



Tent Makers *Bivocational Ministers Newsletter*

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Robin Brumfield

Ken Cook

Holloway to Serve as New Mississippi Bivocational Specialist

by Robin Brumfield

Just a few months ago we started a New Year. With the start of the New Year, Mississippi Bivos received new leadership. Dale Holloway has been selected as the Mississippi Bivocational Specialist to lead bivos in ministry, leadership, and encouragement. His leadership and experience as a bivo pastor and church planter make him highly qualified in this position. The purpose of the Bivocational Specialist is to serve as a resource person between the Mississippi Convention Board and Mississippi Bivocational pastors/ministers. Specific duties include: contacting pastors through personal church visits, serving as a liaison to the Bivocational Council, maintaining an active list of bivocational pastors, and assisting the associate executive director of the Church Growth Division



Dale Holloway

in developing conferences, events, and budget for Mississippi bivocational work.

Although Dale's specific duties are broad, he has a clear and focused vision that can be seen in his personal goals for ministry work. These personal goals include the following duties: to affirm and encourage Mississippi congregations and their leaders by recognizing they are equal partners in becoming Acts 1:8 churches; to communicate to leaders at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the felt needs and contribution of these churches; to provide awareness of resources and persons at the MBCB to compliment the lives and ministries in the churches; and to provide consultation with pastors, their families, and AMDs through breakfast meetings, dinner dialogues, association celebrations, and telephone conversations. Dale is committed to accomplishing these goals to enhance the ministries of Mississippi Baptist bivos.

In order to accomplish these goals, Dale has several very significant personal priorities. First and foremost, he wants to give affirmation and encouragement to pastors/ *(continued on page 2)*

Mississippi Council on Bivocational Ministries

will meet in Room 209 at the Baptist Building

on April 11, 2005, at 10 a.m.

**Associational
Events**

**REMINDER TO ASSOCIATIONAL
MISSIONS DIRECTORS:**

Be sure to contact us to advertise your associational events here!



"Reverence for God, Respect for Others"

(2 Corinthians 6:11-7:4)

Robin Brumfield

I. Introduction.

- A. The need for relationship, closeness, and acceptance is what most people seek.
- B. We want a meaningful relationship more than anything on earth.
- C. That is what we are designed for.
- D. God created in mankind a need for relationships.
- E. Let's look at some ways to have fulfilled relationships.
- F. Read 2 Cor. 6:11-7:4.

II. Sermon.

- A. vv. 6:11-13 – warmth in a relationship has to be felt on both sides for personal fulfillment.
- B. vv. 6:14-16a "...the living God" – our bodies are God's house; His name is on our mailbox; He can't get close to those who don't know His Spirit.
- C. v. 7:1 – Christians are to have a vertical reverence.
 1. To find contentment in the Lord, put Him first.
 2. Illustration: To obey God we must know His Word. To know God's will some Christians use the open window method of Bible Study in seeking God's will. They put their Bible in a window and (whew!) the pages blow and you put your finger on a verse. One man did that and pointed to a verse, "Judas went and hanged himself." Not a very good life verse, and he did it again. This time he put his finger on the verse that said, "Go and do thou likewise." The third verse he found said, "Whatsoever thou doest, do quickly."
 3. Worshipping the Lord should be our goal.
 4. We worship the Lord by making a clean break with defilement.
 5. We need a clean break from anything unclean – activities, relationships, or the way we think.
- D. vv. 7:2-4 now he moves to horizontal respect.
 1. First, when we respect someone, we make room for them in our heart.
 2. Second, when we respect someone, we don't condemn them.
 3. Illustration: Relationships are sometimes evaluated in terms of our perspective. Two little teardrops were floating down the river. One teardrop asked the other, "Who are you?" The second teardrop replied, "I'm from a woman who lost her lover. And you?" The first teardrop replied, "I'm from the woman who got him."

III. Application.

- A. If we want to find contentment in the Lord, we have to put Him first.
- B. We must be separate from unhealthy ties with unbelievers.
- C. We must be separate from ongoing sins in our life – we must make a clean break.

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ministers. Dale feels very strongly about encouraging bivocs, and he will be spending a lot of his time accomplishing this task. His next priority is to promote evangelism by special events and personal witnessing. His desire is for Mississippi churches to win the lost to Christ and to grow them to maturity in the Lord. Also, Dale wants to provide church planting support. His knowledge, resources, and experience will greatly enhance his ability to aid in church planting. A final priority is to encourage Cooperative Program and Margaret Lackey support from churches.

Dale wants Mississippi bivocs to feel free to contact him concerning ministry questions. Bivocational pastors/ministers and AMDs may contact Dale Holloway by phone at (601) 845-2107 or by E-mail at bivoldr@aol.com.

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We planted a new mission. Then another. They followed me to the day I left, and I still have close relations with them. I became pastor of a church we had started as a mission. They followed me also, and we planted many new works together, all with lay volunteers.

Yet, for a long time I was miserable. I felt ashamed that I was now bivocational, because all through seminary and among my fully-compensated brothers I had gotten the idea that bivocs were men of little faith who didn't step out to serve the Lord.

One day I observed that many bivo-led churches seemed to be more effective than many churches with fully-paid staff. A close look revealed that bivo pastors were very adept at helping laypeople to use their gifts. Many fully-paid staff members come to look upon themselves as "holy hired-hands," paid to do the Lord's work. Members cast them in that role as well.

