

LEADERSHIP UPDATE of the Southeast Region

Volume 7, Issue 8

October 2012

Pastors: Please distribute to your delegates, leaders & congregation

“IT’S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE”

As an adult, there are a few phrases that echo in my mind from childhood. Growing up, whenever my dad, a teacher or a coach was talking to me about thinking in a new way, or acting in a different way, they would often say “*Darrel, it’s not rocket science*” as a means of encouraging me that what they were saying was not difficult, and that I could understand it, and I could do it.

That phrase echoed in my mind as I listened to the Bishops recent Vision Cast. If your congregation hasn’t listened to it yet, go to www.fmcusa.org/live and watch it. If you’ve never listened to a Vision Cast before, I urge you to listen to this one.

The Bishops began by saying that the **Mission of the FMC** comes directly from Jesus. And our bishops have made our FM Mission really easy for us to remember, because they have summarized Jesus’ words into just **3 phrases of 6 words . . .**

- “Love God”** (Great Commandment, part 1 – Matt. 22:37 – 38)
“Love People” (Great Commandment, part 2 – Matt. 22:39 - 40)
“Disciple Others” (Great Commission – Matt 28:18 – 20)

Do you think the ADULTS in your congregation could remember those 3 phrases? What about your TEENS? And what about your CHILDREN? What do you think would happen if every person in your congregation was challenged to MEMORIZE those three phrase? And what might happen if everyone in your church was challenged to not only remember those three phrases, but also to look each day for at least one way to LIVE THEM OUT? What stories might we be able to share with one another? What adventures might we experience?

Next, let’s take our Mission a step further. What might happen if these three phrases were also used as priorities for evaluating our church ministries and maximizing our church resources –

- How could we use our facilities for greater community impact?
- Who might we start including, or targeting, in our ministries and programs?
- Where would we direct our members’ available volunteer hours and energy?
- How should our 2013 annual church budget change in order to become Mission-driven?

The Mission of the FMC is not rocket science. But it is revolutionary. May we be gripped by these 3 phrases as individuals and as congregations. Let’s each pray for fresh eyes and open hearts to what God desires to do IN us and THROUGH us this fall, that we might experience the thrill of joining God in changing the world, one person at a time.

Supt. Darrel Riley

GENERAL CONFERENCE: July 13 – 16, 2015

The dates are set! General Conference – the time when Free Methodists from across the USA (as well as many global guests) – will gather in Orlando FL. Save the dates and start saving: GC15 begins **Monday AM, July 13** and goes through the evening service on **Thurs PM July 16**. Decide now to attend: a General Conference will never be closer than this one.

BISHOPS' VISION CAST: FIRST of THREE PARTS

The Aug 26th Vision Cast, and the upcoming two broadcasts, will present a **total of nine Practical Strategies** for how we as Free Methodists can uniquely live out our Mission to LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, and DISCIPLE OTHERS. Three of those nine Practical Strategies were introduced on August 26th and they are summarized below. It is our challenge as individuals and as congregations to creatively implement these priorities in our unique settings.

1. Increase church planting and ministries in urban centers (**go where people are in greater concentrations** in order to bless them and influence society)
2. Every congregation needs to become more inclusive by **reaching out to those around you who are different from you** economically, ethnically, socially, age bracket or life station, etc.
3. Make sure **daily discipleship and serving are given as much attention** as what we do inside our churches on Sunday morning (a congregation's "success" is more than the quality of the preacher's sermons or the style of its worship music or its internal programs – it's about the transformation of our lives and our impact upon the world around us)

LISTENING TO the Vision Cast is a great way to begin, but it cannot stop there. In order to move from LISTENING to IMPLEMENTING in your area, the following suggestions might prove helpful:

- A **sermon series**, focusing upon one Strategic Priority weekly, providing Biblical foundations
- Coordinate with Sunday School, small group or Sunday PM venues, by possibly reviewing the corresponding segment of the Vision Cast and **discussing together** what implementing that priority in your specific setting might look like. Here is a starter question for Wks 1 - 3:
 1. How might we get involved in an urban ministry near us, or what existing ministry in our town or county could we partner with to bless a greater number of people?
 2. Take a fresh look at your congregation and then look at your local community – what groups exist "out there" that are not yet being touched by your congregation?
 3. How are we discipling new believers, and how are we challenging "not-so-new believers" to grow deeper? How could we make it easier for those in our congregation to serve others outside the walls of our church?
- **Share Stories** Sunday AM – have adults, teens & kids share "ah-ha" moments, experiences of reaching out to someone different from them, or ways they served during the past week

The Mission of the FMC and the nine Strategic Priorities are not a "passing fad." They are the historical heartbeat of our denomination, and the creative ways we are exploring what Personal and Social Holiness look like in the 21st Century. It's not rocket science, so let's join in.

The next Vision Cast will take place **Feb. 10, 2013**; anticipate Strategic Priorities 4 – 6.

ANNUAL ON PURPOSE REVIEW & PLANNING EVENT

It's important to periodically step back and take a fresh look at what we're doing and give ourselves permission to make changes and try new things. That's what the **Annual On Purpose Process** is all about. It's a time (preferably a weekend, or two separate meetings), where your pastor, BOA, and ministry leaders evaluate the past year, and then prayerfully come before God for His fresh guidance for the coming year. Each church in the southeast region is to complete the **Annual On Purpose Process** before establishing their 2013 Budget or 2013 Church Calendar.

