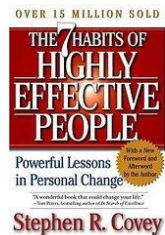


Fall Pastors Conference October 15-17, 2012

Seven Habits of a Highly Effective People



Based on the proven principles found in Dr. Stephen R. Covey's best-selling business book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People® Signature Program is training that helps your organization achieve sustained superior results by focusing on making individuals and leaders more effective. Participants gain hands-on experience, applying timeless principles that yield greater productivity, improved communication, strengthened relationships, increased influence, and laser-like focus on critical priorities. The course also includes over 30 award-winning videos.

In The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Signature Program, participants learn how to: take initiative, balance key priorities, improve interpersonal communication, leverage creative collaboration, and apply principles for achieving a balanced life. The Seminar will also include worship and devotional time as well as limited free time.

Fall Pastors Seminar will be October 15-17 at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center. Carpenter funds will be available for this event. This conference normally costs \$2000 per person and includes the training materials.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister	Robin Stoops
Associate Executive Minister	Greg Mamula
Director, Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center	MaryBeth Robertson
Facility Manager, MMCCC	Eric Byrd
Office Manager	Sue Gammel
Office Assistant.....	Margaret Brown-Moore
Pastor to Pastors (VIM).....	Dick Peterson
Social Media Consultant (VIM)	Dee Riggs
Church Life Consultant.....	A. J. Wagstaff

Every pastor will receive the training materials and have the ability to share some of the materials with the congregation they serve.

This is a special opportunity to organize your life and ministry. There will be a **limited number of registrations available** and priority given to pastors actively serving churches. Email Robin or Greg to sign up immediately to reserve your space and materials. In addition we will be giving away a few Kindles and books.



September October 2012

ABC/NE Coming Events

ABC/Convention
September 21-23
North Platte

Mission Study Tour
Sept. 28-Oct 8
Bulgaria, Serbia

Fall Pastor's Seminar
October 15-17
MMCCC

Holiday with the Merrills
November 10
MMCCC

E-Mail Addresses:

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Incorporated as
The Nebraska Baptist State Convention

6404 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104-4079
Phone 402-556-4730
Toll-free 877-244-7339
Fax 402-556-1910

Missional Church Learning Experience Training

First Baptist Church, 100 McDonald Rd, North Platte, NE 69101
Friday September 21, 2012 10AM—4PM

Rev. Glynis LaBarre will be providing a "train the trainer" event for the **Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE)**. For the past 18 months twenty ABC NE churches participated in MCLE training and ministry project. These churches and leaders learned about ministry in the 21st Century, planned and implemented creative ministry experiences for themselves and their communities. These MCLE events were very successful. Most importantly it teaches how to think differently about ministry in an ever growing world and church. This one day training will be the official start to the 2012 Region Convention "Spiritually Deep, Missionally Wide" September 21-23 in North Platte. The training will help churches and leaders organize and implement their own MCLE ministry moments. Training also includes a book with step by step instruction and examples. Registration is necessary to provide adequate supplies. If you would like to learn how to repeat these proven MCLE moments register today by contacting the ABC NE region offices at **402-556-4730**.

It is not too late to register for the **2012 ABC/NE Convention**. Do not miss our speaker, **Glynis LaBarre**, our missionaries, **Deb Kelsey, Mike and Becky Mann**, the workshops, the worship, the fellowship, mission opportunities, a talent show, book table with **Susan Gillies**, youth convention, children's ministries, region updates and reports from our MCLE churches!!!



Check out these great workshops and leaders:

Hear more about the work in Italy with Deb Kelsey,

More about the work in Thailand with Mike and Becky Mann,

Listen to Paul Welter give you some insight into living life well,

Deidra Riggs and Greg Mamula share with you navigating social media,

Listen to the stories of our Missional Church experiments with Glynis LaBarre.



