



North Central Network

A Publication of the Missionary Church, North Central District

October 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Coaching Moment</i>	2
<i>Churches of the Month</i>	3
<i>Church Updates/News</i>	3-4
<i>Networking</i>	3-4
<i>From Mike Peters</i>	5
<i>Calendar</i>	6
<i>Prayer</i>	6

PASTOR'S & WIVES' RETREAT HOLIDAY INN, KALAMAZOO 2008

Pastors and their wives from across the North Central District enjoyed a relaxing and encouraging time at the Holiday Inn West, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, September 8-10th. We were privileged to have Bay and Peggy Forrest join us for this event.



Worship time was lead by Rev. Stephen Burgstahler of the Living Waters Missionary Church in Gary, Indiana. We learned some new songs as well as a new language!

Sessions included time with Bay and Peggy sharing important parenting aspects that will help us with our families as well as with our churches. Break out sessions provided an intimate time of focus for both the men and ladies on Tuesday morning of the retreat. We also learned a little something about B.A.D. Eggs!

Bay and Peggy come to us from Focus Ministries based in Colorado. If you would like to get in touch with them go to: www.focus-ministries.com.

The schedule for the retreat was designed to allow lots of time for fellowship and rest. The new Kalamazoo location provided just what we needed!



Pastor Appreciation
Sunday
October 12, 2008



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COACHING MOMENT FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



Terry L. Powell

Life is Full of Choices

We are familiar with the Psalmist who said, “*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*” (Psalm 118:24)

The writer had made a specific decision. The Lord God had given him that day—yesterday was gone and tomorrow had not yet arrived — and he chose to live the day in all of the fullness possible. What a way to live!

Life is full of choices and there’s nothing that is more important to our quality of life than the choices we make. He could have chosen to be sullen and downcast in such a way that reflected the glory of the Lord in his life. Do you agree that attitude determines altitude? We are aware of that instrument in the airplane called an altimeter. No pilot wants to fly a plane unless the altimeter is working properly.

How will we choose to face the issues that confront us each day? Circumstances, people, things and worry will rob you of your joy every time. I was reminded of that just this week in an e-mail from some parishioners that still remember a series of messages I preached from the Book of Philippians.

Consider the following story: Mrs. S. had lived alone for many years and got out only with the help of a wheelchair. Every Sunday she wheeled herself into the side aisle of our sanctuary (one without handicap access) where she worshipped attentively. She always seemed to be “up” - just a radiant person who made people smile when they were around her.

One evening Mrs. S. spoke to the youth of the church and was asked how she could always be so alive, so full of joy. She responded, “Well, I certainly didn’t choose to live the last half of my life as a widow. And I didn’t choose to have my son killed in the Korean War. I didn’t choose to have to ride around in this chair for the past ten years. But one thing I did choose — to be happy. I decided to make the best of every day and see the best in every person.” What a way to live!

This is the day the Lord has made. We are responsible to decide how we will choose to live this day.

*But one
thing
I did
choose...*

Missionary Church, North Central District
Children’s Ministry Leaders

Fall Gathering

Thursday, October 2

10:00 — 1:00

**Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church
Lunch Provided**

If you haven’t RSVP’d, please contact Donna Fry:
dfry@st.markmissionary.org or 574.255.9416



CHURCH UPDATES & NEWS

Churches of the Month

CITY CHURCH



Rev. Gary Kauffman, Pastor



Congratulations to Rev. Gary Kauffman and wife, Shelli, as they celebrated their Ordination Service on September 14th at City Church in Nappanee, Indiana. The guest speaker for the occasion was Rev. Chris Knight.

LaPORTE MISSIONARY CHURCH



Rev. Carl Galloway, Pastor



LaPorte Missionary Church held a Dedication Service on September 7th celebrating their new addition to the church providing handicap accessibility to the entire building. They've added bathrooms, an elevator, remodeled the sanctuary, and now have a large foyer for fellowship and special events. Parking lots and sidewalks completed the project with the help of many volunteers. Congratulations on the completed project as well as the new Wednesday evening program for the family!

On September 6th the **Burr Oak Missionary Church (Rev. Alan Liechty)** held its 3rd annual community carnival. After coming together in prayer, God took over and everyone had a great time. About 50 kids and their parents were served with fun, food and the gospel. As a result of the efforts, God put three new families in the worship service the next day. God has once again proven faithful!

Prior to sharing at the Pastor's & Wives' Retreat, Bay Forrest had the opportunity to share at the **River of Life Missionary Church (Rev. Roderick Hoffman)**. Roderick shares, "The altar call had almost 50 people respond! There was no room in the house, because every corner was invaded by people and the Holy Spirit!"

Network News



Congratulations to **Adam and Cora DeMike** (Trinity Missionary Church) on the birth of **Adalee Millea** on August 27th.

Congratulations to **David and Theresa Cummings** (Nappanee Missionary Church) on the birth of **Karsten David** on August 13th.

The **Global Prayer Network** is promoting a special goal of 24/7 praying by various churches in the Missionary Church for 2009. Contact Ellie Keller for additional information at www.mcgpn.org or gpn-praynow@comcast.net.

