

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE of the Southeast Region

Volume 7, Issue 4

April & May 2012

Pastors: Please distribute to your delegates, leaders & congregation

## I REMEMBER WHEN . . .

When recently asked to complete the sentence “I remember when . . .” I thought of some things that made me feel like I used to live on a different planet from the world I live in today. Here are just a few of the things I remember:

- The milkman delivered dairy products and other basic foods to our door early in the morning
- Our family doctor made house calls, and our house was quarantined when my sister got the measles
- I could eat anything I wanted and not gain weight . . . fat grams, carbs and cholesterol didn't exist
- The school day always began with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer
- People stayed at one job their entire career, working 25 – 30 years in one place
- TV's were black and white, there were just 3 stations, and Saturday evening there was even a movie on TV
- Telephones were on “party lines,” where we had to share a phone line with neighbors
- The term “gas war” meant local gas stations were competing for my business, and I could buy a gallon of gasoline with the change in my pocket - 25 cents or less

Wow – that WAS a different era! And I think things have changed in other realms as well. How would you respond if you were asked to complete the sentence “I remember when . . .” in a church context? Perhaps you are old enough to recall the following:

- Going to church on Sunday was something all reputable people did
- There were no “competition options” on Sunday - no team sports, stores & theaters were closed, etc.
- Everyone wore their “Sunday best” clothing to church
- Women never wore pants into the church building
- Most women were “homemakers” who were able to volunteer huge amounts of time to church activities
- Churches had large attendances on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday nights and for revivals
- Everyone read from the same translation of the Bible – the King James version
- Sanctuaries often had choir lofts where singers sat, dressed in uniform robes

In thinking about upcoming Easter Services, I can't help but wonder if our churches will be visited by the CEO (Christmas and Easter Only) crowd. I hope so . . . I pray so.

- For those CEOs who have NO MEMORY of church to recall, I wonder what has prompted them to bravely step into unfamiliar territory. What will they experience – a friendly welcome and immediate friendship? Music that lifts their spirit? A message that speaks to their personal need for hope and strength?
- For those CEO's who have only BAD MEMORIES of church, I wonder what has caused them to risk giving us a “second chance.” Will we take the initiative to accept them warmly? As they observe our interactions, will their defenses relax? As they participate in the worship service, will they find anything that relates to them and their problems?

This Easter, this Annual Conference meeting, and this coming year, I want us to continually CHECK our FOCUS. Let's not be fixated upon how we did things in the past, but let's focus upon present realities. And let's pay at least as much attention – or more – to those OUTSIDE the walls of our church, as we do to our regular attendees INSIDE our fellowship. Maybe then we'll experience more of the RESURRECTION JOY Jesus came to offer us all.

*Supt Darrel Riley*

## AFTER EASTER, WHAT?

PASTORS: Often there is so much focus upon planning the Easter Service, that there is little energy or creativity put into giving new attenders a reason to come back after Easter. See if one or more of these options might be something you could promote on Easter Sunday:

- **New Sermon Series** to run the Sundays after Easter – Memorial Weekend
- **Spring Garage Sale** – everyone contributes and the profits are donated to a local charity
- **Children’s Events** – promote a Vacation Bible School, Music Day Camp, Sports Clinic, or Bicycle Safety Workshop.
- **Walk, Run or Bike** Event (you choose the venue) to raise awareness for a national or global issue (Not for Sale, etc.)
- **Weekly Youth Activities** and upcoming Spring or Summer Outings and Events
- **Community Service Day** – opportunities for families to return and be a part of a “Spring Makeover” Day to beautify a nearby park, volunteer at a local food pantry, or bless a senior citizen with free home & yard help.
- **Create Family Memories** – organize simple reasons to gather generationally and have fun: Fishing Tourney Day, Old Fashioned Picnic Day, Bike Hike, etc.
- A **short term small group** based upon an affinity connection (i.e. book study for young parents) or specific support (coaching the unemployed or underemployed, etc.)

## VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MTG on Wed, April 11

Our Bishops are inviting us to a time of vision and connection throughout the whole FMCUSA. Submit your questions at [facebook.com/fmcusa](https://www.facebook.com/fmcusa) by April 1st. Then, on April 11, at 7:00pm EST, go to the website: [www.fmcusa.org/live](http://www.fmcusa.org/live) and click PLAY in the video window. Be sure to tell where you’re viewing from and submit pictures of your gathering at our Facebook page.

## FAVORITE MEDIA SOURCE

Check out [www.worshiphousemedia.com](http://www.worshiphousemedia.com) when you are looking for video clips for Special Days (Easter, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, etc) OR Topical Themes (stewardship, discipleship, the Bible, family, etc.)

## VBS CURRICULUM HAS MANY USES

Vacation Bible School Curriculum can be re-formatted, or recycled, in many helpful ways, so talk to the churches around you, seeing what you can share, swap, and refurbish for maximum mileage.

- Offer a traditional VBS five days in a row, one week in the morning or in the evening
- Take the 5 lessons, and hold VBS one day a week for 5 – 7 weeks (possibly add an Initial Kick-off Fun & Registration Day, and / or a closing Finale Celebration event.
- Use the 5 lessons as a 10 week summer Sunday School alternative curriculum (divide each VBS lesson into 2 weeks of Sunday School)
- Utilize a VBS kit during the School Year as a Sunday night or Wednesday night 10 wk series)

Forty Four (yes, 44) Vacation Bible School kits are available. Go to [www.chrisitanbook.com](http://www.chrisitanbook.com), then click on the **VBS** tab in the top bar – you’ll find 16 new 2012 VBS kits and 24 older kits.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER is May 3

Go to [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org) for resources.

Lead your congregation in Five Minutes of prayer for the FREEDOM FIVE:

- #1: Pray for our nation's government & our civic leaders – wise leadership
- #2: Pray for our nation's media – that it be unbiased & accurate in its depictions
- #3: Pray for our nation's schools – that they are places of safety, truth & training
- #4: Pray for our nation's churches – that we would be redemptive agents of God
- #5: Pray for our nation's families – that homes would be places upon Godly values

### PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

*"I will answer them before they even call to Me. While they are still talking to Me about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers." Isaiah 65:24LB*

| April - May 2012         | SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE   | AL-GA or GCC CONFERENCE  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| April 1 – 7<br>Holy Week | Pray for your preparations & outreach this <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>   | Pray for your preparations & outreach this <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>                                |
| April 8 - 14             | <b>Lakeland: Living Hope</b><br>Pastor Richard Harris (Tricia)<br>DocHarris@earthlink.net                         | <b>Church Planter: Campus Ministry</b><br>Doris Lynch<br>Professorlynch773@gmail.com           |
| April 15 - 21            | <b>Miami: Christian Community</b><br>Pastor Leonel Georges (Marie)<br>leonelgeorges@bellsouth.net                 | <b>Olla LA: Summerville</b><br>Pastor Glenn Roark (Levena)<br>Glenn.Roark@bakerhughes.com      |
| April 22 - 28            | Pray for all aspects of the <b>SAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE</b><br>Fri April 27 – Sat April 28                           | <b>Pineville LA: Edgewood</b><br>Pastor Jim Williams (Cheryl)<br>jpcwilliams@juno.com          |
| April 29 – May 5         | <b>Miami: First Haitian</b><br>Pastor Fils Aime Darius (Marie)<br>Fdarius2001@yahoo.com                           | Pray for all aspects of the <b>AL-GA ANNUAL CONFERENCE</b><br>Sat May 5                        |
| May 6 - 14               | <b>Miami: Hosanna Internacional Ministerio</b><br>Pastor Javier Mendoza (Martha)<br>hosannaministriesfmc@yahoo.es | <b>Provencal LA</b><br>Pastor Buddy Boswell (LP)<br>cboswell@hughes.net                        |
| May 15 - 21              | <b>Miami: Melrose Spanish</b><br>Pastor Robert Lagrange (Jenny)<br>PastorLagrange@gmail.com                       | <b>Shreveport LA: Central</b><br>Pastor James Jackmon<br>CentralFreeMethodist@yahoo.com        |
| May 22 - 28              | <b>Naples: Evangelical Haitian</b><br>Pastor Joseph Cyprien (Carmene)<br>sonfortune@yahoo.com                     | <b>Winnsboro, LA: Liddieville</b><br>Pastor Kenneth Lukens<br>2166 Hwy 135 Winnsboro, LA 71295 |
| May 29 – June 5          | <b>Nassau: Grace &amp; Peace Wesleyan</b><br>Pastor Henley Perry (Alma)<br>Hperry2008@hotmail.com                 | Emitte Belgard, Chaplain<br>Monty Bower, Chaplain<br>Phil Cartrette, Chaplain                  |

