

November 21, 2006

Dear Colleague in Ministry:

Carol and I wish you our heartfelt greetings at the beginning of this holiday season. Thanksgiving and Christmas are great opportunities for us to have rich fellowship with our church family and earthly family. Our prayer is that you will enjoy both this holiday season.

In just a few days, **December 11 - 13**, we will be gathering at **Opryland Hotel** to enjoy the special four district united **Ministers and Mates Retreat**, including ministers from **Alabama North, East Tennessee, Kentucky and Tennessee**. Already we have 180 rooms filled at the hotel. If you are unable to stay at Opryland, please feel free to come to as many of the services as you can. We are expecting over 400 participants. We will enjoy the ministry of Olivet Nazarene University president, **Dr. John Bowling**. Dr. Bowling is known all over the Church of the Nazarene as a great preacher. The music will be provided by the chairman of the music department at ONU, **Don Reddick**, and a trio that sang often at the last General Assembly, "**Promise**." The services will be Monday night, 7:00 p.m., Tuesday morning, 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday morning, 9:00 a.m. As you know, Opryland Hotel at Christmas time is ablaze with lights, poinsettias, laughter and smiles. We pray that God's presence will be powerfully evident in the services and that each heart will be encouraged. We are excited and confident that we will enjoy this great event! On Tuesday night, the 12<sup>th</sup>, the **Tennessee District ministerial team will enjoy a free Christmas buffet dinner at Nashville Grace church**. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. This delicious meal will be hosted by Garner Creek Retreat Center, Paul and Martha Ann Eby, and the district. Reservations for the dinner **must** be received at the district office by November 30. We are thankful for **Ken Dove** and the **Grace family** for their generosity and willingness to open their hall to us. **There will be a special Christmas concert given by Don Reddick and Promise**. You will not want to miss this event! Pastor, as is our custom, we would ask you to inform your staff persons and retired ministers so they will know of their invitation to be a part of this annual Christmas dinner.

Please put on your long range calendars the dates for our **2007 Ministers and Mates Retreat**. It will be in the fall and we will return to Pigeon Forge. Remember **September 11-13, 2007**.

District Work and Witness Chairman **Ralph Stephens** is planning a special **Costa Rica Work & Witness trip** for our **Tennessee District pastors**. The dates are **April 12-21, 2007**. Ralph is a veteran team leader, having been on over 50 Work and Witness trips. The trip cost is reasonable and all the details can be discovered by calling Ralph Stevens at 615-793-9745 or emailing him at [rwstephens@tds.net](mailto:rwstephens@tds.net).

Please note the following information received from **Larry Spraker**, our **District SS chairman**. Sunday School Ministries presents **MAKING THE CONNECTION WITH GOD'S WORD**. Coming in 2007...a 40-day spiritual adventure of listening through the New Testament, from Easter to Pentecost. Pastors will receive an informational packet and sample in January. The goal is for every individual in the Church of the Nazarene, worldwide, to listen to the New Testament during this 40 day emphasis. Every person in your church will receive a MP-3 disc of the New Testament. **YOU READ IT RIGHT--EVERY PERSON WILL RECEIVE A DISC FREE!** Even the children will receive the Bible stories and a music disc. But here is the deal we can offer you. "**Faith Comes by Hearing Ministries**" is making available iPod Shuffle players for \$20.00. If your church would like to purchase them to give out or if your people would like to purchase the iPod already loaded with the New Testament, we must have a confirmed number by November 29. If you have any questions, or if you would like to reserve a number of shuffle players, please contact Larry Spraker at 931-647-6728 or [lwspraker@parklanenazarene.org](mailto:lwspraker@parklanenazarene.org).

Many of our retired pastors read this newsletter. I wanted to inform them of an important date change. The next **Retired Ministers and Mates Retreat**, under the direction of **Dr. Bob and Norma Spear**, at Garner Creek will be **September 25 - 27, 2007**. Almost a hundred retired ministers and mates enjoyed our recent retreat, and we know you will want to put this on your calendar for next year.

**Pastor Daryl Blank**, of **Goodlettsville** church, has a brand new creative method of stewardship. The Lord talked to him recently about his motorcycle, and told him that he should sell his motorcycle and give the money to the building project. Daryl struggled with that for a moment and then agreed that he would. He explained that to the congregation one Sunday morning. After the service a young man came up and asked Daryl how much he wanted for his motorcycle. Daryl told him. The young man said he wanted to buy the motorcycle. After he bought it, he gave it back to Daryl as he wanted him to continue to enjoy it. That scenario was repeated three times, and so Daryl still owns the motorcycle that he sold to three different individuals who all gave it back to him. Amazing!