For you own FREE Messenger subscription call 556-4730 (Omaha) or toll-free (877) 244-7339 Or send your name and address to: Messenger@abcnebraska.com

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From the Executive Minister Robin Stoops

“Robin you need to be able to preach, pray or die at any given moment” that was some of the encouragement I got from my pastor when I first told him God was calling me into ministry. I can do two of three, still working on the third. The words he used has served me well reminding me of the focus and sacrifice involved in ministry. We all need those who will encourage us, walk with us as we learn to be faithful to our call.



How about your pastor? They are there when we need them, on call all day, every day through holidays and all kinds of weather, if we call them, they come. Who encourages your pastor? Who remembers to say “thank you for all you do”?

October is “Pastor Appreciation Month”. Many of our churches plan special times during this month to remind their pastor how loved they are, how thankful we are to have them serve and encourage them to continue the good work. Plan now to remember them especially during this month. Write a note, include a gift, provide a meal, or a gift card and of course cash is always helpful. It is always good to hear you are appreciated and loved. Do not forget as well to remember other special days in their lives: anniversary of their ordination, anniversary of their coming to serve the church in which you are a part, birthday, Christmas and more. The most important thing you can do for your pastor is for them, but do not forget the above things.

If it were not for the encouragement I received from my pastor I would not have had the courage to follow God’s call on my life. Here are just a few that have blessed me and my pray would be God continue to bless them as well. Thank you Lord for the blessing of these pastors who blessed me early in my life: Ernie Clark, Daryl Heidner, Shaw Belew, Joe Lynn Robbins, Roger Fredrickson, Ralph Hunt, Ben Moor and the list continues right to today with names of men and women too numerous to mention but for whom I am most grateful. Blessings!



From the Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula

Other than my parents, the people who have all had the most influence on me have been pastors of one form or another. My high school youth pastor, Jim, helped me decipher my call to the ministry at such a young age. Most of my college and seminary Profs served in local churches, supply pastored, or was called upon to provide their expertise in church settings on a regular basis. They not only challenged me intellectually to achieve better grades but they also ministered to me in times of great stress and comforted me in times of difficulty. They served their formal church congregations and they had an informal rotating congregation of students to minister to and they did great work.

My very best friends are all pastors. My wife while having never been an official seminary student did walk with me through my studies and continues to minister to me and our family on a daily basis. Her astute scriptural understanding and desire to be the hands and feet of Christ continue to challenge me to be better. My closest friend in the world is Bryan. He is currently a PhD student in his final couple years of writing his dissertation on church history. He has been a constant companion as we went through college, seminary, marriage, ordination, and our first churches together. While never formally stated, for years I learned and continue to learn from my mentor and he is a pastor. My boss and our Executive Minister Robin is a pastor.



My whole life has been shaped by pastors and I am willing to bet your life has been as well. They challenge us to be better, they encourage us when we are down, and they tell really bad jokes. Pastors are good story tellers, good listeners, and good scholars. I am extremely grateful for every pastor in our Region and for every pastor who has taken time to help shape me. Thank you. I would encourage you to find a way to say thank you in October as well. October is Pastor Appreciation month. Find a creative way to say thank you to the pastors who have shaped you, your church, and your community in the name of Christ.



Moses Merrill News

2849 Rd. 31 Bldg. 3, Linwood, NE 68036
(402) 666-5639

E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net Web site: www.campmerrill.com

Healthy Challenges:

Take a healthy challenge and put into practice the next two months. Choose something from each category and choose a healthier life.

Exercise:

- Take a 30 minute walk
- Swim for 30 minutes
- Ride your bike to work
- Take the stairs



Food:

- Choose water
- Eat fruit for dessert
- Snack on fresh veggies
- Try Almonds

Spirit:

- Read Bible every day
- Take time to pray
- Give something away
- Share a word of encouragement

Mind:

- Read a book
- Work a puzzle
- Take a breath
- Attend a workshop/retreat



Whew!! What a summer of ministry!

