



SPRING 2008

NAPCE 2008 Conference \* Atlanta \* Oct. 16–18

## The Changing Face of the 21st Century Family

by *Michael Anthony, V.P.* 2008

The battle for the family in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will never be more important! The nuclear family is becoming a relic of the past and while it still remains the biblical ideal, fewer and fewer families are experiencing it. In fact, fewer of the students that come to our schools understand what this looks like, too.

For this reason, Christian educators, both in the church and in the classrooms of higher education, need to stay abreast of the latest trends that are shaping this phenomenon. Our speakers at the Atlanta conference will provide a good deal of information on this subject. But perhaps more importantly, they

will provide instruction for us as to how we as professors can take these new trends into consideration as we instruct and educate this new generation of students.

One of the benefits of the 2008 conference is that each of our speakers comes with a dedicated passion based on many years of applied experience. Each is a dedicated professional in this field and stands face-to-face with families every week. They know the issues first hand – no abstract theories here! Theory applied to real-life living is what this conference is all about.



**Jim Burns**

The Atlanta conference will be about taking theory and applying to practice. Dr. Jim Burns is one of the nation's leading authorities in the field

of family dynamics. For many years he focused primarily on the issues impacting America's youth. In recent years he has broadened his focus by addressing the complexities of the family. He is a

popular conference speaker, author, and radio host. His programs are heard all over North America each week. He provides leadership to Home-word Ministries and leads in areas of research and development regarding ministry tools and resources.

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### Special points of interest:

- Election of new Board members will occur at our conference this Fall. See page 4 for information on qualifications and how you can make a nomination.
- Don't miss the reflections from the 2007 conference on page 3!
- You'll also find a few pictures of activities at the conference in the margins of pages 2 and 3.

## Been to the CAFÉ?

Consider attending the pre-conference meeting of CAFÉ (Children and Family Educators) on Thursday, Oct. 16. Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and conclude by 2:30 pm. Lunch will be provided by Rorheim Institute, a ministry

of Awana.

For more information, contact:

Dr. John K. Crupper  
[johnk@awana.org](mailto:johnk@awana.org)  
 630-540-4689

## Investing in NAPCE's Future

You know the value of NAPCE in its mission of "enhancing the intentional teaching mission of the church." But have you considered a tax-deductible gift to NAPCE (we are a 501c3 organization!) – perhaps a gift from your estate?



## From Our President

When the 20<sup>th</sup> century Church rediscovered the Biblical truth that every member is a minister, it raised the question: "Why then only ordain some ministers?" In *Christian Basics* Dorothy and Gabriel Fackre answered this question by contrasting those with a ministry of *vitality*, exercised through the gifts of the Spirit, and those with a ministry of *identity*, exercised through an office. Through ordination, the Church charges some of its members with a special responsibility to preserve the Church's identity - to keep the Church on track.

St. Paul saw teaching as every Christian's task (Col. 3:16) and a spiritual gift needed for the Body's vitality. Christian teachers carry out this ministry in small groups,

Sunday schools, youth groups, weekday clubs, and in parenting roles.

How does our role as professors relate to this ministry of teaching? I believe we are entrusted with a *ministry of identity*. Professors of Christian Education are charged with keeping the Church's teaching ministry on track. We call attention to teaching as a core function of the Church. In our "professional" teaching we prepare capable, competent leaders for the teaching ministry. Our research seeks to understand and share effective teaching practices. In service we contribute directly to building up the Body through teaching and offer an example of someone who is "able to teach" (II Timothy 2:24).



**Robert Drov Dahl**

Our work helps the Church perform its teaching ministry well. This work cannot be done in isolation. The NAPCE annual conference provides a great opportunity for collaboration. Come to Atlanta and be strengthened as a teacher, scholar, and servant of the Church. Come to Atlanta and be enriched and encouraged as an "ordained teaching minister." Come join hands and heart with others who share your vocation. Come.

### 2007 Conference



**Networking Opportunities**

## Need Money for Research?

Have a great idea for a research project, but lack the funds to get it done? The NAPCE Research Grant may be just what you need.

The NAPCE Research Grant is funded by David C. Cook Ministries, and awarded annually with a total amount of \$5,000 to be awarded.

Additional information on the grant program is available

on the NAPCE website [[click here](#)]. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2008.

## David C. Cook to Publish Student Papers Online

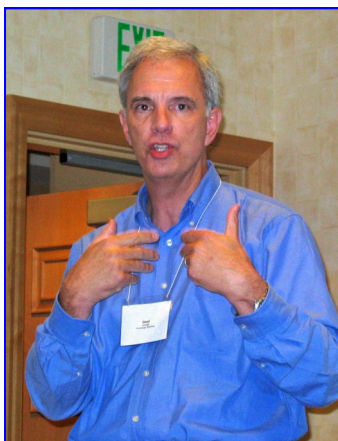
It's selfish not to share! David C. Cook is looking for excellent student papers to share with church Christian education leaders and volunteers.

Material must be of interest to church leaders or volunteers who may not be academics. Special attention will be given to materials that help leaders more effectively do discipleship. Examples:

- "A study of 3 Sunday schools and the diverse leadership styles that make them successful."
- "An evaluation of national Christian education events: strengths and weaknesses."
- "Transformational teaching: How it differs from previous teaching."

