

June 25, 2007

Dear Colleague in Ministry:

As we travel through this summer season, it is my prayer that you and your family will be able to take a few days of rest and relaxation. Ministry is exhausting and each of us needs time for recuperation away from the busy demands of our lives.

I want to share some exciting news from around the district. I always hesitate doing this, because I know there are three times as many good things happening that I could mention if I knew about them. God is always doing more than we know. I am also very aware that sometimes we are doing our very best and we don't seem to see much result for our labor. I hope that you will be able to rejoice with those who are in times of harvest, and at the same time confidently know that your time of harvest and blessing will come. Even though you may not feel that God is doing much through your ministry, I say again, *God is always doing more than we know.*

We have just finished an exciting **Camp Meeting at Camp Garner Creek**, where God worked dramatically in the lives of many people. **Teen camp**, under the direction of *NYI President Chelli Jones*, had a record number of attendees. Counting teens and workers there were 719. That census stretched the capability of Garner Creek. We do not know what the future will hold for the location of our teen camp. We thank Chelli and the many youth workers on our district that made this a successful week.

It is difficult to believe, but our **Ministers and Mates retreat** will soon be here. This year's retreat will be special. It will be in the fall rather than the spring. The date is **September 11-13 in Pigeon Forge**. Our speaker will be *Rev. Gary Moore*, pastor of the Yuba City Church of the Nazarene in California. Gary has been the pastor there for 10 years and the church has increased 500 every year for the past three years. It will be interesting to observe his approach to ministry. He is an unassuming man in his mid 60's. Yuba City is a town of approximately 35,000. Please put this on your calendar.

We are praying for *Dr. Harvey Hendershot, retired Tennessee District Superintendent*, and *General Superintendent Emeritus Dr. William Greathouse*, who recently spent a few days in the hospital. We pray for retired *pastor J. T. Andrews*, who has not been feeling well, and for *Kathy Bittle*, co-pastor of our **Savannah** church. Please put these on your prayer list.

Several of our pastors have recently experienced very positive reviews, including *Dr. Chuck Gates, Ashland City Faith Community*; *Rev. Lynn Holmes, Memphis Calvary*; *Rev. Ron Webb, Memphis Friendship*; and *Rev. Wendell Brown, Jason Chapel*. These pastors are loved and appreciated by their congregations. We welcome new pastors to the district. *Josh Wallace* is the new pastor at **Camden**. *Josh and Wendy* will begin their ministry in a few weeks. He has been the associate pastor of our **Nashville Inglewood** church, under *Pastor Doug Lepter*, and is a recent graduate of the Master's Program at Trevecca. Our thanks is also extended to *Dr. H. Ray Dunning* for his faithful ministry as interim pastor at the Camden church. We welcome *Scott* and *Jane Langford* as the new pastor at the **Madison** church. Scott has pastored two Nazarene churches in Georgia and we are glad to have them here. You will want to get to know these two fine ministers and their families and welcome them to the district.

We rejoice with **Clarksville Park Lane** and *Rev. Larry Spraker*. They recently celebrated their **50th Anniversary** with a 3½ hour service. Their special guest preacher, and former pastor, was *Dr. Barney Baggott*. We say goodbye to *Rev. Tony* and *Hydie Miller*, pastor of **Clarksville Grace** church after approximately nine years of service. He has accepted a call to our Bradenton First Church of the Nazarene in Florida.

Here's an opportunity in which many of our church choirs might want to participate. **Marvin Jones, Nathan Rogers** and **Craig Adams**, all ministers of music on our district, are planning to have a **Christmas musical** together on **December 9th** at the **Acuff Theatre** in OpryMills. They would like to invite any Nazarene church that would like to participate in this presentation. If your choir or singers in your church would like to participate, please make contact with these men. They will begin the entire process with a choir and orchestra retreat at Camp Garner Creek on August 17-18. You can contact Marvin Jones at mjones@tccn.org; Nathan Rogers at nrogers@gracenaz.com; or Craig Adams at craig.adams@lifeway.com. You can also reach Marvin Jones at Trevecca Community church at 615-244-5918 or his cell phone at 456-3249. I am confident this will be a wonderful night of worship and praise. What a great way to celebrate Christmas!

Fulton church, **Pastor Lang Ingram**, gets the prize for the most people from one church at Camp Meeting. They had over 40 people there. Many in the Fulton church spend part of their vacation at camp meeting and enjoy it every year. **Goodlettsville** church, under the direction of **Pastor Daryl Blank**, will soon begin a new addition to their building. This will provide classrooms and teen facilities. **Griffin's Chapel**, under the direction of **Pastor Doug Terry**, welcomed **Josh Street** as their new youth minister. **Portland** church, under the leadership of **Pastor Rich Cook**, gave a monetary gift to the **Memphis Emmanuel** church, **Pastor Leonard Jackson**, to contribute to the remodeling of their facilities.

We want to invite you to be a part of **DISTRICT ASSEMBLY**. It will soon be upon us. We will be gathering at **Memphis Calvary** church, **Pastor Lynn Holmes**. Pastor, we look forward to hearing your report at the assembly. The reports this year will be given in a different fashion. I will actually interview each of the pastors at the assembly and ask them to share a highlight from the year concerning the way the Lord has blessed your work. Our **General Superintendent** will be **Dr. Jim Diehl**. **Please make sure you have your Annual Pastor's Report entered online and into the district office by July 10th**. The **SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION**, **District Chairman Larry Spraker**, will meet at **one o'clock** on **Wednesday July 25th**. **Dr. Woodie Stevens**, our new **General Sunday School Director**, will speak. The **NMI (Nazarene Missions International) Convention**, **President Carol Eby**, begins **Wednesday night** with **Missionary Monty Cyr** and **family** and will continue during the **day on the 26th**. Our **ORDINATION SERVICE** will be **Thursday night July 26th**, and we will have approximately 15 persons ordained into Christian ministry. **DISTRICT ASSEMBLY** will continue throughout **Friday the 27th**, under the leadership of **General Superintendent Dr. Jim Diehl**. Beginning on **Friday night** at the **Memphis Grace church**, **Pastor Mark Lancaster**, the **NYI (Nazarene Youth International)**, **President Chelli Jones**, will have a fun time and the **CONVENTION** will be at **Memphis Grace** church on Saturday morning. This will be a busy week and we hope and pray that you and your delegates will be able to participate in these activities. Memphis is a great city, with great barbeque. And if you look real carefully, you might even see Elvis!

The Lord is helping us on the Tennessee District to move forward. I am excited what He is doing among us. We are seeing people find the Lord and believers sanctified. Our outreach is continuing to reach into this beautiful area of the world. I continue to be excited serving with you and believe our best days are ahead.

Pleased with the Prospects,

Bob Broadbooks