

About BRM's Director

Rev. Dave Bauer had been a pastor for 17 years. He served as a youth pastor in two churches. He has a BA from Trinity College and finished his Masters at Moody Bible Institute. He also

is a past president of the Northern Illinois Regional of IFCA International. As a BRM Associate since 1993 he has often traveled with Rev. Svoboda to many churches with problems and has proven himself in crisis situations, and since 2005, as BRM's New Director.

About BRM's Founder & Director Emeritus

Rev. Charles Svoboda served 16 years as Director of Illinois Bible Church Mission followed by 5 years as Bible Instructor and Assistant to the President of Grand Rapids School of the Bible & Music.

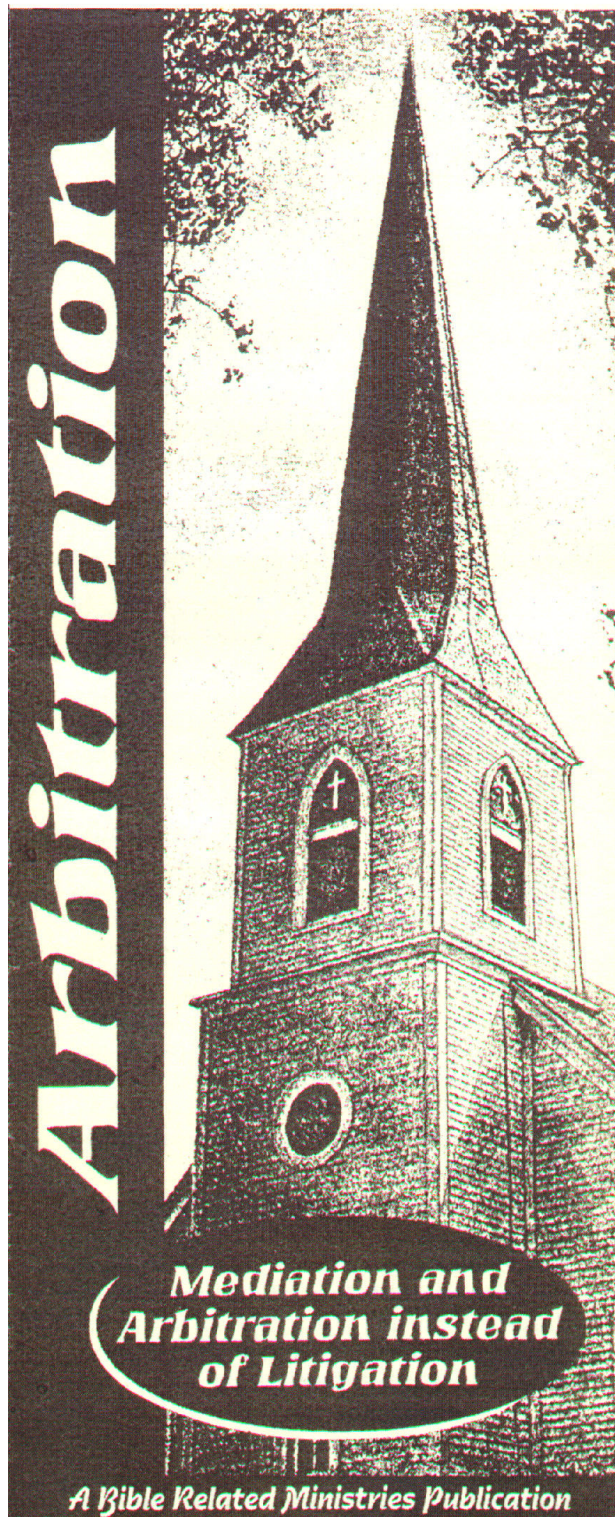


Then in 1972, he organized "Bible Related Ministries, Inc." a missionary outreach dedicated to assisting churches, addressing many of the problems that are routinely encountered in churches, such as that of a spiritual, doctrinal or operational nature. BRM helps churches adopt sound biblical policies so they can handle issues promptly and orderly.



