



**Chicago
District
Evangelistic
Association**

"Committed to the Harvest"

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The Chicago District Evangelistic Association is a single purpose ministry. Christians can be involved in many good works, but none as basic as evangelism--the preaching and teaching of the message and life of Jesus for the purpose of bringing people to a personal and eternal relationship with God. All other ministries either lead to or rest upon this foundational work .

Chicago District Evangelistic Association

Executive Director's Newsletter

JUNE 2008

Traveling through the western part of the state a couple of weeks ago, I was invited by my brother-in-law to try out his new Tom Tom GPS. It is an amazing instrument that gives detailed turn by turn instructions toward a specific destination. I asked him prior to plugging it into my vehicle, "What happens if you don't follow the directions it gives?" He admitted that he had always followed the instructions of the voice. On the way home that night, we did not follow the directions of the Tom Tom. Once we went past the suggested route, an interesting message appeared on the Tom Tom: Recalibrating, wait for new route to be generated".

Within moments, a new route appeared on the screen. I realized that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to become lost using the Tom Tom.

The term recalibrate implies a willingness to rethink, retool, redirect in order to reach a desired destination. In some ways, this term describes the situation we find ourselves in currently. As most of you know, Steve Szoke recently passed into new life after heroically battling cancer since last July. I spoke at Impact (the church Steve started in Merrillville, IN) the day after his funeral and talked about the need to recalibrate as a church. I told them that we were not done, that the mission of Impact remained the same and that we are going to continue to build on the foundation that had been laid by Steve. To accomplish this reality, the right type of leadership is required. With this in mind we asked Bob Szoke to step in as Impact's interim senior minister. We realized that this would not be an easy assignment for Bob, but, we knew that he loved Impact, believed in its' core

values, was personally invested in the ministry there and leadership of the church already looks to him for wisdom and guidance. Above it all, we knew that the church needed the stability, comfort and strength that Bob would bring to the table. While the church is in the process of recalibration, that also means that CDEA will be busy recalibrating during this time. I'd like you to pray for Impact, for Bob and for CDEA as we move forward to reach the unreached harvest of Chicagoland.



It was a privilege to work alongside Steve. I am grateful for the passion for outreach, the joy for life that he had, the example of leadership he displayed everywhere he went. He touched and influenced many lives in his 32 years of life. This story is being lived out

through all of our church planters, as they spread the salt of the gospel and shine the light of Jesus through the new churches being started.

Please be praying for CDEA as we are planting three new works this fall across the region. These will be reaching out in the Hobart, IN area, in Warren Township (Lake County, IL) and in Lockport, IL. I look forward to seeing what God is going to do into the future through the new churches being started. I know that God is going to provide the church planters and the financial resources to reach the unreached through your partnership. Thank you for what you are doing. There are many more stories of life change waiting to be written. Looking ahead.....Lance