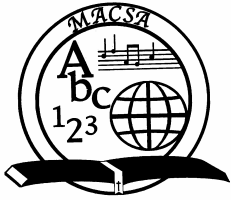


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**Mid-Atlantic Christian Schools Association**

*Serving Schools Who Serve the Savior*

*Fall 2004*

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## **Your Preparedness Posture for Each Day**

*Charles A. Bloomfield, MACSA President*

Several years ago, while driving to school early one morning, I had the radio tuned to Christian broadcasting and heard the night announcer signing off. His closing admonition was “Do what you can while abiding in Christ.” That well-timed word struck a responsive chord in me, so much so that it headlines the form I use in my planning notebook (my “to-do” list) to keep track of the things I need to accomplish (or at least keep myself aware of!) each day.

What we do in Christian school teaching and Christian school administration is rewarding work, but it is not easy work! The job descriptions (“position profiles”) for teaching and administration are comprehensive and demanding. Failure to give adequate attention to any point subjects our ministries and our schools to decreased effectiveness in the lives of our students and their families, and even failure. And then there are the numerous unplanned things during the day that demand our attention. (Do you ever wonder how you even manage to faithfully fulfill the tasks and responsibilities outlined in your job description?)

So it can be disconcerting to not be able to accomplish what we thought were the “must-do” things for the day. We find ourselves taking more work home at night than we planned and fretting over the pace of things—more to accomplish than it is possible to accomplish. It is often at that point where we lose our spiritual peace and begin to worry about our frailty and perceived ineffectiveness.

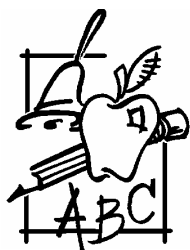
Does this resonate with you? We try hard to increase our output, but we are unable to see success in doing so over the long term, and besides that we’re inconsistent at maintaining the sustained output of additional energy. I saw this sign in a real estate office window one time: “*Work smarter, not harder.*” While there is some truth to that admonition, there are also limits to it.

We can also find ourselves fretting about output when we forget that the unplanned things that come across our desk are, after all, by divine appointment. We forget that God has used us in those small, incidental things while commiserating over the number of things not yet checked off of our to-do lists.

The Scriptures that will come to mind as you read this undoubtedly include John 15 and 1 Corinthians 3. It was a blessed day in my early Christian experience when I discovered the truth of abiding in Christ—the John 15 passage. The last half of verse 5, “apart from me you can do nothing,” is a truth that needs to grip all of us. Likewise 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 where we are admonished to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ with lasting building materials and remember that the test is the *quality* of work we do, not the *quantity* (verse 13).

So let us *do what we can while abiding in Christ*. Live in the Word, “walk close,” and trust your daily output to His working in and through you. As you do so, may you see much fruit for your labor this school year and in your continuing ministry.

Charles Bloomfield is the current president of MACSA and has been involved with MACSA for 40 years, serving schools in Erie, York and Allentown, PA. He is currently the principal at Lehigh Valley Christian High School in Allentown, PA. During his time in the Christian school movement, he has served as a teacher, middle and high school principal, MACSA program committee member and MACSA Vice President. He has attended the MACSA convention since 1965 and is often a MACSA workshop presenter. He is a member of Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church in Allentown, has been married to Carolyn for 41 years, has two grown children and two grandchildren. Charles will be speaking at the closing session of the 2004 MACSA convention.



56<sup>th</sup> Annual MACSA Convention  
November 10-12, 2004  
Instruments for His Noble Purpose  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. James Jeffrey

*Dr. Jeffrey has been president of Baptist Bible College and Seminary since August 2001. He is an alumnus of BBC and also a graduate of Practical Bible College (now Davis). He earned a Master of Religious Education in Pastoral Ministry degree at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary, and has done doctoral studies at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary and Grace Seminary. He served as a Baptist pastor for 26 years. Jim married his high school sweetheart Alberta "Bert" in 1973. They have three children, Daniel, Amy and Rachel, three children-in-law and six grandchildren.*

*Jim was born in Connecticut, but he calls upstate New York home. He has served on the boards of Baptist Mid-Missions, Camp Patmos, and the Ohio, Indiana and Michigan state pastors' fellowships.*

*His servant heart and his desire to serve God with humility and excellence have characterized Jim's life and ministry. His fervent desire is that he will walk humbly with God.*

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## Set Apart: Calling a Worldly Church to a Godly Life

By R. Kent Hughes

*Crossway Books, 2003, 165 pages, \$12.99*

Reviewed by Dr. Timothy Sierer

MACSA Vice President and Headmaster at *The Christian Academy*

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Taken from a series of sermons delivered at College Church in Wheaton, Illinois, senior pastor Dr. Hughes offers a critique of how the culture has affected evangelical churches. Growing out of a concern for the ability of churches to reach a lost world, the author cautions leaders not to allow the “lack of cultural awareness and resulting lack of discernment” to weaken their message to a lost and dying world.

In many ways, the same concern exists within our Christian schools as well. The underlying goal of each of our schools is to train up a generation of students equipped both academically and spiritually to influence their communities for Christ. The similarities that exist between the struggle for the church, and the Christian school, to retain its “saltiness” before the world are great. Without purposeful steps taken to protect our distinctiveness, Christian schools are in danger of taking on characteristics of a secular educational system. It is for that reason that much of what Dr. Hughes mentions in this book can also apply to our ministries within Christian education.

Dealing with issues such as materialism, hedonism, sensuality, violence, modesty, pluralism, marriage, and church and the Lord’s Day, Dr. Hughes admonishes Christian leaders to be alert as to how present cultural thinking on these issues has infiltrated our churches and thereby weakened our testimony before the world. Repeatedly the plight of the church is likened to what happened to Lot in the book of Genesis. Clearly, the culture of the day so influenced his thinking that while the New Testament calls Lot “righteous,” he left his beloved Sodom only reluctantly. The day-after-day exposure to life in Sodom had deadened the impact of his testimony before the members of his family and the townspeople as well.

The same can be true of life within our Christian schools. Without concerted effort and alertness to the infiltration of worldly standards and cultural ways of thinking, our schools will lose their “saltiness” and distinctiveness in a world that desperately needs future leaders equipped with a sound biblical worldview.

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*R. Kent Hughes is senior pastor of College Church in Wheaton, Illinois. He earned his D.Min. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is a father of four and author of numerous books for Crossway, as well as the series editor for the popular Preaching the Word commentaries.*

*MACSA Bridge ~ Fall 2004*

*Please direct questions or comments to Nancy R. DeHaan ~ [ndehaan@macsaonline.org](mailto:ndehaan@macsaonline.org)*

# MACSA Advisory Council

The MACSA Advisory Council serves to assist and advise the Executive Committee. The council provides input from a broad representation of member schools. Please contact the Advisory Council member from your area if you have questions or concerns.

**Mr. Warren Aldrich**

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**Mr. George Wiedman**

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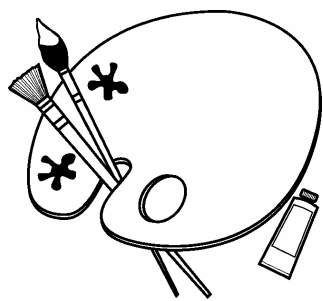
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## Art Teachers!

Watch the mail for information regarding a special "Art Teachers Day" which will be scheduled for Spring 2005. This will be your day – a day of workshops, fellowship and networking!