

Iowa Baptist Conference

Magnifying God by Mobilizing & Multiplying a Growing Family of Healthy Churches!



IBC Family News

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Four Points On The Compass *by Skip Hansen*

When I was growing up, I think we missed something. It seemed like there were just two options for anyone who felt the "call to Christian service"—to become either a pastor or a missionary. So this summer, I spent a week speaking to our IBC high school kids at Pine Lake about God's purposes and passions!

Four points on the compass.

I shared an application of the four points on God's compass from Acts 1:8. Perhaps today's equivalents of Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and Ends of the Earth ministries would be... our local churches, our surrounding communities, our connection to other churches, and our inter-

continental world-wide mission.

Four legs on the table.

I shared my belief that God is still calling our pastor/teachers, evangelists, apostles, and prophets to become the champions He will use to equip His church to all points of service.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. You should have seen the high schoolers that last night at Pine Lake Camp.

You should have heard the passion they demonstrated for the whole Bride of Christ in Iowa!

THAT LAST NIGHT... I invited everyone to leave their seats and

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SECOND TIME AROUND!

by Sue Shaw



This year's RAGBRAI was supposed to be easier than last year... or at least... so I was told!

The weather was perfect... great sleeping temperatures and no humidity! But then... there were those two rainy mornings and that afternoon of headwinds!

There was 4,000 ft less elevation to bike up, and Monday was the levellest day in RAGBRAI history. But then... there still was 12,000 ft of elevation, and the route was 40 miles longer than last year.

And then there were those three stretches of gravel... one was loose, sandy, and hilly, and another was wet, soupy, and slippery!

To be truthful... I found this year's ride hard... and there were several days when I could NOT remember what I had found FUN about it last year!!! My husband will confirm that I definitely had a "grumpy" day or two!

They say you should never decide while you are on RAGBRAI whether or not you will ever do it again... but as I was

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BGC Annual Meeting Testimony!

One of the phrases we throw around a lot at Olivet comes from Ecclesiastes 5:7... "Therefore, stand in awe of God." That was my reaction to the Annual Meeting!

The movement of God in the hearts of missionary candidates, the explosive growth of new church starts, the miraculous turnarounds of established churches, the ever widening cultural diversity of our BGC family, all is an amazing thing to see!

While I read of this in a variety of our excellent communication pieces, the opportunity to see and hear direct testimony of these realities at the annual meeting was awe inspiring!

—Gary Clark, Senior Pastor, Olivet Baptist, Urbandale

New IBC Pastoral Staff...

Pastor Paul & Dawn Smalley were called to serve as the Senior Pastor at Faith Community in Ida Grove—the first permanent pastor in that church since their affiliation with the IBC one year ago.



Paul is a graduate of Trinity Evangelical and previously served churches in Illinois and Wisconsin.

The Smalleys have a unique and interesting courtship story... and can still be classified as "newlyweds"!

Paul and Dawn are the second pastoral couple to be placed in an IBC church through the Ministry Placement Network, following an intensive restructuring and affiliation process that was facilitated by Interim Pastor, Jarol Duerksen of Iowa City.

Drew Zahn was recently called to serve as the part-time Youth Pastor at First Baptist in Stratford. Drew gave me the following brief biographical information:

"I grew up in McGregor, Iowa, a faithful altar boy at St. Mary's Catholic Church. When I was 16, I met the daughter of an Evangelical Free Church pastor, and... well... today



Debi and I are married, have 8 children, and are expecting number 9." I assume the Zahn's must have their own "one-room school house", as they also home school their children!

Drew is a graduate of Bethel College, and in addition to the pastoral position, he owns his own business and is the assistant editor for *Leadership*, a magazine of Christianity Today, International.

The members of First Baptist, Stratford, are excited about this step in faith... as they respond to the needs of a growing number of new families and youth!

Faith Baptist in Washington called Pastor Harald and Janis Gruber to serve as Senior Pastor, following a two year reconciliation and search process.



Harald was born in Germany and grew up in India—a missionary kid. He is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary and North American Baptist Seminary.

The Grubers moved to Iowa from South Dakota, and have two grown children.

Harald and Janis are the third pastoral couple to be placed in an IBC church through the Ministry Placement Network. The reconciliation process at Washington was facilitated by Titus Task Force of Bakersfield, CA, in coordination with Pastor Gail Mitchell of Iowa City.

First Baptist in Cedar Falls recently called Eddie Anders as their Worship Arts Pastor.

I took the following biographical information from Eddie's website:

As a studio musician, vocalist, composer and producer, Eddie's vocal and keyboard artistry have been heard by millions on radio and television.

For nearly three decades, Eddie has performed in major concert halls, theatres, arenas, and churches of every description across America and beyond.



Eddie and his wife Nancy moved to Iowa from Louisiana, and are the parents of two adult children. They are a very talented and gifted family... who have all been faithfully using those gifts to serve the Lord.

You Won't Believe This!

Some great news from Milford Baptist Church!!!

The week of June 20-27 was an awesome week of harvest for God!

Milford Baptist Church has targeted families with children for AWANA and their teen siblings. Milford Baptist joined with three other churches for an evangelistic outreach campaign to reach the targeted group and their parents. Eight other churches also joined in as the excitement grew!

We brought in *YOUTH WITH A MISSION IMPACT WORLD TOUR*. This was a team of over 100 "on fire" young people coming to town for a three night program with skate boards flying, bikes flipping, the power team breaking cement blocks, bending steel bars and lots of excitement.

Over 6,000 people heard the Gospel in a hard hitting, straight forward way over the three nights.

More than 300 gave their lives to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

I have never seen churches come together and do something like reaching teenagers. Twelve churches, hundreds of volunteers, and over \$44,000 raised. THAT HAS TO BE GOD!!!

