



# Out of My Mind...

A Publication of the Church Mobilization Unit of the Mideast Baptist Conference  
 Gary Schroeder, Editor ~ Linda Penney, Graphic Design ~ Vol. 4-7 July, 2008

**FROM THE FIELD...** Ed Stetzer & Mike Dodson include this in Comeback Churches

## CHURCHES THAT PEOPLE JOIN

Churches that struggle with those who remain attenders with members who are uncommitted -	Churches where people join and serve -
May have expectations but do not state them clearly or consistently	Clarify expectations up front
Often accept mediocrity	Demand excellence
Fail to build on church's relational nature	Emphasize and strengthen relationships
May have a membership class but fail to capitalize on its value	Use a membership class to promote joining and serving
Tend to emphasize only spiritual gifts (if anything) in ministry placement	Have a strategic plan for leading members to see overall spiritual makeup
Recruit workers by broad announcements with little personal attention	Recruit workers one-to one
Have a tendency to think creatively about ministry opportunities, focusing on positions already in place	Provide entry-level positions for workers, even if they are new positions "outside the box"
Take their workers for granted	Affirm and celebrate their workers

### For Your Consideration...

The recently released "US Religious Landscape Survey" from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life should give us pause about what's going on, theologically speaking, in evangelicalism currently. As examples:

57% of evangelical church members believe "many religions can lead to eternal life"

52% of evangelical church members share their faith monthly

52% of evangelical church members rely primarily on their religion for moral guidance

Overall, this suggests to me a loss of faith in the Bible as the Word of God. While we may generally affirm the statement, it appears that practically speaking, evangelicals don't give Scripture the prominent place in their lives it deserves. We might do well to reconsider how we practice our faith and live out our commitment in light of our commitment to the authority of God's Word in guiding our day to day conduct.

### IN THE FOLD...

We rejoice to report that two of our DC area churches have new pastors and look forward to serving with and getting to know: Leo Genota and his wife, Meliza Dulay, at Hope to You, Bowie MD; Nhan Thieu Nguyen at Vietnamese, Fairfax, VA

### In My Briefcase...

Baseball Between the Numbers  
 by Baseball Prospectus Team  
Comeback Churches  
 by Ed Stetzer & Mike Dodson  
The Reason for God  
 by Timothy Keller

### ON OUR PRAYER WATCH:

The Sheveland Family ♦ Alan Gross ♦ Don & Marianne Hazel

**Selah:** I want to tell you that the single most important principle for each of us must be that an effective leader of today must still be what he/she has always had to be---a person of prayer."  
 Norman Shawchuck