

May 17, 2006

Dear Ministerial Colleague:

I trust this letter finds you enjoying the blessing of the Lord upon your life and ministry. The purpose of my letter today is to share information and news from around the Tennessee District. In just a few days we will be gathering for our annual **Camp Meeting at Garner Creek Retreat Center**. This year the pulpit will be shared by two preachers – **Dr. Talmadge Johnson**, *General Superintendent Emeritus in the Church of the Nazarene* and former *superintendent of the Tennessee District*, and **Dr. Charles Johnson**, pastor of the *Fitkins Memorial church in Meridian, Mississippi*. The music will be provided by full-time **Song Evangelist Marcus Whitworth** and **Minister of Music Rev. Marvin Jones**, *Nashville Trevecca Community Church of the Nazarene*. In each service we will enjoy a church choir from one of the following churches: **Old Hickory, Gallatin, Nashville Grace, Clarksville Grace, Goodlettsville, Brentwood First, Ashland City, and Nashville Trevecca Community**. I hope that you will make every effort possible to attend camp meeting and also encourage your people to do so. It is an opportunity for all of us to experience renewal in our souls. With great preaching and great music, I am confident that the Holy Spirit will move among us and it will be meaningful to you as you place yourself in the stream of the Spirit.

Over 160 of us enjoyed a tremendous **Ministers and Mates Retreat** in the *Gatlinburg area* with **Dr. Jim Diehl**. The next Ministers and Mates Retreat will bring a change to our normal schedule. **Four districts of the Church of the Nazarene – Tennessee, East Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama North** are going together for our next Ministers and Mates Retreat. This retreat will happen at the **Opryland Hotel**, here in Nashville, on **December 11-13, 2006**. This will enable ministers of music to return home for the Wednesday evening rehearsals in preparation for their Christmas programs. Our special speaker will be **Dr. John Bowling**, *president of Olivet Nazarene University*. The music will be provided by **Don Reddick** and *Promise*. *Promise* is a men's trio that did a great deal of the music at the last General Assembly and Don Reddick is the chairman of the music department at Olivet. He will be playing the piano for *Promise* and will be involved in the music of the retreat. This is a departure from our normal plans, but it will be a great opportunity to mix with ministers from the other three districts that surround us. ***We will not be having our normal Christmas banquet early in December, but will combine that event with this retreat.*** I hope you will make plans now to attend!

Our **youth and children's camping season** will soon be upon us. The Lord has a way of piercing the hearts of our young people during camp. I know that you will be encouraging your young people to attend the camps this summer.

There is interesting news from around the district. **Brentwood Whispering Hills church, Pastor Thomas Todd**, has been contacted by the state of Tennessee. They want to purchase five acres of the church's property so that the dog-leg in the road in front of the church can be straightened out. The church has plenty of land, and the price offered is \$100,000 per acre. This will pay for almost half of their new building project. This is great news for Brentwood Whispering Hills church!

Pastor J.J. James, Camden church, has resigned and accepted a new call in Claremore, Oklahoma. We will miss **J.J., Heather** and their **family**. We are thankful for their faithful labors in the Camden church. Three of our churches were over 1,000 in attendance on Easter: **Nashville First, Dr. Gary Henecke**, 1847; **Nashville Trevecca Community, Dr. Dwight Gunter**, 1014; and **Columbia Grace, Rev. Brian Wiesinger**, 1004. Two other churches were very close to this 1,000 mark. **Clarksville Grace, Rev. Tony Miller**, had 985, and **Hermitage, Rev. Howard Plummer**, had 962. We rejoice in these wonderful accomplishments and believe that more people are having the privilege of hearing the message of our resurrected Christ.

Erin church, under the leadership of **Pastor Ernie Arnold**, had a wonderful year financially. They gave \$10,000 to a **Work and Witness project in Guatemala** and overpaid their **World Evangelism Fund** by \$8,000. Erin's

overpayment of WEF will help the entire district in trying to reach 100% payment of the World Evangelism Fund. Our deep appreciation is extended to the Erin congregation for their unselfish generosity! **Fly, Pastor James**

Lunsford, has been undergoing a facelift to their property. They recently have built an outside basketball court and picnic area. **Griffin's Chapel** church has been enjoying the ministry of **Rev. Doug Terry** as their interim pastor. In a few days they will be voting on him to become their official pastor. **The Boards of the Ministerial Credentials and Ministerial Studies** will be meeting at the **Neighborhood Christian Center** in **Memphis** in the morning on June 17. If any of your folks from the Memphis area need to meet these boards, please make them aware of this opportunity so they can plan to be a part.

Memphis Refreshing Springs church, under the leadership of **Pastor Ricky Gillard**, is fast approaching the completion of their new sanctuary. In just a few weeks they hope to begin worshiping in it. **Memphis Holiness Tabernacle** church, under the direction of **Pastor McArthur and Millie Jackson**, have a contract on their existing property and have also located another larger building which is within two miles of their present facility. We are praying that the sale of their old property will go smoothly and that they will be able to secure this new larger facility.

