

January 22, 2007

Dear Ministerial Colleague:

During the forty days after the resurrection and before the ascension, Jesus, according to Acts 1:3, "Showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs." He made it clear to His disciples that He was alive even though they did not see Him. In several sudden appearances, they learned a great lesson -- even when they could not see Jesus, the resurrected Lord was still present. He ended the forty days by giving this beautiful assurance to the disciples, "Lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the world."

Today I want to remind you that Jesus is present with you, even though you may not see Him and even though you may not feel Him. During the busy days of pastoral ministry, sometimes we forget that we are serving a Saviour who is there. He will continue to accompany you, even though today you may not be experiencing a rich, vibrant revival in your own heart and in your church. Pastor, be encouraged. He is there.

I wanted to write today to share news from around the district. Carol and I would like to express our deep appreciation for all of your many gifts and remembrances during the Christmas season. I know I speak for Bill and Sharon Wiesman, Barbara and M.L. White, and all of those connected with the district office that you remembered this Christmas.

We enjoyed a tremendous **Ministers and Mates Retreat** with three other districts at the Opryland Resort and Convention Center in December. The powerful preaching ministry of **Dr. John Bowling**, and the warm worship music of **Promise**, was a great blessing to the approximately 500 ministers and mates that gathered at Opryland. Please remember that our next **Ministers and Mates Retreat** will be **September 11-13, 2007, in Pigeon Forge**. These times of fellowship are always rich and we hope that you will be able to attend.

We have been praying for a number of persons who are going through difficult times. Our pastor at **White House New Life** church, **Jack Oden**, has a daughter-in-law, Christine, who continues to battle leukemia. She needs our prayers.

We want to bring you up-to-date on two of our newest church plants. **Jackson Thrive** church, under the leadership of **Pastor Herb and Angela Halstead**, have rented a facility and are having pre-launch meetings. They are looking toward the March 18<sup>th</sup> launch service. The Halsteads continue to gather around a core group of people, and recently had a very successful phone campaign where they found 200 prospects for the church. **Rev. Steve Waller** is the church planting pastor of **Sumner County Living Springs**. They met last Sunday, at a rented space in a school north of Nashville, with 50 people in attendance. There are a *number of new people attending this church* along with a few that formerly attended the **Hendersonville Faith** and **Gallatin** churches. This new church is being sponsored by a cluster of churches in that area. Several churches have already made contributions to this new start. **Pastor Tom Todd** and his church at **Brentwood Whispering Hills** have given 123 new padded chairs. **Pastor Daryl Blank** and the **Goodlettsville** church invited Pastor Waller to come and speak. They received an offering for them and have committed to provide two video projection units with screens, through one of their laymen, Eric Cornell. **Portland church, Pastor Rich Cook**, has committed nursery supplies. The **Gallatin** church is giving office space to Pastor Waller and is also providing a communion set and microphones. *We would remind you that all church plants are 10% approved specials.* Your church may wish to give Faith Promise monies to new church plants, and this is a great opportunity for our churches to be involved in *Home Missions* to accompany their support of *World Missions*.

**Nashville Glencliff Hispanic** church, under the leadership of **Pastor Pedro Cruz**, recently celebrated a *fifth anniversary* with a "Night of the Nations." Each Sunday school classroom was decorated with a country in mind and national foods from all over Central America and the Caribbean were enjoyed.

**Pleasant Point** church, under the leadership of **Marcus and Linda Wilson**, have remodeled their church building. They are making great progress at the church.

I am confident that you have received information concerning the **M7 CONFERENCE**, which is next month in Kansas City. From the information that I have received, there will be hundreds of special seminars provided along with great plenary services. If at all possible, your participation would be a great benefit to you and your people.

**Memphis Refreshing Springs**, under the leadership of *Pastor Ricky Gillard*, has finally been given occupancy to their new building. *The dedication of the new building is planned for April 15 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.* We rejoice in the progress of this congregation.

**IMPROVE YOUR SERVE** is **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the **Hermitage** church. We are grateful for *Pastor Howard Plummer* and the staff for their willingness to host this event. *Dr. Leonard Sweet will be the special speaker.* He is a highly sought after speaker and we would encourage you to encourage your people to be a part of this important day. The New Testament calls upon pastors to be equippers of the laity, and this is a great opportunity for your people to be resourced for their ministries.

We have a new pastor at **Paris**, *Richard and Terri Dakin*. Richard was on staff at **Woodlawn** church, where for a number of years he was mentored by *Pastor Casey Shorr*. Casey has been an effective mentor to new ministers through the years and we want to commend him for helping young men and women discover their call. *Keith Coss* is the new pastor at our **Nashville Center Point** church. We rejoice in this new development. *Daniel Meadow* is the new youth pastor at **Erin** church. He comes to us from MidAmerica Nazarene University. Perhaps you have heard that *Rev. Greg Story*, our pastor at **Gallatin**, has resigned to assume the pastorate at Jasper, Alabama First church. We will miss Greg and Faith but thank them for their faithful work during these three years at Gallatin. *Dr. Henry Spalding* will serve as interim pastor at Gallatin.

Each year at this time we send the enclosed "**Request for Continuing Staff**" form. As per *Manual*, churches with staff need approval from the district superintendent to hire staff for another year. As you know, hiring staff is contingent upon your church's continued ability to pay your budgets. Thanks for your help in this matter.

If you have single adults in your church, you may wish to apprise them of this opportunity. **1X1 Single Adult Ministries** of **Trevecca Community** church will be hosting a seminar for single adults on March 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the topic "From Stumbling Blocks to Stepping Stones: Overcoming Obstacles on the Path of Faith." The speakers will be Thomas Suren and Bill Tidwell, and Kim McLean will be the worship leader.

If you are a bi-vocational pastor, I would direct your attention to a website called **ChurchWithout Walls.com**. There you will find a Nazarene elder, *Dr. Tom Jacob*, who is an encourager to bi-vocational pastors. When Tom lost his eyesight, he was forced to resign his church. He continues in ministry by encouraging ministers. Perhaps this site may be of benefit to you.

We rejoice with **Memphis Holiness Tabernacle** and *Pastor McArthur Jackson*. In December they enjoyed a lovely dedication of their new building. *General Superintendent Dr. James Diehl* was there for the special day and the Lord is blessing the efforts of Memphis Holiness Tabernacle.

Carol and I continue to enjoy the special privilege that God has afforded us to serve as your district superintendent here in Tennessee. The Lord is doing good things all around our district and we rejoice with the many victories He has given. Carol and I also wish to be an encouragement to you. We would be pleased if we could do so.

Jay Sidlow Baxter has a beautiful statement about our continued awareness of the presence of the Lord, even though we may not see Him or feel Him during these days. He reminds us that He is here. He says, "When we lack the consciousness of His presence, we are easily disturbed, disheartened, nervous, ruffled, impatient, wrongly self-assertive; but when we live in the joyful comfort of His realized presence, we become optimistic amid discouragement, patient amid tribulation, brave amid danger, calm amid strife, cheerful amid monotony. The desert blossoms as the rose, and the parched ground becomes a garden." So, pastor, I want to encourage you today to remember the precious words of Christ when He says, "Lo, I am with you always."

Pleased with the Prospects,

Bob Broadbooks