

March 14, 2007

Dear Ministerial Colleague:

You are probably a better leader than you realize. At least, the late business guru Peter Drucker thought so. He believed that the finest leaders in any given town were the religious leaders. These ministers were consistently able to gather people around a noble cause and encourage them to give their time and money on a completely volunteer basis.

Brian O'Connell in his article, "Distinctive Characteristics of Successful Leaders of Voluntary Organizations," says ". . . Drucker was asked where one is most likely to locate the best leaders. There was the expectation he would point to business or maybe to the military, . . . He said that in just about every city, the very best leaders were most likely to be found heading the major religious congregations. He explained that ministers, priests, rabbis demonstrate a staggering array of talents, including recruiting, retraining, inspiring, unifying, counseling, communicating, fund-raising, and networking—all on top of instilling and building faith. Those who can do all of that and more, Drucker said, are extraordinary leaders but are somehow almost always overlooked when we think and write about leadership."

The mission of the Church of the Nazarene around the world is "To make Christlike disciples in the nations." To accomplish this we will need God to help us be even more effective leaders in the days ahead.

Recently, approximately 325 people from our district gathered at the **Hermitage Church** for our annual **Improve Your Serve**. It was a wonderful day to network with friends, be resourced in seminars, and be inspired by the ministry of **Dr. Leonard Sweet**. Our deep appreciation is extended to **Rev. Howard Plummer** and the **Hermitage Church** for their hospitality. The **District Sunday School** organization, under the leadership of **Rev. Larry Spraker**, was able to share the expense with the Hermitage Church and thereby we were able to have Dr. Sweet, who is recognized as one of the top ten religious communicators in America. Our deep appreciation is extended to Howard for his help on this day.

Approximately 125 men gathered at the **District Men's Retreat** recently, at Camp Garner Creek, to listen to the ministry of **Rev. Gerald Coleman**. The Lord was there and deep needs were met. We thank **Ron Bailey** for his leadership in this wonderful annual event.

Beginning April 1, **Rev. Kyle Poole** will be the pastor of **Gallatin Church of the Nazarene**. Rev. Poole has been the pastor of Gardendale Church of the Nazarene in Gardendale, Alabama. He is a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary. He grew up in the Nashville area and we are pleased to welcome Kyle and Julie (Bearden) back home.

In just a few days, the **retired ministers and mates on the Tennessee District** will gather for their **Spring Luncheon**. It will be held on March 29th at 11 a.m. They will enjoy a delicious meal, wonderful fellowship and the ministry of **Dr. Millard Reed and his sister Martha Garvin**. We are thankful to **Dr. Robert Spear** for his leadership in this effort, and we are also deeply grateful for the hospitality of **Dr. Gary Henecke** and the people of **Nashville First Church**.

Rev. Larry Spraker, Clarksville Park Lane Church, recently had a positive review. Larry has pastored Park Lane for 15 years. During this time the church has made wonderful progress. **Rev. Wendell Brown**, pastor of **Jason Chapel Church**, is also expected to have a positive review next Monday. The Lord continues to bless the efforts of this church. They already have their World Evangelism Fund allocation paid for this year and received 18 members last Sunday. We rejoice in these two good reviews.

We recently have had two pastors resign. **Rev. David Denson**, our pastor at **Madison**, and **Rev. David Butler**, our pastor at **Kingston Springs**. Please be praying for these two men, and also for these two churches as they seek new leaders.

If any of your children's pastors would like to see an exciting children's room, I would invite them to visit **Clarksville First Church**, where they recently transformed their original sanctuary into a **Children's Ministry Center**. This amazing and functional room has a centerpiece of a 16-foot tree house. I am certain that children's pastors everywhere would be thrilled by this space. I would anticipate that **Pastor Kim Smith** would be happy to allow you to tour this facility.

Last Sunday night, Carol and I worshipped in the **Centerville Church**, with **Pastor Butch and Nancy Sisk**. It was a delightful evening and there we found a happy and alive congregation.

Our new church plant in **Jackson** continues to move forward. They are presently having four Sundays of launch services to introduce the church to the city. **Pastor Herbert Halstead** tells me they have approximately 40 people attending the church. Our new **Sumner County Living Springs Church** is also up and running. They are worshiping in a school and **Pastor Steve Waller** reports they are averaging between 40-50 people. We rejoice in these two new churches and the way God is obviously blessing.