Led by 83 volunteer program staffers, 280 campers experienced God’s presence in new ways; 17 made first- time decisions to accept Jesus as Savior! **Did you read one of our junior campers’ letters?** *Thank you for your partnership in ministry with children and youth!!*



In addition to summer camps, we hosted 4 weddings, 7 family groups (reunions); 3 church or other spiritual retreats and 3 additional groups. It has been a busy and rewarding summer. How often we hear, “This is such a special place!”

What ministry opportunities for fall and winter!

- >Visit with us at Region Convention Sept. 21-23 in North Platte
 - Pictures, updates, opportunities for volunteers
 - Get the latest on the 2300 Team
- >ABC-NE Adult Ministries—Telling Our Stories—Oct. 1-3
 - Bible Study led by Rev. Harry Riggs, Lincoln FBC
- >ABC-NE Women’s Retreat – Oct. 5-7
 - Vivienne Friday shares her experience and wisdom
- >ABC-NE Pastors’ Seminar – Oct. 15-17
 - 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

 **Crafters Needed Nov. 17 Holidays with the Merrills**
Contact MMCC to reserve your table!

Camp Cat

It sure is quieter around here, now that summer camps are over. I miss watching all the youth. They not only seemed to be having fun but sometimes even sat quietly and were reading a special book—it looked really important! I’ll have to pay attention next year to learn what they’re learning (I’m never too old to learn!) Thank goodness it’s a bit cooler now! Maybe the mice who disappeared into buildings will be out and about now. I hope so...(I’m a bit hungry) Come for a visit! I love to have visitors at camp—even when you don’t see me, I’m watching and learning. Your friend, Camp Cat



Beloved

*What does it mean to be God's beloved?
To be found lovely in His sight?
And to follow your call to love the world?*

Dear Youth Leaders and Girls of Nebraska:

Come find out what it means to be God's beloved, to be found lovely in His sight, and how to follow your call to love the world during this weekend long event **November 2-4th, 2012** at **Camp Moses Merrill**. Spend two nights with amazing women in Christ and learn more about yourself and how to strengthen your relationship with the one who makes us beautiful!

With wonderful speakers, an opportunity to create your own unique t-shirt, and plenty of time for fellowship, manicures, and quiet time with God, this weekend is sure to be one you will not forget. Here are the details:

When: November 2-4th, 2012 –
Events start at 7:00 pm on Friday and close after brunch on Sunday

Where: Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center

Who: All girls in grades 6th – 12th (Plus their female youth leaders, of course!)

How much: \$85.00 (before October 22)
\$100.00 late registration (after October 22nd)

You won't want to miss out on this wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones! Reserve your spot by sending in the enclosed registration form and make sure you join us for a weekend of being BELOVED! Registration forms are enclosed as an insert.

In Christ,

Brittany McDaniel
Brittany.j.mcdaniel@gmail.com

ABWM Fall Retreat
Moses Merrill Camp and
Conference Center
October 5-7

Come and hear Vivienne Friday share her story!

Children will have lots of fun at ABC/NE State Convention



The First Baptist Church of North Platte is gearing up to host children up to 5th grade during the main sessions of the State Convention on Friday Night and Saturday. A dedicated team of skilled adults will entertain and teach the children. Friday night will be a movie night with snacks and games. Saturday will have bible stories, crafts, games, music, and lunch. There is also a special surprise activity planned for Saturday afternoon. Children should wear clothes they can play and have fun in. The cost is only \$10 per child. Payment can be made with your regular Convention Registration. For questions regarding the children's time contact FBC North Platte at 308-532-6772

American Baptist Men of Nebraska name Ron Hornberger "Man of the Year!"

The American Baptist Men of Nebraska named Ron Hornberger the "Man of the Year" for 2012 at the Men's Retreat in August.

Ron is well known around the state as a very active and committed volunteer at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center. He and his wife have logged countless hours helping to make MMCCC a great place to visit. Ron is also very active in the ministry of First Baptist Church of Fremont, NE. Congratulations Ron for a job well done!

