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Dear Pastor,

I know it's mid-summer and October seems like a long way off. However, I wanted to make you aware of **an exciting event that is coming on October 29**. It is the first of what we hope will be many "*AISI Leadership Events*." For several years now I have been dreaming of ways to provide high quality, leadership sharpening events to help you as a pastor.

"*AISI Leadership Events*" are designed to inspire and motivate leaders to constantly be sharpening their skills as leaders. In an ever-changing environment, today's leaders must commit to excellence in our various leadership roles. "*AISI*" actually stands for As Iron Sharpens Iron which comes from Proverbs 27:17, "*As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend.*" (NLT)

As a leader at BCM/D I want to be the kind of friend that always encourages, always inspires, and always provides real world, practical ways to help you lead where God has called you. That is why from time to time, I am producing some events that you will not want to miss. While they may have a training quotient, they are not training per se. They are specifically designed to be a catalyst for learning from each other in concrete ways while being inspired together to lead God's people in an ever growing and effective way.

October 29 will be that kind of day! Enclosed is a card outlining what a great day it will be. We will have three speakers including a keynote address by **Governor Mike Huckabee**. The other two speakers are **Dr. Andy Westmoreland**, President of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and **Rod Hairston**, Chaplain for the Baltimore Ravens.

Please note that this is not a political rally! Amazingly, Gov. Huckabee became available to us unexpectedly and is appearing solely to share principles of leadership that he has learned both in politics and as a former Southern Baptist pastor and former President of the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

The enclosed card gives you the details. I am asking that you help us by RSVP online soon at www.bcmd.org/huckabee. We anticipate a great response. **We need to know you are coming so that we can plan for the lunch and other logistics.** Our deadline for registration is October 1.

Here's an idea: I always dreamed the AISI Events would be the kind of experiences that you, as a pastor, could feel very comfortable inviting your staff or some of the business folks in your church to join you. **Could you please invite 2-3 more to come with you on October 29?**

I hope you can join us!


Bob Simpson
Associate Executive Director