



North Central Network

A Publication of the Missionary Church, North Central District

February 2009

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Happy Valentine's Day

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SPECIAL CONFERENCE 2009

This year's special conference will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the Wakarusa Missionary Church. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. and the conference convenes at 9:00 a.m. According to the Bylaws of the Missionary Church, North Central District, *"The membership of the Special Conference shall be the same as the membership of the previous Annual District Conference.*

The conference agenda will include a forum for discussion on the denominational restructuring and an election for the position of District Superintendent. We plan to conclude by noon that day.



The entire **Missionary Church Restructuring Proposal** is online at www.mcncd.org. Any updates we receive will be placed on the web site. The Implementation Team will be present to guide us in our discussion.

The last time to discuss the restructuring in an open forum will be at District Conference, May 8th, at the Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church.

The proposal will be presented at General Conference, July 14 - 17 at Bethel College.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Your district and denominational reports are due February 15th. Go to www.mcncd.org to complete your district reports. You can also link to your denominational reports through the resources page on our web site.

QUIZ FESTIVAL



Thank you to host, Beulah Missionary Church, for being so tremendous in opening your facilities for the Children's Quiz Fest on January 16th and 17th. Many parents and adults participated as quizzers and quiz masters for this event. Two on Two quizzing, Finish the Verse Contest and Team Quizzing all took place. A big thank you to Jim Schaffer who heads up the Children's Quizzing program.

COACHING MOMENT FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



Terry L. Powell

Ministering Together

I have had the privilege of serving in ministry since 1972 and I have noticed that in each of the five ministries there are at least three essentials that produced an atmosphere of joyous cooperation. They are **objectives, people, and places**.

First, ***whatever God plans, He pursues*** – This has to do with ***the ministry essential of objectives***. There's nothing wrong with having a clearly defined mission statement that gives direction and purpose to the vision of a ministry. In fact, I would say that there's everything right about it as long as it is the Lord who provides the direction. If we do ministry without God (and, I think that is possible) then we will experience frustration rather than fulfillment. The Old Testament says it well, "God's ways are not our ways."

(my paraphrase). Let us make sure that our plan is God's plan. Objectives are essential when they are "His" objectives, not ours. There is a difference!

Second, ***whomever God chooses, He uses*** – This has to do with ***the ministry essential of people***. I have had the opportunity to work with some truly wonderful people (ministers and laymen) whose ultimate desire was to serve God with their whole heart. None were perfect, that includes me, but their heart was set on God. Great things happen when we are fixed on doing the Lord's work and not our own. His agenda is the one that counts. We prove more useful to the Lord when we trust Him with our strengths and weaknesses. Abraham, Moses, David, Peter (to name a few) should be an encouragement to us.

Third, ***wherever God selects, He sends*** – This has to do with ***the ministry essential of places***. Again, I remind you that His ways are not our ways. He knows where we can serve Him best. If we let Him lead then ministry will be a blessing and not a burdensome task. What matters is this: God sends people of His choosing to places of His choosing (His choosing is always best). The sooner we accept and embrace this truth the more contentment we will experience in our lives and ministry.

Ministering together is always an adventure. It's about embracing change. It's about maintaining flexibility. It's about walking with God through the surprising events He has designed. In Acts 11 we find that Barnabas needed help. The work was too much for one gifted but limited man (sound familiar?). Paul stepped into the gap. And together they turned Antioch and much of the world upside down for Christ.

And, He can do it again!

CHURCH PLANTING UPDATES

Solid Rock, Blissfield, MI (Rev. Bob Loar) reports that average attendance is around 40 and that they finished 2008 in the black. They are starting small groups in the coming weeks and are currently renting space for their Sunday worship services. Please pray for God's blessing and provision for this young church and for their impact in southeastern Michigan.

Church Planter's Retreat: We sent two church planters to a retreat in Orlando, FL in January. Jeremy LeVan and Bob Loar joined with other church planters from neighboring districts. Pray for the refreshing, encouraging, and empowering experience to continue for these church planters.

Also see Church of the Month on page 3.