We continue to pray for a number of needs around the district. **Crystal Lee**, our pastor's wife at **Clarksville Korean**, has not been feeling well recently. **Anna Plummer**, pastor's wife at Hermitage, and **Rondy Smith**, on staff at Hermitage, suddenly lost their 46-year-old brother, who lived in Georgia. He died unexpectedly during the night. Please pray for **Howard and Anna**, as well as **Rondy and Bobby**, during this difficult time. Continue to pray for **Tara Dakin**, pastor's wife at **Dyersburg**, who has been having some struggles recently with her MS. We are grateful that at the time of this writing she appears to be doing better. We rejoice with **Pastor Daron and Katie Brown, Waverly**, on the arrival of their new baby boy, **Kendall Boyd**. *All are doing well!*

Our **Highland** church, under the leadership of **Pastor David Scott**, recently remodeled their sanctuary. **Pastor Ricky Graves** was instrumental in helping them accomplish this work. I am told that it is beautiful! **Rev. Herb Taylor** recently resigned as pastor of our **Lawrenceburg Vaughan Memorial** church. We are grateful to **Herb and Lynda** for their faithful labors in Lawrenceburg. We installed **Rev. Ricky Graves** as the new pastor at **Lewisburg** a few days ago. **Ricky and Bobi** are excited about this new challenge, and the folks at Lewisburg are excited about the Graves coming. **Rev. Bob Wilkerson** is the new pastor at the **Nashville Radnor** church. **Hunter Cummings** is the new associate pastor there. We welcome them to these official ministry capacities, even though they have already been working there at Nashville Radnor for several years. **Nashville The Bridge** church recently installed their new pastor, **Rev. Karen and Alland Fry**. The three o'clock afternoon service saw the sanctuary full of friends and family. It was a wonderful moment. We welcome Karen and Alland to Tennessee. Carol and I worshiped recently at **Nashville Trinity** on Mother's Day. We rejoice in the fact that the congregation and **Pastor Greg and Twila Lawrence** are reaching their community. More and more people from the immediate area are finding the Nashville Trinity church as their home. We rejoice in this good news! The **Woodlawn** church, under the direction of **Pastor Casey Shorr**, recently remodeled their Family Life Center, enabling them to hold worship services there. Casey knows how to accomplish a lot with a little. This beautiful remodeling cost approximately \$150,000 and much of the work was done by the men and women in the congregation. We congratulate Woodlawn on this great accomplishment! We have a new **church planter coming to Jackson, Tennessee**. His name is **Herb Halstead** and he is coming to us from Nazarene Bible College. Ironically, he was a layman in the Jackson church before receiving his call to go to NBC. He is an architect and his wife **Angel** is a school teacher. They are excited about God's call upon their lives as they return to plant a church in Jackson. Some of the people who are still worshiping at Jackson First will become a part of the new plant, but we are believing that this **NewStart** will more effectively reach the city of Jackson.

It is difficult to believe, but the church year ends in just a few days on June 30. During this last few weeks of the church year, you will want to be having your **elections for church leaders** for the coming year. We are praying for you as you lead your church in this process. It won't be long before we will be gathering for **District Assembly, with General Superintendent Dr. Jim Diehl, at Nashville First Church of the Nazarene**. As the

year winds down, it is imperative upon all of us to make sure that our allocations are paid and that we have reached the goals that we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year. I am confident that God will help you as you diligently end this year! I know that pastoring is a heavy responsibility, but I also know there is great help available through the blessed presence of the **Holy Spirit**. Recently I was reading in "*My Utmost for His Highest*" by Oswald Chambers. These lines were very meaningful for me and I trust they will be for you also.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord." Psalm 55:22.

We must distinguish between the burden-bearing that is right and the burden-bearing that is wrong. We ought never to bear the burden of sin or of doubt, but there are burdens placed on us by God, which He does not intend to lift off. He wants us to roll them back on Him. "Cast that He hath given thee upon the Lord." (R.V. marg.) If we undertake work for God and get out of touch with Him, the sense of responsibility will be overwhelmingly crushing; but if we roll back on God that which He has put upon us, He takes away the sense of responsibility by bringing in the realization of Himself.

Many workers have gone out with high courage and fine impulses, but with no intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ, and before long they are crushed. They do not know what to do with the burden, it produces weariness, and people say – "What an embittered end to such a beginning!"

"Roll thy burden upon the Lord" — you have been bearing it all; deliberately put one end on the shoulders of God. "The government shall be upon His shoulder." Commit to God "that He hath given thee;" not fling it off, but put it over on to Him and yourself with it, and the burden is lightened by the sense of companionship. Never disassociate yourself from the burden.

God bless you as you continue to labor for the Lord. Our prayers are with you.

Pleased with the Prospects,

Bob Broadbooks