

MEDITATION

Seven characteristics of a great church leader

Leith Anderson is a person who understands what it means to lead a church, and he suggests that leaders need to have seven important characteristics.

First, they need to be in touch with their culture. Theologian Karl Barth apparently believed the same thing, for he reportedly claimed that we should preach with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.

Second, a church leader needs to be flexible. Almost every aspect of church life is dynamic rather than static, and this includes the God we serve, the gospel we preach, as well as the people we lead, which makes it obvious why an effective leader would

need to be willing to adapt to a number of situations.

A third characteristic is that an effective leader is relational. I think this means that we all need to be real and approachable. Over the years, I have met many people who have left the church because Christians they knew sent out mixed signals. The word we typically use for this kind of behavior is "hypocrisy," and we all certainly need to try to avoid it.

Fourth, contemporary church leaders need to be good communicators. I have always been told that if you

love people sincerely, then they will more likely forgive the mistakes that you make in the pulpit. Yet, the fact is that the most influential churches seem to be those that have a strong vision, and this certainly implies that leaders need to learn to articulate a clear biblical vision.

Fifth, Anderson says that church leaders need to be "entrepreneurs." Now an entrepreneur is essentially someone who knows an opportunity when he sees one, and who is also able to take advantage of whatever opportunities God presents. The further

we go into the 21st century, it is apparent that we are living in a changing world, and most of the churches I know would benefit from having more active leaders with this particular characteristic.

Anderson's sixth characteristic of an effective church leader is that she or he is a risk taker. I doubt that Anderson is suggesting that leaders should be an "Indiana Jones" sort of adventurer, but there is no doubt that it is helpful if a church leader is not afraid of failure. I have tried many things in my years of ministry and several of them have failed, but through the failures I have learned what really works. I would never have learned such things unless I

was willing to risk failure.

The seventh characteristic is that a leader needs to be Godly, and I am convinced that this is the most important characteristic of all. Even though leaders are professionals, we are not mere professionals, and even though we typically have education, we do not act merely on the basis of our human education. Instead, effective church leaders are genuine disciples of Jesus Christ - people whose desire is that their church may authentically reflect God's love and grace to the world.

Dr. Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.



**Jeff Hensley
Meditation**

CHURCH BRIEFS

Registration for Upward Soccer is underway at **Patterson Grove Baptist Church**, 301 Oak Grove Road. Registration is available for ages 4-6th grade. The deadline to sign-up is August 2. The last evaluation date is Saturday, August 2, 10 a.m.-12:30. All players must attend an evaluation. Practice begins August 25 and games begin September 6, 2008. For more information, call the church office at 704-739-5826 or Mike Harris at 704-853-1174 (day) and 704-739-6023 (evening).

Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, recently hosted a

Kevin White Camp Meeting for "Power and Praise." Services will be held on Thursday and Friday, August 1st and 2nd at 7 p.m. For more information, call 704-739-7206.

Carolina Praise and Worship Center, 201 N. Main Street, Grover, will be holding a Gospel Singing and Auction Sale Fund Raiser at Grover Rescue Squad, 107 N. Main Street, from 3-9 p.m. August 9, 2008. The event will feature clowns, cupcake and cake walks, grab bags, hot dogs, an auction and the gospel music of "By Grace" at 3 p.m., "Carolina Praise and Worship Center" at 5

p.m., and the "Roof Family" at 7 p.m.

Sunrise Baptist Church, 208 Mail Road, will be having its Homecoming Sunday, August 3, 2008, beginning with a worship service at 11 a.m. Rev. Herman Green will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be held at 1 p.m. and a special singing featuring "Truly Blessed" will be held at 2 p.m. The public is invited.

Bethel Baptist Church, 606 S. Dekalb Street, Shelby, will be hosting its first annual Master Praise Homecoming, featuring musical performances by Cross Reference, Ricky Atkinson, Master Praise, and Providence, at 7 p.m. Saturday, August 9, 2008. For more information, call 704-477-7620 or visit masterpraise.com

Christian Freedom Baptist Church, 246 Range Road, will

kick-off revival on August 3, with a morning worship service at 11 a.m. led by David MacEachern, a former revival speaker at the church in 2004. The revival will reconvene Sunday at 6 p.m. and throughout the week with services beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, call Cassie Crisp or Mike Chambers at 704-739-4152.

Pastor David MacEachern to Speak at Local Revival Services Next Week

Event to be Held at Christian Freedom Baptist Church in Kings Mountain



CHRISTIAN FREEDOM BAPTIST CHURCH



The man who has served as senior pastor of Bat Cave Baptist Church in Bat Cave, North Carolina since 1994 will be featured at an area revival this month.

During the morning worship service on August 3, David MacEachern will kick off revival at Christian Freedom Baptist, located at 246 Range Road in Kings Mountain. MacEachern is a native of Detroit, Michigan but grew up in Gastonia. David and his wife Marline have been married for 27 years and have three children and four grandchildren.

The revival will begin on August 3 during the morning worship service at 11 a.m. and will reconvene on Sunday night at 6 p.m. Each weeknight, services will begin at 7 p.m. The CFBC Adult Choir will sing on Sunday night and Wednesday night, with praise & worship time offered every night.

For more information, call the church office at 704-739-4152 or visit the church web site at www.ChristianFreedomBaptist.org. For more information on David MacEachern and Bat Cave Baptist Church, visit www.batcavebaptist.org.

Its Breakfast time at El Bethel

Country Breakfast & Bake Sale

**Saturday, August 2
6:30 - 10 am**

El Bethel United Methodist Church
El Bethel Rd., Kings Mountain