

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE of the Southeast Region

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2012

Pastors: Please distribute to your delegates, leaders & congregation

## A LASTING IMPACT in the NEW YEAR

**W**hat are your hopes for this new year? I'm sure we all hope for financial stability, good health and the successful completion of a list of worthwhile projects. I imagine you're also hoping and praying to make the new year "count," to make an eternal difference in other people's lives, to leave a lasting legacy of faith. In thinking about this over the holidays as I re-connected with friends I've known for decades as well as family members, I came to an "ah-ha" moment. It hasn't been the "big things" or "successful projects" that have left a lasting mark upon them, but rather it's been the "along the way sharing life together through difficult or vulnerable times" - that has created powerful memories of character and faith and friendship - and has left an eternal imprint, a nudge of faith, a legacy moment from which others have drawn strength and courage.

That reminds me of a situation I've shared with a few of you. Recently I benefited from a "paying it forward" experience. A friend I had not corresponded with in over six years unexpectedly sent me a link to a song. Surprised by the contact, I clicked on the link and listened. The song spoke deeply to me about a difficult situation I was currently wrestling with. The song didn't solve my dilemma, but it gave me courage to not shrink back in fear of the unknown. Curious, I looked into the story behind the lyrics. The song writer had been inspired by Elizabeth Elliott Leach (widowed missionary whose husband had been killed by an indigenous tribe whom they had sought to take the Gospel to in the 1950's.) Following the death of her husband, Elizabeth spoke to her mentor about a clear call from God to return to Ecuador to continue serving the dangerous tribe. She confessed that God's call was clear, but that she was terrified to obey. Her mentor simply responded, "Elizabeth, if the call is clear, then you'll just have to do it afraid."

The mentor's simple words inspired Elizabeth Elliott to return to Ecuador (her story is told in the book "*Through Gates of Splendor*" and the more recent movie "*End of the Spear*." ) But those mentor's words were still echoing 60 years later, causing Elizabeth South to write the song "*Do It Afraid*." And those same words spoke directly to me in December of 2011 about a pivotal decision I needed to make.

Perhaps this coming year, your greatest moments of impact will not be when you feel strong or are successful. Rather they might come in disguise, when you are overwhelmed by your own humanity. For in those moments of weakness, God's Presence may be most visible. And the words He quietly whispers may echo through the chaos, providing the guidance you need, becoming Words of Life to those around you, and having an eternal impact upon future generations whenever your story is told.

Although none of us hopes for perplexity or adversity in the new year, when those times come, I pray that we will each humble ourselves before God, listen for His steadying voice, and then be willing to **Do It Afraid** when His call becomes clear.

*Supt. Darrel Riley*

***"My grace is enough; it's all you need.  
My strength comes into its own in your weakness."***

God's words to Paul 2 Cor. 12:9 The Message

## CONNECTING with HAITI in 2012

The earthquake that took lives and toppled structures throughout Port au Prince on Jan. 12, 2010 may be a distant memory to some, but as the geographically closest conferences to Haiti, we know that recovery is still a daily struggle for residents there. Each church in the SER is challenged to DO SOMETHING, SOMETIME this year to partner with Haiti. Way(s) your congregation can get involved:

- **SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: organize a simple soup & salad bowl meal after worship or at game time, with all donations going to fight hunger in Haiti.
- See **HAND in HAND with HAITI** for options to focus on at Lent, VBS, or another time: water filters, solar ovens, food fund, child sponsorship, Structall building, well, or seedlings

## CONNECTING through ANNUAL REPORTING

January is the time for turning in annual reports. The forms are simple to complete, but powerful in purpose. Everything will be sent out electronically & also by postal mail. Return all 3 by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

- **SER Annual On Purpose Report:** Purpose: this tool is to benefit you! It guides local church leadership in intentional evaluation, prayer and prioritization of ministries for the new year. Send a copy of your discoveries to both your DL and Supt. Darrel
- **SER Confidential Reports:** Purpose: to provide both appointed pastors and church delegates with an opportunity to express their desires to Supt Darrel regarding upcoming appointments at 2012 Annual Conferences.
- **FM Annual Statistical Report:** Purpose: to gather an accurate, up-to-date profile of the FMC-USA so our denominational leaders might better serve & train us

## CONNECTING with GOD: CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOCUS

*“Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.” Phil 4:6 – 7 The Message*