### SEND GREETINGS to our SER 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.

- 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)

## **GULF COAST CONFERENCE:**

**Fri, April 6:** Pineville: Edgewood **Good Friday Service** and Cake Auction

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

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

## **AL - GA CONFERENCE:**

**March 31 – April 7:** **Missions Team to Colombia**

Christ Community Church is sending a team of 10 to Colombia, led by Javier Conde and Derrick Shields. Pray for their safety and ministry advancement.

**GA Pastors Mtgs:** **District Pastors** will meet on the following dates; locations to be finalized:

- April 4, either at Macon or CCC in Columbus
- May 17, either at Macon or CCC in Columbus

**Saturday, May 5:** **ANNUAL CONFERENCE with Bishop David Roller**

- Registration 8:45 – 9:30 am EST; Annual Conference Sessions 9:30 am – 3:30pm, EST
- If you've never come to Annual Conference before – make sure to come to this one!
- Pastors & Delegates – bring cars filled with your present & future leaders
- Inspirational music, challenging messages, ministry updates, ordination service, etc.

## **SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE:**

### **NEWS:**

- Congratulations: **Steven Bell** and **Jason Leadingham** will graduate from Asbury Seminary on Sat. May 12 at 3pm at Primera Iglesia Cristiana: 1557 N. Chickasaw Trail, Orlando.

**Fri – Sat, April 27 – 28:** **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** at Lakeland: Light & Life FMC

- Friday: Registration opens at 10am; Subway lunch at 11:45; Session 1 begins at 1:00pm
- Saturday: Annual Conference resumes at 9:00am and continues until 12:30pm
- It's our biggest gathering of the year - worship, celebration, inspiration, training!
- If you're going to lodge in a hotel, make your reservations NOW!
- Park cabins & resident rooms are now available; contact Peggy: [riley661@yahoo.com](mailto:riley661@yahoo.com)

**Fri – Sat, May 4 – 5:** **THE ART of MARRIAGE** weekend at Lake Palms Comm Ch:

- A Fri night & Sat event using materials from FAMILY LIFE Ministries (Dennis Rainey)
- For those currently married, divorced & remarried, engaged couples, currently single
- Learn about the blessings and responsibilities of a marriage commitment
- Contact Dan or Linda Hummer at 727-399-8801 or [dhummer@knology.net](mailto:dhummer@knology.net) for details

**SUMMER REGIONAL TRAINING EVENTS: TENTATIVE – confirmation by April Annual Conf.**

- Sat, June 2 South FL Gathering at Miami: Melrose, 9:30am – lunch
- Sat, June 9 West Coast Gathering at St Pete: Cornerstone, 9:30am – lunch
- Sat, June 23 Central Gathering at Kissimmee Partnership, 9:30 - lunch

**Fri – Sat, Aug 3 – 4** Conference **Cabinet Overnight Retreat** at Lakeland Park

**Sat, Sept 22** One day Conference-wide **RIP FEST 4** with author and speaker **STAN TOLER**