

# WHEN YOUR PREACHER LEAVES: Interim Services for Churches Between Ministers

June, 2009, #35



Jerrie Barber and John Parker



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## **Third Anniversary!!! Help Us Celebrate!!!**

**This is our third anniversary of *When Your Preacher Leaves*. We would like to increase the number of readers. If you have found newsletter this helpful, please forward to your friends who might benefit from this newsletter.**

**If you would include a personal recommendation that they consider subscribing, we would appreciate it. To subscribe: [Subscription Page](#) .**

**Thank you.**



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## How to Delegate, by Jerrie Barber

One of the challenges of a leader is effective delegation. Some of the best principles I have found was in *The New Time Power*, a tape series by Charles R. Hobbs. It was published by Nightingale-Conant and is now out of production. He also wrote a book, *Time Power: the Revolutionary Time Management System That Can Change Your Professional and Personal Life*, that is out of print but is available from [alibris](#) . Here are his



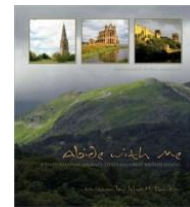
steps in delegation with some comments:

1. Select the people who have the ability to do the job.
2. See that they clearly understand what you expect. One of the more effective ways to do this is to discuss it, write it down, and have the person being assigned to repeat back to you what their understanding of the job is.
3. Let them know you sincerely believe in their ability to carry out the task. Explain the importance of the task. Relate to them the faith that you have in them and their dedication.
4. Secure commitment that they will follow through. Ask how they feel about the job and in being responsible in carrying it out.
5. Negotiate a deadline. A deadline has been established when you have a day, date, year, and time. The deadline may designate the time the task is completed or when evaluation will be conducted.
6. Provide latitude for them to use their own imagination and initiative.
7. Let them know in the beginning you're going to follow up and do it. At the initial meeting, it is usually good to set up a time of follow-up and evaluation.
8. Don't do the job for them.
9. Reward them commensurately with the results they produce. People need encouragement and recognition. Part of your job as a leader is to provide that.

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### John Parker Announcement: *Abide with Me*

After three years of work and waiting: John, international photographer Paul Seawright, and legendary entertainer Ray Walker are pleased to announce the release this month of



*ABIDE WITH ME*  
*A Photographic Journey Through Great British Hymns*

PLEASE LOG ON NOW TO JOHN'S WEBSITE FOR THE BOOK AT

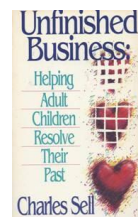
[WWW.ABIDEWITHMEHYMNS.COM](http://WWW.ABIDEWITHMEHYMNS.COM)

FOR PHOTOGRAPHS, DESCRIPTION OF BOTH THE TEXT AND RAY'S CD OF BELOVED HYMNS, AND INFORMATION FOR ORDERING.

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### Mustard Seeds from Favorite Books, Jerrie Barber

*Unfinished Business: Helping Adult Children Resolve Their Past*, by Dr. Charles M. Sell, © 1989 by Multnomah Press, Portland, Oregon 97266



No more convincing evidence of the absence of parental affection exists than that compiled by Rene Spitz. In a South American orphanage, Spitz observed and recorded what happened to ninety-seven children who were deprived of emotional and physical contact with others. Because of a lack of funds, there was not enough staff to adequately care for these children, ages three months to three years old. Nurses changed diapers and fed and bathed the children. But there was little time to hold, cuddle, and talk to them as a mother would. After three months, many of them showed signs of abnormality. Besides a loss of appetite and being unable to sleep well, many of the children lay with a vacant expression in their eyes. After five months, serious deterioration set in. They lay whimpering, with troubled and twisted faces. Often, when a doctor or nurse would pick up an infant, it would scream in terror. Twenty-seven, almost one-third, of the children died the first year, but not from lack of food or health care. They died of a lack of touch and emotional nurture. Because of this, seven more died the second year. Only twenty-one of the ninety-seven survived, most suffering serious psychological damage (page 39).

When choosing something outside oneself as a condition for having a sense of self, one is dependent upon what cannot be managed or controlled – the laughter of the audience, the cheers of the crowd, the sales reports, the promotions, the winnings. Like food and alcohol, these will never be enough to complete one's sense of dignity and worth. Any addict will answer the questions of how much is enough with the words "just a little bit more" (page 61).