JANUARY 2012	SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE	AL-GA or GCC CONFERENCE
Jan 1 - 7	Bishop David Kendall & Lavone Bishop David Roller & Yvonne Bishop Matt Thomas & Marlene	Bishop David Kendall & Lavone Bishop David Roller & Yvonne Bishop Matt Thomas & Marlene
Jan 8 - 14	Supt. Darrel Riley (Peggy) <a href="mailto:riley661@yahoo.com">riley661@yahoo.com</a>	Supt. Darrel Riley (Peggy) <a href="mailto:riley661@yahoo.com">riley661@yahoo.com</a>
Jan 15 - 21	Florida City, South Dade Haitian Pastor David Dor (Myrlande) 9281 Martinique Dr. Miami FL 33189	Columbus GA: Christ Community Pastor Keith Cowart (Pam) <a href="mailto:keith@ccclive.org">keith@ccclive.org</a>
Jan 22 - 28	Ft. Lauderdale Haitian Pastor Jean Claude Novius <a href="mailto:jnovius@yahoo.com">jnovius@yahoo.com</a>	Fayetteville: Word of Life Pastor Greg Nitchman (Jean) <a href="mailto:gregwol@att.net">gregwol@att.net</a>
Jan 29 – Feb 4	Hialeah: Ministerios Nueva Vision Pastor Belarminio Martinez (Dorcas) <a href="mailto:b.martinez@nuevavision12.com">b.martinez@nuevavision12.com</a>	Macon First Pastor Eric Newman (Nancy) <a href="mailto:enewman@docoschools.org">enewman@docoschools.org</a>

## CONNECTING POTENTIAL CMCs with TRAINING

Anyone considering transferring to the FMC or currently a Local Ministerial Candidate (LMC) needs to complete the intensive class: **FM History and Church Polity**. Supt. Darrel Riley will teach it at Asbury Seminary, Orlando campus on Thursday – Saturday, January 26 – 28. Contact Supt. Riley at [riley661@yahoo.com](mailto:riley661@yahoo.com) for registration and book list information.

## CONNECTING with our SOUTHEAST REGION MISSIONARIES:

Connect with our SER missionaries via recent newsletters, blogs and support information available on-line at [www.fmcusa.org](http://www.fmcusa.org); scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on **FM World Missions**. From the FMWM home page, click on the **Missionaries** tab at the top, and missionaries will appear in alphabetical order. You can also contact via emails:

**Josh & Susy Fajardo (Spain)** [JFajardoM@aol.com](mailto:JFajardoM@aol.com)

**Mike & Maria Long (Greece)** [Longmm@the.forthnet.gr](mailto:Longmm@the.forthnet.gr)

**Jack Munos (Haiti)** [haiti4christjak@yahoo.com](mailto:haiti4christjak@yahoo.com)

**Rick & Cookie Ireland (Haiti)** [rick.ireland@yahoo.com](mailto:rick.ireland@yahoo.com)

## SPECIAL DATES for ALL SER CONFERENCES:

**Sun, Jan 15** Sanctity of Life Sunday

**Th – Sat, Jan 26 – 28:** Supt Riley teaches FM History & Polity at Asbury Seminary in Orlando FL

**Tues, Jan 31:** All FM & SER Annual Reports are due

**Sun, Feb 5:** Super Bowl Sunday – opportunity to fight Hunger in Haiti

**Sun, Feb 26:** Freedom Sunday: global emphasis against human trafficking; 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Tues-Wed, Mar 6-7:** FM National Consultant Training: Best Practices for Turning Around Plateaued & Declining Churches; hosted by Cornerstone Church in St. Pete, FL

**Sun, April 8:** EASTER

## INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE NEWS AL-GA MISSION CONFERENCE:

**Sun – Mon, Feb 12 – 13:** Supt. Darrel will be on-site for the following meetings:

Sun, Feb 12: PM meeting of **the Executive Team** at the Comfort Suites in Oxford AL

Mon, Feb 13: 9:30AM – lunch (Central Time) joint meeting of **all Alabama & Georgia pastors** at the Comfort Suites: 125 Davis Loop Rd., Oxford AL 36203.

## WORK TEAMS REBUILDING PLEASANT GROVE AL:

In April, Pleasant Grove AL was obliterated by tornadoes. Since that time Faith FMC has transformed part of their educational space into dorms for volunteer work teams. To send a work team, contact Pastor Lewis Bunn at [labseven@aol.com](mailto:labseven@aol.com) or 205-477-1368, telling him: 1) number of workers in your team, and 2) skill sets they have. Your team's skills will be matched with project date needs.