CHURCH UPDATES & NEWS

Church of the Month

EPIC, Mishawaka



Rev. Jeremy LeVan family

Rev. Jeremy & Ann LeVan are church planters for the new Epic, Mishawaka church plant. They have recently moved into their new home in the south Mishawaka area. We are grateful to have our planters now living in the community. We look forward to them getting settled in and forming relationships with people who need the love of God.

Rev. Carl Galloway (LaPorte Missionary Church) shares that the owners of a local coffee shop questioned him saying, "I hear that you teach the Bible at your church." He assured the wife that he did and she responded, "I think you are the only church that does." They talked about the Bible and as they asked questions, Pastor Carl told them what God's word had to say about their questions. "Can anyone come to your church?" came next. He invited them both to come visit the church. Pastor Carl feels that he will be seeing them soon! Other contacts in the community have been made through Pastor Steve's wife, Katie while attending Curves. In the past five months the church has taken in five new families with a total of 16 children. "The big draw is that we teach the Word of God!" shares Pastor Carl. "It's a lot of hard work, but God is moving in the hearts of people here in LaPorte."

Nappanee Missionary Church (Rev. Dave Engbrecht) partnered with **The Revolution (Rev. Ryan Flemming)** to bless Gary residents at Christmas. They delivered about 250 boxes of turkeys to needy residents in several areas of Gary with the help of about 150 volunteers. The ministry was a blessing to many residents of Gary, but also to those involved in the project. It turned out to be a time of connection between the partner churches and an opportunity to link arms and work together.



While delivering food boxes another family was found with needs - praying and donating right then.



Breshenda, single mom of 3, received a food box with gifts. She has attended The Revolution since and they continue to build relationships with her.



Praying with a Gary resident who just received a food box.

Rev. Roderick Hoffman (River of Life) shares, "Someone stopped by my home (about 8 weeks ago) looking for a cheap car. While talking, the Holy Spirit prompted me to share Jesus with him. His first response was that he's enjoyed his life of drinking and no church. I still sensed that his visit was not for the car, but that deep down he was wanting to change, so I gave him my cell number, as well as an open invitation to our home. Well, two weeks later he was in ICU dying. We spent some days together and then he admitted that he was tired of 30 years of drinking and with tear of repentance he received Jesus! He tossed all his booze, and introduced me as his Pastor. Great news! Shortly after, the hospital called to say that Mike peacefully slipped away in the arms of Jesus! Now we can meet and minister to the family!"

Network News

Jamestown Church welcomes Rev. Paul Metzger as their new senior pastor following the retirement of Rev. Dale Gerig.

Churches that are seeking their next pastor:

Bristol Missionary Church
Burr Oak Missionary Church
Gospel Center Missionary Church



The **J.O.Y. Fellowship Luncheon** will be held at Beulah Missionary Church on February 14 at 11:30am. This will be a carry-in lunch. Musical duo, Andrea Collins and Brent Carr, will provide a concert. For information contact Hilda Brenneman at 574-258-5020.

Denominational Evangelist Phil Jerome

is available for pulpit supply, evangelistic meetings, retreats and special events. For more information: www.philjerome.com. He is also seeking a part time ministry staff position. He can be contacted through his web site.

The district **Women's Ministry Leadership Brunch** is scheduled for March 28 from 9:00am-11:30am at the Sturgis Missionary Church. Pastor's wives and Women's Directors are invited to attend. See information to register at our website under Women's Ministries: www.mcncd.org.

Pleasant Hill Missionary Church is sponsoring a **Concert of Family Worship and Praise** with the Collingsworth Family on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Sturges-Young Auditorium. Tickets \$10 General Admission. Call 517-369-9532. Pre-concert dinner available through Sturges-Young Auditorium 1-800-778-7437.

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.

ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

MIKE PETERS, ASSISTANT TO THE D.S.



Dr. Ed Stetzer

Spring Enrichment Seminar:
“Reaching the Next Generation”

With Dr. Ed Stetzer

Saturday, March 7, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

(registration starts at 8:00 a.m.)

Morning Session: Reaching the Next Generation**Afternoon Session:** Comeback Churches**Closing Session:** Q & A

Location: Granger Missionary Church
 50841 Birch Rd.
 Granger, IN 46530

Cost:: **\$20 early registration for MCNCD individuals**
 (postmarked by February 25th)
 \$25 per person after February 25th

\$30 early registration for non- MCNCD individuals
 (postmarked by February 25th)
 \$35 per person after February 25th

“As a successful pastor, church planter, researcher, and advisor to thousands of churches, Ed Stetzer speaks from a wealth of experience with all kinds of churches.”
-Dr. Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life, The Purpose Driven Church.