Bible Related Ministries

P.O. Box 272 Hinsdale, Illinois 60522-0272
708-579-3800 or 708-579-3801 – Fax: 708-579-3844
www.biblerelatedministries.org - djbauer1@juno.com



"Dare any of you, having a matter against another go to law before the unjust and not before the saints?"

1 Cor. 6:1

Current figures as to the problems in the realm of the local church are alarming and indicative of our Lord's soon return (2 Tim. 3:1). We are told that some 30,000 Protestant Churches in America are experiencing a heart wrenching time at any given moment with 15,000 *Church Splits* every year and a *Pastor Burn-Out* figure of 20%. Something has apparently gone awry in the handling of problems among the brethren. There is a growing need for awareness as to exactly what the Scriptures teach about:

RECONCILIATION

The act of reconciling can be defined as --*"The need of brothers and sisters in Christ making every effort to resolve differences with each other peacefully in the light of God's Word."*

Matt. 5:23-24; Matt. 18:15-17; & 1 Cor. 6

Reconciliation not only has to do with believers attempting to get the unregenerate right with God, but also with Holy Spirit controlled believers getting fellow believers who have strayed from the Lord back into fellowship with God and the family of God as seen in 2 Cor. 5:18-20 and Gal. 6:1. Troubled believers need to heed the admonition of Prov. 11:14.

--*"Where no counsel is, the people fall..."*

What kind of counsel? The counsel of those of *"like precious faith"* as indicated in Psalm 1.

--*"Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."*

PROCRASTINATION

Procrastination is the thief of time and many of God's children are *putting off* making things right with members of God's family which inevitably sets them up for a direct meeting eventually with our Lord over the matter at the *Judgment Seat of Christ*.

--2 Cor. 5:10

Rejecting peacemaking efforts results in continued hostility and aggravations and takes on a cancerous effect – it spreads. We were faced with a sign at a doctor's office which read: Five Dangerous Words –

"MAYBE IT WILL GO AWAY"

It doesn't go away, it festers and spreads. Better to heed the advice of Prov. 10:8.-

"The wise in heart will receive commandments, but the prating fool shall fall."

MEDIATION

Mediation according to Webster's dictionary can be described as *"The act or process of intervention between conflicting parties to promote reconciliation, settlement or compromise."* A mediator attempts to have both parties reach an agreement through dialogue as our Lord did with us and our Heavenly Father, *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."* -1 Tim. 2:5. An attempt should be made in accordance with Scripture to bring about peaceful results and where that fails, the parties involved should move to an arbitration meeting with a neutral impartial outside source to arbitrate.

ARBITRATION

Bible Related Ministries has ministered to scores of churches conducting non-binding arbitration meetings. Time honored approaches to various problems coupled with the backing of God's Word are used.

Bible Related Ministries believes in the autonomy of the local church and comes in to arbitrate only upon being invited by the local church and their signing the CONSENT FORM *(which follows)* and agreeing to abide by our PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR ARBITRATION SESSION.

Bible Related Ministries will end the arbitration sessions by proposing *recommendations* which the church may fully accept or reject or accept partially. Bible Related Ministries does not mandate a church to do anything. BRM seeks to have all who are involved to focus in on Scripture and yield to God’s direction in all areas of contention and need.

-Author used the KJV

The CONSENT FORM paves the way for a meeting to be held in compliance with 1 Corinthians 14:40 *Let all things be done decently and in order.*” Otherwise, as in so many cases, parties involved find themselves reverting to the days of the “*Judges*” in the Scriptures in which “*...every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*”

–Judges 21:25

----- Sample of Consent Form -----

CONSENT FORM

Dear Brethren:

“*Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*” –Ephes. 4:3

Regarding your recent communication indicating that your church is undergoing certain testings, and that you would like us to come and offer counsel in an attempt to rescue the situation, we request that your official board convene, discuss and vote on the following requirements which we need as an organization:

1. We meet with your Board in an open discussion using Scriptures for a solution to the problem at hand.

2. We meet with your congregation, if we deem it necessary. Once again the Scriptures would be employed in an open discussion as we look for Scriptural guidelines in the matter.

