

January 21, 2008

Dear Ministerial Colleague:

I trust this letter finds your ministry in the new year off to a good start. There is something exciting about being able to start anew and January 2008 affords us that opportunity. I was interested to read about a new beginning for the children of Israel. After being in bondage in Egypt for many years, Moses led them out into the Desert of Sinai. They had been traveling just three months when God visited with Moses on Mount Sinai. In Exodus 19:4, God spoke these beautiful words, "You saw how I carried you out of Egypt, as if on eagles' wings. And I brought you here to me." In similar fashion, as this new year begins, we celebrate the fact that God has tenderly carried us on eagles' wings and brought us to this point. The love and tenderness expressed in this verse warms our hearts as the new year begins. We are resourced daily by God himself as He brings us to himself.

Carol and I would like to thank you for your many kind remembrances at Christmas. We continue to be very thankful for the privilege that God has given us to minister with such a fine army of ministers and laypersons in the state of Tennessee.

There are a number of special activities on the district calendar, but let me highlight four important dates for you:

1) February 2 – In just a few days the *National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families* will be having a special seminar for the TNU religion professors and Tennessee District senior pastors and staff pastors. Many of the people in our congregations struggle with issues of sexual addictions and pornography. This training is from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 2, at the Tarter Student Activity Center (*TSAC on TNU campus*). I pray that this will be meaningful for you and your ministry. There is no charge but you need to register so that we can make preparation for the continental breakfast and the resource packet. To register, please contact Heather Daugherty, director of church services at TNU at hdaugherty@trevecca.edu or 615-248-1585.

2) March 8 – The *Discipleship Summit* meets at Nashville Grace. All of our pastors and people are asked to gather for sharing information and encouragement concerning our mission of "making Christlike disciples in the nations." An important part of this day will be the lunch provided for all of our senior pastors. I will be distributing a free box of resources for our denominational *Centennial Celebration* in October.

3) The Trevecca Zone *Prayer Summit* will be May 28-30. This is not a seminar. It is a gathering of prayer and all pastors and staff persons in the Southeast Region are invited to participate. There will be no notebooks or conference speakers. We will simply gather and look into the face of God for these hours. I hope you will be able to attend. If you have any questions or want more information, e-mail pastor@nazarene.org or call Clergy Development at 800-306-7651. (Speaking of prayer, remember to call your people to prayer during the *Nazarene World Week of Prayer*, March 2-8.)

4) The *Tennessee District Family Camp Meeting*, June 10-15, will be upon us before we realize it. This year we have two wonderful preachers, **Bob Hoots** (a favorite here in Tennessee) and California full-time evangelist **Norman Moore**. These two preachers will be a fine contrast and camp meeting will be a time of great blessing. We want every pastor to participate and encourage your people to participate.

We have a new pastor at our **Hendersonville** church, **Ryan and Jamie Brown**. Ryan is the brother of **Daron Brown**, our pastor at **Waverly**. Ryan comes to us after being actively involved in the ministry of Clarksville First Church of the Nazarene. **Clarksville First** church and **Pastor Kim Smith** are coming along side the Hendersonville church and Ryan Brown to help in the renewal of this church. Ryan Brown has recently been a manager in the insurance business. He has felt led by the Lord to give up his full-time, well-paid job and go full-

time as pastor of the Hendersonville church. This means that he and Jamie left their home in Clarksville, rented an apartment near the Hendersonville church, and are pastoring for a very small salary. He has gladly felt called to make this sacrifice and already God is blessing and making provisions for them. The Clarksville First church's Saturday night band has been coming to the Hendersonville church on Sunday morning and helping with the music. Already there seems to be new life at the church. My heart has been warmed by Ryan's beautiful response to the call of God and it has been wonderful to see God reward the sacrificial nature of Ryan's "yes." The Lord is good.

Jackson Thrive church, under the leadership of *Pastor Herb and Angel Halstead*, has recently moved to its fourth rented location. The church continues to grow. Recently they had 80 in church and we are thankful that God is blessing this brand-new church plant.

Larry Patrick, our church planter in **Decaturville**, hosted a benefit sing for *Kathy Bittle*, co-pastor of our **Savannah** church. She has had some health challenges recently and this gift has been very meaningful to the *Bittles*. Thank you, Larry, for your act of love.

