

August 1, 2004
Special Retreat 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

Rise and Rejoice! Time for a Recap

Our day began bright and early with devotions, led by Mike Metzger at the "O" Theater. Mike reminded us that timing is everything. If the timing is not right, the location won't matter. The time is always right to do the Lord's work.

The morning workshops were very well attended and most of the feedback we've received was very positive. In order to plan good workshops for next year, please complete your evaluation forms.

The afternoon recreation time was cut a little short by the rain. 30 teams competed through one round of horseshoes before the rain came and the winners were declared based on their undefeated record. Congratulations guys! We had 10 men come out to play softball. Since we didn't have enough to choose teams, we had batting and fielding practice. Of course, when Larry Rigotti is in center field, you don't need anyone else out there.

At the evening convocation, we were repeatedly blessed by music. The choir had more than 30 men and didn't have enough copies of the music. What a great problem to have. The orchestra had 8 wonderful musicians, including a "garbage can bass" along with an electric bass player. These two string instruments made our group officially an orchestra. As usual, both groups sounded great. Tim Munson also sang to us and told us of the deep, deep love the Father holds for us.

The show-stopper was certainly Randy Chang and his powerful testimony. Randy had given his testimony to us 8 years ago and returned to provide us the next chapter in his story. Even though Randy has physical disabilities, he doesn't let that stop him from doing wonderful things in ministry. To finish it off, Randy continued our musical blessings by playing a piece on the piano titled "Waterwheel". Our God is truly an awesome God!

After Friday night's message, we were waiting earnestly for the second part from Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, and he didn't disappoint. Dr. Trulear spoke from 2nd Samuel 9, the story about David and Mephibosheth. Like Mephibosheth, many of us

have been living in life's garbage dump, having been emotionally abandoned, dropped and crippled. But there is good news! King David gave Mephibosheth a seat at the table, even though it was undeserved by the standards of the day. David gave him that seat because of a promise to Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan. Does this sound familiar? It should, because the Lord our God gives us a seat at the table, not because we deserve it, but because of a promise he made to his son, Jesus Christ. Regardless of what you've done, where you've been or who you are, God is ready to give you a seat at his royal table. His grace is sufficient for us! AMEN!

A message from the President

Today will bring us to the close of our 50th annual ABMOPAD retreat here at Shippensburg University. At the same time, it will be just the beginning of our "Year of Jubilee Celebration". This coming year will be a year when God will set many men free from the bondages that have been holding them back. It will be a year of God's favor to men that seek him and serve him.

God brought many men, their dreams and their hopes to this year's retreat. Men that were physically and spiritually tired, men that could not find rest from the daily task of serving their families, their church and their communities. But here, for one weekend, they could find a time of peace and rest as they were immersed in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

I would like to take a moment to say a great big "Thanks" to our keynote speaker, Dr. Harold Dean Trulear for the moving, inspiring and challenging message he brought us from the Lord. I would also say thanks to Tim Munson for sharing his God-given gift of music with us. Thanks as well to everyone else that helped make our 50th ABMOPAD retreat truly a celebration.

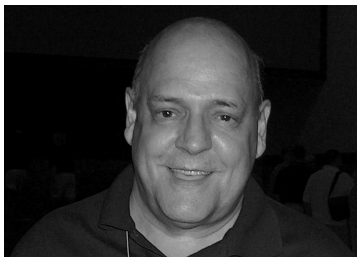
It is my hope that this year's retreat has been a mountain-top experience for each of you and that before you return to the valley (where the people are) you will allow God to show you a new and wonderful view of His purpose for your being here.

He called you here for such a time as this because He had something to show you and to tell you. Did you receive it?

Thank you for coming! I was blessed by your presence and your fellowship. I hope to see each of you at next year's retreat. Do your brother a favor, bring him with you!

John L. Anderson
President, ABMOPAD

Congratulations to Don Hess



The Layman of the Year Award was presented to Don Hess. Congratulations Don!

Our layman of the year is of good character, jovial, outgoing, a hard worker in Gods service, with a quick mind. He loves his family dearly and worries about those who have not accepted Christ.

In the denomination, he has served 18 years on the ABMOPAD Board of Managers, two of which as President. He still has a heart for men's work but God has chosen him to serve in a different direction as a Lay Pastor. In all that he has been through over the years with his health; his faith in God brought him through it all. He has never forgotten his promise to serve his God.

Attendance Information and Awards

- Founder's Award (churches under 175 members) – Immanuel Baptist, Edwardsville
- President's Award (most first year registrations) – Immanuel Baptist, Edwardsville – 6 First Year Attendees
- Past President's Award (most total registrations) – Calvary Baptist, Newark – 17 attendees

Our total number of attendees this year was 233, with 38 First Year, 23 Pastors and 12 Youth all representing 68 Churches.

Financial Support for the Disaster Relief Trailer Ministry

Churches and ABM or ABW groups that wish to support this vital ministry may do so by forwarding your gift to ABMOPAD c/o Gary Stump. Mail to:

Gary Stump
2417 Sunnyside Rd.
Manheim, PA 17545

Mark it for Disaster Relief Trailer Ministry.

You may also want to prayerfully consider including this ministry into your church budget. To do so, fill out your giving form and designate it in the detail section for ABMOPAD Disaster Relief Trailer. 100% of the funds will go to this ministry. Contact Bob Swan (215-674-1935) for more information.

Word Search Puzzle Answers

Below is the puzzle with the "word list" letters grayed out remaining letters bolded.

A	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	F	I	S	H	E	R	S
M	B	K	S	U	T	S	U	G	U	A	G	L	L	H
S	S	R	L	N	I	S	L	M	V	S	E	P	A	E
A	H	A	A	P	A	U	L	O	I	U	N	M	M	A
C	O	M	M	H	F	I	H	E	V	S	E	E	B	V
R	L	E	I	D	A	E	S	J	D	E	S	T	Y	E
E	Y	A	N	R	J	M	R	E	E	J	I	I	R	N
D	S	N	A	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	S	S	O	S
S	P	C	D	B	W	A	G	E	S	P	S	R	T	N
N	I	I	A	L	I	B	H	M	D	S	E	A	S	E
A	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	R	E	I	D
K	I	N	I	S	J	N	E	A	O	A	T	L	H	R
E	T	T	D	S	O	R	O	H	L	M	R	I	G	A
W	E	R	B	E	H	A	U	A	B	O	O	F	O	G
H	T	A	E	D	N	B	S	H	H	R	F	E	D	A

The remaining secret word is **MESSIAH**.

Penn-Del Tips on the Web

Did you know that you can read the Penn-Del tips on the web? Simply go to the ABMOPAD web site and click on the "Penn-Del Tips" link on the left-hand side. All of the editions from the last couple of years are available for download, including the retreat editions. Make sure you check the web site in a few days for the Monday, August 2nd "web only" edition recapping our final day here at the retreat. If you know someone who does not have internet access, please print a copy of the Monday newsletter and give it to him. For those who don't know the address, it's www.abmopad.org.

Final Thoughts

We hope you enjoyed the 50th annual retreat and hope to see you back next year at number 51. Don't forget to invite a friend! The work doesn't end because the retreat has ended. Keep it going!

Please return your keys to the registration desk, NOT in the dorm key drop. We have to account for all keys. Sheets and pillow cases go in the lobby of the dorms. Have a safe trip home!