

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE of the Southeast Region

Volume 7, Issue 8

September 2012

Pastors: Please distribute to your delegates, ministry leaders & congregation

## “REFLECTIONS on the TORCH”

The torch made its 70 day journey winding through tiny villages & metropolitan cities throughout Great Britain before lighting the cauldron in London during Open Ceremonies. Then the world was united by that flame for 16 days in August as Olympians provided breath-taking moments of agility, strength and endurance. As I reflect on what I witnessed this past month, the greatest remaining impact for me has been the testimonies of sacrifice from various athletes:

- The fourteen year old gymnast, “Flying Squirrel,” who left her family and endured extreme homesickness for two years, so that she might train under the best coach
- The runner who did not eat even one dessert for 2 years in a commitment to consume only healthy foods
- The swimmer who had not watched TV in 3 years in order to devote every possible moment to training

And on and on the stories went. It wasn't luck that got them to Great Britain. It was a commitment to unrelenting improvement, resolve in the face of ease, a willingness to receive constant critique, and the determination to begin again in the face of setbacks.

That's a perspective I desire for myself, our pastors, and the people in our churches - to live a life of faith with determination and joy, realizing that daily we are on the world-stage, representing God's Kingdom. I pray that we will . . .

- serve our God with all that is within us – heart, soul, mind and strength
- refuel on God's Word daily, and rest our bodies & souls regularly
- avoid choices, attitudes, pettiness, or actions which could distract or disqualify us from our goal
- welcome critique, and ask others to coach us, in order to become more than we currently are
- commit to a team – a small group or ministry partners – for mutual support & encouragement

It is true that in the spiritual realm, only the Spirit of God can provide transformation and fruit. But that recognition needs to be paired with the additional truth that as God's representatives, we are responsible to always be **IN TRAINING**. Too many times, I think we settle for simply **TRYING at the last moment**, rather than **TRAINING over the long-haul**.

I read an article recently by Joni Eareckson Tada – a woman who became paralyzed from the neck down 47 yrs. ago in a diving accident. From her motorized wheelchair she made the following comments: *“I want to give this life all I've got and FIGHT FOR GOD now, because this is the only chance I get to fight. Once I get to heaven, I'll be in CELEBRATION mode.”*

May the heart of an athlete beat within each one of us. May we desire to FIGHT FOR GOD daily, running with endurance our race, carrying the torch of His light and love with us as we go to work, to school, and into our neighborhoods, so that we might be His light-bearers, igniting hope in others wherever we go.

*Supt. Darrel Riley*

## SEPTEMBER UPDATES

- **Supt Darrel & Peggy** are out of the country **Sept 1 – 8**; contact your District Leader if needed
- **The Bishops Vision Cast tape from Sunday, Aug 26** is being edited and prepared for your download & viewing; details will be provided when it becomes available. There were technology issues for some due to Tropical Storm Isaac & a server crash from high volume. Thanks to all who were able to view and who attempted. Expansion is planned for the Feb 2013 Vision Cast

## 2012 CONFERENCE YEAR EMPHASIS: CONGREGATIONAL WHOLENESS

The Southeast Region continues to unpack the Bishops' four year emphasis upon WHOLENESS (introduced at General Conference 2011) This annual conference year all SER meetings & Regional Training Events are focusing upon *CONGREGATIONAL Wholeness & Group Discipleship*. Pastors, make sure to bring ministry leaders, BOA members & delegates with you to each Training Event – it takes a “critical mass” of leaders to create congregational momentum.

### BASIC RESOURCES FOR EVERY CONGREGATION:

At Annual Conferences this spring, Supt Darrel recommended four books as foundational readings for Congregation Wholeness. How many have you read as we are now midway through the year?

- ***The Forgotten God*** by Francis Chan (*listening to & depending upon the Holy Spirit*)
- ***Missional Renaissance*** by Reggie McNeal (*three shifts in thinking and behavior that will give our congregations greater redemptive impact with those around us*)
- ***Who Stole My Church?*** by Gordon MacDonald (*American culture is far different today than the 60's or 80's; we need to adapt our services/programs in order to reach younger generations*)
- ***The Solo Pastor*** by Stan Toler (*practical tips in 10 key areas for greater pastoral effectiveness*)

### SPECIFIC CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY RECOMMENDATIONS:

BOOKS: check costs at [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

FREE ON-LINE: at [www.ChristianityToday.com](http://www.ChristianityToday.com), click top right SUBSCRIBE tab; click FREE NEWSLETTER drop down