**Clarksville Park Lane**, under the leadership of **Larry Spraker**, recently had a record setting day at the church. They invited a group of Christian skateboarders from Idaho to come and make a presentation. Hundreds of young people from Clarksville were in attendance and many of them found spiritual help. The Clarksville newspaper found out about the event and gave the church a great deal of free, positive press. Congratulations.

**Lynn Holmes**, **Memphis Calvary** pastor, reports they had a successful Friends Day, with 702 people in attendance. There were 32 decisions for Christ and 11 were baptized. We rejoice in this good day.

In recent weeks, two of our churches held special celebrations for their **65<sup>th</sup> anniversaries**. **Nashville Donelson**, under the leadership of **David Hill**, and **Nashville Inglewood**, under the leadership of **Doug Lepter**. Both had great days. It must have been a wonderful year in 1941, as there were 3 Nashville churches organized. The third one was **Nashville Blakemore**. Speaking of Blakemore, the church is undergoing an exciting renewal under the leadership of **Pastor Karen Dean Fry**. The attendance has more than tripled in the short time that she and **Alland Fry** have been there. The congregation also gave \$1600 in the Thanksgiving Offering for World Evangelism! We rejoice in this good news.

Recently, our district representatives serving on the **Trevecca Nazarene University Board of Trustees**, gathered with the Board to hear good news from our president, **Dr. Dan Boone**. He reported record enrollments in all areas and the near completion of a brand new business building on campus, which will be the largest building at Trevecca. This additional space will free up other space on the campus for needed ministries.

We congratulate **Rev. Tom Todd**, pastor of **Brentwood Whispering Hills** church, on a tremendous review. This marks the completion of 16 years of ministry for the Todds at Whispering Hills. There is a beautiful spirit of unanimity among the people and we congratulate Tom on the great progress of Whispering Hills church. **Steve Queen**, our pastor at **Elmore**, just completed 2 years of service there and in the review process, the board recommended for him to continue.

**Rev. McArthur Jackson** and the good people of the **Memphis Holiness Tabernacle** church are enjoying their new building. They have put many hours and many dollars into the building. **General Superintendent Dr. Jim Diehl** will be preaching the dedicatory address at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10. All of the Memphis area Nazarenes are invited to participate in this grand celebration.

There are several of our folks who need our prayers. **Don and Richard Dakin** lost their father, who passed away suddenly in Clarksville. **Don** is the pastor of the **Dyersburg** church and **Richard** serves on staff at **Woodlawn**. **Pedro Cruz**, pastor of **Nashville Glenciff Hispanic**, has had two cataract surgeries and is seeing well. **Dr. Homer Adams**, former president of TNU, had a stent placed in his heart and also had a valve replaced. **Lewis Whetstone**, retired pastor, also had heart surgery and is now doing better.

**Nashville First** has welcomed **J. P. VanDalsem** to their church staff. He is their new youth pastor and comes from the Southern Florida District. We welcome him to Tennessee.

The new sanctuary of our **Memphis Refreshing Springs** church, under the leadership of **Ricky Gillard**, is very close to completion. We rejoice with this fine congregation.

**Nashville Glenciff Hispanic**, under the leadership of **Pedro Cruz**, is experiencing growing pains. They are out of room and will soon need to go to double services.

The **Savannah** church recently elected **Wayne and Kathy Bittle** to serve as their co-pastors. Brother Bittle had been appointed as their pastor over the last year, but this new development was well received by the congregation and the Bittles.

We received information from **Pastor Rick Moore, Spring Hill Christ Chapel** church, which blessed our hearts. In recent months several of his leaders have been relocated to other cities, but God has supplied new people to take over those roles. There is a beautiful spirit of excitement at this new church plant. Last Sunday Rick received nine new members, six of them new Nazarenes.

We rejoice with **Dale Stephens**, pastor at **Memphis Faith**. Several Work & Witness teams have been to the church to replace the siding on the church building. This is a blessing. We also rejoice with **Leonard Jackson**, our pastor at **Memphis Emmanuel**. Several Work & Witness teams have also been to his church to construct a new sanctuary and do other major remodeling in the building. These sacrificial acts of love by **Work & Witness team members** from **Portland, Fulton, Alabama North and Clarksville Grace**, are appreciated by the Tennessee District. We know this has been not only a blessing to the churches that were helped, but to the persons who participated.

Carol and I continue to enjoy our ministry here in Tennessee among all of you. The Lord has been so gracious to allow us this beautiful privilege. The Lord continues to bless, and we are honored to be a part of the ministry of our 90 churches as God is working to change lives. Our message of forgiveness and full salvation needs to be preached all over the world. The 90 churches of the Tennessee District are trying to be faithful to present His truth in our assigned parish.

Pleased with the Prospects,

Bob Broadbooks