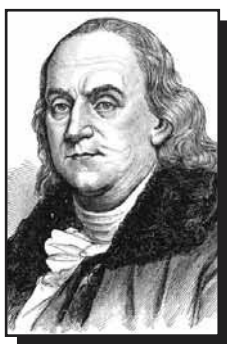
One state convention compared its bivo-led churches to all the churches (ALL included the bivocs as well). Bivo-led churches when compared to ALL churches in that state convention baptized 4.3 persons per 100 members, while ALL churches baptized 3.9 persons per 100 members. And remember, the 3.9 had statistical help from the bivocs! The same study compared attendance in Sunday School per 100 CHURCH members (not Sunday School members). Bivo churches averaged 46 church members in Sunday School per 100 members; ALL churches averaged 38 church members in Sunday School per 100.

Bivo preacher, look up! Accept the role that God has given and be faithful in your calling. God uses us, too, and He knows our hearts!

Ministry Basics – Time Management

by Robin Brumfield

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) became famous for being a scientist, an inventor, a statesman, a printer, a philosopher, a musician, and an economist. He lived a full and significant life in American history. Today, we honor Ben Franklin as one of our Founding Fathers and as one of America's greatest citizens. If anyone knew the importance of using time wisely, Ben Franklin did. Ben Franklin said, "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for it is the stuff life is made of." Great advice, especially for busy bivo pastors with many irons in the fire. It is the decision of each bivo to determine his destiny in the use of time. Carl Sandburg stated it this way, "Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for



Ben Franklin

you." In other words, be careful in how you use your time. The proper, careful use of time should be one of the pastor's highest priorities. Remember, once time has past, there is no retrieval of it. The busy pastor always seems to find time for ministry obligations. Pastors have time to do whatever is important to them; if it's important they will schedule the time to complete the task. A pastor who is a leader will seldom say, "I don't have time." He makes time to accomplish significant tasks.

The quality of a minister's leadership is directly proportional to how he uses his time. Philosopher William James affirmed that the use of one's time and life should be to spend it on something that will last longer than your life; the value of life is determined not by its duration but by its donation. It is not the length of our life that matters, as much as, how fully and how well we live our life. Pastors need to focus on using their time for important matters: ministry, family, personal growth, and vacations. Focusing on the donations our lives are making in this age in which we live gives us a clear indication of the priorities in our lives. As pastors we want to make a spiritual impact on others and to personally grow spiritually. In fact, the use of one's time is a barometer of his spiritual life. If we are not living for Christ (using our time wisely), then we are living carnally.

Whenever I think of using time wisely, one passage immediately comes to mind – Ephesians 5:15-16: "Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil" (HCSB). This passage comes right after Paul is encouraging the Ephesians to walk in the light and to forsake the works of darkness. This is exactly where we are today. Paul's words "pay careful attention" tell us to make something very important a priority in our lives. When Paul speaks of "how you work," he is telling us that this is a minute-by-minute, step-by-step action we need to take in our lives. What we do every minute of every day is important. To use time efficiently one must use every minute to the fullest. Most jobs don't get done because the pastor waits for a large chunk of time instead of accomplishing the job in several small chunks using his minutes wisely. Therefore, don't waste the small amounts of time and be productive.

Christ was ever mindful of the use of His time (John 7:6; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1). At the end of Jesus' life He said He had used His time well and accomplished **everything** God wanted Him to do: "I have glorified You on the earth by completing the work You gave Me to do" (John 17:4, HCSB). Christ completed every work His Father gave Him to do. This meant He was about doing His Father's business and not wasting time.

In our society time is a commodity that is wasted by almost everyone. Let's look at some ways to use our time wisely: spend less time watching TV and more time reading our Bibles, less time talking about prayer and more time praying, less time criticizing others and more time building others up, and less time talking about church and more time talking about Christ. Remember time is the stuff life is made of, so use it wisely for Christ's kingdom.

Let's use our time wisely so when we get to heaven we will hear our Master say, "Well done My good and faithful servant. You accomplished the work which I gave you to do. You used your time wisely."

This newsletter article is based on the book topic "Time Management for the Minister" in [Tentmakers Guide to Ministry](#) by Robin Brumfield. To receive a free copy of this book contact Kay McDonnell at (800)748-1651 in Mississippi or by E-mail at kmcdonnell@mccb.org.





One Bivo to Another...

by Joe Young

My family and I walked into a busy restaurant a few days ago. There are always people from across a broad region, and as we were being seated, I could not help but overhear a lady at the next table say, "That church really needs a bivocational pastor." Before I caught myself I blurted out, "Amen!"

The lady looked up, and I explained myself. Then she and the other three at the table shared that they were members of two large churches in the Southaven area, but that they had great admiration for the work of bivocational pastors.

WOW! These laypeople hold bivocational pastors in high regard! So different from how we often see ourselves. According to a Louisiana Baptist Convention Web site, most bivo pastors have a "less than healthy image of themselves." They feel a lack of acceptance by fully-supported pastors and sense the denomination has little respect for them. But at least SOME of the laypeople respect us.

Long ago the Apostle Paul faced similar frustrations. He was often looked upon as an inferior apostle because he supported himself making tents. In I Corinthians 9 he defended his bivocational ministry. Check it out.

Bivo preacher, keep your chin up! We have a rich heritage. Like the Apostle Paul, we are making a difference! Jesus was a carpenter. Paul was a tentmaker.

What are you in your other life? It doesn't matter if it's honest. The significant thing is you are serving the Lord in your calling – BOTH callings.

Hindsight is better than foresight, so I see some things looking back over my life. My first 12 years out of seminary were spent in fully-compensated pastorates. But in 1985 health issues forced me to accept a smaller church. I became bivocational to support our family. Initially I was rather miserable, torn between two careers.

Then I began to observe something. Church members related to me in a way my previous members had never done. Because I "worked," they felt a bond with me. They felt I could understand them, that I knew them on a different level than fully-compensated pastors.

And they were willing to follow. They followed me like no other members had ever followed. They began to do lay evangelism. They began to do lay missions.

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