## GULF COAST CONFERENCE:

**Thurs – Sun, Feb 2 – 5: MEETINGS WITH SUPT RILEY:**

Supt Darrel **meets with each pastor** to review *Annual On Purpose Report* and *Confidential Report*

**Fri & Sat: Meetings to prepare for Annual Conf:** BOA, MEG, Family Camp - times & locations TBA

**Sat, Feb 4:** Pastors Training Meeting with Supt Riley, 10am – lunch

**Pastoral placement interviews** and **local church preaching** on Sunday

**March 30 – 31: ANNUAL CONFERENCE** at Edgewood FMC in Pineville

Annual Conference will be a huge weekend: Ordination Service Friday night; Saturday events: inspirational music, messages by Bishop Roller & Supt Riley, workshop electives, luncheon.

**May 6 & 20: FAMILY CAMP** Emphasis Sunday options

**June 11 - 15: FAMILY CAMP** at Church of God Campground in Pollock LA

## SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE NEWS:

### Reminders & News:

- **Florida Incorporation postcards** are mailed out in January; respond immediately to remain exempt from state taxation in 2012.
- **Light & Life Work Team Projects:** If your church facility or parsonage needs work and you need extra help tackling the project, send your written request, detailing project needs, to the Financial Office, attention Marge Lehman, at 5421 Sharon Trail, Lakeland 33810 or email her at [sharonjoy79@aol.com](mailto:sharonjoy79@aol.com). Work requests will be evaluated. Churches of selected projects will need to cover material costs and provide meals for workers.
- **Rhonda Stapleton** (FM elder) is founder & director of **Samaritan Village**, a ministry to street women in Orlando. In November the doors of **Ruth's House**, their first residential home, opened. Pray for Rhonda and staff as they minister to women in recovery. [www.samaritanvillage.net](http://www.samaritanvillage.net)

### JANUARY REGIONAL TRAINING EVENT LOCATIONS:

Bring your **Annual On Purpose Report** for your District Leader & Supt. Darrel

If you are unable to file online your **2011 Year End Report with Indianapolis**, bring a hard copy with you and someone will help you file.

Sat, Jan 14 **South FL** (9:30am – lunch) West Palm Beach: Hope Fellowship (Jon Howery)

Mon, Jan 16 **Central FL** (6:30 supper – 9pm) Orlando: First Spanish (Pastor Juan Grullon)

Sat, Jan 21 **West Coast FL** (9:30am – lunch) St Pete: Cornerstone (Pastor Rex Bullock)

### **Sun – Sun, Jan 15 - 22: St. Pete: Cornerstone - Missions Conference**

Thad Roller is the key note speaker for the week; Bishop David Roller will speak on Jan 22  
Missionaries: On-site Linda Stryker; SKYPE: Longs, Fajardos, Jack Munos

**Thur – Sat, Jan 26 – 28: FM History & Church Polity**, taught by Supt Darrel at Asbury Seminary. This is a required course for anyone considering becoming a CMC at Annual Conference this coming April (or transferring into the FMC).

**Tues, Jan 31:** Deadline for **District MEG Bds to recommend potential CMCs** to Supt Riley; Potential candidates must have completed FM History & Church Polity

**Sun, Feb 5: Super Bowl Sunday** Fight Hunger in Haiti (or emphasize Haiti another time)

**Sat, Feb 11:** 9:30am – lunch **SAC Cabinet meeting** at Lakeland Park

**Sat, Feb 11:** afternoon: **SAC MEG Bd interviews potential Elders** at Lakeland Park

**Fri – Sun, Feb 17 – 19: Missions Conference** at Lakeland Light & Life FMC with Latin America Area Director Delia Nuesch-Olver

**Sun, Feb 26: FREEDOM SUNDAY** (Not for Sale) & 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Tues – Wed, March 6 – 7: FM Consultant Training Event at St. Pete: Cornerstone**  
The focus will be “Best Practices for Turning Around Plateaued & Declining Churches.”

**Sat, March 24: Final Elder's Interviews by SAC MEG Bd.** at Riley home in Orlando

**Thu – Sat, March 29 – 31: Ladies Retreat** at Clarion Hotel & Conf. Center in Tampa  
Yvonne Roller will be the featured speaker

**Sunday, April 8: EASTER**

**Fri – Sat, April 27 – 28: Annual Conference** at Lakeland: Light & Life FMC  
It's our biggest gathering of the year - worship, celebration, inspiration, training . . . BE THERE!