

# TEAMMATES

Greater Ohio District Ministry Bulletin

October, 2007

## THANK YOU, PASTOR

“Thank you” is such a simple statement, used with such frequency, that its significance is often lost on the hearer. It’s only seven letters, but it expresses a huge emotion of the heart. Please hear us loud and clear this time, THANK YOU, PASTOR, for being the presence of Christ in times of crisis, an instructor of the deep truth’s of God, the example of righteous living in a world of compromised values, a person of integrity and holiness.

And not just to you, but to your family the district also expresses its gratitude for the commitment that you have collectively made to fulfill the call to Christian ministry. We realize that spouses often yield days off to unexpected funeral services. Children fall asleep waiting for their pastor-parent to return from a late night call to a church family in crisis. Ministry is a family thing necessitating that “Thanks-giving” be extended to the entire family unit.

This month we celebrate you, the local church pastoral family. Your lives are making a difference for Christ in the church and community where he has placed you. Results, not always visible, are accumulating as you faithfully fulfill your responsibilities. It is our prayer that the LORD will abundantly bless you and make your ministry exceedingly fruitful.

## FROM MY READINGS...

Last month I read *Comeback Churches* by Ed Stetzer & Mike Dodson. The book is based upon extensive research of 324 churches that have experienced significant congregational renewal. There is a lot of statistical analysis and anecdotal evidence in its 200+ pages. At the end, however, they offer this conclusion. The top three factors that contributed to these churches’ renewal were: 1) Prayer; 2) Evangelism; and 3) Preaching. You’ll need to read the book to see the specifics but I think there is a lot of obvious conclusions that can be reached in just those three power packed words about the underpinnings of a turn-around effort. On the flip side they indicate that the three top limiting factors to church health and growth were: 1) Attitudes; 2) Finances; and 3) Facilities.

## PASTORAL CLUSTER MEETINGS

The Pastoral Cluster Meetings for this fall are progressing exceptionally well. I am seeing good participation in each of the Zones. We have been covering materials related to managing stress in the parsonage, sermon preparation, processing change in the local church and Advent observances. During October I will be meeting with pastors in the Sandusky Zone on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Miami Valley on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Athens on the 29<sup>th</sup> and Delaware on the 31<sup>st</sup>. This will conclude the fall series. Meetings are generally 2 ½ to 3 hours in length and cover a variety of theological and practical ministry topics. These meetings are open to all pastors and ministers in the district. Zone Pastors will be in touch with their ministers to inform them of the place and time of their zone’s meeting. Please read chapter 4 of *Passion, Power and Purpose* in preparation for the meeting.

## GOLD INSTITUTE

GOLD classes have begun for the new year. *Expository Preaching* will be offered in October and *Wesleyan Church History & Discipline* in November.

Classes cost \$100 plus books. They are taught by excellent teachers and provide a great vehicle for ministerial training, Christian worker enhancement or a time of refreshment. You may register on-line or by calling the district office.

### **SEMINAR OPPORTUNITIES**

The District is sponsoring “How To Reach the Unchurched in Your Community.” This seminar is led by national church growth speaker and author Dr. Charles Arn. He has completed extensive studies on the unchurched and effective strategies for reaching them. The date is Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at the District Office. It will run from 9am to 4pm. The cost is \$15 per person. Contact the District Office to register.

### **MEXICO**

Assisting with the training of a new generation of pastors in Mexico is Job #1 in our partnership efforts with The Wesleyan Church of Mexico. An endowment fund has been established by the district for the purpose of creating a base for an ongoing scholarship fund to assist ministerial students attending their Bible College in Puebla. Contributions to this fund are welcomed and should be earmarked, “Mexico Bible College Scholarship Fund.”

Please pray for the Chillicothe work team that will be going in October to assist with putting a roof on one of the churches. Marty Baker is leading this team of five.

### **WESLEYAN WOMEN FUND RAISER**

Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> is “Shop for a Cause Day” at any Macy’s Store in the US. Macy’s celebrates a national day of support for local non-profit organizations in your community. Shopping passes are available which earn you an extra 20% off almost everything in the store (10% of furniture). You will receive a \$10 coupon when you shop, so you get your money back in merchandise! Macy’s will be giving away a \$500 shopping spree that day as well.

With a \$10 donation to Wesleyan Women you receive your shopping pass. This donation will benefit the following ministries of Wesleyan Women: Partnering with other ministries to fight human slavery; Hephzibah Children’s Home; African Orphan Trust- AIDS/HIV orphans; and Leadership Development.

This is a win-win situation for you, your community and Wesleyan Women!

To make donations and receive shopping passes please contact either: Robin Stanforth, District WW Director at 937-890-9857 ([Bstanforth@yahoo.com](mailto:Bstanforth@yahoo.com)) or Cheryl Mansell, WW Area Representative at 614-876-9439 ([iwumum@yahoo.com](mailto:iwumum@yahoo.com))

### **DISTRICT PRAYER REQUESTS**

Rev. Verl Light is now on-line thanks to a new computer the district has purchased for the District Prayer Ministry that he directs. Prayer requests may be sent to [vlight@woh.rr.com](mailto:vlight@woh.rr.com) Additional prayer ministry partners are needed. The present number stands at just over 150.

### **CHURCHES LOOKING FOR PASTORS**

The following churches are currently seeking pastors: Mansfield Lighthouse, Empire, Jackson Good Shepherd, Portsmouth Riverview, South Parkersburg and South Webster.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS & NOTES**

Sidney Wesleyan is hosting an "After Summer Bash" on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at their church. Things get kicked off at 2pm with free food, games, prizes and music.

Mansfield First had an awesome baptismal service at which they baptized another 5 people. It was great! 2 teenagers and 3 adults.

Valley City LifeSpring dedicated their new facility on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **DISTRICT CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Christmas is just around the corner! And that means that the first Friday of December is too! Invitations will be mailed in October, but make sure to mark your calendars for December 7<sup>th</sup>! This year's dinner will be held in the District Ministry Center.

## **DISTRICT JOURNALS**

Most District Journals have now been delivered. If you did not receive your's please contact the office. Additional copies can be purchased for \$8 each.

## **DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION**

The DBA met on Monday, September 10th. The board participated in an exercise to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the district which resulted in an excellent, extended discussion. Areas of strength included our leadership team, structure, diversity, stability, etc. Weaknesses included communication, lack of accountability, shared vision, church multiplication, etc. The DBA affirmed the validity of the district's mission, vision and core value statements and concluded that a primary function of the district is to provide leadership development to its pastors and key local church leaders. This conversation will be resumed when they meet again in November.

Additional business included a statistical review of the district, a consideration of requests by several churches for USF adjustments, a report on Family Gathering finances, authorization for Clearfork Valley to increase their debt limit to finish their building, and the appointment of Bob Stanforth as pastor at Dayton Northridge. Several other items were continued to the DBA Executive Comm for action.

The next DBA meeting will be Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **MINISTERIAL RETREAT**

The 2008 Ministerial Retreat is scheduled for January 28-30th. It will be held at the beautiful Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Dr. Tom Armiger will be our special speaker. Music will be provided by Harmony. The program will be rounded out with great fellowship, delicious meals and a relaxing climate. Early bird registration is \$220 per couple. Scholarships are available for Retired Ministers. Informational Mailings will be sent this month.