

Connections

LINKING RHEMA GRADUATES AROUND THE WORLD

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They Now?

Working Together in Ministry:
Pastors, Staff & Volunteers

—Part 1

Alumni . . . Bring the whole family!



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Lynette Hagin

Craig W. Hagin

Keith Butler

Charles Cowan

Mark Hankins

J.C. Hash

Darrell Huffman

Kate McVeigh

Reggie Scarborough

Scott Webb

Planet Kids (children's services)

"Campmeeting is awesome because of the great teaching and the praise and worship. God rules!"

—G.S., age 11,
St. Louis, Missouri

Adult services

"Campmeeting is refreshing. The teaching is very practical and applicable, and I'm enjoying the freedom of the move of the Spirit of God."

—S.S., Moscow,
Russia

Summer Blitz (youth services)

"I had a bodily disorder called fibromyalgia. The doctors said I'd have it forever and that it's incurable. But tonight I feel free. All pain is gone!"

—F.M., teenager,
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma



The Bottom Line

Working Together in Ministry

DOUG JONES | RMAI/RAA Director

Ephesians 4:16 (*NKJV*) says, “From whom [Christ] the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

“By which every part does its share.”

Throughout my years of ministry, I have witnessed so many who have stepped up to volunteer within churches and ministries. These people have been full of hope and excitement over the opportunity to be a blessing and add value to others.

And so they begin, serving where they are able, doing what they can from week to week. At the same time, they are completely unaware of the potholes that lurk ahead. Once encountered, these potholes bring distractions to the forefront that can kidnap a volunteer’s attention, rendering the unsuspecting volunteer ineffective.

As a part of the RHEMA family, we have been instilled with what God’s Word tells us about the importance of doing our part. Serving, helping, volunteering, and working are prevalent characteristics among us all, but wisdom will demand that we maintain a vigilant position, ever aware of the potholes that can cause us to draw back from our desire to serve.

We all have seen volunteers and staff members alike become sidelined by allowing their focus to be turned toward the question, “What is in it for me?”

The question of “When will I begin to be paid for doing this?” is also a common pothole that disrupts the service of so many. Feelings of being unappreciated and undervalued have waylaid so many, and yet at the same time, there are those among us who have maintained themselves and refused to allow such things to hinder them from supplying their part. As Ephesians 4:16 says, “Every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share.”

Throughout the pages ahead, you will have the unique opportunity to hear from alumni who are serving in churches. Within each of their articles, the joy of serving resounds in their words, and yet, at the same time, they are aware that there are potholes to avoid.

As you glean from the advice in this issue, it is my prayer that each of us will maintain the position of being able to learn from one another and be encouraged to stay our course so that our labor “causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

A fellow laborer,

Douglas E. Jones

RMAI/RAA National Director

Alumni Office:
Front Row (left to right):
Marianna Moore, Karen Jensen,
Ann Graves, Tad Gregurich
Back Row:
Joe Duinick, Doug Jones,
Kellie Jones



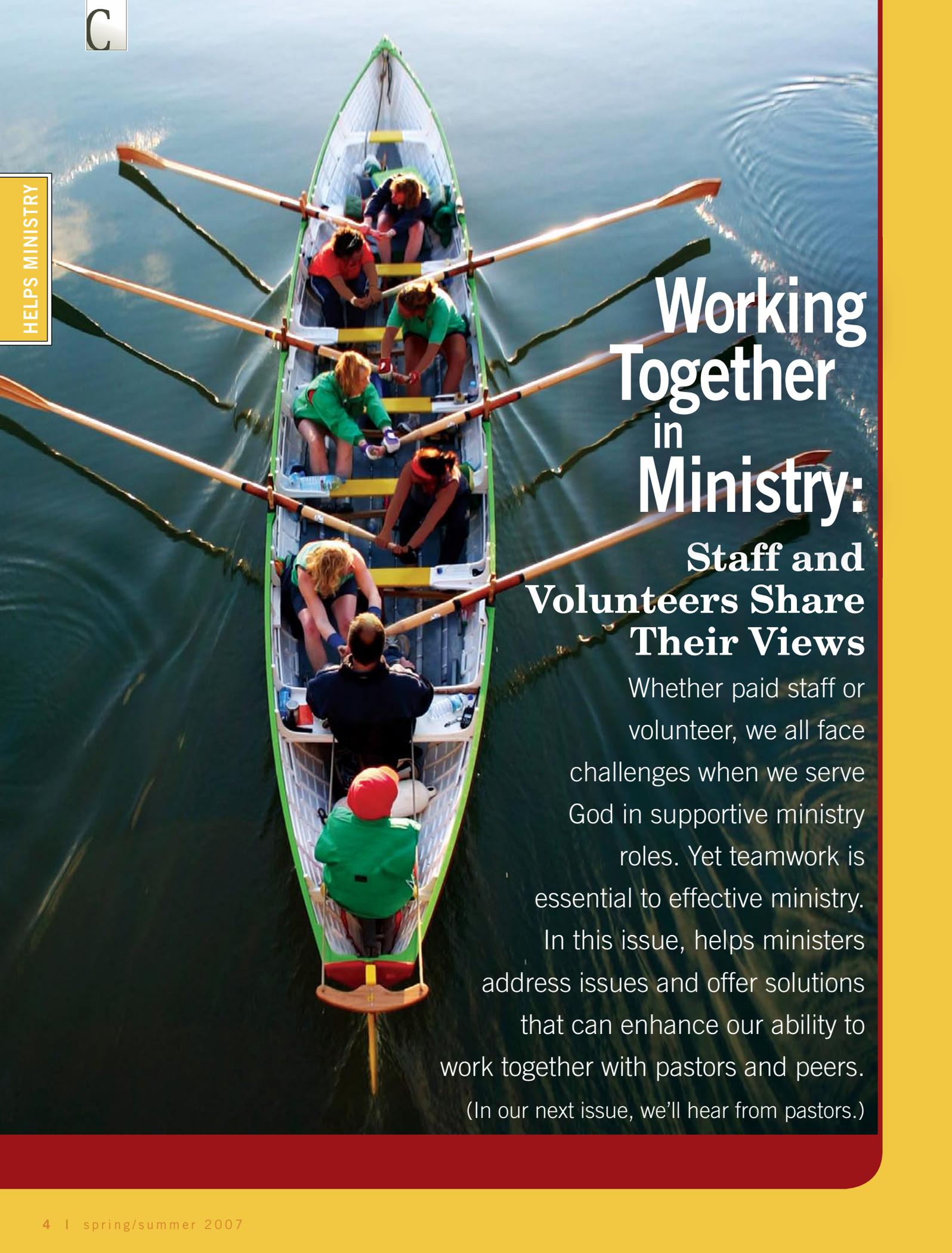
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Working Together in Ministry:

Staff and Volunteers Share Their Views

Whether paid staff or volunteer, we all face challenges when we serve God in supportive ministry roles. Yet teamwork is essential to effective ministry.

In this issue, helps ministers address issues and offer solutions that can enhance our ability to work together with pastors and peers.

(In our next issue, we'll hear from pastors.)

Be Adaptable // David Finley //

David Finley ('83, '84)



David Finley has pioneered and pastored a church, volunteered for years, and is now a paid staff member for Pastor **Pat Butcher ('84, '85)** at Family Worship Center in Carrollton, Kentucky. Dave's advice for being heard by leadership and maximizing your contribution: learn the ropes, adapt, and be patient.

The biggest surprise to me when I first became a staff member was that nobody ever thought I had a good idea," laughs Dave. "When I suggested something, they would listen politely and then just move on!

"The quality of a staff member's contribution will increase as he or she matures in the position," he adds. "When you've just come into an organization and you're trying to impress people with what you used to do at your old church, that doesn't usually cut it."

Dave uses his 30-year stint as an employee of Ford Motor Company as an example. "A lot of people came to work at Ford from other corporations, but they didn't thrive because they couldn't adapt to the way Ford did things. And they weren't going to change the way Ford did things! No, the guys who became successful and had good careers with good contributions were the ones who adapted to the way Ford operated."

He adds, "Church staff members need to step back and look at how the organization functions. They should examine how their leaders and peers operate. They should consider what's being asked of them and how it's supposed to be brought to the table. Then they need to adapt." •

TIPS FOR HELPERS

♦ **Do a great job.** "A common mistake helps ministers make is not following through to the very end of an assignment," says David. "They do a good job, but they don't get to the point where they do a *great* job. Ninety percent of a great job comes right at the end. It takes 100 percent effort to do a great job, but not a lot of people are willing to do that."

Connections says—

♦ **Be an observer first.** It takes a while to learn how a place works. When you first start to help in a church, take time to learn how things are done, how people interact with one another, and how you can best contribute in the existing dynamic. Avoid talking about how you used to do it where you came from—that rarely works in your favor.