Material may be edited. Material must have received an "A." If selected, it will be posted with the name of the student, the name of the pro-

fessor, and the school's name. Papers should be submitted to Marlene LeFever at [marlene.lefever@davidccook.org](mailto:marlene.lefever@davidccook.org) any time during this semester. The first papers will be posted summer 2008. Both the author and the professor will receive \$50 thank-you gifts. All material remains the property of the student.



**Professional Development Opportunities**



# Reflections on the 2007 Conference

by *Elaine Becker*, V.P. 2007

It seems impossible that our conference on “Whole People Equipped for Ministry” is four months past. The conference was unique in a sense because it set out some contrasting ideas which hopefully enabled each of us to reflect again on our teaching practices.

Kevin Compton started things off with a wonderful presentation which focused our attention on the changing trends in technology. He reminded us of some of the things he told us some ten years ago to expect. He again shared with us the rate of change and the almost impossibility of keeping abreast of all that is coming, yet he challenged us to think of the implications of all this in the educational setting.

We are indebted to those who presented information in technological areas which could enhance our teaching experience. NAPCE remains clearly focused to help in aspects of professional development.

Marva Dawn, our keynote speaker, was invited to bring her challenge to use technology in education with a critical eye. Her book, *Unfettered Hope: A Call to Faithful Living in an Affluent Society*, best conveys some of those sentiments. Marva called us to live lives critical of our fast-paced world, asking what it does to the educational experience and the preparation of people for life in community.



Another feature of the conference was to allow time for interaction on these contrasting ideas. The evaluations reflect that attendees appreciated the time to process the information they were hearing. Some even wondered if we had planned this presentation of what might be seen as opposing ideas. Yes, it was planned!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all who contributed to such a wonderful conference – the organizers and helpers, the presenters, and particularly the publishers and sponsors who treat us so well with books and meals.

## Update: “Mapping C.E. Programs”

This winter a collaborative research team from four schools began the second phase of a study of Christian education-type preparation programs in Bible Colleges (ABHE schools), Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU schools), and Seminaries (ATS schools).

The purpose of this study is to review the nature and scope of educational ministry preparation programs in evangelical educational institutions in the United States and Canada to better understand what is being offered in educational ministry programs, how they have been changing over the last few years, trends impact-

ing these programs in the present, and directions anticipated for the future. This effort will also attempt to identify areas of need for strengthening the equipping of students for various educational ministry leadership roles.

In January, electronic surveys were sent to over 220 program directors or department chairs. The data from these surveys will be analyzed in February to give direction to the final round of interviews being carried out this spring.

Results of this second phase of the study will be developed

into a report to be shared during a pre-conference session at the NAPCE conference in Atlanta, Georgia, October 16-18, 2008. The session will be held on the afternoon of October 16<sup>th</sup>. Details on this special session will be available soon at the NAPCE website ([napce.org](http://napce.org)).

[Questions about the research project can be directed to Kevin Lawson, at Talbot School of Theology ([kevin.lawson@biola.edu](mailto:kevin.lawson@biola.edu)).]

### 2007 Conference



**Exploring**



**Re-connecting**



**Finding Resources**



A newsletter of the North American  
Professors of Christian Education  
professional society

## Who Would You Nominate to the NAPCE Board?

Our organization is led by a 10-member Board of Directors. Every two years NAPCE members elect five new board members to serve four-year terms. At the Atlanta conference this October elections will be held at the Saturday business meeting. A slate of candidates will be presented to the membership by a nominating committee appointed by the Board. At its January meeting the Board appointed Elaine Becker, Bob Drovdaahl, Norma Hedin, and Rick Yount to serve on the nominating committee.



Clair Allen Budd, Editor  
Email: [clair.budd@asbury.edu](mailto:clair.budd@asbury.edu)

Board members must have a minimum two-year history of membership in NAPCE and be willing to contribute their time and talents to NAPCE's mission and work, including serving, if elected, as an officer of the Board. Board members are expected to attend all NAPCE conferences and board meetings (usually January) during their four-year tenure.

The desire is to create a board that represents the membership's diversity in geography, institutional affiliation, gender, and ethnicity. For this reason, we invite your participation in the nomination process. Please submit names of potential nominees to Bob Drovdaahl at [bdrovdaahl@spu.edu](mailto:bdrovdaahl@spu.edu). Self-nomination is both appropriate and encouraged.

As a retiring board member, I can confidently commend this opportunity for service. It's been a wonderful experience working with great colleagues for a valuable cause.

— Bob Drovdaahl, *President*



## “Changing Family” Conference

(Continued from page 1)



**Clarence Schuler**

Dr. Clarence Schuler, President and CEO of Building Lasting Relationships, leads the nation in helping the church understand the unique setting of the urban family. As a popular speaker on the subject of racial reconciliation and marriage and family issues on college campuses all across the nation. Dr. Schuler will challenge your heart as well

as your mind as he broadens our worldview of “family” in the context of inner city and urban settings.

Dr. Michelle Anthony is the Director of Family Ministries at Rock Harbor Church in Costa Mesa, CA. She has been a ministry leader in five churches for over 20 years. She will present various models of family ministry in existence today and demonstrate why most of them are destined to failure.

She is a consultant to numerous organizations, an author of numerous ministry resources and a practitioner who has spent time in the classroom, most recently as Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Talbot School of Theology @ Biola University. She will challenge you in areas of critical thinking about how you teach family ministry at your institution.



**Michelle Anthony**