Then on Sunday June 27, Milford Baptist and the other three churches held a joint service together at the same location in the grassy area at Arnold's Amusement Park. "PRAISE IN THE PARK" gathered 1,300–1,500 people together to Praise God for His blessings of the three day teen outreach. We came together to lift up the Name of Jesus.

—Submitted by Pastor Harry Stultz, Milford Baptist

(Note from Sue: According to a 2004 Iowa road map... Milford is a town of only 2,474 people! Amazing what the Spirit of God can do!)

Another Pine Lake Testimony!

This past summer one of our churches sent a young boy to camp—a nine year old—as a "respite/reward" from being the primary caregiver for his terminally ill mom and two younger siblings.

During his week at camp, this young boy gave his life to Jesus, but shortly after his return home, his mom passed away.

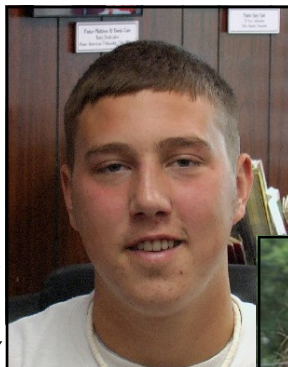
Cabin counselors, Tony Widdel and Cari Howard, attended the memorial service and this young boy's subsequent baptism.

The following letter was written to Tony and Cari, and is reproduced with permission:

Tony and Cari—

I want to thank you both once again for taking time to be there for D_____ during his mom's memorial service.

I had not seen him cry at all until the funeral & then he kept crying into the beanie bear. When he hugged you, Tony, and rested his head on your shoulder and just let his emotions flow was the first time he had done that and he



needed to so bad.

I was so glad you were there for him and that when he saw you he felt like he finally could release his emotions. I guess we never really know how we will impact another person's life. You certainly came into D_____ 's life at just the right time. The power of what happened at camp will be with him for the rest of his life!!

Additionally, your being able to be a part of his baptism ceremony was so awesome! Your being a part was so touching to so many in our congregation!

It is plain to see why God has called the two of you into this work! The impact you are having on the lives of young people is reaching far beyond the few days they are spending at camp!

Pine Lake is lucky to have you!

—D.U.



Iowa Baptist Conference

Box 535
32203 - 230th Street
ELDORA IA 50627
Phone: 641-858-3284
Fax: 641-858-2476

Skip Hansen
District Executive Minister
Skip@IowaBGC.org

Sue Shaw
IBC Administrator
Sue@IowaBGC.org

WEBSITES

- www.IowaBGC.org
- www.PineLakeChristianCamp.org
- www.BGCworld.org

**IBC MEN'S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 10-12**

"Game Plan For A Godly Man"

**IBC WOMEN'S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 17-19**

"His Sheep Am I"

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contemplating those thoughts... I realized that I was biking right along side members of the United States Navy, Army, and Air Force! And for someone as non-athletically inclined as I am... I found that to be quite an accomplishment... and just the thought reenergized me!

For the most part, however, in order to survive each day's ordeal... I discovered several elixirs that renewed my strength—bananas provided lost potassium, chocolate provided energy and caffeine, sports power drinks provided an energy surge, Ibuprofen provided pain relief, and naps gave me a fresh start! In essence... periodically I needed to get "recharged"... as my legs just could not keep pumping those pedals indefinitely!

As I was contemplating my "recharge" options... I realized how similar that is to the way my spiritual life operates. It periodically needs recharging... even an occasional "nap" from productive activities!

And that is often what happens to

individuals when they attend Christian camps and retreats. These events provide an opportunity to "recharge"... to get refocused and reenergized... to rest... to take in God's Word... to listen to the Holy Spirit... in order to be able to keep pedaling on the journey of life!

This past summer, we had 148 kids rededicate their lives to Jesus during IBC camps at Pine Lake . They left camp recharged and ready to go back into their communities, schools, and families, stronger and better equipped to tackle the hills, the winds, and the rain they will face along the way.

And for the men and women of the IOWA BAPTIST CONFERENCE, the MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RETREATS are coming up the 2ND & 3RD WEEKENDS OF SEPTEMBER. These, too, are great opportunities to "recharge" your spiritual life and your walk with the Lord... so that you, too, will be better equipped and ready to handle the challenges that lie ahead on your "Great Bike Ride Across Life"!

Check with your local church office for more information... and plan NOW to attend!

—Sue

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move to the one point on the compass that interested them the most... a direction that God might be leading their heart. I had no idea what might happen.

WOW!

- About two dozen kids gathered around Jerusalem—pastor/teachers to the local church.
- About three dozen kids gathered around Judea—evangelistic outreach to their surrounding community.
- A dozen kids gathered around Samaria—apostolic connectors that build churches by helping each other.
- About two dozen gathered

around Ends-of-the-Earth—prophetic truth-tellers sharing God's true mission to the whole world.

Participants in each group talked, shared, laughed and prayed for each other. They reported, "It was so good to talk with someone who already understood what I was thinking!"

→ A fifth group gathered in the middle. Praise God! That group of about three dozen who stood in the middle, is still calibrating their spiritual compass, still waiting for the clear leading of the Lord!

Everyone exchanged emails... so they can keep in touch and pray for one another as their spiritual journey progresses.

I was gratified to see how broadly God is opening the minds of our IBC young people! They are getting the picture of what God means when He says in John 3:16, "God so loved the world!"

I am praying that every IBC church will take to heart the bigness of God's purpose and passion. I hope every church will empower and encourage its young people toward becoming pastor/teachers, evangelists, apostles, and prophets—men and women who will lead local churches, reach surrounding communities, connect churches, and reach the world beyond!

Let's make sure our kids don't miss out!

—Skip