

LEADERSHIP UPDATE of the Southeast Region

Volume 7, Issue 7

August 2012

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

“THE BACK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE”

You can tell it's about time for school to start. Stores have set up endless bins of crayons, markers, scissors, glue, and paper products at discounted prices. Tech stores are advertising the latest electronics. And local clothing and shoe stores, in FL anyway, are preparing for an annual tax-free week of shopping.

Churches are gearing up as well. Some are holding special family fun events such as Back to School Carnivals. And others are sponsoring Give Away Days - back packs filled with school supplies, bags of groceries to stretch family budgets, & even free dental checks.

MINISTRY CHALLENGE:

In the midst of back to school preparations, I want to ask pastors, delegates and ministry leaders one important question –

“How are you preparing to be a student, a growing leader, this new school year?”

I ask this question because I'm convinced that an effective LEADER is also a LEARNER. True leaders realize that they have not yet “arrived” – that there is still lots for them to learn, new skills to acquire, and new perspectives to understand. So I ask you – what's your personal plan to grow as a leader this coming year? And what steps is your congregational leadership team committing to in order to become more effective?

- Will you download some free internet ministry articles to discuss together? Or read a book?
- Have you planned any field-trips outside the church's 4 walls, to visit another church that is doing a ministry you want to learn about, or is there a local outreach ministry to the poor that as leaders you want to see for yourselves and get involved with?
- Is there a skill that you or your team needs to develop to become more effective in ministry – who might coach you in the basics of this skill? When will you start practicing it?
- Do you personally, or does your congregation, have an area of relational dysfunction that you desire victory over? When will you acknowledge this need, and would an outside resource person be helpful in providing needed perspective?
- Have you set aside one or two special retreat days for your leaders this coming school year, to break free from the “routines of church ministry,” in order to hear a fresh word from God?

FROM BARRIERS to BLESSINGS:

None of the above things are difficult or expensive. Probably the biggest barriers to being a growing person or a growing team come from within ourselves:

- **Individually:** thinking that taking the time to step back and create enough margin in our lives to be able to learn and reflect, is an optional luxury rather than a vital necessity.
- **Collectively:** assuming that prioritizing a time monthly to gather for the purpose of prayer, ministry evaluation & sharpening skills will be a drag, rather than realizing it can be an oasis of encouragement, creativity and empowerment for us as leaders.

I recently read where someone said that they are committed to regularly reading books, because it takes the average author 2 years to research & write the book, but we can gain 2 years of experience in a few hours by simply reading the book. Sounds like good math to me. Hope you prioritize being a wise STUDENT and LEARNER this school year.

Supt. Darrel Riley

INWARDLY HEALTHY & OUTWARDLY FOCUSED: KICK-OFF THIS FALL by REACHING OUT to the UNCHURCHED

SEPT. 16: NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Studies reveal that most people who drop out of church haven't lost interest in God; they simply fall out of the habit of attending church. Some move or have a life change that disrupts their routine, others become so busy they cut church from their schedule, some have a falling out with someone at their former church, and others just slowly drift away.

It's possible to address this exodus by creating safe, friendly opportunities for your friends, neighbors and co-workers to re-engage with congregational life. That's what National Back to Church Sunday is all about. It provides encouragement and confidence for your congregation to invest in relationships with friends currently without a church home, and invite them to join you on a special Sunday when everything that happens in your worship service is geared to welcome & receive them warmly. For details: www.backtochurch.com. Whether you purchase a kit or not, there are lots of free, creative ideas posted from churches which offered a special "Welcome Back to Sunday" last year. Make sure you are attempting new ways to "rip the roof" this fall, and bring others into the presence of Jesus.