#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- BOOK: ***Children's Ministry Leadership: The You Can Do It Guide*** by Jim Wideman
- MAGAZINE: ***Children's Ministry*** by Group, (\$24.95/yr) [www.group.com](http://www.group.com) or 1-800-447-1070
- FREE ON LINE: ***Today's Children's Ministry*** (weekly e-newsletter from Christianity Today)

#### YOUTH MINISTRY:

- BOOK: ***The Seven Checkpoints: Seven Principles Every Teenager Needs to Know - for Youth Leaders*** by Andy Stanley
- MAGAZINE: ***Group Magazine*** by Group (\$29.95/yr.) ([www.group.com](http://www.group.com)) or 1-800-447-1070

#### SMALL GROUP MINISTRY:

- BOOK: ***The Tangible Kingdom Primer*** by Halter & Smay (8 week small group curriculum)
- FREE ON LINE: ***Small Groups*** (weekly e-newsletter from Christianity Today)

#### LAY EQUIPPING & BUILDING TEAMS:

- BOOK: ***The Equipping Church*** by Sue Mallory (developing a lay ministry mindset & teams)
- BOOK: ***Doing Church as a Team*** by Wayne Cordeiro

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

- MAGAZINE: ***Leadership Journal*** (\$22/yr.) [www.christianitytoday.com/le](http://www.christianitytoday.com/le) or 1-800-777-3136
- FREE ONLINE: ***Leadership Weekly*** (e-articles from ***Leadership Journal*** by Christianity Today)
- FREE ONLINE: ***Building Church Leaders*** (weekly e-newsletter from Christianity Today)
- FREE ONLINE: [www.injoy.com](http://www.injoy.com) (John Maxwell's ministry) offers three options: ***Leadership Wired***, ***The Pastor's Coach*** and ***Catalyst*** newsletters

## EVERY PERSON A PASSIONATE PRAY-ER

*“O God be gracious to us and bless us, and make Your face shine upon us,  
That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.” Psalm 67:1-2*

| SEPTEMBER       | SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE  | AL-GA or GCC CONFERENCE   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Sept 2 - 8      | <b>Tampa: First Haitian CPP</b><br>Pastor Benedique Jean Philippe (Marie)<br>BenediqueJeanPhilippe@yahoo.com | <b>Pleasant Grove GA: Faith</b><br>Pastor Joe Shuffett (Wendy)<br>joeshuffett@bellsouth.net |
| Sept 9 - 15     | <b>Tampa: Primera Iglesia Metodista Libre</b><br>Pastor Edwin Estevez (Jessica)<br>efestevez@live.com        | <b>Deville LA: Martha's Chapel</b><br>Pastor Daniel Goddard (Beth)<br>judahsgate@gmail.com  |
| Sept 16 - 22    | <b>West Palm Beach: Brazilian</b><br>Pastors J Roberto & Dalzira Oliveira<br>freemethodistpastor@yahoo.com   | <b>Deville LA: New Hope</b><br>Pastor Stanley Paulk (Jackie)<br>spaulk51@yahoo.com          |
| Sept 23 - 29    | <b>West Palm Beach: Hope Fellowship</b><br>Pastor Jason Leadingham<br>Jaleadingham@gmail.com                 | <b>Monterey LA: Acme</b><br>Pastors Wade & Cindy Robinson<br>chapelchick37@gmail.com        |
| Sept 30 – Oct 6 | <b>West Palm Beach: Neighbor Worship C</b><br>Pastor Ernie Sullivan (Barb)<br>esullivanwnc@yahoo.com         | <b>Olla, LA: Summerville</b><br>Pastor Glenn Roark (Levena)<br>Glenn.Roark@bakerhughes.com  |

### GULF COAST CONFERENCE NEWS:

#### **WEEKEND with the SUPT SEPT 14 – 16:**

**Fri, Sept 14:** AM & AFT: Supt Darrel has individual visits with pastors during the day  
6:00pm: Conference Youth Leaders meet with Supt Darrel at Edgewood

#### **Sat, Sept 15: FALL RALLY DAY for ALL**

Pastors, distribute the provided bulletin inserts and fliers to encourage your congregation, ministry leaders and delegates to attend this fall mid-year day of inspiration & training with Supt. Riley. The gathering will take place at Pineville: Edgewood FMC. SCHEDULE:

9:30 – 10:00 Gathering: coffee, juice & morning munchies

10:00 – 10:40 Worship through Music, Missions, & Prayer

10:40 – 11:30 Challenge: **“Building Stronger Ministries Together”** by Supt. Riley

11:30 – 12:30 Breakout Discussion Groups, reporting back & action step decisions

12:30 – 1:30 Provided Luncheon, and Closing Calendar Coordination with Pastors

RSVP to Sam Tinsley the number who will attend from your church by Monday, Sept 10.

