

November 27, 2007

Dear Ministerial Colleague:

On Friday evening, **December 7th**, we will be gathering at *Garner Creek Conference Center for our annual Christmas celebration*. Early festivities begin at 6:30pm with hot wassail and the dinner is served at 7:00pm. This year we have a special musical humorist by the name of *Brian Hansen* to provide our entertainment. We will also have a *Christmas Devotional* by our pastor in Portland, *Rich Cook* and receive *Communion* together. We hope you will be able to attend. We look forward to seeing you.

In just a few days, *eight Nazarene churches in Nashville and one from Memphis will collaborate in a beautiful Christmas musical*. This will be Sunday night, **December 9th, 6:00pm**, at the **Acuff Theater** near **Opryland Hotel**. The tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 if you get them early. You can get tickets at **Brentwood Whisperings Hills, Nashville Grace, Nashville Trececca Community or Memphis Calvary**. If your church is located in the Nashville area, perhaps you would like to participate with all of the other Nazarene churches who are providing this special musical evening.

There is much news from our churches across the district. Let me share a few items that I have heard about. We have two new pastors beginning on January 6, 2008. **Clarksville Grace** has called *Dr. Steve Estep*, who for 11 years has been the pastor in Harrisonville, Missouri. Steve and his wife Michelle and three children have been used of God in the Harrisonville church, and while there, the church grew from 70 to 300. The Clarksville Grace people are excited about his coming. The **Woodlawn** church has called *Dr. Tracy Hoskins*. Most recently Tracy has been on staff at our church in Valparaiso, Indiana. He and Jill are excited about this new opportunity. We welcome both of these fine pastors and families to the Tennessee District.

Recently the **Clarksville First** church congregation voted on the construction of a new youth building. The vote was 163 to 1. We commend *Pastor Kim Smith* and **Clarksville First** people for the beautiful spirit of unity that exists in the church.

On November 11th, the **Columbia First** church, under the leadership of *Pastor Steve Robertson*, celebrated their **75th anniversary**. It was a day of fellowship and feasting. We are thankful for Pastor and people for three-quarters of a century of preaching the holiness message.

We have done positive reviews for four pastors in the last few days. These include *Greg Lawrence*, pastor of **Nashville Trinity**; *Lawrence Golden*, pastor of **Pine Hill**; *Marvin Frederick*, pastor of **Dover**; and *Kenneth Dove*, pastor of **Nashville Grace**. We are thankful for these four good pastors and their ministries among us.

We also rejoice with **Nashville First** and *Dr. Gary Henecke* for recently receiving 60 new members into the church.

We are praying for *Dr. Pedro Cruz* who recently spent some time in the hospital with blood pressure issues. We are also praying for *Barry Hart* who will have neck surgery in just a few days. *Kathy Bittle* has not been feeling well recently. We thank the Lord for the good report *Monroe Ballard* received. He recently had several tests run and they all came back cancer free.

We were excited to hear about the effective revival held recently at the **Nashville Radnor** church. Forty decisions were made for Christ and many of these new Christians are now being discipled by retired pastor **Rev. James Cottle**. We commend *Pastor Bob Wilkerson* and are grateful for these exciting days at Radnor.

Old Hickory church had an event recently where *Pastor John Bledsoe* preached from the roof of their church building in celebration of recent outreach efforts of the church. The church and Pastor Bledsoe received wonderful free coverage for this in the Nashville newspaper. In the article John was quoted as saying, "It may be the only time I preach over someone's head." I thought it was a great quote. Congratulations to John and the Old Hickory church.

One of the exciting ministries that is happening at **Nashville Trevecca Community**, under the leadership of **Dr. Dwight Gunter**, is **"Jammin at the Jail."** The whole choir goes to the jail. They construct a platform just outside the fence, the prisoners are seated inside the prison yard, and they have church! Much good has come from this ministry to the imprisoned. We rejoice in this effort and are thankful for the leadership that staff pastor **Tina Mitchell** gives to this work.

Carol and I recently were in Gatlinburg and were given a free pass to view **"The Miracle."** You may remember that a couple of years ago during Ministers and Mates Retreat we all went over to see "The Miracle." I must say I was much more impressed the second time around. Now they have all Christian actors, have made some adjustments to the program, and it was a dynamic worship experience for Carol and me. **Rev. Wayne Cook** is the Director of Church Relations and he informed me that all of our pastors would be given a free pass to view the musical if they would like to attend. The purpose of this theatrical production is to present the story of the gospel of Jesus Christ and I believe that the people in our churches would receive a spiritual blessing from attending. Wayne tells me that a number of people have found Christ as a result of the presentation. At the end of the show the actors gather in the lobby of the theater and it is not uncommon to see them praying with folks to receive Christ and spiritual help. If you would like to attend, feel free to contact Wayne Cook. His number at the Miracle Theater in Pigeon Forge is 865-428-7469, ext. 141.

AN ADVENT PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven and His Son who came to earth, hear our prayer today.

For all these beauties, we thank you:

- ... For smiling children staring at brightly lighted trees.
- ... For little fingers picking at scotch taped packages for days before the day.
- ... For little voices e-a-r-l-y on Christmas morning begging Mom and Dad to get up and get started at opening up the treasurers.
- ... For Grandmas and Grandpas who sacrifice on limited funds to splurge on grandkids to make some memories.
- ... For special Christmas wreaths, peanut brittle, divinity, and caramels like only Grandma can make.
- ... For carolers' "Silent Night" just outside the front door.
- ... For Grandpa's reading of the Story from the Word before the "attack" of the packages.
- ... But most of all for the meaning of it all - The Son, Jesus Christ came to walk beside us and experience humankind existence. He came to live, to die, to live again, and save us. O Jesus, thank You!

For all these benefits, we ask You:

- ... To grant us thankful hearts for You, our choicest gift and dearest guest.
- ... To not let our souls be busy inns that have no room for You and Yours.
- ... To make our homes this Advent season places of prayer and praise where You can take up comfortable abode.
- ... To watch over those who serve their country in faraway, sandy places. Lord, bring peace.

Amen.

Carol and I wish you a great Christmas where you experience the powerful presence of the Lord in your life and in your church.

Pleased with the Prospects,

Bob Broadbooks

P.S. Date change: It is impossible now, for our campgrounds to hold the large number of teens (819) who are attending **Teen Camp**, so the NYI Council has voted to go to **Trevecca Nazarene University** next June. This has required a change in the Teen Camp date. Please note on your calendar that the **Teen Camp is now scheduled for June 2 - 6, 2008.**