

Presbytery Pastoral Care Network

September 2007

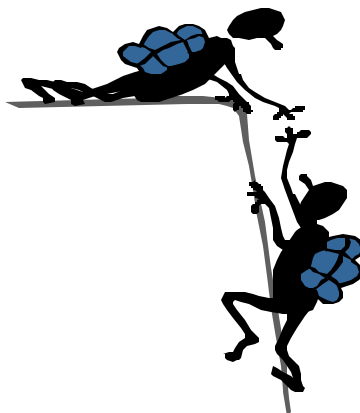
www.pastoralcarenetwork.org Volume I, Issue 5

Roger Harp Memorial Concert

Opening our 8th annual Presbytery Pastoral Care Network conference will be a special concert featuring david bailey. At 8 p.m. on Monday evening, October 8 we will gather for the "Journey of Hope Roger Harp Memorial Concert." Roger Harp, in whose memory we hold this concert, was a PPCN board member who shared his gifts of ministry as a pastor and in his work at the presbytery and synod levels. He was killed in a tragic car accident shortly after completing a term as an interim synod executive and just as he was beginning a pastorate in Nebraska.

It is especially gratifying that we can feature david bailey in this concert to honor Roger Harp. As you are able to see on his website, www.davidmbailey.com, david brings a story that is uniquely appropriate. He is the son of Presbyterian missionaries in Beirut, Lebanon. On his website, he describes the joys of being raised in the rich and diverse culture of the Middle East as well as the trauma of being kidnapped. It was this experience that convinced his parents that david would have to leave Lebanon and complete his high school years in Germany.

When he completed college he set aside his love of music and entered the corporate world. Then ten years later the bottom fell out of his life as he (See Harp Concert)



PASTOR APPRECIATION

Last year Presbyterian Outlook reminded us that October was "Pastors Appreciation Month." The National Religious Broadcasters have been emphasizing this for several years.

Consider the possibility of each congregation deciding that October was a time to focus on showing appreciation to their pastors. Appreciation can be a powerful medicine to lift the health and spirits of those who work so hard on behalf of our churches.

Interview with david bailey

Your editor had the privilege of interviewing david bailey. (He prefers to print his name in lower case.) I first asked him why he was doing the concert. He responded that at first it was simply an opportunity to go to Louisville where his sister and brother-in-law lived. Then, when he learned more about PPCN, he became really excited about the opportunity.

What have you learned about pastors in your journeys?

A few years ago I invited five pastors from different denominations to go on a camping trip with me. It was a great opportunity for me to interact with them as ordinary guys. I also realized they needed the opportunity to take their pastoral robes off and just be human to each other.

As much pressure as we put on them, when the day is over, they have to go home, greet their family, have a meal, get some rest, and then get up the next day and try to make a difference in the world again.

(See Interview)

PPCN 8th Annual National Conference

October 8-11, 2007

Register Now

4 Great Days

"From Surviving to Thriving: 4 Practices of Clergy Wellness"

Registration: www.pastoralcarenetwork.org

COST: \$350 Members; \$400 Non-Members;

Optional: Dinner Cruise \$35

(Interview)

What special message would you have for pastors?

First, I would say, "Bravo." I don't think people appreciate how hard their job is. I want to link arms with them and join in the ministry of faith, hope, and love. That may sound trite, but it is the essence of what all of us do in the ministry.

What do you think about churches?

Churches are the fascinating, exhausting, beautiful part of the Kingdom that no one has quite figured out yet.

When I was in college, I did not go to church much. I realize now that I just did not get it. Now I think I do. When I work with young people, I keep hearing them say, "I love Jesus but I am not interested in the church."

I say to them, you may think going to church is not cool or sophisticated, but I'm telling you that is where it is at. You need to realize that the concept of the family of God is real. Even if you are not sure why, you need to go anyway and participate in what they do. I play all over the world, and when I walk into any church anywhere in the world, I'm home with my family.

You mentioned linking arms with pastors. What are some similarities in what you do?

I am fascinated with some of the similarities in the dynamics of our work. We have had lots of conversations about the creative process of song writing and sermon preparation. Both of us are trying to say as much as we can in as few words as possible.

Both of us are involved in the dynamics of connecting with people. We keep searching for what works and what doesn't. We also have to learn how

(See Bailey)

(Bailey)

much depends on us and how much is the work of the Holy Spirit.

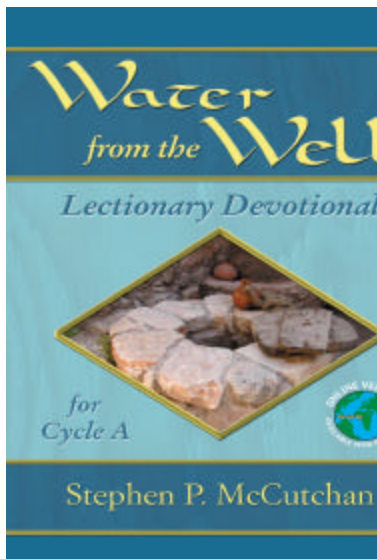
My role is to work alongside pastors who have the role of caring for members so that those members are prepared to go out into the world. I bring the message in a little different way but it is the same message.

What else would you like to say about this concert?

The more I think about it, the more excited I get. I live in three different worlds. There is the world of cancer, the world of music, and the world of church. Most of the time when I am in a hospital, doctors are present but I have to include the larger audience of patients and their families. At one time I had the chance to do a concert for doctors, and I realized what a privilege it was to shape my music just to speak to these people. Now I have the opportunity to play just for pastors. These are people I admire and can have the opportunity to give them something special, shaped just for them.

Feed the Pastor

While it may seem self-serving, the editor would like to suggest that his recently published book from CSS Publishers is the type of book that could be a gift that a congregation might give their pastor to show appreciation.



(Harp Concert)

was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and given only a few months to live. Again I refer you to his website for a sense of the spirit with which he began to fight "the beast." Not knowing how much longer he had to live, he left his job and returned to his passion for song writing and performing. Eleven years, 16 albums, and 44 states later, David and his music continue to challenge us all to live passionately and to treasure the beauty of each new day.

JOIN US IN LOUISVILLE

It is not too late to make your reservation for the Louisville conference. Whether your focus is on learning how to better care for yourself or how to help presbyteries and synods better care for the servants in the vineyard, this is a conference that can strengthen your ministry.

This conference will include experiential learnings in four key areas of clergy wellness. First, we will explore how our spiritual health is grounded in God's call. Second, we will look at the area of emotional intelligence and mental health in the ministry. Third, being good stewards of our physical health is critical. And fourth, our social health is enhanced by finding appropriate collegial support groups.

The sum total of these four areas balanced with our demands and gifts in ministry can move clergy and pastoral relationships from Surviving to Thriving. You can take ideas home and apply them in your presbytery. This, in turn, will enhance the spirit of church transformation that is positively impacting our denomination.

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