

ABC/OHIO INSIDE THE REGION

by Bob Cassady

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serving the Akron, Ashtabula, Columbus &
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Being Church For All Generations

Just what exactly is the role of the church? My suspicion is that as one listened to various responses to this question, there would be many answers. There would be agreement on some, and disagreement on others. One, however, I think we would find agreement with is... 'the church is to be in the world redeeming the world to Christ.'

This quote is taken from a book I am reading entitled ***Reaching People under 40 while Keeping People over 60*** by Edward H. Hammett with James R. Pierce. The book is a part of the Columbia Partnership Leadership Series. The authors suggest that to accomplish this, the church might not be able to look like it has in the past. They believe God has uniquely blessed us today with a deep spiritual thirst and a desire to be involved in hands-on missions. The problem is that many of our churches have not captured and channeled this thirst among the younger generation. As the church we are simply staying the same. Bottom line...we need to change!

Eric Swanson suggests there are ten paradigm shifts we need to make toward community transformation:

From	To
Building Walls	Building Bridges
Measuring Attendance	Measuring Impact
Encouraging the saints to attend the service 'Serve Us'	Equipping the saints for the works of service
Duplication of human services and ministries	Partnering with existing services and ministries
Fellowship	Functional unity
Condemning the city	Blessing the city & praying for it
Being a minister in a congregation	Being a minister in a parish
Anecdote and speculation	Valid Information
Teacher	Learner

While I am not prepared to suggest to you that all of these shifts are an either/or proposition, I am prepared to suggest we need to make changes in how we do

church. I do believe as the people of God we need to re-examine what our priorities are as a body of believers—how we spend our time, energy, money, personnel...seeking to find the appropriate balance between the two columns above. This will help in reaching all generations.

Living In The Outflow

'***Living in the Outflow***' is the title of this year's ABC/OHIO Church Leadership Conference which will be held March 28 & 29 at Karl Road Baptist Church in Columbus. Day One of the Conference will be Pastor's Day, while Day Two is for Pastor's & Church Leaders.

What do we mean by 'Living in the Outflow?' It's a lifestyle of outreach that's so natural, simple, and effective it's practically irresistible. Outflow will help you and your church leaders experience God more deeply and share his love more powerfully. Forget memorizing complicated formulas and start sharing Jesus in genuine ways that friends, family, and your entire community will enthusiastically embrace.

Our Conference Leader is Dave Ping, author of the book 'Outflow.' Dave is an extremely practical, creative and entertaining speaker. He is an award winning Christian writer and coauthor of such popular books and interactive small group courses as *Irresistible Evangelism*, *Listening for Heaven's Sake*, *Trust Building*, *Quick-to-Listen Leaders*, and *Outflow*.

Registration Information has been mailed to all ABC/OHIO churches with registration forms and supporting documents. You may also get information by contacting the Region Office at 740-587-0804 or by going to our website at www.abc-ohio.org.

ABC/OHIO Summer Camping

The ABC/OHIO Region Board at its November 2007 meeting made the decision not to have summer camp this year at Heartland Conference Retreat Center, but to support the summer camp ministries of Kirkwood Camp & Conference Center and Camp Koinonia.

Schedules for the 2008 season (both camps) were mailed to all churches with the February 2008 Bulletin Inserts.

Please begin praying now for the summer ministries of both camps, remembering the executive directors, staff, directors, volunteers, and of course the campers.