Our new pastor at **Nashville Center Point Church** is **Keith Coss**. We rejoice in the fine leadership that he is already giving to this new congregation. Keith has had a 30-year career with the YMCA and we are honored to have him become a part of our ministry family.

Dr. Dwight Gunter and **Nashville Trevecca Community Church** will have a *Groundbreaking* ceremony on Sunday, March 18. They are going to build a 45,000 square foot ministry center. We are praying for them in this massive undertaking and believe that God will continue to bless the church in its efforts.

Please put the following persons on your prayer list: • **Martha Ann Eby**, who has had hip replacement and is doing very well. • **Jack and Faye Oden, White House New Life Church**, in the passing of their daughter-in-law. Jack and Faye are intimately involved in helping raise their two granddaughters. These have been difficult days but God continues to hold them up. We pray for them and their son **J.C.** during this time of bereavement. • **Kathy Bittle**, our **co-pastor at Savannah**, has had pneumonia and missed a week of work. We pray for her.

Rev. Tony Miller, pastor of **Clarksville Grace Church**, is starting a new venue on Sunday mornings. During one of their morning services, they will have video feed into the "café" in another portion of their building. This will help alleviate some of the pressure on their sanctuary seating space. If you would like further information about this, feel free to contact Tony.

Columbia Grace Church, under the leadership of **Pastor Brian Wiesinger**, and **Waverly Church**, under the leadership of **Pastor Daron Brown**, are involved in *Stewardship Campaigns* as they look forward to relocate their churches. We pray for these great churches in these efforts.

Memphis Refreshing Springs, under the leadership of **Rev. Ricky Gillard**, will have the dedication of their new sanctuary on April 1, at three o'clock in the afternoon. We congratulate the exciting ongoing ministry of Refreshing Springs. You are invited to attend the dedication service, if you can.

Our **Memphis Ladies Conference** will soon be upon us, April 20-21. We are grateful for the wonderful leadership provided by **Tina Smith**, our pastor's wife at **Memphis New Life Holiness**. The event will happen at the **Neighborhood Christian Center**, and we are thankful for the warm hospitality of **Dr. JoeAnn and Monroe Ballard**. The two speakers for the conference will be **Michele Canley**, pastor's wife at **Memphis Word Alive**, and **Karen Dean Fry**, pastor of **Nashville Blakemore**. All of the ladies on the district, and especially the Memphis area, are invited to participate in these services and workshops.

We rejoice with **Robert Bravo**, our pastor at **Summertown**. In the year and one-half that he has been there, the Lord has helped him to be able to baptize 14 brand-new Christians. This is exciting. We congratulate **Rev. Casey and Rhonda Shorr**, **Woodlawn Church**, on the marriage of their daughter Alaina. Carol and I had the privilege of attending this beautiful wedding at **Brentwood First Church**, and we rejoice with the Shorrs.

We also congratulate **Memphis Friendship Church**, under the leadership of **Rev. Ron Webb**. They recently celebrated **Black History Month** and honored the organizers of the Friendship Church. **Sister Ora Mae Jackson** and **Sister Juanita Atkins** were surprised with a program in their honor. We are thankful for these two beautiful women who have been there since the beginning of the Friendship Church. **Pastor Leonard Jackson**, from the **Memphis Emmanuel Church**, was the speaker at this loving event. We are thrilled to honor these two pioneers today.

We also would like to remind you of a special conference event to be held on Trevecca's campus April 26-28. The name of this event is "**You Are Called**," and is sponsored by **Trevecca** and the **districts of the Southeast**. It is our desire to honor women in ministry and to resource them in their efforts. If you have any questions about this event, you can go to www.trevecca.edu/wimn or contact **Heather Daugherty**, **Director of Church Services at TNU**.

In just a few days, we will be gathering in our churches for marvelous **Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations**. Preparation through Lent has enabled us to focus on our living Savior. Carol and I are praying resurrection, joy-filled prayers for you and your church. What a privilege we have of standing before our congregations to exclaim "**He is not here, He has risen, just as He said!**" Please know that we are deeply grateful for you and your faithful ministry in these days. God is using you in greater fashion than you even realize. **He is working!**

Pleased with the Prospects,

Bob Broadbooks