♦ **Don't get your feelings hurt.** When you offer an idea, remember that once it's heard, it may either be implemented or shelved. If an idea is shelved, don't let it hinder you from making other suggestions in the future. Always remain a team player.

Volunteer Because It Pleases God // Bernard and Katrina Hubbard //

Bernard ('00, '01) and Katrina Hubbard



A good attitude is essential to good service. The example of faithful service set by Bernard and Katrina is infectious. They have been members of RHEMA Bible Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, since 1999, and their current volunteer duties include the hospital care team, children's ministry, and the meal preparation committee.

We volunteer at church for several reasons," says Bernard. "We know that the more we become involved, the more our church can do to reach people and become more effective as a church body."

"What we like most about volunteering," says Katrina, "is the gratification of being a blessing to someone and seeing God move through us to touch someone else. We love seeing someone smile or cry for joy because we've made their day either by our words or our deeds. We also like the fact that what we are doing pleases our Father God, because we want to make Him smile!

"The challenging part about volunteering," she adds, "is balancing family responsibilities with the desire to do more in the church. That's why it's so important for everyone in the church to get involved. When more people are on the team, it makes it easier for everyone else on the team." •

TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERS

♦ **Remember, the work doesn't all rest on you.** "It's hard to say no when my schedule doesn't permit me to volunteer," says Katrina. "But I remind myself that there are other people on the team who can help, and it's not all up to me. Serving is a team effort!"

Connections says—

♦ **Consider your family's needs.** It's important to keep family priorities in line when volunteering, especially if you have small children. Be sure your spouse and children are in agreement with your volunteer work. There are others who can volunteer at church, but there's *no one else* who can be the mom or dad at your house.

♦ **The right motives will help you avoid burnout.** The Hubbards say, "Do what you do as service unto the Lord, not unto people. When you do it for God, it's from your heart. When you do it for people, you will burn out quickly. Do it for God with a sincere heart, for your reward comes from your Heavenly Father!"

◆ Bob Keich ('99, '00)

Bob has a two-sided perspective on pastors and helps ministers, having served as both a senior pastor and as a staff minister in different churches. Currently, he is serving as the Executive Pastor at Cornerstone Church in Nashville, Tennessee, along with 13 other associate pastors. Bob's advice: Don't lose sight of the fact that ministry is not always about preaching, and it's not always convenient. It's about serving people.



"I've worked on both sides of the table," says Bob, "and I've seen many ministers who believe ministry is about preaching rather than about people. Forgetting the ability to serve—and developing the desire to be served—hinders the move of God in many ministries. A minister is effective because of his ability to serve.

"Probably the greatest surprise I've found in staff ministry is that your life is not your own," Bob adds. "My heart lives to care, love, and minister to people, and ministry is often required at inconvenient times. Deaths, crisis counseling, and emergencies are not scheduled. You deal with them when they happen.

"I believe Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr. said it best: 'Ministry is spelled W-O-R-K!' I've hired five pastoral staff members this year, and each one has come into my office at some point and said, 'I've never worked so hard in all my life—but I love it.' Ministry at times can be lonely, trying on the family, and hard on the emotions, but if you continue in faith, prayer, and walking by the Holy Spirit, whatever you put your hand to will prosper." •

◆ TIPS FOR STAFF MINISTERS

• **Know what to expect.** "Many times," Bob says, "staff members expect to become buddies with the senior pastor. This misconception of staff relationships can cause trouble because of wrong expectations."

Connections says—

◆ **Not every pastor is inclined to be a friend or mentor.** Don't expect the pastor to always fill the role of friend or mentor in your life. Let God add the mentors and friends of His choosing to your life. Meanwhile, always maintain a heart to serve.

• **Realize you're a steward.** Bob says, "I share with my associates that they do not have a ministry. They are stewards of the pastor's ministry. There is a fine line between stewardship and ownership. We want people to develop a sense of ministry ownership, but stewardship is understanding the vision and recognizing our place in bringing that vision to fruition."

• **Live a life of integrity.** "Too often, we struggle in two primary areas: insecurity and integrity. It seems as if some have a charisma that takes them places where their character won't keep them," Bob says.

Connections adds—

◆ We have two tools we can use to influence others—who we are and what we say. Your Christlike character will allow you to speak into people's lives. Hypocrites are never taken seriously. Choose today to be a person of righteous character, no matter how others are behaving around you.

• **Take care of yourself.** Bob shares, "I often work 45 to 50 hours a week, but one week recently (when an important dignitary in our denomination passed away), I worked without a day off, about 85 to 90 hours. I have found that having a personal exercise program, eating right, and being disciplined in the Word allow me to minister effectively even when I may be weary."

Be Ready for Anything // Todd Hardaway //

◆ Todd Hardaway ('99, '00, '01)



Todd shares the perspective of a volunteer—one who works a full-time secular job at a bank and at the same time handles both youth and music ministry in his church. He sees a helps minister as one who helps wherever needed, not just in their assigned area of ministry. Todd has been a volunteer for four years at Rock Family Church in Eureka, Missouri, under Pastor **Russell Priske ('94, '95).**

One of the most important things to remember about being in helps ministry is to be flexible," says Todd. "Be ready for anything. I'm the youth pastor, but I can't be surprised if my pastor comes up to me and says, 'Hey, I need your help cleaning this, or doing that, or working

on the children's ministry outreach.' I'm available to do whatever is needed.

"For example, when I was first asked to be the youth pastor, I was young and didn't have much experience, and I got very excited about being *youth pastor*," says Todd. "But I was surprised when my pastor added, 'You will also be responsible for keeping the youth building clean on a weekly basis.' Ministry responsibilities tend to be broader than we think. There's always more to the job than you think, so be ready to do whatever needs doing."

One way Todd maintains his ready-for-anything attitude is by remembering why he volunteers in the first place. "I often tell other volunteers and helps ministers to

When You Disagree With Your Leader // David and Debbie Jacinto //

David and Debbie ('88, '89) Jacinto

David and Debbie address the issue of what to do when you disagree with your leader's direction or decisions. For them, it boils down to fostering a long-term mutual respect with your leader and understanding your role. David has been a ministry volunteer for nearly 20 years in three different churches, currently serving as youth minister at Living Word Family

Church in Naples, Florida, for Pastor Paul Foslien ('87, '88). Debbie is currently employed as the church's office manager.



If my pastor issues a directive, then I have an obligation to carry it out," says David. "That is not to say I'm always in agreement. It merely means I understand my role. If I was not asked to be part of the decision-making process, then it would be presumptuous for me to think I should offer my opinion. I'm not likely to offer my input unless directly asked."

Debbie adds, "The worst thing you can do if you disagree with your pastor is talk to other people about it. If you're not in agreement, it's not your responsibility to correct him. God gave *him* the direction for the ministry, not you.

"Proverbs 13:3 (NKJV) says, 'He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.' When you go around talking about something you disagree with, you destroy credibility and reputation, both yours and your pastor's. If it's something serious where the pastor needs help, only speak to those in authority who *can* help. But don't go talking to a lot of people and pushing your own agenda. That causes strife and division."

David believes there are times when it's appropriate to talk with your leader about your concerns. "First, it's important to know whether or not his decision is negotiable," he says. "If not, then I submit to his will and support the cause. It's important for subordinates to have a way to communicate thoughts and concerns, but it's the *pastor's* leadership style that will determine the extent to which dialogue occurs."

He adds, "The path to open communication is developed through repeated, positive interaction with your pastor. That takes time. If your interaction is limited, then it's unlikely that a healthy flow of information will be achieved."

There are different ways to work out differences with a leader. "I have had the most success with face-to-face conversations in which the leader recognizes my expertise in an area and allows me to express my views," says David. "But that's only happened when the leader and I have developed mutual respect for one another." •

MORE TIPS

• **Remember who your real leader is.** "The most successful helpers base their identity in Christ," says David. "They serve as unto the Lord. When disagreements arise in ministry, they have an inner peace. They are neither striving to be recognized nor seeking their own glory. They know that God is well able to manage His kingdom."

• **Ask the tough questions in advance.** David notes, "Sometimes, helpers start enthusiastically but then burn out because they never went through the process of counting the cost. Before you start helping in any ministry capacity, ask yourself: What does the position entail? How many hours of my time are needed? Can I fit this into my schedule without neglecting other areas of my life? How will this affect my family? Don't get overextended. Don't get involved in every available ministry opportunity, because after a while, the workload becomes too much to bear, and you quit altogether."

TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERS

• **Respect people's time.** "One thing I appreciate about my pastor," Todd says, "is that he understands I'm a volunteer who works a full-time job outside the church, so he doesn't make unreasonable demands of me. I have to respect those same time constraints with my fellow volunteers."

• **Watch how you talk.** Todd notes, "A common mistake helps ministers make is talking to other volunteers or church members about how they disagree with their pastor's decisions or ideas. That causes division and undermines growth. We should support the pastor publicly even when we disagree privately."

