



January 2004

PENN-DEL TIPS

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

Visit us on the web at www.abmopad.org

From the President's Desk

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Today is a cloudy and windy day, the kind of winter day that can make a man feel tired and downright bored. But I don't have the time or desire to feel that way because I have a God-given mission for this special day. Today is the date that I have set for myself to start the preparations for our 50th retreat in August 2004. No, this is not the first time we've worked on the Jubilee year celebration for the ABMOPAD Retreat but today is the day that I have chosen to take a leap of faith and to seek God as to what He wants at this special retreat in 2004. Since the 2003 ABMOPAD Retreat the excitement for the 50th Retreat has been building to the point that I want to share a short note with you about it.

God has put our retreat on the last two days in July and the first day in August and here's how I know that. This is the time that high school is still out for the summer and most of the family vacations are over. Yet August is a great time to hold a retreat. The beautiful Shippensburg University still basks in the warmth of the summer sun, but in the early morning there is a hint of fall in the air. As you walk around the various paths that lead around the campus you cannot help but feel the joy of the Lord arise within you as you view the dawning of a new day. A day that you know will be a new day, a new time that God will change the very lives of a man forever; that man might just be you. Some mornings will find you stepping out of the dorm and into a light fog that is encompassing the campus like a satin sheet, and as the fog starts to rise, so does your spirits. In fact, even your steps seem to get lighter and faster as God, through His Holy Spirit, tells you to go to the dining hall and speak to a first-timer at the retreat. Then you too will understand that God truly put this ABMOPAD Retreat when and where he wanted it to be. The best is yet to be, for He even put you and me here also to fulfill His purpose for our ABMOPAD Retreat. WHAT A GOD WE SERVE!

I want to invite each of you to attend the 50th Annual ABMOPAD Retreat on July 30, 31 and

August 1, 2004 and enjoy the beauty, and tranquility of Shippensburg University. The Bible says, "To come away and rest" to get away from the hustle and bustle of the busy world of every day life. This is your opportunity to find rest and to spend quality time with Jesus. A time to receive blessings and to be used by God to bless others. I hope to see you at the 50th ABMOPAD retreat in July/August 2004.

Yours in Christ Service,
John L. Anderson
President ABMOPAD

The 50th Retreat is coming – and sooner than you thought!

On July 30 to August 1, 2004, we will meet at Shippensburg University for our 50th annual retreat. Please note the change in dates, as this is one week earlier than was previously published. We apologize for the inconvenience, but this change was unavoidable due to scheduling conflicts with the university. We have a wonderful speaker and inspirational music planned, so please plan on joining us and bringing a friend to celebrate our golden anniversary!

The speaker for the 50th annual retreat will be Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, Senior Pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of Twin Oaks, PA, Visiting Associate Professor of Applied Theology at Howard University and Visiting Professor of Religion and Public Policy at the Templeton Honors College at Eastern University. The special music will be Pastor Tim Munson of Colonial Park Baptist Church in Harrisburg, PA. The Youth Program will be run again by Bob Sterling. Bob did a fantastic job with our youth last year and we're all looking forward to seeing what he'll do this year.

Update on 48th Booster Call

At the fall, 2003 meeting, the ABMOPAD board of managers voted to close the 48th booster call with the final total being \$4,500. That makes the total collected in all Booster Calls nearly \$220,000. Way to go Boosters! Look for a new booster call in your mailbox soon.

ABMOPAD on the web

Did you know that there is an ABMOPAD web site? It is located at www.abmopad.org and is updated frequently. You'll find information about upcoming events, Booster Calls, our Annual Retreat, promotional materials and much more. If your church or men's group is holding an event, you can have it advertised on the web site for free, simply drop an email to the Webmaster (webmaster@abmopad.org) with the details and we'll be glad to post it for you.

Contribute to the Penn-Del Tips

Do you have information you want to share with the men of Delaware and Pennsylvania? Articles can be submitted to penndeltips@abmopad.org or if you do not have email access, you can mail them to the editor:

Ed McQue
219 W. Sixth Street
East Greenville, PA 18041

Articles submitted for the Penn-Del tips may also be posted on the web site.

Design our new logo!

For our 50th retreat, we are looking to have a new logo created. It can be based on our existing logo or entirely new. If you have any ideas, draw them up and send them to:

Bob Singley
3727 Clearwater Lane
Upland, PA 19015

If you want to design a logo on your computer, you can also email them to us at logos@abmopad.org. All submissions should be received by March 1.

Events from all over

The Pittsburgh Baptist Association will be holding their annual men's banquet on Saturday, April 17, 2004 at the First Baptist Church, Coraopolis. The banquet will begin at 5:00 pm, and will include food, fellowship, music and other great things. The planning team is presently working on details that will follow, including speaker, music, etc.

There will be a Harrisburg Association Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday February 28, 2004 at Westgate Baptist Church in Lancaster. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 am. There will be a bluegrass band for entertainment.

Calvary Baptist Church of Allentown, PA will be holding a Community Lenten Breakfast on Saturday, February 21 at 8:30 am. All are welcome.

These and other events are posted on our website and will be updated as needed.

From the Editor

"I dare you." Those words are often said to someone in order to make him or her do something unpleasant, unsafe or unwise. There is often a negative connotation to "doing something on a dare". In the classic movie "A Christmas Story", one of the kids stuck his tongue to a flag pole in the winter because he was "triple dog dared" to do it. Overall, I think that the "dare" has gotten a bad wrap. The Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "Dare" as: "to be sufficiently courageous" or "to have the courage to contend against, venture, or try". When did having courage become a bad thing?

We have to be sufficiently courageous to take on the mantle of a Christian and follow the example of Jesus. Jesus took on the sins of the world; past, present and future. He took these sins and he conquered them. He won. He then dared us to take up the challenge. Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." If we dare to obey this commandment, you get mixed reactions from the world. In the United States, standing on a street corner and claiming the name of Jesus will get you weird looks and cause people to hurry past you. In many other countries, it will get you put in prison, tortured and possibly even killed; yet people all over the world still dare to follow the example of Jesus. What a wonderful testimony!

The wonderful promise at the end of Matthew that Jesus will be with us always should inspire us and give us this sufficient courage. Just the knowledge that Jesus will walk beside us all the way is awesome! How can we not be sufficiently courageous and dare to take up the challenge? Jesus does not ask us for perfection. Jesus asks us only to love him and to follow his example. He's not interested in our ability, only our availability. To quote James Bryant Conant, "Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out." Stick your neck out and make some progress for Jesus. I double-dare you.

ABMOPAD Board Vacancies

As of this writing, we still have some vacancies on the board. We need area vice presidents for Delaware, Pittsburgh and the Northwest area as well as a Youth Director. If you feel led to serve, please contact Bob Singley or John Anderson.