EVERY PERSON A PASSIONATE PRAY-ER

“May we rejoice, become complete, be of good comfort, be of one mind, and live in peace; and You, the God of love and peace, will be with us.” (2 Cor 13:11)

OCTOBER	SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE	AL-GA or GCC CONFERENCE
Sept 30 – Oct 6	West Palm Beach: Neigh Worship Center Pastor Ernie Sullivan (Barb) esullivanwnc@yahoo.com	Olla, LA: Summerville Pastor Glenn Roark (Levena) Glenn.Roark@bakerhughes.com
Oct 7 - 13	Chaplain, Taylor Correctional Institution Tom Holman (Barbara) BetHolman1202@aol.com	Pineville: Edgewood Pastor James Williams (Cheryl) pjcwiliams@juno.com
Oct 14 - 20	Chaplain, Pinellas Co Detention & Cor. Richard Iske (Vunita) Richari2003@yahoo.com	Provençal Pastor (Cecil) Buddy Boswell (Janice) cboswell@hughes.net
Oct 21 - 27	Chaplain, Gulfside Hospice, New Pt Richey Mike Kramer revmkramer@yahoo.com	Shreveport: Central Pastor James Jackmon CentralFreeMethodist@yahoo.com
Oct 28 – Nov 3	Chaplain, Military Mark Williams (Monica) willmark@mwilliams.net	Winnsboro: Liddieville Pastor Kenneth Lukens (Evangelene) smmhburns@bellsouth.net

GULF COAST CONFERENCE NEWS:

- Sat, Oct 27:** Pastors Mtg with DL Sam Tinsley; discuss ch. 4 – 7 of *The Solo Pastor*
At Deville: Martha’s Chapel, from 10:00am – 12:30pm
- Nov 30 – Dec 2:** Supt. Riley onsite for weekend:
 Fri Nov 30: GCC BOA, 2012 review & 2013 preparation
 Family Camp, 2012 review & 2013 preparation
 Sat Dec 1: Pastors & Spouses Meeting & Christmas Luncheon at Jonesville: Oak Grove
 10:30 – noon: Meeting with Supt.
 Noon – 1:30: Holiday Luncheon & Celebration
 Sun Dec 2: Supt Riley in local churches
- Prior to Dec 31:** Pastors complete the *Annual On Purpose Process Report* with their leaders to review 2012 and prayerfully prepare for 2013 (form attached)
- January 2013:** New process begins of being invoiced directly by HR for Pastor’s Pension
 New process begins of being invoiced for monthly WAVE contribution
- Jan 31 deadline:** Annual denominational reports are due:
- 2012 *Annual Statistical Report* filed on-line with Indianapolis (use new form)
 - 2013 *Confidential Reports* by both clergy & delegates to Supt Riley (for 2013 appointments)
- Feb 1 – 3:** Supt Riley onsite for weekend:
 Fri Feb 1: BOA: Final Preparation for 2013 Annual Conference
 Sat, Feb 2: Pastors Mtg, discuss ch. 8 – 10 of *The Solo Pastor* and turn in Annual Reports
 Sun, Feb 3: Supt Riley in local churches
- March 31** EASTER SUNDAY
- Apr 19 – 21:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE weekend; Bishop Roller & Supt Riley onsite
- June 10 – 14:** FAMILY CAMP tentative dates

ALABAMA – GEORGIA MISSION CONFERENCE:

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.

Nov or Dec: Pastors complete the *Annual On Purpose Process Report* with their leaders to review 2012 and prayerfully prepare for 2013; send copy to DL & Supt.

January 2013: New process begins of being invoiced directly by HR for Pastor's Pension
New process begins of being invoiced for monthly WAVE contribution

Jan 31 deadline: Annual denominational reports are due:

- 2012 *Annual Statistical Report* filed on-line with Indianapolis (use new form)
- 2013 *Confidential Reports* by both clergy & delegates to Supt Riley (for 2013 appointments)

SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE:

REGIONAL HUBS STRENGTHENED:

At the recent SAC Cabinet Retreat, it will unanimously decided to strengthen our 3 regions by creating regional leadership teams. The 3 Regional Directors each leading a region are as follows:

West Coast Region: Steven Bell

Central Region: Greg Kannon

South FL Region: Supt Riley will initially oversee

The following team leadership positions are currently being filled for each region:

Finance Champion

Clergy Coaches (shepherd 4 – 6 other pastors)

Trustee Champion

Mentor Champion (encourage CMCs & their mentors)

FALL REGIONAL TRAINING EVENT LOCATIONS:

Sat, Sept 29	South FL (9:30am – lunch)	Miami: First Haitian (Pastor Fils Darius)
Sat, Oct 20	West Coast FL (9:30am - lunch)	Tampa Celebration (Pastor Thad Roller)
Sat, Oct 27	Central FL (9:30am – lunch)	Orlando First Spanish (Pastor Juan Grullon)

Nov or Dec: Pastors complete the *Annual On Purpose Process Report* with their leaders to review 2012 and prayerfully prepare for 2013 (form attached)

Sat, Dec 8: Conference BOA annual budget meeting

Jan 2013: New processes of direct billing by HR for Pension, and monthly WAVE contribution

Jan 31 deadline: Annual denominational reports are due:

- 2012 *Annual Statistical Report* filed on-line with Indianapolis (use new form)
- 2013 *Confidential Reports* by both clergy & delegates to Supt Riley (for 2013 appointments)

JANUARY 2013 REGIONAL TRAINING EVENT LOCATIONS:

Bring a copy of your *Annual On - Purpose Report* (2012 review & 2013 planning) for Supt. Darrel

- Sat, Jan 12 **South FL** (9:30am – lunch) W Palm Beach: Hope Fellow. (Pastor Jason Leadingham)
- Sat, Jan 19 **West Coast FL** (9:30am - lunch) Holiday (Pastor Lee Crist)
- Sat, Jan 26 **Central FL** (9:30am – lunch) Asbury Seminary Orlando campus, tentative location