Connections adds—

♦ Most disagreements do not focus on *what* needs to be done but on *how*. Realize that no one will do the same project in the same way, and differing methods can accomplish the same results. Be versatile and learn from how others approach a project.

• **Appreciate your workers.** "One of the main reasons people leave a job—even one that pays well—is a lack of appreciation," says Todd. "In the church world, we work mostly with volunteers, and if those volunteers will leave their *paid* jobs because of a lack of appreciation, you better believe they'll leave the church for the same reason. Volunteers are giving of their lives to help build the vision. I always want to remember to spend more time appreciating and less time demanding."

remember we're here because it's our heart's desire to serve God," he says. "We're not here to serve a man. Yes, we help a man fulfill his vision, but we shouldn't do it expecting a pat on the back. Remember that when you get frustrated or tired. It brings things into perspective and helps you keep the right mindset. I'm not here to get accolades from people but to satisfy what God has put in my heart." •

Steve ('88, '89) and Jennifer ('91, '92) McMichael

Steve and his wife, Jennifer, are missionaries to Zambia and have served under **Rev. Walker and Haley Schurz ('90, '91)** for four years at Miracle Life Family Church in Lusaka, Zambia. Steve is associate pastor, overseeing several departments including altar care, street kids ministry, and healing teams. As you read Steve's comments, ask yourself, "Am I doing my part to communicate with my pastor, peers, and those under me?"

In communicating with pastors, it's always good to be prepared beforehand," says Steve. "The corporate world uses the 'times-10 rule,' meaning you should spend at least 10 minutes preparing on any issue that takes one minute of your boss's time. Preparation makes your presentation clearer.

"Once you're actually communicating, stay focused," he adds. "Ask for clarification if you have any doubt about what's being said. Deadlines should be confirmed a second time.

"The best *method* of communication depends totally on your pastor," says Steve. "Communicate with him in the way he prefers. Some issues require a face-to-face meeting, but many things do not. Notes, e-mails, and phone calls are great for most day-to-day issues."

Steve also says, "Honor is a big issue. Honor your pastor's time. If he wants details, by all means give them. If he doesn't, then summarize the matter and offer your thoughts. Adapt to the way he likes to receive information."

Steve also has a suggestion for those who feel they don't have good communication with their leader: "Keep working to build trust. Listen to what your pastor says, both in private and in the pulpit. Understanding opens the door for communication. If you

don't know your leader's preferred way to communicate, then explore with e-mails, memos, calls, short visits, or intense meetings. And always use a variety.

"Many times, lack of communication is not a lack of heart; it is a lack of connection," he adds. "Poor communication doesn't disqualify the leader or devalue the server. Communication can always be made better, but never without effort. Be alert, be prepared, and walk in love. You will find the connection." •



TIPS FOR STAFF MEMBERS

• **Communicate with those under you.** Steve says, "People's questions may not always seem important to you, but give them the dignity of your attention, and if possible, don't rush them. If you have to end a meeting with your workers, be tactful. Make it a habit to thank them for their input and concern. Also, written communication such as e-mails or memos are good for conveying details, but not for correction. If you have to correct or confront someone, do it in person."

Connections says—

▶ **Get both sides.** Be sure to get all the facts; there are always two sides to every story. Be careful that the first person who speaks to you doesn't have the greatest impact on how you view the situation. Withhold your opinion until you are able to hear from everyone involved. This will help you avoid misunderstandings and premature conclusions.

• **Understand your position.** "Many staff members misunderstand the pressure their pastors endure," Steve says. "It's easy to think that you would love the top spot and that you know what it's like, but you probably don't. The opportunity we have to serve is from God; if we forget that, we will not give our service a worthy effort."

• **Enjoy today.** "Today is the only time you can laugh, contribute, and grow. Do these things well today and you will be ready tomorrow."

Connections says—

▶ **Enjoy the journey.** You can be effective in ministry and at the same time nurture and enjoy your marriage, children, and friends. Make time to relax, have fun, and build your relationships. Happy, balanced marriages and families will add strength and energy to your ministry.

▶ **Timing is everything.** When communicating with your pastor, especially about a sensitive issue, be sure you pick the right time to bring it up. It's not usually a good idea to initiate important conversations in the church hallways, before or after the service, or during times designated for relaxation or fellowship.

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"What our church staff gains from this conference is immeasurable. The spirit of excellence pervades the ministry at RHEMA, and this spirit must be caught!"

—R. and L.L.

tips for Supportive Ministers

Maintain the attitude of “sameness.”

- When you're discouraged in ministry or people aren't treating you right, avoid the tendency to change your behavior or work ethic. Don't pull back. The quality of *sameness* means you refuse to change who you are and how you act based on how other people treat you.
- Remember what First Peter 2:18 (*Amplified*) says: “[You who are] household servants, be submissive to your masters with all [proper] respect, **not only to those who are kind and considerate and reasonable, but also to those who are surly (overbearing, unjust, and crooked).**”
- Guard yourself from being distracted by the problems of life or how people are acting. Keep on loving people! Continue to be a person of your word. When others fail to keep their word to you, keep your word to them anyway.
- Read and reread the story of Joseph (Genesis chapters 37–41). People misunderstood and mistreated him, but he refused to stop being himself. Because he maintained this quality of sameness, he always ended up in positions of leadership. Don't allow circumstances to stop you from being you. Stay true to your values, beliefs, and character traits.

Remember who you are and why you're there.

- The supportive minister is any person who is not the pastor or head of the ministry. You help the pastor do things he *could* do himself—but if he did, he couldn't carry out his primary function, which is to feed the people and guide the vision. You play a tremendous part in the work of God.
- No one can do the work of the ministry alone. We all must do our part. When life gets routine and your tasks seem mundane, remember that your pastor, your church, and the lost in your community need you to stand in your place. Everything you do has eternal significance.
- Be diligent. Do everything to the best of your ability. Proverbs 10:26 (*NLT*) says, “Lazy people irritate their employers, like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes.”
- Remember, when you commit yourself to bringing someone else's vision to pass, God can bring your vision to pass.

Keep your personal life strong.

- The biggest help you can give to your pastor is to stay strong spiritually. Be stable. Be the person he can go to when he needs a helper, not the person he always has to be helping.
- Read your Bible every day, pray in the Spirit every day, and keep yourself built up. Walk in love with people. Be a peacemaker, not an agitator.
- A balanced life with daily time spent in the Word of God will keep your spirit strong, which will help you keep your family life and your finances stable. It will help you stay on an even keel, so you can always be a source of strength to your pastor instead of a drain.

“It takes a great deal of courage to follow another person's lead.”
—Bill Hybels

Be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

- Think through problems and come up with possible solutions. Don't just rehearse what is wrong, but look for ways to make it right.
- Be willing to offer those solutions in a humble and helpful way, not pushing your own agenda.



blog (bläg/):

a journal written by one or more contributors, often about a particular topic with the latest news and ideas.

“We are not cisterns made for hoarding, we are channels made for sharing.”

—Billy Graham

▶ **Alumni, Let's Exchange Ideas!**

The Alumni Blog . . . RHEMA Alumni sharing what works, reaching the world with the message of faith! Send us your great ideas (along with your name, phone number, and photos) to rmai@rhema.org.

log children's ministry

▶ **Jeff and Karen Schlemmer ('85, '86) say . . .**

Security for Checking In Children. We have used Automated Church Systems (www.acstechnologies.com) for several years to manage our financial records, and now we're using it for security purposes when checking in children. It produces badges for parents, children, and volunteers, as well as attendance sheets and rosters. It's very flexible and can even be used with a barcode scanner. The company offers good technical support and many online training tools (for a small fee).

About . . . Jeff and Karen Schlemmer are children's pastors at Living Word Ministries in West Haven, Connecticut. www.lwministries.org

▶ **David ('84, '85) and Celeste ('84) Rogers say . . .**



Bus Ministry. After we bought a 26,000-square-foot building, we wanted to grow and have an impact on our community. **John ('96, '97) and Martine ('94, '95) Smithwick** helped train our volunteers to do a bus ministry. Our people dressed as clowns and went door-to-door in low-income neighborhoods to introduce themselves and let parents know there would be a puppet show in their common area the next day. We did skits and music, then told the parents we'd send a bus the next day to pick up kids for Sunday service. We started with a 15-passenger van; now we own a school bus and are looking to buy another. It took a while to earn trust, but parents began to show up at the church after seeing their children's positive response. One of the biggest blessings has been seeing some families really turn around.

About . . . David and Celeste Rogers pastor Resurrection Life Church in Waterville, Maine. www.mainechurch.org

▶ Dwight Kilborn ('95, '96) says ...

Communicating With Youth Leaders. Because some of my youth leaders have to travel 30 to 40 minutes to come to church, having regular meetings can be tough. To stay connected with them and let them know what's happening, I have a blog where I communicate everything I would say in a meeting. There are many Internet blog providers; I use TypePad (www.typepad.com). TypePad is password protected, and there's a calendar for scheduling—I actually have no paperwork at all. Every time I post a new item or a team member posts a comment, an alert automatically goes to everyone's e-mail. The blog is more personal than e-mail, and everyone can follow the conversation threads.

