

# TEAMMATES

Greater Ohio District Ministry Bulletin

September, 2006

## **A MISSIONAL DISTRICT**

The emphasis of the recent District Conference was focused on Greater Ohio becoming a missional district that recognizes that its primary function is to win the lost to Jesus Christ. Being missional is more than programs and nifty acronyms, although that can be integrated into a missional organization. Missional implies a systemic approach to fulfilling the Great Commission where evangelism becomes a life-style that weaves itself into the very fabric of our being. I have to admit that I am not there in my personal life though I believe that is how Christ wants me to behave.

Missional living seeks opportunities to engage in spiritual conversations with the unsaved. It practices intercessory prayer for those persons who have not personally received Christ. It prioritizes available resources for the purpose of Great Commission ministry. It demonstrates unbridled excitement over the announcement of a new birth into God's kingdom.

The challenge to the district churches issued at District Conference was expressed in two numbers: 3+1. "3" represents an attendance increase in each church of 3% over last year's annual average. For the average Greater Ohio congregation that will represent an increase of 2 persons over last year's average. On the surface it does not sound like much. But understand that nationally 80% of churches are either at a statistical plateau or are in decline. It will be nothing short of phenomenal to come to district conference next year with 100% of our churches reporting an increase over last year. It will take work on everyone's part, but it can be done with the help of our God who desires to see his kingdom expand even more passionately than we do.

"1" represents the goal of every church reporting at least one conversion this year through the ministries of their church. If evangelism is to be job #1, a major criteria for evaluation of a local church has to be its evangelistic output. I am planning for a "Celebration of Salvations" at the 2007 District Conference. I have begun a power point show that will list every church and the names of the persons saved through their ministries this year. I already have slides listing the names from Cin. Elmwood, Watershed, Coolville, and St. Marys. I invite you to forward to me the names of persons saved through your church as they become available.

These goals are both do-able and necessary. The district can not do your ministry but we stand prepared to assist you. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you in hosting special events (inflatable games), evaluating ministries for effectiveness (Natural Development Survey), training your workers (Small Church Rally, GOLD Institute, individualized seminars), praying for your special challenges (Retired Ministers' Prayer Ministry), etc. We are here to serve you in your pursuit of kingdom building ministry!

## **SMALL CHURCH RALLY**

Dr. Ray Barnwell, former General Director of Local Church Education, will be our guest speaker at the next Small Church Rally. The date is Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and the time is 5pm. He will be addressing the twin topics of Quality Christian Education in the Smaller Congregation and Creating an Evangelistic Sunday School. Pastors are encouraged to bring car load of lay persons along to hear these challenging seminars. Another book to add to the small church library will be given to every pastor in attendance.

## **SPECIAL LOCAL EVENTS**

Greenville Bethel Long will be celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a special service on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Rodney Shade is the pastor.

Coolville Whites Chapel will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a special service on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Charles Martindale is the pastor.

### **PASTORS' GATHERING '07**

More than 1,000 persons have registered for the Pastors' Gathering in Orlando, Fl. this coming January. I am personally excited about this special event and the potential it has to inspire the leaders of The Wesleyan Church to greater service for our LORD. Beyond the structured meetings, the opportunity to network and learn from ministerial colleagues from across the denomination will be invaluable.

Registration can be conveniently handled on-line by going to the denomination's web-site. Early registration concludes on October 15<sup>th</sup>. A \$50 late-fee will be assessed after that date.

The district has chartered a bus that will depart from the district office on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost will be \$150 per minister. A special spouse rate will be \$100. Registration deadline for the bus is October 31<sup>st</sup>. A 50% deposit will be required with your registration. NOTE: There will need to be a minimum of 40 passengers to secure the bus.

A limited number of scholarships from the district will be available to assist pastors. Applicants must be serving in a pastoral role and have a financial need. Scholarships will be awarded first to pastors whose church has paid 100% USF.

### **PASTORAL CLUSTER MEETINGS**

September begins the cycle of Pastoral Cluster meetings that I intend to hold three times this year in each of the zones. Zone Pastors will be in touch with the ministers in their zone to announce the time and location. Topics for the fall session include a Wesleyan perspective on hell, dynamics of spiritual formation and developing a missional church.

This month I will be meeting with ministers of the Miami Valley, Shawnee and Erie zones.

### **DISTRICT DAY OF PRAYER- OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**

#### **DISTRICT BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

The District Board of Administration will meet on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Camp/Conference Board will meet on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

DVD's of the 2006 Gathering are available. They can be ordered from Melissa VanMeter by emailing her at [freezerqueen@hotmail.com](mailto:freezerqueen@hotmail.com)

#### **JESUS FILM**

The district responded with nearly \$19,000 to finance the JESUS Film's viewing in Mexico. Global Partners is now working out the details to launch this new initiative. THANKS, G.O.D.!

#### **DISTRICT JOURNALS**

The district journals have been published in record time this year. Thanks are extended to Administrative Assistant Brenda Hartman for shepherding this project through to completion and to the various auxiliary secretaries for getting their materials to us in a timely manner. The journal section is to

be added to your conference notebook which contained the reports of the various district officers. The journal will provide you with directories, current standing rules and the official proceedings of the district conference and the auxiliary conferences.

### **WATERSHED TO BEGIN**

Our newest church will begin public worship on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Watershed will be welcoming the community to its services being held in the Drexel Theater in Grandview Heights. Nathan Feathers is the pastor of this exciting new congregation which is being birthed out of the Crosslink Wesleyan Church in Grove City. Please include this new ministry in your Sunday pastoral prayer time.

### **WESLEYAN MEN**

Samuel Coatney of the Dayton First Wesleyan Church was selected as the Layman of the Year. Jake Bailey was re-elected as president.

### **WESLEYAN WOMEN**

The WW held their annual convention on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Commendation was given to the district as being the second highest in the denomination for contributions to the General WW office. More than \$37,000 was given by our local churches. Robin Stanforth was re-elected as the District Director.

### **PASTORS' WIVES GATHERINGS**

Regional gatherings of pastors' wives are scheduled around the district for this fall. Designated pastor's wives in each area will be making contact with the pastors' wives of their area with meeting information. Pastor, encourage your spouse to take advantage of this special event planned for them.

### **PASTORAL COMINGS & GOINGS**

West Chester has extended a pastoral call to Rev. Scott Mishler. Scott is a native of the West Chester community and a graduate of Asbury Seminary. Scott is married to Lisa and they have two children.

The Port Clinton, South Parkersburg, South Webster and Toronto Wesleyan Churches are continuing their search for a pastor.

### **CONSTRUCTION NOTES**

Mansfield Lighthouse celebrated their building dedication on August 20<sup>th</sup>. They have been blessed with a very beautiful and functional facility. They have already begun to experience an up-tick in guest traffic as new people are taking notice of their building and coming to check them out.

Bellville Clearfork Valley is seeing rapid progress on their building. Steel work is up and block walls are being laid. They anticipate moving in around Easter.

Valley City LifeSpring's building is under roof and enclosed. Recent pictures are showing excellent progress of a beautiful structure. They plan to celebrate Christmas services in their building.