We fear whenever we face (or think we face) a real danger. Whenever we are afraid and don't know why, we are anxious (page 93).

Forgiveness is demanded only when one is sinned against. Today we use the word more broadly; we forgive a person's mistake or forgive him for accidentally stepping on our toes. In the New Testament, you don't really forgive someone's mistakes; you forbear them. You don't forgive someone with whom you have a personality clash; you tolerate them. Human forgiveness is sometimes connected to God's forgiveness. That doesn't only mean that when God forgives we ought to forgive, but also that when we forgive, God forgives. For this reason, we ought to be careful how and when we forgive someone, because by doing so the person is made to feel God has also forgiven them (see 2 Corinthians 2:5-8) (page 124).

I agree with Rachael V., who edited a book of the personal stories of abused women: "If you jump into forgiveness without experiencing the anger and grief, then that forgiveness isn't going to be genuine. It takes time, and there are stages you have to go through to get to forgiveness. Forgiveness is the goal, for sure, but it takes some real work to get there." Denying the wrong by denying anger is the heart of the problem for dysfunctional homes. Denying the problem perpetuates it. Offering forgiveness before the offender admits his wrong does little good for anyone (page 130).

First, you will need to avoid being sucked into your spouse's family system. You must shun the urge to solve their problems for them. Respect your in-laws' right to continue in their problem, just as you respect your right to refuse to solve it for them.

You must also resist the urge to fight them; remember the co-dependent is as much enslaved by rebellion as she is by conformity. If you aren't drawn into their problem as a sympathetic lamb to the slaughter, you will be inclined to be like a lion and attack them for their shortcomings. Rather, you must try to be legitimately involved with them while insisting on the emotional, functional, and economic independence of the two families (page 258).

“The truth shall make you free, but first it may make you miserable” (page 271).

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## Smile of the Month

Overheard: “People are more violently opposed to fur than leather because it’s safer to harass rich women than motorcycle gangs” (*Reader’s Digest*, August 1995, page 69).



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## Barber Clippings

We did a training session today (Saturday, June 13) for the Hendersonville Search and Interview Committees for the next preacher here. Fifteen people participated. Perhaps I will write an article on this. There is a search committee composed of sixteen people and an interview committee with nine people. The search committee will begin the process of accepting suggestions and résumés. Men of interest will be passed to the interview committee, composed of three elders, one staff member, and five other Christians from the congregation. When they find a man they think may be a good fit, they refer him to the whole eldership of twelve men.

I was impressed by the seriousness and enthusiasm of the people today.

We have another training session next week for seventeen others. Our elders are participating in the training sessions.

Gail prepared breakfast and lunch for the training members. We continue to enjoy working here during the interim.

Jerrie Barber

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John Parker

I continue to enjoy my interim ministry with the fine Fairview congregation just west of Nashville. This Sunday we begin our gospel meeting with Tim Mefford of Caryville, Tennessee

We enjoyed attending the Pepperdine lectures at the end of May with my cousin Wayne Collins and his wife Donna.

On June 21 we leave with a group from the Smyrna church for Greece for a retreat with the church from Athens at Cenchrrea near Corinth. I will speak three times there and once for the Omonia church in Athens. Jill will also speak to the ladies at the retreat. It is a beautiful and of course rich Biblical area, and we look forward to seeing our friends Alexander and Eleni Melirrytos again.

Jill and I have spent the last two months on two projects:

My book with photographer Paul Seawright ABIDE WITH ME: A PICTORIAL JOURNEY THROUGH GREAT BRITISH HYMNS has been out for a month, and we have been busy preparing autographed copies for those who want them as gifts or for themselves. Those who have seen the book have been most generous about the beautiful photography of the hymn sites that Paul produced, and we are thankful to have Ray Walker's CD. The website for the book is [www.abidewithmehymns.com](http://www.abidewithmehymns.com) . Or people can simply call me at (615) 373-4462. Copies bought from me are autographed. I was honored to be invited by brother Neil Anderson of the Gospel Advocate Company to have a book signing there on June 4. Thanks to all my friends who came.

We are very busy working toward producing a video for Christian high school students on ROMEO AND JULIET in a Christian context. We plan to film the first week of August.

I will speak on the great British hymns at the Lipscomb Summer Celebration on July 2 and 3 in the Paul Rogers Board Room of the Ezell Center. I am available for Power Point lessons on many of the hymns for churches.

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