About ... Dwight Kilborn is youth pastor at Fellowship of Faith Christian Center in Oakland, Iowa. www.inversionyouth.com

▶ Darian Rains ('92, '93) says ...

Keeping Youth in Church After They Graduate. Youth ministry is fun and exciting, but if we are not careful, it can become a separate entity from the local church. Our students will be in our youth program for only six years, but we want them to be church members for the rest of their lives. So, we're working to get them involved in the *whole* ministry, not just youth ministry. We're still creative in reaching this generation, but we're not "clubby." We get youth involved in the church's culture through the ministry of helps, church outreaches, and a summer internship program we call "Lift." The youth commit a couple of days each week to the program. We teach them as if they're a RHEMA class. We're instilling the culture of our church into them, and as a result, they stay in the church after they graduate from the youth ministry.



About ... Darian Rains is youth pastor at Light of the World Christian Center in Topeka, Kansas. www.lotwcc.org

▶ Mark Thornton ('05, '06) says ...

Reaching Out and Building Up Within. Four days a week, the senior high youth pastor and I go to a different school in town to have lunch with the youth. We talk about what's happening at the church (missions trips, beach camps, and so on). Pretty soon, there's a bunch of kids hanging around, wanting to hear about what



we're doing. We've also started a separate weeknight meeting called "DTime" (devotional time) for those who want to go deeper with God than they might in the regular service or Sunday school. We dig into the Word, and each week the meeting has grown, with about 60 kids showing up right now.

About ... Mark Thornton is junior high youth pastor at Cornerstone Church in Nashville, Tennessee. www.cornerstonenashville.org

blog outreaches

▶ Adam and Rachel Gates ('04, '05) say ...

Reaching Out to the Community. We do many things throughout the year to share the love of Jesus in a practical way. (We get many ideas from the book *Conspiracy of Kindness* by Steve Sjogren). At Christmas, we wrap gifts for free at Wal-Mart. We've gone to trailer parks and taken people's garbage out for them—two families came to church as a result. We've gone to elderly people's homes and offered to help them by changing light bulbs, checking smoke detector batteries, cleaning gutters, or raking leaves. We've given away 200 book bags to school children and supplied items to the local firehouse. We've found that people respond to their needs being met, and the whole community knows our church as "a church that helps."



About ... Adam and Rachel Gates pastor On Fire Family Church in Murphy, North Carolina. www.onfirefamilychurch.org

▶ Bob Keich ('99, '00) says ...

Staying in Touch With Members. When my pastor first took over this church, it had about 200 members. Every Saturday, he would personally call every person on the role, encouraging each one to come, bring a friend, and bring a Bible. But as the church grew, he was making phone calls for 12 hours a day, so he switched to a phone system called Phone Tree (www.phonetree.com). It allows you to send a message from the pastor to the members, or messages to specific groups within the church. We now make about 3,500 phone calls on Saturdays. It has also developed into an accountability tool—lay leaders can call their groups, and people will call back if they're not going to be there.

About ... Bob Keich is Senior Executive Pastor of Cornerstone Church in Nashville, Tennessee. www.cornerstonenashville.org

➤ **Barry and Sheila Fredericks ('83, '84) say...**

Strengthening Families. People very often struggle with their relationships, so we do a "Home Improvement" meeting in the church on Saturday nights. We send out postcards with a construction theme to invite the community to attend. The sessions last for just one hour. We pick a topic and sit on the platform with our Bibles and notes, share some Bible principles, and then open up discussion with the crowd. Topics have included how to honor one another as husband and wife, the importance of words, showing affection, and developing trust. We've had non-members come and end up joining the church, and it's been a wonderful success in helping people with their foundational relationships.



About ... Barry and Sheila Fredericks pastor Grace Christian Fellowship in Newtown, Connecticut. www.gcf-ct.org

➤ **James ('88, '89) and Elizabeth (Frizelle '85, '86) Burgoyne say ...**

Advertising With Bulk Mail. Twice a year, in September and January, we sent a bulk mail postcard inviting people to our church. We applied for a non-profit bulk rate at our local post office (they'll walk you through the paperwork), then got the postal routes from them. We chose whether we wanted to send to the whole town, or just our side of town. It cost about 6 to 8 cents to mail each card, adding up to a total of about \$2,000 to print 30,000 postcards. When you're writing the postcard, pinpoint the people you want to reach. Here in Frisco, everyone has children, so we said something about kids and families. Always put your picture on the card. Look at Web sites like www.outreach.com for good ideas; they'll send you samples. Mailing these cards can help you build a reputation and recognition in the city and cause people to log on to your Web site to find out more about you.



About ... James and Elizabeth Burgoyne live in Frisco, Texas.

➤ **Nick and Kim Stutesman ('89, '90) say...**

In Emergency Situations. When Kim suffered a life-threatening medical emergency and was in the hospital, we were so overwhelmed with calls from people wanting to know how she was that we couldn't answer or return them all. We started using the voicemail on our cell phone to give updates. We gave that number to everyone, and every day we'd change the message to include the date, her

condition, specific prayer needs, and so on. It really helped us keep in touch with the people who care.

About ... Nick and Kim Stutesman pastor Sunrise Bible Church in Sunrise Beach, Missouri.

➤ **Gary Hoffman ('80, '81) says ...**

Chili Cook-Off Outreach. We do this every year in the fall as a Halloween alternative, in conjunction with our Hallelujah Night, complete with games and inflatable toys for kids. We hold it outside. About 20 people in the church sign up to make chili (each person makes five gallons). Some of them even wear costumes. Anyone who wants to can taste all the chilis and then vote for their favorite one. We usually have about 100 judges, and a winner is crowned at the end. We invite the community to come out. Usually, about 500 people come, 30 percent of whom are visitors.

About ... Gary Hoffman pastors Faith Fellowship Church in Wirtz, Virginia. www.glorydome.org

➤ **John Edwards ('97, '98) says ...**

Getting Church Members Involved in Missions. We started a group in our church called SEALs: "Separated Empowered Anointed Leaders." They are trained and mobilized for missions. Anyone who is a tithing member of the church can be a SEAL. We have about 20 people involved right now, even children. We've taken five trips overseas so far, where we do everything from street witnessing and church ministry to construction and physical labor. We have more trips planned, and our goal is to do one a month.

About ... John Edwards pastors Hillside Church in Clay, Alabama. www.faithpreacher.com

➤ **Earl and Marci Glisson ('99, '00) say ...**

Sports Fellowship. We started "Anchor Faith Intramural Varsity League" in our church. It's almost like a cell ministry based on sports interests. We offer flag football, softball, volleyball, and other sports. Some are co-ed; others aren't. In the fall, men sign up for flag football. We draft the teams (just like the NFL), then play eight regular season games. After that are the playoffs and then the Super Bowl, with a huge tailgate party. We do this at a local park in town, so the community sees us. It gives our church an opportunity for fellowship, and also allows us to be out in the community, talking with people, and showing them we are an active church. We've had people show up to church because they saw us in the park.



About ... Earl and Marci Glisson pastor Anchor Faith Church in St. Augustine, Florida. www.anchorfaith.com

Have an outreach idea? Tell us about it! Send your name, phone number, details, and photos to rmai@rhema.org.

building your library

RHEMA instructors' favorite reads:

▶ Brian McCallum says ...



Under The Wire by William Ash. The memoirs of an American pilot during World War II, whose daring escapes from several Nazi prison camps made him a legend. The more the enemy abused Bill Ash, the more he demonstrated determination to resist. His story parallels how the early church responded with determination to preach the Gospel the more they were persecuted.

Out of Islam by Christopher Alam ('82). One Muslim's journey to faith in Christ and his place as an evangelist in the Body of Christ. This is the amazing account of Christopher's salvation, God's care for him, and how dedicated he is (and we can be) to reach the lost.

About ... Brian McCallum ('79, '80) has been an RBTC instructor since 1981. He teaches *Dispensational Truths, Christianity and World Religions, Evangelists Lab*, and two visitation courses for the School of Pastoral Ministry.

▶ Karen Jensen says ...



Becoming a Contagious Christian by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg. Shows you how to make communicating your faith the most natural thing in the world, based on Jesus' own examples. This book helps you discover your own natural evangelism style and how to direct conversations with lost or unchurched people. (There's also a video series.)

Discover Your God-Given Gifts by Don and Katie Fortune. Explains why you (and others) think and act in certain ways, how your gifts affect your relationships, how you can best serve the Lord, and how to understand others. This book also helps you know where you fit, and shows you how to put people in positions that most fully utilize their gifts.

