



Special Retreat Issue
Monday August 4, 2003

PENN-DEL TIPS

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

Visit us on the web at www.abmopad.org

Welcome Home!

This is a special “web-only” edition of the Penn-Del tips providing a recap of the last day of our 49th annual retreat. If you know someone who does not have web access, please print this issue and give it to him.

We had a glorious last day of our retreat. The day started bright and early with devotions at 6:30. Those who attended were treated to the end of the “Captain Andy” story. We were reminded that we are to stand in awe of the Lord and make whatever sacrifices are necessary to serve Him. God is high and lifted up and we must serve the Master. While we must honor God, we must also honor each other. It brings joy to God when we do this.

At our morning Worship service, we were blessed by the choir and by the orchestra. These two groups of men always pour their hearts out to the Lord and we thank them for it. Special thanks to Phil and to Bob for directing.

David Parris offered glory to God in song and in word with his testimony. David accepted Jesus Christ in high school, but when he went to college, he told us that he turned his back on God when the road got rough. Things started turning back for him when he became prayer partners with three young ladies he met at a retreat. David told us that he and his prayer partners saw the same scripture from Jeremiah at the same time and took it as a sign. The scripture was Jeremiah 29:11 – “I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.” David took a job with plans to apply the management skills he learned there toward the work of the Lord. Being a man of integrity, he informed his employers of these plans and they supported him. In the end, his manager told him that her life was changed by his example and she had

gone back to church. If you are open to God’s leading, anything can happen.

Just to prove that there is no way the devil can win, no matter how hard he tries, technical difficulties provided a delay just long enough for an impromptu testimony from Sam Helverson. Almost immediately after Sam sat down, the problem was fixed and the Good News Gospel Singers blessed us even further. Following their performance, the baritone, Skip, had to leave due to a family health emergency. Our prayers go to him and his family. We know the Lord will be with them.

Tim Schwartz delivered part three of his series – Being a Man of Influence. He told us that we come together as men who’ve regained our identity and integrity in order to regain our influence. There was a man of influence who lived 2000 years ago. He influenced all those around him. When it comes to taking a critical look at perception these days, we see a bleak picture. There are no God-fearing male figures in the media. We only see men who are devoted to the world’s way. Rarely do we see a man who is truly making a difference. We are experiencing a significant loss in our influence in the world for a number of reasons:

1. We’ve lost our integrity
2. We’re not doing our job as men in this culture. Influence is not something that’s given – it has to be earned. Age plays no role in this – if you do your job first, then you get the influence.
3. We do a good job of sharing the gospel, but not our lives. We don’t practice what we preach on a daily basis. We must make a personal investment in sharing the gospel with our brothers. Paul did this with the church at Thessalonica.

What does it mean to be a man of influence? It

has nothing to do with having power or authority over people. It's always putting love before power or politics. Martin Luther King and Gandhi, two prominent men of influence in their time had no power or political office.

- Men of influence are ready to challenge people around him to discover their gifts in Jesus Christ.
- Men of Influence challenge those around them to live a life of righteousness.
- Men of influence challenge youth to be rooted in the faith. Youth are said to be the future of the church. This is incorrect, as youth are the present of our church.
- Men of influence not only provide roots, but also provide "wings to let young people soar".
- Men of influence are so connected to the Spirit that they can dream dreams for our youth.
- Men of influence provide male nurturing – not only to their own children, but also to all people. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2 Paul tells us, "First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct."

Are you ready to be a man of influence?

50th Annual Retreat

The planning is well under way. The American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware will be holding their 50th annual retreat at Shippensburg University August 6 - 8, 2004. Being our "Golden" anniversary, we'd like to get as much participation as possible, so please plan to attend and bring a friend. If you know someone who attended in the past who has not been attending recently, please ask him to come along as well. Remember, if they are not asked, many men will not come. If you've already asked someone and he said not this year, ask him again. You never know, he may say yes.

The scripture portion for our 2004 ABMOPAD

Retreat will be Esther 4:14b - "Who knows, perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this". The theme is "God's calling us (men) to service for such a time as this".

This scripture and theme were chosen because we the, ABMOPAD board of managers, believe that God is calling all men for such a time as this:

1. A time to awaken, arise, and move into action (*Mathew 6:33*)
2. A time to grab hold of the "VISION" God has given us and run with it (*Habakkuk 2:2 - 3*) that vision being "Men in MINISTRY"
3. A time of unity in our families and our churches regardless of age, sex, religion, or race. (*1 JOHN 3:18*)
4. A time that all men establish both an active prayer life and corporate prayer life with all brothers in Christ. (*Matthew 9:38*)
5. A time for each of us Christian men to be spiritually stretched in the newness of Christ (*1 COR. 11:28 & Luke 12:48*)
6. A time for healing, both physical and spiritual, starting with a repentant heart and forgiveness. (*Matthew 4:23 - 25*)
7. A time for Christian men to stand in the gap (*Ezekiel 22:30*) for his family, his church, his community, and his nation.

Retreat Evaluation Forms

Did you finish your retreat evaluation form before you left? If you did not, you can still mail it to us. The retreat evaluations are the best source for us knowing what works and what doesn't. We read every one of them and take all suggestions to heart. If you have not already done so, please complete and mail your evaluation today. The address is on the bottom of the form.

Board of Managers Vacancies

As you may be aware, there are four vacancies on the ABMOPAD Board of Managers. If you feel the calling to serve, please contact John Anderson or Bob Singley.

See you at the 50th retreat!