District Children's Ministry Leaders Event, A Fall Gathering for Children's Workers, Thursday, October 2, Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church,

10:00am-1:00pm for more info:

Donna Fry at 574-255-9416 or dfry@stmarkmissionary.org.

NCD Women's Ministries presents a **Ladies One Day Retreat** on October 18th at the Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center, Middlebury, IN from 9:30am — 4:30pm.

To register: www.mcncd.org/ministries/women or Missy Bayer 574-259-5971.

Hubbard Hill Estates Auxiliary Haystack Dinner Fundraiser takes place Sunday, October 12th 11:30am — 2pm. Adults \$7, Children 3-10: \$4. Proceeds will be used for upcoming projects at Hubbard Hill.

If your church would like to list items to sell or give away in this column, please send an email to: cheryl@mcncd.org by the 20th of the month.

CHURCH UPDATES & NEWS CONTINUED

Congratulations to **Pastor Johnny Raber** who has just received his ministerial license and works with the **LaGrange Missionary Church**. Johnny and his wife, Heather are pictured on the front page (top left) getting a book autographed by Bay Forrest.

Update from **New Hope Missionary Church, Valparaiso, IN (Rev. David Blue)**: Since the building dedication in August they have had five new ladies start attending. The Labor Day Community Cookout and Carnival they held had 450 or more people attend and raised \$1000 in donations for the Morgan Volunteer Fire Department. Since the firehouse cancelled the cookout event that has previously been held there, New Hope has rented the school and has provided the cookout and carnival for the community. "I am proud of the service and hospitality New Hope folks provided," shares Pastor Dave.

Sturgis Missionary Church, Rev. Bob Renner shares that they continue to see people saved at SMC. "It's particularly gratifying to have our people leading others to Jesus." They have a goal of 50 souls for Jesus this year. All praise goes to Jesus!



Granger Missionary Church's (Rev. Earl Smith) men's ministry, **Men In Action**, invite the men and boys of our district to a **Tailgate BBQ Cook-off** on **October 4, 2008** at Granger Missionary Church. They invite the men of your church to team up, or invite a friend to join you in the cook-off. Everyone is welcome to join in the food, fun and competition! For the rules and schedule go to: www.mcncd.org under

upcoming events on the October calendar or call Jon Silveus at 574-272-9895. Proceeds will benefit Prairie Camp!

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

- * The **October prayer bookmarks** (English and Spanish) are now on the www.mcgpn.org website. The bookmarks are downloadable and easy to print off.
- * **Denominational Days of Prayer and Fasting** on Monday, October 6 and November 3.
- * **A prayer coordinator in each church!** Help us spearhead a prayer movement by finding a prayer coordinator in each of your churches to assist the pastor and the local church in developing this ministry. Appoint a Prayer Coordinator and send the name to Ellie Keller—Global Prayer Network Chairperson at: gpn-praynow@comcast.net.
- * **52 weeks of 24/7 praying...** Our goal for 2009 is to have 52 weeks of 24/7 prayer by various churches in the Missionary Church. If your church would like to participate, please sign up on the Global Prayer Network website at: www.mcgpn.org or contact Mrs. Ellie Keller, Prayer Network Chairperson at: gpn-praynow@comcast.net. For additional information on 24/7 prayer, see the Hope Missionary Church website at: www.hope4thefamily.com.

Network News



WFRN and Jason Poff are planning a community food drive event on Saturday, October 4th from 8am — 11am at four local Martin's Supermarket locations: Goshen, Nappanee, Elkhart, (Bristol St. location) and Niles. WFRN will be at each location doing a live broadcast and handing out prizes. The food banks to receive the donations include: Family Christian Development Center in Nappanee, ECN in Niles, The Window in Goshen and Church Community Services in Elkhart. They need your help by collecting non-perishable food items in advance and then donating them on the day of the event. Volunteers are also desperately needed, especially at the Elkhart and Niles locations. If you can help or would like additional information call: Jason Poff 574-831-2466 or email: poffdaddy96@hotmail.com.



Hillside Gospel Bluegrass Jamboree is held at Hillside Missionary Church every 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:30pm-9:30pm. Everyone is welcome to play or listen. Come join the fun!

ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

MIKE PETERS, ASSISTANT TO THE D.S.



Tax Seminar

With Karin Witmer

Saturday, October 11, 2008

8:30am – 12:30pm

Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church

61115 State Rd. 15, Goshen IN

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m.

WHO Should Attend

- Pastors and Church Staff
- Church Treasurers and Finance Committee Chairpersons
- Church Board Members
- Finance Ministry Team Members
- Interested Laypersons

WHAT You'll Learn

- Church Payroll and Tax Filing responsibilities
- Pastor's Pension and other Retirement plans
- New rules and Regulations for 403Bs
- Housing Allowance Procedures and Issues
- Handling Professional and Auto Expenses
- Establishing and Maintaining Medical Plans – HAS, Medial Reimbursements Plans, etc.
- Answers to Your Questions

HOW You'll Benefit

- You'll know whether you are following IRS guidelines
- You'll learn about new regulations and rules
- You'll learn how to best structure a compensation package
- You'll receive answers to your questions
- You'll have access to new resources

Featuring the teaching of Certified Tax Practitioner and seminar presenter, Roswitha Karin Witmer, EA, CTP.