About ... Karen Jensen is a staff minister in the RAA/RMAI office and an instructor at RBTC. She teaches *Blood Covenant, Introduction to Pastoral Care, Caring for People God's Way*, and *Pastors Lab*.

▶ Keith Nachbor says ...



The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell. Presents a new way of understanding why change so often happens as quickly and as unexpectedly as it does. This is a great book about how small things make a difference, and it's very useful for churches.

The Revolutionary Communicator by Eric Lokkesmoe and Jedd Medefind. Seven things Jesus did to connect with those around Him.

This is the best book of the 10 or so I've read in the last year. It explains very practical things you can apply in your life today.

About ... Keith Nachbor ('95, '96) is the Junior High Youth Pastor at RHEMA Bible Church and an instructor at RBTC. He teaches *Ministering to Youth in Crisis, Mechanics of Youth Ministry, Youth Outreaches and Activities*, plus *Supportive Staff in the Local Church*, and visitation courses for the School of Pastoral Ministry.

what's in your library?

Send your name, phone number, and details about your favorite resources to rmai@rhema.org.

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Access the alumni section of www.rhema.org.

Log on and locate the "Welcome Alumni" box.

Login: the number on your alumni membership card

Password: your first and last names with a space in between

log in here



Check out these great Internet resources!

Church Growth

www.buildingchurchleaders.com

www.churchgrowth.net

www.ag.org/top/news/VFT/index.cfm

Kids and Divorce

www.divorce-kids.com

www.itsnotyourfault.org

www.kidsinthemiddle.org

Substance Abuse

www.raphacare.com

www.streetdrugs.org

Short-Term Missions Trips

www.inmotionministries.org

(Note: This is run by an RBTC graduate who helps churches take missions trips.)



Qualities Helpers Should Possess

Moses and the Ministry of Helps



TAD GREGURICH

Moses. The mere mention of his name conjures up powerful images of his ministry: Standing before the burning bush ... standing before Pharaoh, demanding that God's people be let go ... standing before the Red Sea with his staff raised ... standing with the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai ... standing with Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration.

But there was a time when Moses *sat*, and the people stood before him. His father-in-law, Jethro, saw what he did and gave him God's counsel (Exod. 18:14–24). That counsel forever changed the way Moses did ministry. No longer could he be the only man with answers. He had to find *others* to share the work of the ministry.

Ministry Grows When We Lighten the Load!

As Moses led God's people, the work of the ministry overloaded him. He was wearing the people out, and wearing himself out too.

Increase in ministry comes from getting others involved in the business of the church.

Many ministers today labor under a heavy load. That has *never* been God's way. Jethro advised Moses to find helpers. Moses had to let those with God-given gifts do their part. *Increase in ministry comes from getting others involved in the business of the church.*

Jethro gave Moses four traits to look for as he chose helpers to share the work: "*Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people ABLE MEN, such as FEAR GOD,*

MEN OF TRUTH, HATING COVETOUSNESS ..." (Exod. 18:21).

It's important for those of us in supportive ministries to possess these qualities.

Quality #1: Be Able

Michael Jordan was a basketball player of great ability. But he didn't allow himself to be lazy; he *developed* his abilities. His

great plays, soaring slam dunks, and lightning-quick steals were the result of hours of hard work.

Every Christian is endowed with specific *charismas*—grace gifts (1 Peter 4:10–11). How are we using those gifts? Are we developing them and using them to their greatest potential?

Quality #2: Fear the Lord

W.E. Vine describes the fear of the Lord as "a wholesome dread of displeasing the Father." Jesus said, "*I do always those things that please him*" (John 8:29). The fear of the Lord is the foundation upon which all wisdom finds its stability (Prov. 1:7; 9:10). When you do everything you can to please the Lord, out of reverential fear and worship of Him, you build both your personal and your ministry life on a sure foundation.

Quality #3: Be a Person of Truth

In a world that is increasingly moving away from absolutes, leaders are looking for people who exhibit the rare character trait of *truth*. Truth means two things for us. First, people of truth are people of the Word, so keep the Word first place in your life. Second, ministers must be people of honesty and integrity. That means your word is your bond.

Quality #4: Hate Covetousness

People who hate covetousness despise dishonest gain. They can't be bought, won't steal what belongs to others, and don't push others out of the way. They are content with what they have and where God has put them, displaying unshakeable ethical and moral character.

These are the biblical qualities that God and leaders are looking for. May we all seek to develop and display them in our lives, and be the greatest help and blessing we can be to the Kingdom of God.

About . . . Tad Gregurich is the RAA/RMAI Events Director/Staff Minister. A 1984 graduate of RBTC, he has been an instructor since 2001. He teaches *Ephesians, Bible Doctrines, Bible Research and Study Methods, Preaching With Relevance, Supportive Ministries 101, Biblical Perspectives of Supportive Ministries, and Pastors Lab.*

RBTC/RBC UPDATE

RHEMA Bible Church • Cooper Beaty • Homecoming 2007

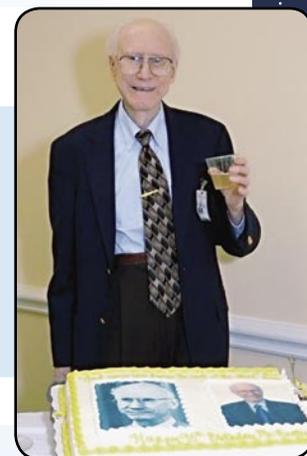


RHEMA BIBLE CHURCH

New RBC Sign—After a 15-year wait, the new RHEMA Bible Church sign was put up in time for this year's *Winter Bible Seminar*. The sign is 30 feet tall and about 20 feet wide, with a full-color 6.7-by-17-foot LED screen, designed by Daktronics and Acura Neon. It's designed so that people can read it as they drive by (at a speed of 40 mph), and it can be read from half a mile away.

COOPER BEATY

Cooper Turns 90—RBTC instructor Cooper Beaty celebrated his 90th birthday the week before *Winter Bible Seminar*. Born February 17, 1917, Cooper was 58 when he graduated from RHEMA's charter class in 1975, and he's been an instructor since 1977. Still going strong this school year ('06, '07), Cooper taught *Old Testament Survey*, *Church History*, *History of the Bible*, and *Creative Teaching Principles*. Several celebrations were held in honor of his birthday, including a party with the staff, and one with the students.



HOMECOMING 2007

RBTC alumni from around the world "came home to family" for *Homecoming 2007*, held on the RHEMA USA campus in conjunction with *Winter Bible Seminar*, February 18–23.



Monday night was the Alumni Fellowship, where more than 800 graduates caught up with old friends, made new ones, ate delicious refreshments, and enjoyed prizes from the giant Sweepstakes drawing.

Revs. Ken and Lynette Hagin expressed their love and thanks to RHEMA missionaries at the annual Missionary Luncheon held on Thursday.



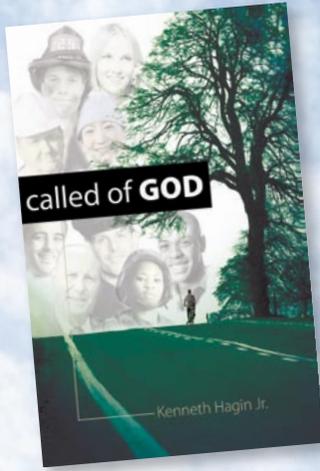
The classes of 1977, 1987, and 1997 were honored as they celebrated their respective reunions of 30, 20, and 10 years at a beautiful luncheon held Wednesday at the Ninowski Recreation Center.



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CALLED OF GOD



In his brand-new book release, *Called of God*, Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr. speaks to those whom God has called to give their lives to His service and to those who desire to better understand what the ministry involves. Discover the nature of your calling and how to be equipped for success in your service to the Lord. Order your copy today!

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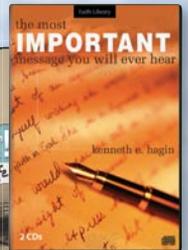
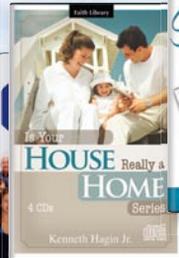
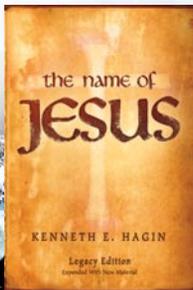
Books:

Overflow: Living Above Life's Limits Kenneth Hagin Jr. **\$9.95**

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The Name of Jesus: Legacy Edition Kenneth E. Hagin **\$19.95**

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CD Teachings:

Healing Belongs to Us Kenneth E. Hagin (4 CDs) **\$28.00**

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Is Your House Really a Home Series Kenneth Hagin Jr. (4 CDs) **\$28.00**

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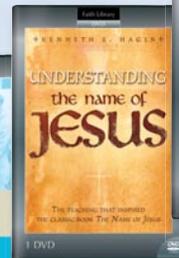
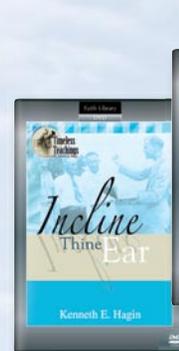
Understanding the Name of Jesus Kenneth E. Hagin

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Kenneth E. Hagin

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Get Ready: Preparing Yourself to Be a Help in Ministry



... *Deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money. They must be committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience. BEFORE they are appointed as deacons, let them be closely examined. If they pass the test, then let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives must be respected and must not slander others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do. A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well. Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

—1 Timothy 3:8–13 (NLT)

Develop yourself.