**Sept 24 – Oct 3: Juli Bolin** will be in India with WMI; pray for safety, insight & expanded ministry

#### **OCTOBER - DECEMBER DATES: details at the FALL RALLY DAY**

**Sat, Oct 27:** Pastors meet with DL Sam Tinsley; discuss ch 4 – 7 of *The Solo Pastor*

#### **Nov 30 – Dec 2 Weekend with the Superintendent:**

**Friday Nov 30:** GCC BOA and also Family Camp Mtgs: 2012 evaluations & 2013 preparations

#### **Sat, Dec 1: Pastors & Spouses Holiday Gathering:**

10:30 – noon: Meeting with Supt.

Noon – 2:00: Christmas Luncheon & Celebration

**Prior to Dec 31:** Pastors & leadership are to complete the *Annual On Purpose Process* in order to review 2012 and prepare 2013 church priorities, program & budget; copies to DL Sam & Supt Darrel

## ALABAMA – GEORGIA MISSION CONFERENCE:

### NEW PASTORS to STARTING STRONG CONF in INDY

On **Sept 10 – 12**, these pastors will meet with our bishops and get a “Strong Start” as FM clergy:

Kenny & Julie Johnston (Trinity Life Church in Macon GA)

Derrick & Andrea Shields (staff pastor at Christ Community Church in Columbus GA)

Shaun Saunders (Word of Life in Fayetteville GA)

### GA DISTRICT PASTORS MTG on TUES, OCT 2

Supt Darrel will join the Christ Community Church staff meeting on Tuesday morning at 10:30.

Then the Georgia District Pastors will gather at Christ Community in the afternoon, beginning with a luncheon at noon, and followed by their monthly District meeting.

## SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE:

### SAT, SEPT 22: RIP FEST 4:

Let’s “Rip the Roof” like the 4 Friends in order to Bring Others to Jesus!

St Pete: Cornerstone will host our fall all-conference day of inspiration, worship & workshops.

National speaker & prolific writer **Stan Toler** is our featured presenter:

- 9:00 – 9:50am: Registration, Coffee Bar & Continental Breakfast
- 10am – 3:00pm: Two Sessions with Stan, lunch & afternoon workshop breakouts (options will focus upon handling change & conflict, lay leadership development, and discipleship)

Promote to your congregation, use prepared inserts & fliers, and make carpool plans with others

### PRAYERS & UPDATES:

- Congratulations to elder **Ganelle Mann** who received FM Chaplaincy endorsement from Bishop Kendall on **August 2**. Gay ministers as a chaplain for Hospice of St. Francis in Titusville.
- On Aug 17 **Michelle**, the 16 year old daughter of **Pastor Jose & Ada Hernandez** entered her eternal home. A memorial service will be held **Friday, Aug 31, at 5:30pm** at Islesia Cristiana Discipulos de Cristo del Norte de Orlando, 1643 Disciples Point Casselberry FL 32707  
A basket will be available for cards and financial gifts; make out checks to The Orlando Fellowship; or mail checks to Treasurer Glenn Gutek at 643 Long Lake Dr. Oviedo FL 32765
- **Alex Silva in Haiti:** Alex (delegate at Boca Raton: Edifying Lives) will be in Haiti **Sept 1 – 5** with Rick Ireland to assess the current infrastructure at Hope University, in preparation for collecting computers, reconfiguring them, and then taking them to Hope University in order to set up a computer network there. Alex will also join worship teams, and take pictures of progress in Haiti since the earthquake. Contact Alex if you have a source for computers (laptops preferred), to help with reconfiguration, or to install them later in Haiti: [AlexBSilva@gmail.com](mailto:AlexBSilva@gmail.com)
- **Jason Leadingham**, pastor of West Palm Beach: Hope Fellowship, was installed at Hope Fellowship by Supt. Darrel on Aug. 26. He will attend the Starting Strong Conf. **Sept 10 – 12**.

### FALL REGIONAL TRAINING EVENT LOCATIONS:

Bring your **Trimester On - Purpose Report** (May – August) for your DL & Supt. Darrel

Sat, Sept 29 **South FL** (9:30am – lunch) Miami: First Haitian (Pastor Fils Darius)

Sat, Oct 20 **West Coast FL** (9:30 - lunch) Tampa Celebration (Pastor Thad Roller)

Sat, Oct 27 **Central FL** (9:30am – lunch) Orlando First Spanish (Pastor Juan Grullon)