastors alike was positive. If you did not attend a workshop this year, please plan on returning next year and attending one then.

At our evening convocation, we heard the very powerful testimony of George Plitnik. George related an emotional story about how he learned of his wife's cancer around

their 25th wedding anniversary. Given four years to live, George and his wife put their complete trust in God and they've recently celebrated their 50th anniversary, with his wife being cancer free for over 20 years. Praise be to God!

The music and testimony of Harmonious Praise was just spectacular. Even through some technical glitches, the group was able to deliver their powerful message of how we need God, how we need each other and how we need to fall in love with Jesus. We are truly blessed to have their talents with us this weekend.

Reverend Santilli spoke to us on Matthew chapter 14 where the story of Peter getting out of the boat and walking on water with Jesus. When Peter had his eyes on Jesus, he was able to walk on water but when he took his eyes off of Jesus, he began to sink. Just like kids learning how to play baseball, we need to “keep our eye on the ball” in order to be successful in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Congratulations to Bob Singley 2010 Layman of the Year

On Saturday night, Robert C. Singley was honored as our Layman of the Year for 2010. Bob has been extremely active in men's work for years with many accomplishments. Every message from him carries the reminder that he is enjoying his walk of faith. He truly has a heart for service. Congratulations to Bob for an honor that is well deserved. Seek out Bob, and shake his hand!

### Attendance Awards

- Founder's Award (churches under 175 members) - Immanuel Baptist
- President's Award (most first year registrations) - Christ Memorial – 7 First Year Attendees
- Past President's Award (most total registrations) - Calvary, Newark – 18 attendees.

- Linens should be placed in your pillow cases and brought to the laundry room on the first floor.
- When you check out, make sure you turn in your key. These keys will cost you \$40 if you lose one.
- **DO NOT RETURN YOUR KEY IN THE KEY DROP.** Return the room keys to our registration area in the CUB. Any key placed in the key drop is considered lost **and will cost YOU \$40.**
- 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.
- We do not need your badge or badge holders returned. We do not recycle them. They are yours to keep.
- All of the retreat editions of the Penn-Del tips will be available on our website — [www.abmopad.org](http://www.abmopad.org)
- Have a safe trip home!

Please be sure to silence your cell phones and pagers during sessions.



### **Good News From Ten Mile Men**

Since 2005, the James L. Edgar Scholarship of \$500 has been given to fifteen students. This year we continue with two more students receiving scholarships. Jesse Baker of Jefferson Baptist and Jordan Brooks of First Baptist Waynesburg both received scholarships.

The Ten Mile Baptist Men has really seen God move through this scholarship program and the people of this association have been very generous. We would like to challenge the other associations of ABCOPAD to help their youth in the same way.

### **Please Pray for the Langford Family**

We are saddened to hear about the death of Suz Langford, the widow of Leon Langford, ABMOPAD President, 1978-1980 and Layman of the Year in 1982. Suz passed away on Friday afternoon.

Visitation will be at the Schepner McDermott Funeral Home in Crafton, PA, with calling times on Sunday and Monday.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Suz's family during this time of loss.

### **From the Editor**

I have a tree in my yard. It's a fairly young tree, perhaps 8 years old. It was planted as a sapling when the house was built a few years ago. I work very hard at trying to get this tree to grow. I put fertilizer spikes around it a couple of times a year. I keep the weeds away from it and each spring I make sure I put fresh mulch around the base. Overall, the tree is doing well and gets larger every year.

There is an old factory in my town. The building is a typical World War II era factory building. Five stories. Red brick. In a previous life, this building was used to manufacture caskets. Currently, the factory is only partially used. I believe a local business occupies the first floor. There is a huge chimney that towers over the five stories of this building. It is clearly not used anymore because there is a tree growing from the top of it. Now this chimney is at least twice the height of the building, probably around 100 feet. There is no way that somebody climbed up this thing and planted a tree there. I'm sure that from disuse the chimney has become plugged with dirt and whatever else blows around in the wind over the years. A seed from one of the surrounding wooded areas likely blew in there and started to grow. And grow it has, because when I moved to the area seven years ago, the tree was there, but it was tiny—barely sticking up out of the top of the chimney. I look up at this tree when I'm out. I'm completely fascinated by it. This tree is doing quite well also.

The two trees had clearly different starts. They've had different upbringing. The only thing that I am sure of is that God is a much better gardener than I am. It seems effortless. The tree is simply infused with life and it continues to grow while I toil away, trying to make my tree look nearly as good as the tree in the chimney. Aren't we similar? We've all had different starts and different upbringing and yet, we're all here, infused with God's life giving Holy Spirit.

We certainly need to be fertilized so we can grow. Going to bible study and listening to sermons are good ways to do this. We need to be weeded. Having brothers in Christ whom you can turn to for support when temptations come is vital to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. If we can keep the weeds of sin and temptation down and feed ourselves with the food of the Holy Spirit, there is nothing we can't accomplish, in the name of Jesus Christ. If God can grow a tree in a chimney 100 feet above the ground, think of what he can accomplish with men who are planted in the fertile soil of a local men's ministry. I pray that when you return home, you will continue to thrive.

### **Retreat Evaluations**

How did we do this year? Was there something you liked? Was there something you would like to change? Do you just have some suggestions for additions or improvements to our retreat? Let us know by filling out your evaluation form. We read ALL of them! Many of the changes we've made over the years, including adding bottled water for the rooms at night have been a direct result of your feedback, so please make sure you fill out your evaluation before you leave.

### **Who is this "Vacant" Guy and why is he serving in so many positions on the board?**

As Bob pointed out during our business meeting on Saturday, we have many vacant positions on the board. Please check the nominating committee report and if you feel led to serve, please prayerfully consider filling one of these vacancies.

**Thank you for coming to the 56th Annual Men's Retreat. We are so glad you came and look forward to seeing you at the 57th Annual Men's Retreat to be held at Shippensburg University from August 5th through 7th, 2011. Mark your calendars now and don't forget to get one or two additional friends to come as well.**

**Have a safe ride home!**

**ABMOPAD Board of Managers**

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