- Qualifications for helps ministers are listed in First Timothy 3:8–13. These qualities are to be evident in your life *before* you are placed in position as a supportive minister.
- Develop your character right where you are. The way you act on your job today is how you will act in ministry tomorrow.
- A strong marriage and family are foundational issues. Make these areas your priority. When your foundation is not strong, you are not yet ready to help others.

Give attention to ...

- *The small things.* Unless you are faithful in “little” matters, you won’t be faithful in “large ones” (Luke 16:10 NLT). Take care of your responsibilities in every area, not just ministry.
- *Other people’s things.* “If you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?” (Luke 16:12 NIV). If you don’t care about the details in someone else’s life, you can’t expect to be promoted. Don’t get lazy. Don’t think the whole world revolves around you.

Don’t be surprised by people.

- One main reason that supportive ministers leave their ministry assignments prematurely is because they feel the people they work with are too hard to get along with.
- Learn how to respond when people mistreat you. Those who don’t expect to deal with difficult bosses and coworkers are the ones who quit midstream. Don’t be surprised when you have to deal with other people’s quirks.
- Understand that ministers are *people*. People can be insecure and easily offended. They may have different backgrounds and personalities than you do. They may be RHEMA graduates or even friends of yours, but that doesn’t guarantee they will always act right.

- Do things the Bible way: Walk in love. Take no account of evil done to you. Pay no attention to suffered wrongs (1 Cor. 13:5 *Amplified*). Put others’ interests ahead of your own. Determine to obey the Word and get along with others, no matter what anyone else does. Let God promote you (Ps. 75:6–7).

Do a reality check.

- When you decide to help in a church or ministry, you have preconceived ideas of what it’s going to be like. *But it won’t be like you expect.* Be willing to help because God said to do it, and don’t back off unless He tells you to.
- If you return to help your home church after attending RHEMA, remember that two or more years have gone by. Someone has filled your old position. Many church members won’t know you. Don’t expect things to be the same, and don’t get offended. Instead, dig in, prove yourself, and help in every way you can.

If you’re interviewing for a position, find out the details.

- It’s up to you to do your homework before you commit to work in a church or ministry, whether paid or unpaid.
- Ask questions about the position, responsibilities, compensation, how much your spouse is expected to be involved, how many hours per week you’re expected to work, what kind of relationship you’re expected to have with the pastor and other church members, and so on.
- Find out about the schools in the town and surrounding areas, the economy, services, and so on.
- Make a priority list of the things you don’t have to have, the things it would be nice to have, and the things that are a must for you or your family.

Where Are They Now?

1978

Sondra Berry Young ('78) has traveled and ministered in 20 countries around the world. She has lived in South Africa since 1987, where she currently has a prayer and outreach center in Johannesburg. She speaks and ministers in churches, and also works with street teams in evangelizing Johannesburg. www.sondraberryyoung.org



1979

Harold Gray ('79) and his wife, Sonia (Sunny), have recently moved to Cle Elum, Washington, where they are itinerant ministers. Their ministry name is Revive Northwest Ministries, Inc., and the Lord has opened doors for them to minister to people who have not previously been exposed to the faith message.

1980

Ron Bakken ('79, '80) and his wife, Eileen, celebrated the 25-year anniversary of their church, Faith Hope Love Church in Moorhead, Minnesota. The Bakkens started the church in August 1981, and celebrated in September 2006 with a series of meetings featuring special guests **George Moss ('79)** and **Brad Brede ('80, '81)**.



1981

Carol Garrett ('81) works for Palm Beach Atlantic University, a small, private Christian evangelical university in West Palm Beach, Florida, that sends teams of students all over the world to minister. www.pba.edu

1983

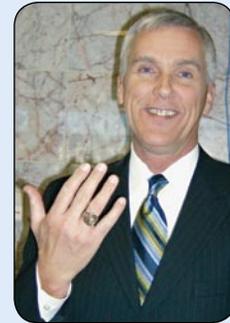
Joel Baker ('82, '83) and his wife, Nicola, live with their children in Sarajevo, where for four years they have pastored one of the few large Protestant churches in Bosnia. Sarajevo is 85 percent Muslim. The Bakers' church is about 40 percent Muslim, 40 percent Serb, and 5 percent Croat, and they report that "getting these people together is a miracle that only Jesus can do." bakersjn@hotmail.com



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Jerry Weinzierl ('82, '83)

The Power of Prayer

When Jerry Weinzierl was a student at RBTC, he wanted a class ring but couldn't afford it. For his 10-year ministry anniversary, his church bought one for him. That ring meant the world to him. But while on vacation in Florida in mid-2005, Jerry lost the ring. He was heartbroken. He and his family prayed for a miracle—that the ring would be returned.



Meanwhile, in Florida, a woman found a class ring with the word RHEMA on it. She'd never heard of a "RHEMA," but she knew someone would be missing the ring. Eventually, she located RHEMA through the Internet, e-mailed back and forth with the alumni office, and sent back the ring—almost 18 months after Jerry had lost it! The year "1983" and the initials "J.W." were engraved inside, so the office staff began calling all the graduates in the 1983 yearbook with those initials. Imagine Jerry's amazement when he heard his ring had been found and returned!

"I had just been teaching a series on prayer in my church when I got the news," he said. "What a great example of God's faithfulness to answer prayer!"

Bud and Jan Wright ('82, '83)

continue to minister in Brazil, where they have 60 churches in 16 of the 26 states. They have 19 Bible training centers and have graduated 5,763 students in the past 14 years. www.verbodavida.org.br/rhema/docentes.asp



1985



Terry and Terri Young ('84, '85)

live in Moscow, Russia, and are on the pastoral staff with Rick and Denise Renner at the Moscow Good News Church. They oversee all aspects of adult teaching including healing school, business school, and undergraduate and graduate courses in the seminary. They will soon be overseeing an extension campus in Kiev. Their sons, Trevor and Tyler, are 16 and 17.

1986

Clifton Chen ('85, '86) has pioneered and pastored Christian Faith Church in Taichung, Taiwan. His Chinese Web site is www.cfaithchurch.org.

Carl Crisswell ('85, '86) is a racetrack chaplain who ministers through his Home Stretch Church to roughly 900 people living on the back side of a racetrack. For the past six years, he has divided his chaplaincy between tracks in Arizona and Colorado.

1987

Marty Delmon ('86, '87) is an author and missionary to France. She writes novels, stage plays, and screenplays with evangelical plots. Her stories are currently heard on 45 radio stations in French and five Internet radio stations in English and French. www.martydelmon.com



Gene ('86, '87) and Betty ('87) Dowell have moved to Shelbyville, Kentucky, where they started Family Worship Center in March 2007. Their daughter Kristin is married and mother to their baby granddaughter, Addison. Their daughter Kamaran is engaged to be married in June 2008.



www.fwcshelby.com

Richard Pilger ('86, '87) and his wife, Tori, along with their children, Camden (10) and Kennedy (4), moved to Portage, Michigan, in June 2004 to serve as associate pastors for Pastors **Jeff ('87, '88) and Beth ('85, '86) Jones** at Kalamazoo Valley Family Church. Previously, Richard served for 10 years at RHEMA Bible Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, as Assistant Children's Minister and RBTC instructor. www.kvfc.org



1988

Mary Hajj ('87, '88) lives in Danbury, Connecticut, and teaches music in Monroe. She was spending the summer of 2006 studying Arabic at the Lebanese American University in Beirut when Hezbollah guerrillas kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and Israel's army began bombing Beirut. Mary and other students fled to the mountains on the coast of Lebanon and ended up traveling days by cargo ship and plane to finally arrive back safely in the U.S. "I was praying in tongues the whole time," says Mary. "Jesus is my shield, my fortress, my deliverer, my shelter and strong tower, my very present help in time of need!"



1989

Doug Knight ('88, '89) has been a missionary in Russia since January 1994. He met his wife, Tanya, in Omsk, Siberia, in 1996. They were married in 1997. They spent several years in traveling ministry before starting Logos Bible Training Center in Moscow in 2000. Graduates of Logos have established four growing churches. In addition, the Knights have a fifth church, Logos Bible Center in Moscow, which they now pastor.



