

Shepherd to Shepherd

“Stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord” Micah 5:4

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Pastors' Newsletter

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Eddie Estep

District Superintendent

- *Christlike Disciples*
- *Holiness Pastors*
- *Missional Churches*



From My Heart to Yours

TOWARD A THEOLOGY OF THE MARGINS

I've been pondering the significance of the Old Testament passages that instruct Israelite harvesters not to gather every bit of wheat out of their fields when they are harvesting. In Leviticus 19:9-10 and 23:22, the Lord directs His people not to harvest right up to the edges of the fields or to pick the fields clean. They are to leave fruit in the margins for those who are needy.

Recently I have sensed that God wanted me to apply this truth to my own life. I am a classic Type A personality. Fortunately, Diane and the grace of God (often one and the same) have done much to smooth many of the rough edges. Ever prone to over-organize, I usually schedule my day in half-hour increments, filling each increment with activity from early until late. This is my attempt to squeeze every possible bit of fruitful time out of each day. As a result, I tend to view the margins as opportunities for productivity and efficiency.

Do you know where this is heading?

I believe that God is telling me that I need to be leaving some margins in my days, building them into my schedule and into my life. The margins allow grace for the interruptions and provide life's most precious commodity—time—for those who need it.

I am also reminded that the Church of the Nazarene came into existence to minister to those in the margins. That's probably where life, and ministry, best take place. The margins are places of grace. We need more of both.

BOOK REVIEW: What Got You Here Won't Get You There by Marshall Goldsmith

Goldsmith's formula for future success includes: *learn* through 360-degree feedback what behavior is holding you back, *apologize* to everyone affected by your flawed behavior, *advertise* your efforts to get better, *follow up* to find out how you're doing, and *really listen* to what colleagues, family members and friends are saying. Goldsmith suggests that in addition to a "To Do" list one should develop a "To Stop" list.

Goldsmith identifies "Twenty Habits That Hold You Back." Those habits include winning too much, passing judgment, making destructive comments, negativity, telling the world how smart you are, withholding information, making excuses, clinging to the past, playing favorites, refusing to express regret, failing to express gratitude, and the one that nailed me: not listening.

Goldsmith is a successful executive coach. His book is helpful if you want to discover how to identify and change a behavior that may be holding you back.

Eddie

Bits-N-Pieces

- Rev. Mike McAdory has been elected to the District Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Ron Pelton.
- Greenville First dedicated their new youth building, "The Station," on Sunday, September 9.
- Prayer Requests: John Gunter, Dennis Johnson, Grip Lawson and Sue Coburn as they recover from surgery; David Spires at the passing of his mother.
- Rev. Luis Valverde began services at West Columbia Hispanic on Sunday, September 16. Pastor Matt Johnson's first Sunday as pastor of Greenwood Community Church of the Nazarene will be Sunday, September 23. Rev. Karen Lawson's first Sunday as pastor of Florence Family Life will be Sunday, October 7.
- Dr. Steven Manley will be having a Cross-Style Conference at Columbia First, September 28-30, 2007.
- A "thank you" from Dr. Ron Benefiel, President of Nazarene Theological Seminary, is being relayed to the 25 South Carolina pastors/churches who participated in the annual NTS offering. South Carolina Nazarenes gave a total of \$2,865.
- West Columbia Hope In Christ Church of the Nazarene and Anderson Haitian Church of the Nazarene have been declared inactive by the District Advisory Board.
- "The Bridge" has found a home less than a hundred steps from Bowman field in downtown Clemson! Bridge Director Ken Paynter signed a lease on the basement premises, where a coffee house student center will soon be up and running. To find out more about this ministry and how you can get involved, visit www.clemsonbridge.org.
- Nazarene Disaster Response and Shaw Air Force Base are sponsoring "Field Traumatology Training" at Sumter First Church of the Nazarene, October 12-13, 2007. This training will prepare pastors to lessen the impact of a disaster or critical incident. E-mail steven.survanche@shaw.af.mil for details.
- Hope you can attend the Pastors' Prayer Summit at the Campground, September 24-25, 2007.

Your Opinion Counts

The question listed in last month's issue, "**How many of you attended Nazarene Bible College?**" generated a few responses, including...

"I am a 1981 (on campus) graduate. We lived in Security, CO. My family loved the area and was thankful for the experience. We made wonderful friends that are special to us still today."
- Ron Fite, Rock Hill First

"I am a 1980 graduate (on campus)."
-Billy Williams, Orangeburg

"I attended Nazarene Bible College from 2000-2003. I studied on campus as well as on-line to enable me to finish in three years rather than four."
- Jonathan Evans, Columbia Grace

"I attended NBC on campus."
- Richard Coleman, Rock Hill Grace

"I was privileged to attend Nazarene Bible College on campus for a little over a year and I am now completing my degree on-line. It's been one of the greatest experiences of my life!"
- Jason O. Leviner, Moncks Corner

"I attended classes while Carey was at NBC." - Jean Pratt, pastor's spouse, Summerville

The question this issue: "Are you preaching a series this fall, and if so, what is the title?" Please forward your responses to eddieestep@scnazdist.net and I will list selected responses in the next issue of *Shepherd to Shepherd*.