



THE BAY LAKES EXPERIENCE

Bay Lakes Baptist Association

Issue 3

March 2010

Following the 'Good Shepherd'

Sometimes following can be hard. It requires complete trust in the person leading. And when the path chosen does not appear to be leading to the destination, it becomes doubly hard to follow. Maybe you have been there. You are serving where God has called you, doing what He has asked. But you are not seeing the results you hope for. And maybe there is a whisper of doubt that creeps in... "Did I miss something?"

That paragraph could summarize my first three years at Good Shepherd Baptist Church. The church name is a reminder of Who we follow and Who sets the direction. That has not ensured that the destination has been easy to see. A quick summary of some things He has led us to do with their apparent result:

- VBS, promoted heavily, 10 children, none added to the church
- Fireproof Movie—rented HS auditorium—less than 20 attended from the community.

- Published Christmas outreach in papers—no response.
- Prayed for a new family to move in across the street from me and join our church—they moved in, but no interest in church at the moment.



My family is young and the average age of the church is 50. No children attend except our own. I was feeling "stuck" and had begun to wonder what I had missed.

Then a few months ago it happened. God brought us a new family with many children, virtually doubling our average Sunday morning attendance from 12 to 22 and effectively reducing the average adult age by 10 years. Not only are they attending, they are eager to get involved with what God is doing in our community.

We covet your *prayers* as we seek to follow the Good Shepherd and draw others to Him as well. Please *pray* that as we use VBS curriculum as children's church materials, the kids will be excited to learn and the teachers encouraged. *Pray* that our mid-week cottage prayer meetings become an outreach for us as they are held in homes throughout the quite extensive area that our members live in. *Pray* that our water bottle outreach ministry gets off the ground and that we know which summer activities to target with the message of living water.

Following can be hard. When the leader is the Good Shepherd, we can know in faith that as we make our plans, He will direct our steps. (Prov. 16:9)

Pastor Jonathan Gulbrandsen
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Wittenberg, Wisconsin

CALENDAR NOTE

Biblical Counseling

Institute

Midwest Regional Conf.
Green Bay Community Church

Apr. 30-May 1

To enroll...

www.bcinsitute.com

251-401-0293

Partnership Goals

A new partnership is forming with an association in Texas which will benefit BLBA in so many ways. The following are some goals we should all consider:

- Mutual Prayer for the work of all churches sharing in the partnership
- Encouragement for each other in evangelism and missions - an Acts 1:8 challenge
- Encouragement for each other in starting new churches to reach every city and place with the Gospel and establish churches for on-going discipleship and evangelism
- To participate in the vision and stretch ourselves to go out of our comfort zones and take the risks needed to share Jesus with your communities

BLBA will vote on an official partnership at the April 24th Executive Board meeting. Your pastor, one church representative, and elected officials of BLBA are invited to vote. All are invited to attend.

~Empower~

THIS MONTH!

Make your reservations at Green Lake!

www.blba.org

March 18-20

Bay Lakes has a brand new website.

Check it out!

www.blba.org