Ed Stetzer has planted churches in New York, Pennsylvania and Georgia and transitioned declining churches in Indiana and Georgia. He has trained pastors and church planters on five continents, holds two master’s degrees and two doctorates, and has written dozens of articles and books. Ed’s primary role is President of LifeWay Research and LifeWay’s Missiologist in Residence.

The first fifty (50) paid registrants will receive a free copy of one of Ed’s newest books, Compelled by Love—The Most Excellent Way to Missional Living. Rick Warren says, “This is a great tool to help your church learn how and why we should live compelled by love. God calls us to nothing less.” Registrations are non-refundable and books will be available to be picked up on the day of the seminar.

Register by downloading a **registration form online at:** www.mcncd.org.

Mail your completed registration form and payment to:

Missionary Church, North Central District, Inc.
 3301 Benham Avenue
 Elkhart IN 46517

Networking

3DYC re|new



At 3DYC God brought renewal to many students and leaders. Through general sessions and seminars, students were able to hear and experience how God strongly desires to make all things new once again. Some gave their life to Christ for the first time and others found spiritual renewal. With many things changed this year, one thing that is constant at this event is God’s presence. Praise God for his many blessings on 3DYC!



Gospel Center Missionary Church hosts a tremendous movie, Fireproof, in the Family Life Center on Friday, February 13, at 7:00pm. It is also a movie night for children in the Fellowship Hall. A great Valentine’s event for the whole family!

Live Simulcast events at Gospel Center: Please pre-register by calling the church office: 574-288-4477.

Feb. 10 Challenges to Marriage
 11:30am-1:00pm

February 21 Dare To Be Uncommon
 9:30am-1:00pm

March 3 NextGen Trend Watch:
 Raising Up the Next Generation No Matter What! 11:30am-12:30pm and
 Re-shown at 7:30pm

Hillside Gospel/Bluegrass Jamboree takes place each month at **Hillside Missionary Church** on the 3rd Thursday from 6:30—9:00pm. For more information: 574-784-8222.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

5	Stats due
14	Teen Quiz
14	Valentine's Day
16	President's Day
17	RPM-Central @ New Paris
19	RPM-Western @ Granger
20	RPM-Eastern @ Crossroads
21	Children's Quiz
25	Ash Wednesday
25	New Pastor Orientation
27-28	Teen Quiz- Michigan Invitational
28	Special Conference @ Wakarusa

March

5	Stats due
6	World Day of Prayer
7	Ed Stetzer Seminar @ Granger
8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
10	Camp Counselor Interviews
14	Teen Quiz
14	Camp Counselor Interviews
21	Children's Quiz
27-28	Sprint Riot
27-28	Teen Quiz
28	Women's Leadership Brunch



DISTRICT PRAYER UPDATE

Recent Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Praise God with Rev. Kent and Gina Norr (Wakarusa Missionary Church)** that they have returned from China with their daughter, Brianna Abigail Xiang Norr! Gottcha date: January 12, 2009. Congratulations to big brothers Elijah, Issac and Joshua.
- **Dr. David Waid's (Dailey)** daughter-in-law, **Shannon** and baby due in April. MRI results have not yet been shared with them!
- The **family of Mae Everest** who went home to be with her Lord on January 24th.
- The **family of Jim Hummel** who went home to be with the Lord on January 22nd.
- Pray for **Rev. Jim Overhulser** and family after the home-going of his mother, Josephine Overhulser on December 14th.
- **Cindy Maynard (Byron) New Hope, Jackson** has recently gone through additional cancer treatments at the University of Michigan Hospital. Pray for strength and healing.
- **Jean Breniser (Jim Breniser-New Paris)** continue to pray for healing & rehabilitation. She is now home.
- Pray for our **Missionary Churches in India** and other countries as they face persecution and unrest.
- Continue to pray for the health issues of some of the spouses of our pastors: **Nancy Lee Ashley** and **Angie Lamason**.

