

APRIL FANNING THE FLAME TEAM REPORT

CHALLENGES FOR THE FTF TEAM: “I wish the entire congregation could hear that message...” “Oh...that was so good! Everyone(!) needs to know what we’ve just learned...” “WOW! Great point! Now, how do we get that message across to everyone at Westminster?” How often those words & similar thoughts have been uttered at a Fanning the Flame Servant Team meeting over the last year! You can tell from remarks like these that the Team wants each member of the congregation to have the blessings they’ve received; so here are a few ideas to help you access the same resources that have been such a blessing to each member of your FTF Servant Team:

***AUDIO MESSAGES:** Nothing “private” here! You can keep up with what the Team is learning by accessing each message from some of the great Embers to a Flame speakers. They’re on the church website for your benefit. Talk with Webmaster Randy Steinhoff to learn how to open the link (it’s a protected site since the messages are copyrighted—but available to you!). Here’s a list of the titles:

- * Creating A Climate For Change, Dr. Harry Reeder
- * Call to Repentance, Rev. Lynn Downing
- * Personal Spiritual Foundation, Rev. Lynn Downing
- * Small Group Discipleship, Dr. Wilson Benton
- * The Leadership Dynamic, Dr. Harry Reeder (This is a 2-part message)
- * Protecting the Pastor’s Time, Rev. Lynn Downing
- * Mercy Ministry, Dr. Harry Reeder

While some of those titles may not look like zinger-attention-grabbing headlines, you can rest assured that each message is packed full of wonderful blessings, challenges, thought provoking insights, and sometimes words strong enough to make us say, “I can sure relate to that—wish someone had said that to us a long time ago. My friend really needs to hear that, too!”

***STUFF TO READ:** There’s some very eye-opening information to be had in our readings—and many blessings for individuals and the entire body at Westminster as everyone in the church body assimilates the biblical concepts spot-lighted in these writings. A few titles to whet your appetite:

- *Outgrowing The Ingrown Church
- *Pray With Your Eyes Open
- *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched

Check with Bobbie Cover to access these & the other books and articles that Team members have been reading. She’s happy to share!

***PRAYER:** Ask a Team member how their prayer life has changed over the last year. Ask, too, how they are praying for this part of Christ’s body. You may be very surprised (and pleasantly so) to hear the answers!

CHALLENGES FOR THE CONGREGATION: The observation was made that we quite likely have a “consumer mentality” at Westminster (based on our answers to questionnaires, etc). If that’s truly the case, we must ask ourselves, “do I view WPC as a ‘spiritual filling station’ where I come once a week to get my ‘spiritual gas’ tank filled?” (Uh, oh, soul searching time--again). If we’re honest and discover that we have to answer “yes”, then it’s been pointed out that we’re not viewing the church from a biblical standpoint. The biblical picture of the church is that we are a body to be knit together in love, serving the Lord with Christ as the life-giver. And this is where the way we use our spiritual gifts (every Christian has at least one!) fits in. Check with Pastor Shelby or Elder Fred Schreiber to see where you can put your gifts to good use at Westminster. They would both love to hear from you!