

Te Cuento...

...The Story Inside

What Was I Thinking?

I was meeting with the leaders who plan the Ministers' Institute of the North East (MINE). As we started looking toward 2010, someone said, "What if we combined MINE with all 11 annual conferences in the east?" The room got electric and ideas bubbled out. Ideas about how an event like this could help us change our patterns, push us to EXPECT something new and amazing, and help us create a culture of rapid kingdom expansion.



Does our bishop know how to party, or what?

But now, in the cold light of day, with a budget in my hand, I ask myself, "What was I thinking?"

And then I remembered what I was thinking:

That I'm really not very good at celebration. I'm better at saving money and at being cautious. Sometimes that makes me miss God's joy. We come from a severe tradition, which although admirable in its discipline, fell short in its laughter and feasting. Isn't it true that we've been better at fasting than at feasting? The 3 annual feasts of the Jewish people were patterns from God to remind us that it's necessary to sometimes be "foolish" and happy, to pull out all the stops and play at full volume. To put a lampshade on your head!

That this 150th anniversary of the founding of the FMC is something to shout about. Shouting by myself isn't very encouraging...we need to shout together.

That together we have to focus ourselves on where we're going. The 2010 combined event needs to be a time when together we affirm that we ARE an important part of God's plan for rapidly expanding His kingdom across the earth, and to understand what our part is.

That we can't change our culture without leaving "home." All 11 conferences will benefit and learn from other Free Methodists.

I'm just going to have to swallow hard at the cost. I've lived among the poor for decades and any nickel misspent hurts me. But I don't think this is money misspent. (In fact, we chose Orlando because it's the cheapest place we could all be together.) This is an offering of praise.

So let's party like it's 2010!

Let's whoop it up over what God has done! And let's turn our faces, together, toward where He's taking us.

¿Cuántos Somos? ¿Cuántos Son?

A continuación les cuento cuántos Metodistas Libres asisten a nuestras iglesias de habla-hispana en los Estados Unidos.

Arizona	415	Maryland-Virginia	30
Sierra Pacific	345	New York	1,285
New England	831	Ohio	448
South Atlantic	756	Mid-America	243
Genesis	96	Pacific Northwest	81
North Central	108	Southern California	2,007
Great Plains	82	Texas	569
New South	5	Wabash	152

Total de Hermanos Metodistas Libres 7,453

Total de Español-hablantes en los EEUU (censo 2000) 28,000,000

¡Que Gran Oportunidad!

From:
Bishop David Roller

What do you
Expect?

- > 2009 is going to be an amazing year. I expect that.
- > 2009 is the year to start something new that reaches people desperate for Jesus.
- > If you haven't started a new ministry recently, that reaches lost people, 2009 is your year.
- > 2009 years since He was born. A great year of expecting.

Te Cuento/Story is a bimestrial letter from Bishop David Roller to those who minister.

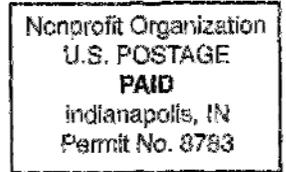
AIM for a Culture of Rapid Kingdom Expansion

What to do:

- ◆ Activate a spirit of expectancy in the believers in our churches.
- ◆ Infect them with BHS (Broken Heart Syndrome). Get them so sick over the cherished missing that you can model for them how to multiply ministries.
- ◆ Multiply ministries to the cherished missing, led by these believers.



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Just 2 Bad Decisions

We're all just two bad decisions away from ruin. The first bad decision is laziness toward evil; the second is to not repent immediately. Make those two bad decisions and it's curtains for our ministry, my friend. In fact, the decision to not repent, the decision to excuse ourselves, is what drives the nail in our ministry coffin. It's that arrogance of not admitting we messed up that puts us over the edge.

I believe we can live in such a way that we're not continually in purposeful disobedience to God. I believe the Holy Spirit can give us the daily energy to walk in sweet communion with our God. I don't think we are doomed to daily cycles of breast-beating over our purposeful sin (although we'll always deeply hunger to be more like Jesus: and often lament where we have not been fully like Him). We CAN live in unbroken fellowship with God, our loving father.

But what happens when we don't? When we mess up? Here is the key to not jumping in the ministry coffin — admit it, repent of it, turn away from it, tear out your eye, if need be. The hardest part is to admit it (although probably the eye part is difficult too). And we have to admit it to someone, not just to our own scared little selves. We need to look someone we respect in the eyes and say, "I am a stupid sinner. Help."

I'm sure we've all been reading and re-reading chapter seven of the *Book of Discipline*. Actually, it's pretty good. It gives us a path for a minister, who has fallen in sin, to confess to his/her overseer and together work for restoration. Check it out (the whole chapter's only 10 pages long). One good second decision can fix a bad first one. It's called forgiveness.

David Roller's 2009 Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 1 Clearwater FMC
- 7-9 Wilmore FMC & Asbury College chapel
- 13 Binghamton, NY FMC
- 14-15 Endicott, NY FMC
- 16-19 BoB & AFMEI meetings, Phoenix
- 21 Pittsburgh Supt nominating committee
- 22 MD/VA District Rally, MD City
- 24-26 Superintendents' meeting-Orlando, FL

MARCH

- 1-4 England for National Leadership Team
- 8 Pura Vida FMC in Santa Barbara, CA
- 9-10 Study Comm. on Doctrine, Santa Barbara
- 11-12 Comm. on Leadership Development, Santa Barbara, CA
- 14-27 Vacation with family
- 28 New South Conf—Early sitting
- 29-31 Superintendents' meeting-Orlando, FL

APRIL

- 4 Pittsburgh Conf—Early sitting
- 5-8 Mexican Conf MEG, Rancho Betania
- 13-15 Board of Bishops, Indy
- 16-18 Board of Administration, Indy
- 21-23 MINE, Pennsylvania
- 24-25 South Atlantic Annual Conf, Lakeland, FL

From:
Bishop David Roller

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