Karin Witmer has been preparing minister's and missionary's tax returns and church reporting forms for 35 years. She is an Enrolled Agent and a Certified Tax Practitioner with many national memberships. Karin has presented tax seminars to churches and seminaries for the past 19 years nationwide. She has also been the advisor of many non-profits organizations. Witmer-Wood Tax Consultants, LLC has been offering the church community very professional and affordable tax preparation.

Register Now: on our web site www.mcncd.org; email Cheryl@mcncd.org or call the District Office at 574-293-1332. This seminar is provided free of charge for North Central District pastors and their key lay leaders. Attending this seminar will meet 1/2 of a credentialed person's annual continuing education requirement.

Networking

Granger Missionary Church is seeking an energetic, ministry-minded person to serve as part-time Children's Director leading their growing Children's Ministry. This person will lead the Children's Ministry Leadership Team, giving oversight to the various ministries of the Children's Ministry. Interested parties should send their resume (in Word or .pdf format) to, or request a job description from, Rev. Earl Smith: gmcpastor@grangermissionary.com.

A new church will soon begin on the southwest side of Mishawaka led by **Jeremy and Ann LeVan**. They are requesting you to pray for them and this new work. They now have a blog site where you can follow the developments on this church plant: www.jeremylevan.blogspot.com.

Quizzing

TEEN QUIZZING

Questions? Contact Chris Greeney at cgreeney@sbcglobal.net

The first Teen Quiz takes place October 4th at St. Mark Missionary Church, Mishawaka, IN. Come and support our teens as they quiz over Luke 1-3 at this event.

CHILDREN'S QUIZZING

Contact: Jim Schaffer at jimandbonnie@mchsi.com

Stay tuned next month for pictures of their first quiz event scheduled for October 18th!

Bethel College offers classes for the Master of Ministries and Master of Arts in Theological Study programs at their Mishawaka and Ft. Wayne locations. For more information: 574-257-3360 or www.bethelcollege.edu.

**Missionary Church
North Central
District, Inc.**

3301 Benham Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46517-2247

Phone: 574-293-1332
Toll Free: 1-866-993-7777
Fax: 574-293-1478

www.mcncd.org

District Staff:

Terry L. Powell
District Superintendent
tlp@mcncd.org

Mike Peters
Assistant to
District Superintendent
mike@mcncd.org

Kathy Ryman
Administrative Assistant
kathy@mcncd.org

Cheryl Presnell
Executive Secretary
cheryl@mcncd.org

Dawn Birr
District Bookkeeper
farmgirl dawn@mcncd.org

Angie Schultz
Receptionist/Secretary
angie@mcncd.org

Nikki Adler
U.M.L.I. Bookkeeper
nikki@mcncd.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



October

- 2 Children's Ministry Fall Event
- 4 Teen Quiz
- 5 Stats due
- 11 Enrichment Seminar
- 12 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- 18 Women's Retreat
- 18 Children's Quiz

November

- 2 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 4 Election Day
- 5 Stats due
- 6 Special Pastor's Meeting
- 8 Teen Quiz
- 9 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- 10 3DYC Postmark Date
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 14 Youth Director Dinner
- 15 Children's Quiz
- 18 Learning Labs
- 27 Thanksgiving

DISTRICT PRAYER UPDATE

Recent Prayer Requests and Praises:

- The family of **Rev. Bill Hesse (Mary)** after his passing September 25th.
- The family of **Dr. Bill Hossler** after the passing of his sister, Elizabeth.
- The family of **Rev. Roderick Hoffman (River of Life)** after the passing of Lorraine's mother in S. Africa.
- **Jim Overhulser's** mother, Josephine Overhulser, as she recovers from heart surgery.
- **Jim Beeler (Warsaw)** is doing well. Pray that his medical records will be released and for decisions yet to be made.
- **Jean Breniser (Jim Breniser-New Paris)** has been readmitted to the hospital (Elkhart General).
- **Brent Danielson (LaGrange)** healing of broken finger, leg, ligament tears and clotting issues along with the pain involved.
- **Praising** with **Jerry & Karin Cramer** as Karin received great news that there is no evidence of disease after her treatments. She will have follow up scans every three months.
- **Cindy Maynard (Byron) New Hope, Jackson** is doing well and will have follow-up treatment in December.
- Pray for our **Missionary Churches in India**. Many of our churches and 40-45 families in the Orissa area of India have been attacked by fanatic Hindu groups. Our pastors in India are crying out to us for prayer support.
- **Rev. Chuck Lambdin** as he is in maintenance treatment for his non-Hodgkins lymphoma.
- Pray for **Monte de los Olivos — Sturgis** as they search for their next pastor.
- Continue to pray for the health issues of some of the spouses of our pastors: **Nancy Lee Ashley** and **Angie Lamason**.