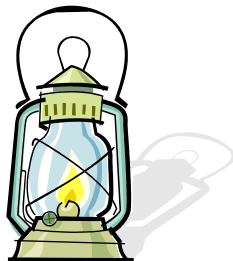
Adult Ministries Conference

Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center
October 1-3

Seniors and others are encouraged to participate in this special event. Call camp NOW to register 402-666-5639. The theme is "Telling Our Stories."

Dr. Harry Riggs of FBC, Lincoln will be the Bible Study leader. There will be skill sessions and other special interest activities.

There will be time for music, relaxing, visiting, walking in the woods, golfing, hands on activities and mission projects.. Do as much or as little as you wish!



October is Pastor Appreciation Month and this fall we are emphasizing Clergy Health and Wellness. October is a great time to share with your pastor and church staff all the ways you are grateful for that timely word of comfort, that challenge to be better, or for that Bible study you enjoyed.

Being a church staff member is an enjoyable calling with many rewards. It is also a challenging calling that requires great sacrifice. The statistics below serve to help pull back the curtain to see behind the office of our pastors and church staff. The overall health of clergy is lower than the general population because they spend so much time and energy caring for others, many times to the detriment of their own health. So this fall we want to make congregants and clergy alike aware of the situation and encourage better overall health. Pastors are encouraged to respond to the October health challenge and congregations are encouraged to find ways to show their appreciation of their staff and in turn also encourage their pastor in the October health challenge.

An 18 year study done by Schaefer Institute has revealed that being a pastor is one of the most stressful jobs in the world. More stressful than being a doctor, lawyer, or politician. 100% of clergy interviewed in the 18 year study, said they knew personally someone who left ministry because of burnout. 89% contemplate leaving the ministry and 56% said they would leave if they could find a less stressful job. 90% said they were frequently fatigued by their work on a daily basis. 77% said their marriage and family has suffered because of ministry. Barna Research states that 1,500 leave the pastorate each week, 50% of clergy marriages end in divorce, and 71% battle burnout and depression on a weekly basis.¹

Duke Divinity School spent twelve million dollars over seven years on their Clergy Health Initiative study that tracked the spiritual, mental, and physical health of clergy in the US. They discovered clergy have higher-than-average rates of chronic diseases like diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, angina, obesity, and depression, than the general population. But it may be difficult to get them into care because pastors default to caring for others first. Clergy recognize the importance of caring for themselves, but doing so takes a back seat to fulfilling their vocational responsibilities, which are tantamount to caring for an entire community.²

You can see the need for our fall emphasis on Clergy

Health and Wellness in ABC NE. Our pastors are our congregational prophets, shepherds, comforters, motivators, and resident scholar. They will always put themselves last and because of that we must sometimes put them first so that together we can help keep them healthy. This fall we are encouraging our pastors to take time to exercise, eat better, spend time with their families, and find ways to reduce stress. The goal is for them to embrace better total health so they can better serve their congregations. For our congregations the challenge is help pastors achieve better health by encouraging times of rest, helping them reduce stress, and challenging them to exercise and eat better. Join us in our Clergy Health and Wellness challenge and celebrate church staff this October.

If you find creative ways to celebrate your pastor and encourage better overall health let us know so we can share your story.

© 2007 (research from 1989 to 2006) R. J. Krejcir Ph.D. Francis A. Schaeffer Institute of Church Leadership Development <http://www.truespirituality.org/>

2Rae Jean Proeschold-Bell, Duke Divinity School, Clergy Health Initiative <http://divinity.duke.edu/initiatives-centers/clergy-health-initiative>



Gracias
Grazie *Mañumun* **Khop Khun Kha**
Shukran *Jayzoo Gaba* **Doh je**

¹Spanish, ²Italian, ³Mapudungun, ⁴Thai, ⁵Arabic, ⁶Burmese, ⁷Cantonese

Plan now to give to the World Mission Offering!
If you would like to join supporting a specific IM missionary, visit with you mission committee about donating all or part of your WMO to that missionary. Meet Deb Kelsey, Mike and Becky Mann at the 2012 ABC/NE Convention in North Platte September 21st-23rd.

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