We rejoice with *Pastor Bryant Walker* and the **Look at God Church of the Nazarene** in Memphis. They recently were organized as a Church of the Nazarene and God is looking with favor on this church.

We rejoice in the way the Lord is helping *Pastor Gerald and Ginny Franklin* and our church in **Covington**. God continues to work through the Franklins to help the church move forward.

We request prayer for retired minister *Bob Madison*. Bob recently had heart by-pass surgery and is doing well.

Recently all of our black churches in Memphis gathered for their *Fifth Sunday Sing* at the **Word Alive Church of the Nazarene**, *Pastor Allen Canley*. *Pastor Ron Webb*, pastor of the **Friendship** church, preached. There was a fine representation from most all of our black churches. We rejoice in this wonderful *Fifth Sunday Fellowship* program that was begun by our black coordinator, *Dr. JoeAnn Ballard*.

We congratulate *Alan Clark*, our pastor at **Brentwood First** church, for his one-month-long sabbatical. We thank the Brentwood church for their generosity in this gift.

Brentwood Whispering Hills church, under the leadership of *Pastor Tom Todd*, is in the planning stages for a brand new building that will approximately double the size of their present facilities. God is working at Whispering Hills and we rejoice.

Our new **Clarksville Korean** church, under the leadership of *Pastor Young-Bum and Crystal Lee*, continues to grow dramatically. You may want to ask Young-Bum Lee about his new interest. He has found a program created by a Korean pastor that enables a person to memorize the Bible in such a way that you will know what the theme of every chapter in every book is. Young-Bum has now memorized five of the sixty-six books. He is excited about this new challenge. Our pastor at **Nashville First (Calvary) Korean** church, *Pastor Young Seok Kang*, introduced Young-Bum to this program. It is very intriguing.

We congratulate **Nashville Immanuel** church and *Pastor Ed Allred* on the celebration of their 75th anniversary. It was a wonderful day in which former pastors *Rev. Troy Slay* and *Dr. William Greathouse* participated.

Pastor Brian Wiesinger and our **Columbia Grace** church have their building up for sale with the hopes of being able to relocate to their new property. Pray for a buyer to come along.

Recently *Steve Queen*, our pastor at **Elmore** church, resigned and will be moving to East Tennessee. We thank Michelle and Steve for their faithful ministry at both **Summertown** and **Elmore**. Pray for the people of Elmore as they seek a new pastor. Also our pastor at **Dover**, *Marvin Frederick*, has resigned and has moved to a new assignment on the South Arkansas District. We will miss Marvin and Beverly and are grateful for their work at Dover.

We also are thankful for **Rev. Kyle Poole** and the **Gallatin** church for their leadership in attempting to plant a brand new Sudanese church. Kyle Poole and Bill Wiesman are involved in training leaders for this work. We can't wait to see how God will bless.

Madison church, under the leadership of **Rev. Scott Langford**, is starting a counseling ministry, with the help of counselor **Brandon Arbuckle**. The church would be glad to share this ministry with those who are interested. God is blessing Madison and the church is growing under the leadership of their new pastor.

Sumner County Living Springs, under the leadership of **Pastor Steve Waller**, continues to grow after one year of meeting in a school. They now have secured space in a theater. We are praying for the Lord's continued blessing on this new plant.

Please remember that the church year ends 2 weeks early this year on June 15, 2008. Our date for District Assembly was altered by Kansas City. We believe that it will be less disruptive to our churches to have two 50 week fiscal years rather than an 11 month year. This means that you will have 2 fewer weeks to pay your budget assessments, but with adequate planning it should not be a traumatic hardship on our churches.

God said to Moses, "You have seen how I have carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself." God continues to do that among us. You are not alone in your ministry work. He carries you on graceful wings and He continues to bring you to Himself. This has been His work throughout the ages -- to guide you and me to His loving side. He not only led the children through the wilderness, He also sent His Son so that through Him we may be brought to Himself. Throughout all of history, His overriding purpose will be to bring you home to Himself. We, as ministers, have the glorious privilege of being His representatives in this holy work. As the new year begins, my prayer is that you will feel not only the challenge of this work, but that you will also feel that underneath your efforts are His beautiful eagle wings. God bless your work today!

Pleased with the Prospects,

Bob Broadbooks