3. That *Roberts Rules of Order* not be strictly enforced in order to allow anyone an opportunity to speak and express themselves without legal limitations, thus allowing the Holy Spirit to lead.

4. We can determine the length of time for anyone to speak concerning the matter at any given meeting.

5. No tape recorders (or other recording devices) be employed in any of the sessions.

6. Everyone is to conduct themselves with restraint as God’s children.

7. Only members in good standing of the church to participate.

8. That your official Board and the Congregation realize that we are coming to you to analyze the problem and make recommendations. *Ours is not a binding arbitration.* The official Board and the Church Congregation will make the final decision.

In Him,

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director

----- - Return this signed portion to the BRM office -----

Dear Rev. Bauer:

We believe the above eight point proposal to be fair and hereby request your assistance in helping to resolve our problem as soon as possible.

Pastor _____

Board Members _____

_____ Date _____

----- Sample of Arbitration Agreement -----

**PROPOSED AGREEMENT
FOR ARBITRATION SESSIONS**

The church or organization seeking Bible Related Ministries’ assistance to help resolve

existing problems causing division within Christian ranks agrees to:

1. Sign and abide by the *CONSENT FORM* BRM provides in such instances. One copy is to be mailed or faxed to Bible Related Ministries headquarters.

2. Arrange for housing in a motel for BRM’s representative (when necessary), thus protecting him from being charged with partiality for having been housed in the home of someone from the group experiencing division.

3. Travel expenses be met for BRM’s representative.

4. Any and all monies shall be made out by the church to Bible Related Ministries, and not to the individual representative.

5. Seek in good faith, after prayer, to resolve the arbitrated differences in a good faith spirit of compromise.

6. Maintain the confidentiality of the discussions to avoid spreading the divisive effect of the disagreement and to foster open and frank discussion.

Bible Related Ministries is a faith ministry. No hourly or weekly charges are required for our services, with the exception of the modest charges listed above.

All of our experienced Associates are compensated by our home office. All are with us on a “*Tentmaker*” basis –Acts 18:3; 2 Thess. 3:8-, which means that all of our representatives are employed elsewhere in some other capacity than with us. We need your Christian assistance to do right by them financially.

Bible Related Ministries is a missionary outreach in that it is striving to keep Gospel preaching church doors open in America so that missionary support for those at home and abroad should not be terminated and so the

unsaved in the communities surrounding these Churches can better be reached. The term “*Related*” in our organization’s name simply means that BRM is involved mainly in *Church Disputes*. But BRM also helps to *place pastors* seeking a change in field, as well as *pastor-less Churches* needing pastors, conducts *Bible Conferences* and *Evangelistic Meetings*, and produces *Scriptural Study Sheets* and *Bible Study Tapes*. We ask any church seeking our assistance to *PLEASE CONSIDER PUTTING* Bible Related Ministries on its *Missionary Budget* for monthly giving, and by doing so, travel with us in all of these *Ventures* as an active participant.

Some churches though they be few, recite in unison a “*Church Covenant*” at least quarterly at a Lord’s Day morning service led by the Pastor. We are suggesting incorporating the following *Church Member Agreement Statement* into the make-up of such services or to be read jointly by the members of the congregation at stipulated times. It serves as a “*conscience stimulator.*”

----- Sample of Church Member Agreement -----

CHURCH MEMBER AGREEMENT

“We as members of this church, having experienced new life in Christ (*2 Cor. 5:17*) and then being born again (*John 3:7*) and believing that as such we should be doers of the Word (*James 1:22*) and not hearers only, agree not to seek legal action to sue any of our membership in obedience to *1 Cor. 6:1-8*, and to treat each other as brethren, to fulfill our promises to one another in good faith to the best of our ability.”