1990

Seth ('89, '90) and Sandra ('88, '89) Dunn live in Greeley, Colorado, where they run In Motion Ministries, a short-term missions organization that custom designs trips for groups, especially churches. www.inmotionministries.org



Lesli (Durfee '89, '90) Santos and her husband, Daniel, celebrated the 20th anniversary of their church, Comunidad Cristiana de Arequipa, on October 8, 2006, in Arequipa, Peru. Church and community members celebrated this landmark occasion with many special activities.



1992

Todd Bailey ('91, '92) and his wife, Wendy, proudly announce the birth of their son, Evan Christian Bailey, born December 6, 2006, weighing 7 pounds, 13.5 ounces. Todd and Wendy live in Fort Collins, Colorado, and Todd is in full-time itinerant ministry. www.toddbailey.org



Barry ('91, '92) and Brenda (Davies '89, '90) Mitchell have been in Tallinn, Estonia, since 1992. They were overseers of a Bible school until 2001. Then they started Living Waters Church, which they have been pastoring for six years. Also working with them since June 2006 is **Allan Sepp ('05, '06)**.



Scott ('91, '92) and Bonnie ('92, '93) Sims welcome their new adopted son, Jonathan Wesley,



born December 10, 2006, at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Bonnie helped during labor and delivery. After pastoring in Korea, the Sims are now itinerant ministers living in Germany.

1993

Keith Kurber ('92, '93) and his wife, Nola, pastor Abundant Life Church in Wasilla, Alaska. Keith is also a Colonel in the U.S. Army and spent 2006 in command of the 1102nd Garrison Support Unit. In February 2007, he was assigned to the Special Forces Command as reserve Chief of Staff, and in March, he left for a six-month tour of duty in the Middle East.

Marty ('92, '93) and Lola (Crumpton '90, '91) Blackwelder live in Atlanta, Georgia, and travel full-time in itinerant ministry to local churches, Bible schools, and conferences, both nationally and internationally. Their daughter, Madison Elizabeth, was born June 11, 2006, weighing 7 and a half pounds, and measuring 22 inches.

www.blackwelderministries.org



Bill and Karen Sallee ('92, '93) live and minister in Utica, New York, where they started Kids for Utica, as well as City Youth Outreach Ministries. These ministries instill positive attitudes, values, and God's Word in children ages 5 through 12, and help teenagers confront their daily challenges with biblical principles and hope. The youth are also trained for a community outreach team that ministers through songs, skits, puppets, and dance.

www.kidsforutica.org

Juan Wilson ('92, '93) and his wife, Dionne, live in Brandon, Mississippi, where they currently operate four companies, including a ministry called Youth Solutions that helps develop, equip, and empower at-risk adolescents. They have four children (Gabriel, Juan, Jonathan, and Jacob) and one on the way. www.youthsolution.net



1994

Jan Chappell ('93, '94) travels and ministers out of Palm Springs, California, carrying the message of hope and freedom in Jesus through personal appearances, television broadcasts, teaching resources, and the Internet. Her television broadcast and book, both titled *Hope Restored*, are available across the country. www.janchappell.com



Kimberly Garcia ('92, '94) is currently working as a missionary at Gabriel House of Maneadero, Mexico, a rehabilitation center for handicapped children. She assists the directors with administration, cares for four children in her home, and also teaches a weekly Bible study for all the employees, where all of them have accepted Jesus or rededicated their lives. www.gabrielhouseofmexico.com

1996

Thomas Lilliendahl ('95, '96) and his wife, Irena, pastor a church in Velka Kras, a small village in the Sudetenland area of the Czech Republic, where they are working with the Gypsy community.



Michael Potter ('95, '96) married **Tania Rodrigues ('99, '00, '04 RHEMA Brazil)** in Chesham, England, on March 11, 2006. The wedding was performed by Pastors **Derek and Hilary Walker ('89, '90)**, and music was performed by **Joseph Sjoberg ('93, '95)** and **Julian Harding ('89, '90)**. Best man was **Simon Potter ('90, '91)** and matron of honor was **Adriana Potter ('97, '98, '01 RHEMA Brazil)**.



1997

Lori (Kampschroer '96, '97) Slaughter started a new teaching position at Stevens Point Church Academy in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, in September 2006. She is the junior/senior high school teacher.

1998

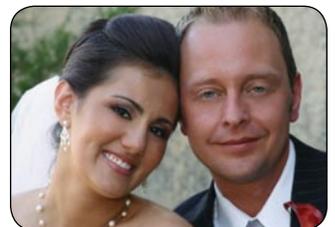
Paul Bowers ('97, '98) and his wife, Alida, work in Peru for a ministry called Hearts in Action, founded by **Mario ('88, '89) and Suzanne ('89) Babarczy**. They oversee Camp Tikva (Hebrew for "hope"), which hosts camps for abused and neglected kids. They also coordinate and plan the visits of the missions groups and interns who come throughout the year. PDBowers@yahoo.com



Patrick Carden ('97, '98) and his wife, Amy, welcomed their son, Kameron Patrick, on January 2, 2006. The Cardens live in Dublin, Virginia, where they host a weekly radio show called *The Refreshing Word Broadcast*.



Scott Nicodemus ('97, '98) and his wife, Sarah, celebrated their first wedding anniversary on June 25, 2007. They currently live in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Scott operates Creative Animation Studios (www.creativeanimation.com). Sarah worked for Kenneth Hagin Ministries for three years in the Communications Department and is now the Art Director of the *Tulsa Business Journal*.



Robin (Croft '97, '98) Rappe and her husband, Blaine, are the new children's ministers at The River Foursquare Church in Fort Collins, Colorado.

1999

David and Tammy Pettry ('98, '99) have completed a year and a half of pastoring Fresh Oil Ministries Church of Hickory, which they pioneered in Hickory, North Carolina. They started out with 13 people and have grown to 50.

2000

Joel Grantham ('99, '00) and his wife, Mickey, announce the birth of their fourth child, a baby girl named Ainsley Kate. She was born January 9, 2007, in Mobile, Alabama, and weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces.

Kevin ('99, '00) and Gabby (Galvan '03, '04 RHEMA Mexico) Pilger announce the birth of their daughter, Faith Vivian, on January 7, 2007.



Michelle Gustafson ('99, '00) worked for Kenneth Hagin Ministries for four years in the Communications Department. Last May, she left to take a position as the public affairs director and *Praise the Lord* coordinator for the local Trinity Broadcasting Network station in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.



Mike and Pam Wright ('99, '00) live in Moundville, Alabama, and welcome their miracle baby daughter after 16 years of praying and believing. Janie Kay Wright was born September 18, 2006, and weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces.



2001

Charley ('00, '01) and Kelly (Baker '86, '87) Elliott announce the birth of their first child, Luke Charles Elliott, born October 15, 2006, and weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces. He was born in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, where his parents work under the covering of Iglesias Palabra de Vida (Word of Life Churches). They travel throughout the nation holding Gospel crusades and ministering in churches, as well as teaching at a Bible school in their city.



Julie (Ruckman) Endle ('99, '00, '01) married Brian Endle on August 19, 2006, in Palmer, Alaska. **Michelle Gustafson ('99, '00)** was her maid of honor. Julie has been doing short-term missions trips, and she and Brian now live in Palmer.

Sally (Ward '00, '01) Knepper lives in St. Augustine, Florida, with her husband, Tyler. Formerly a world-ranked gymnast, she now travels and ministers on freedom from eating disorders and maintaining a strong relationship with God. www.sallyward.com



2002

Andrew ('01, '02) and Elizabeth ('00, '01) Braze announce the birth of their first child, Joshua James Braze, born November 30, 2006, and weighing 7 pounds, 12.2 ounces. Andrew and Elizabeth are the youth pastors at Living Word Family Church in Yorktown, Virginia, for Pastor **Clint Ashe ('82, '83)**, and are currently planning to move overseas to do missions work.



Jeremy ('00, '01, '02) and Sarah (Stucky '00, '01, '02) Elliott were married in Peachtree, Georgia, on September 23, 2006, by Pastor **Dayne Massey ('87, '88)**. They currently work with youth at Gracepointe Church in Peachtree City, in addition to serving on the worship team and taking short-term missions trips to various nations as often as possible.



Joel Pace ('01, '02) and his wife, Ann, were married April 8, 2006, in their hometown of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, after dating for eight years. They currently live in Dale City, Virginia, where Joel is the youth pastor at Freedom Fellowship Church. www.ffcministries.com

2003

Michael ('02, '03) and Schenna ('03, '04) Blau announce the birth of their first baby, Landen Michael Blau. He was born in Tulsa on November 8, 2006, and weighed 8 pounds, 10.5 ounces.



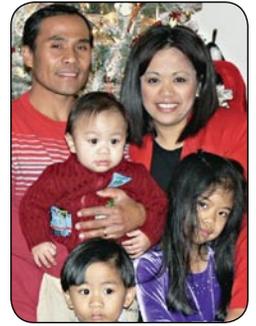
Daniel ('02, '03) and Lena ('03, '05) Bluestein have had two sons since graduating from RHEMA—Espan Fisher, born August 29, 2005, and weighing 9 pounds, 1 ounce, and Jonah Leif, born December 29, 2006, and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces. The Bluestein family lives in Ludington, Michigan.



