



New Hope

The Voice of Pastor-In-Residence . . . a church-centered program of care and restoration for ministers in crisis.

Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD. Psalm 31:24

Spring 2010

Dear Friend and Partner in Ministry,

It is always a blessing to see God at work. This year has brought great blessings as we watch God provide. The first part of the newsletter will highlight several events and ministries that have transpired since the first of the year. On the back is a testimonial from David and Glenda Childers. They went through the PIR Program in Renton, Washington, under the leadership of Jim Amandus, the first PIR under Dr. Chuck Wickman.

- **January**- PIR hosted a two day training session for using a personality profile called ProD. Eight participants took advantage of the session, four of which were PIR staff members (Mike and Diane Parker and Kip and Judy Slawter).
- **February** - The PIR staff gathered for two days in Virginia Beach to strategize for the future followed by the annual board meeting.
- **March** -PIR attended and presented the ministry at a PCA pastors retreat. The meeting was held with a network of organizations in the Philadelphia area for holding a preliminary retreat for the "At-risk" pastor study that PIR began last October.
- **April** - The preliminary "At-risk" pastor retreat was held in North/Central PA on April 6-8 with 5 couples attending. Those who attended are being followed up by those who staffed the retreat.
- **May** -PIR was once again represented at Harvey Cedars Pastors Conference. One, perhaps 2 pastors are considering the PIR program from the contacts there. Another pastor is looking into becoming a host church for the PIR ministry.
- **June** - PIR will again have an exhibit at the Evangelical Presbyterian General Assembly in Denver Colorado with Kip Slawter and Ed Lochmoeller representing the ministry.

God is surely great and He has been opening new doors for the ministry. Enclosed is a form that explains budgetary needs for addressing these opportunities. If you would like to be a part of PIR's ministry in any of these areas, please respond with the envelope provided.

Sincerely in Christ and for His glory,

PIR National Director

Chuck Wickman, Founder of PIR, says, "It's as clear to me today as it was over 20 years ago when Jim Amandus came to our California church as the first Pastor-in-Residence. After months with us, he went to Highlands Community Church in Renton, Washington. I like to call Jim a "Master Pastor" since God has used him in so many significant ways at Highlands. The church grows and grows. One of the outstanding ways God uses him is to do Pastor-in-Residence programs, resulting in many exited pastors being returned to ministry. One of our goals is to get restored pastors to do PIR programs in the churches they serve. This exponentially multiplies the ministry of churches renewing and restoring pastors." The following testimony of David and Glenda Childers reflects the impact Jim Amandus is having on PIRs at Highlands Community Church. As you read it, may God bless you as He did me.

"I will never forget the day that two elders came to our home to tell my wife and me that I was being fired from my full time pastoral position. Our initial feelings were shock, fear and even shame. These questions began to whirl: How will I provide for my family? What will become of my gifts and passions? Is God finished with me?

We were encouraged by friends and family to take advantage of the severance package and to take time before the Lord to deal with our own brokenness and need for healing. We met weekly for prayer, friendship and accountability with another pastor and his wife. We shared laughter and tears and they continually reminded us that God had a plan and He was not finished with us. We needed to be reminded of this often!

We wondered what God doing was doing? In God's gracious way, we heard about the Pastor-In-Residence program. In my first conversation with Pastor Jim Amandus we shared each other's stories. I hung up that day knowing that he believes in me! To make a long story short, we were accepted into the Pastor-In-Residence program at Highlands Community Church. What an amazing gift the PIR program was to us and here are just a few of the reasons:

- 1. The HCC pastors and elders met with us to hear our story, confirm my qualifications as an elder, and affirm my role as a pastor. As you might imagine, this was a very emotional time for me.**
- 2. Highlands provided the structure for me to raise support and provide for the needs of my family.**
- 3. I was immediately welcomed by the staff and, as a Pastor-In-Residence, had a full time position.**
- 4. I was provided a place to engage in meaningful ministry.**
- 5. My wife and I were welcomed into a small group and weekly worship services provided a safe place for us to recuperate and heal even more.**
- 6. The PIR position allowed me to not have a big gap in my resume.**

My wife and I are so grateful for the gift that Highlands gave us! Highlands gave us grace and the reassurance that God wasn't finished with me and the dignity that a pastoral role holds, at a time we really needed

New Hope is the official newsletter of Pastor-In-Residence a 501 (c) 3 Non-profit corporation.

All financial contributions to the ministry are tax deductible.

Please contact us at **Pastor-In-Residence PO Box 64934 Virginia Beach, VA 23467 (757) 853-7889**

it! After six months in the PIR program, I was hired by Highlands as a part time mission's pastor. And then, about a year ago I joined staff with WorldVenture as a Church Missions Coach, assisting churches in the Seattle area to become more missional. WorldVenture actually loans me back to Highlands half-time. The combination has been a great one that allows me to keep one foot inside the local church while having a ministry to the broader Body of Christ.

As Glenda and I reflect on the past several years, we are grateful for His incredible faithfulness to us as a couple."

New Hope is the official newsletter of Pastor-In-Residence a 501 (c) 3 Non-profit corporation.

All financial contributions to the ministry are tax deductible.

Please contact us at **Pastor-In-Residence PO Box 64934 Virginia Beach, VA 23467 (757) 853-7889**