Grady ('02, '03) and Becky (Clark '96, '97) Pickett announce the birth of their beautiful new baby daughter, Elisabeth Noelle, born on December 22, 2006. She weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and was born in Amman, Jordan, where her parents are missionaries.



Roland ('03, '04) and Lana (Navarro '91, '92) Tandy began missions work in the Philippines in 1993 and later pioneered World Harvest Bible Training Center, presently located in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte Province. Their ministry includes a Christmas child project, tribal and island outreaches, China missions outreaches, a ministers' conference, children's ministry, and a recently added healing school. They have three children: Stephanie (9), Jeremy (4), and Jesse (1).



2004



Adam ('03, '04) and Erika (Heckwolf '04, '05) Naes were married September 23, 2006, in St. Peters, Missouri. After graduation, Erika was the receptionist in the RMAI office until her marriage. Adam is currently the director of music for the children's ministry, youth ministry, and young adult's ministry at Church on the Rock in St. Peters.

Adam is currently the director of music for the children's ministry, youth ministry, and young adult's ministry at Church on the Rock in St. Peters.

2005

Jeff and Melissa Cornwall ('04, '05) assumed the position of youth coordinators at Family Worship Center in Springfield, Virginia, at the beginning of 2006.



Jason and Tara Diekmann ('04, '05) welcome their new bundle of joy, Kaden Michael, born November 1, 2006, and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces. The Diekmann family lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

ALASKA ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP

In October 2006, RHEMA alumni from all over Alaska met in Wasilla for a special gathering at the Best Western Hotel. Rev. Gary and Connie Crowl were on hand to minister to the group. *Kneeling, left to right: Joe Kurber ('03, '04), Marla Hand ('00, '01), Nola Kurber, Peter ('79) and Janet Gallardo, Monika Kurber ('03, '04), Keith Kurber ('92, '93). Second row, left to right: Jeanne and Tyler Glaser ('01, '02), Rick ('77) and Ritty Rector, Brian and Julie (Ruckman '99, '00, '01) Endle, Julie Miller ('99, '00—husband Jesse, '99, '00, not pictured because he was the cameraman), Linda Cox ('84), Jenna Squier, Kim Stevenson ('04, '05), Pat Meyer ('00, '01), Connie ('03, '04) and Gary ('78) Crowl. Back row, middle left to right: Zechariah Meyer, Steve Alexander, Tamara (Baert '95, '96) and Brant ('96, '97) Barker, Dave Squier, Mike Meyer ('00, '01).*



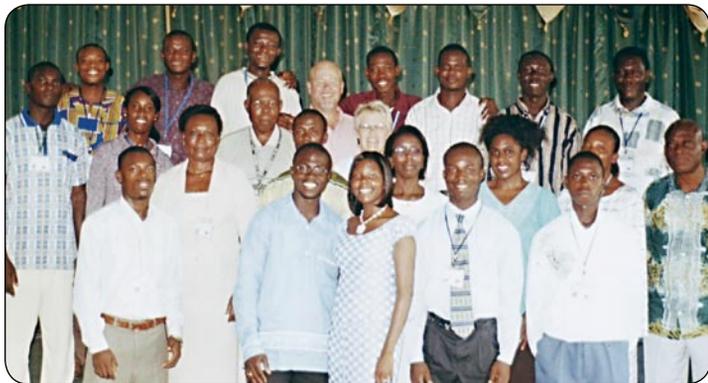
Tim and Rosemary Hertzel ('05, '06) have pioneered Word of Life Church in Hickory, North Carolina. They held their first service on November 5, 2006.



Jeff ('04, '05, '06) and Susan (O'Connell '83) Lowe were married February 3, 2007, in Brighton, Iowa. Susan's mother, an ordained minister, performed the ceremony. The Lowes live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Susan works on the children's ministry staff at RHEMA Bible Church.

Gina Wagner ('05, '06) is now youth pastor at Into All the World Church in Collinsville, Oklahoma, for Pastor **Pat Hudson ('79, '80)**.

Daniel and Karen Ndede ('04, '05, '06) have started a Bible school in Takoradi, Ghana, West Africa. They currently have 19 students and four correspondence students and are working on building their own facility. Also working with them are **Rick and Kim Buck ('05, '06)**, **Patricia Stevenson-Powell ('05, '06)**, and **Audine McKaig ('04, '05, '06)**.



H O M E G O I N G S

- ('79) Tommy Fields*November 29, 2006
- ('81) Frank OlszewskiJune 5, 2006
- ('81) Brad Dawson*September 9, 2006
- ('83) Ray Nelson*December 19, 2006
- ('83, '84) Bob O'Connell*March 7, 2006
- ('84, '85) Timothy BigpondAugust 22, 2006
- ('84, '85) Sherry K. CookSeptember 12, 2006
- ('84, '85) Mildred PittalaNovember 22, 2006
- ('87, '88) Betty Hobbs*September 16, 2006
- ('88, '89) Carl Heien*January 14, 2007
- ('88, '89) Georgia StampsDecember 16, 2006
- ('89, '90) Beverly WatsonAugust 5, 2006
- ('89, '90) Scott GammillSeptember 2006
- ('89, '90) Robert WadeDecember 2006
- ('91, '92) Smith BahamJanuary 26, 2007
- ('92, '93) Audrey RiddleOctober 5, 2006
- ('95, '96) Gerald Moyer*December 25, 2006
- ('97, '99) Andrew EndicottSeptember 2006
- ('00) Pam HoefieldOctober 2006
- ('01, '02, '03) Theda MooneySeptember 15, 2006

(*RMAI members)

We Want to Hear From You!

If you've had a wedding, a new baby, something exciting happen in life or ministry, or just want to update fellow alumni about your life, write rmai@rhema.org and let us know!

PLEASE help us make the most of your updates and photos by following these tips.

Tips for writing to us:

- Look at past issues and see what others have sent us.
- Tell us where you live, what you're doing in life or ministry, and how long you've been doing it.
- Remember to include your spouse's and children's names.

Tips for sending photos:

- Send close-up shots with faces close together, as in this example. →
- For baby pictures, please include Mom and Dad too. (Your fellow alumni want to see you as well as your baby!) →



- *Digital Photos:* Send only sharp, good quality photos with high resolution— 300 pixels/inch on your computer or digital camera. (If you are unsure of what pixels/ inch your camera gives you, set your picture size to its highest resolution and largest file size; then we can adjust accordingly.) Low-resolution photos used for Internet sites and e-mail do not work well for print magazines like *Connections*. ↓



Low resolution photo



High resolution photo

Send your updates and photos to us at rmai@rhema.org



ALL FAITHS' crusade 2007

With Revs. Kenneth & Lynette Hagin

May 20-23

New Braunfels, Texas Tree of Life Church

5513 IH 35 S. • New Braunfels, TX

Pastor: Don Duncan

Service Times: Sunday, 7:00 p.m.

Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call: (830) 625-6375

June 3-5

Tacoma, Washington By His Word Christian Center

10110 Aqueduct Dr E. • Tacoma, WA

Pastors: Jann & Sue Butler

Service Times: Sunday, 6:30 p.m.

Monday-Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call: (253) 536-2233

June 6-8

Vancouver, Washington Faith Center Church

2533 NE Andresen Rd. • Vancouver, WA

Pastors: Glen & Theresa Johnson

Service Times: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call: (360) 253-2484

August 26-29

Roseville, California Abundant Life Fellowship

706 Atlantic St. • Roseville, CA

Pastors: Doug & Janice Bird

Service Times: Sunday, 7:00 p.m.

Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call: (916) 783-1989

September 9-12

Glenwood Springs, Colorado New Creation Church

44761 Highway 6 & 24 • Glenwood Springs, CO

Pastors: Mark & Tasha Bintliff

Service Times: Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call: (970) 945-5902

October 7-10

Greensboro, North Carolina Harvest World Outreach Church

4915 Guilford College Rd • Greensboro, NC

Pastors: Joe & Misti Coyne

Service Times: Sunday, 7:00 p.m.

Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call: (336) 885-0587

October 21-24

Huntington, West Virginia New Life Church

1101 Cedar Crest Dr • Huntington, WV

Pastors: Darrell & Bonnie Huffman

Service Times: Sunday, 6:30 p.m.

Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For more information, call: (304) 733-4423

→ *Upcoming events on the RHEMA campus in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma*

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit www.rhema.org/events or call 1-888-28-FAITH (1-888-283-2484).



June 11-14

Ministers, Leadership & Helps Conference 2007



September 20-22

Kindle the Flame 2007

Lynette Hagin's Women's Conference



July 22-29

Campmeeting 2007



November 1-3

A Call to Arms 2007

Kenneth Hagin Jr.'s Men's Conference

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

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