KEEP VISITORS COMING BACK

One time events (such as a Back to Church Sunday – whenever you might choose to do it) are best if they are used as a "hook event" that is then followed up by something which gives visitors a reason to return. Promote and launch an enticing Sunday morning sermon series, a new or revamped ministry to children or teens, a new affinity or support group for a felt-need, or organize an outside the walls service opportunity to engage people in community impact. One new product this fall is the "**30 Day Church Challenge**" kit by www.outreach.com. In five weeks it covers the five main purposes of the church found in the book of Acts, providing 5 inspirational sermons, and 5 weekly small group lesson. Like the Early Church, become a church which transforms your community and the world.

CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

The start of the school year often signals the return of children's programs at church – be it Children's Church, Sunday evening or a week night ministry for kids. If you're interested in seeing what kids curriculum is available – or know what you want but want it at a better price – check out www.christianbook.com. At the top of the home page, type SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM in the search box and lots of options will appear. They offer a 20% discount over publishing house prices, including materials from Gospel Light, David C Cook, Group, Joyful Life, Standard, etc.

FM YEARBOOK NEWS & NEW REPORTING FORM

2012 FM Yearbook orders should be placed by August 10 with the Wesleyan Publishing House, 1-800-493-7539, Monday – Friday, 8am – 4:30 ET. Hard copy format is \$13.99 and CD format for \$9.50. The Yearbook provides updated information on all aspects of the FMC as well as individual society statistical and contact information.

The statistical reporting form that pastors fill out annually in January and electronically file with Indianapolis (for publication in the next Yearbook), has been CHANGED. Check out the attached 2012 form NOW so you will be prepared to correctly answer the new questions that will be asked when filling out the 2012 Annual Statistical Report in January 2013.

EVERY PERSON A PASSIONATE PRAY-ER

*“We must take heed to ourselves and to all the flock of which Your Holy Spirit has made us overseers to shepherd Your church, which You, Jesus, purchased with Your own blood.”
Acts 20:28*

AUGUST 2012	SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE	AL-GA or GCC CONFERENCE
July 29 – Aug 4	West Palm Beach: Hope Fellowship New pastoral appointment begins Aug. 1: Pastor Jason Leadingham jaleadingham@gmail.com	Jonesville LA: Oak Grove New pastoral appointment begins Aug 1: Pastor Denis Ward (Christine) dnswa2@hotmail.com
Aug 5 - 11	Orlando First Spanish Pastor Juan Grullon (Lucy) JDGrullon@gmail.com	Fayetteville GA: Word of Life CPP Pastor Shaun Saunders (Melody) shaun_saunders@yahoo.com
Aug 12 - 18	Pt Charlotte, New Vision Fellowship Pastor Larry Jones (Laurie) LDJones99@yahoo.com	Macon GA: Trinity Life CPP Pastor Kenny Johnston (Julie) Kennyjohnston3@aol.com
Aug 19 - 25	St. Pete: Cornerstone New senior pastor appointment pending	Macon GA: First Pastor Eric Newman (Nancy) enewman@docoschools.org
Aug 26 – Sept 1	Tampa: Celebration Pastor Thad Roller (Nichole) thadroller@gmail.com	Newnan GA: Browns Mill CPP Pastor Tim Coleman (Nicole) timcoleman@brownsmillchurch.com

GULF COAST CONFERENCE NEWS:

PASTORS TO MEET on SAT, AUG 4

Pastors are to carpool to the Provencal FMC for a Pastoral Gathering led by District Leader Sam Tinsley from 10am until noon. Welcome new pastor Denis Ward. Be ready to share your **Red Alert** implementation ideas, as well as experiences since reading the book **Forgotten God**. Also bring your copy of **Solo Ministry** for a lively discussion of ch 1 – 3.

PASTORAL UPDATES:

- **Emitte Belgard** was honored July 29 for 44 years of pastoral ministry; the celebration took place at Jonesville: Oak Grove, the parish of his first and last pastoral appointment. He continues ministry as a chaplain at the Central LA State Hospital.
- New pastor **Denis Ward** and wife **Christine** will begin August 1 at Oak Grove. His contact info: home: 318-339-8333, Cell: 270-999-1411, email: dnswa2@hotmail.com
- Condolences to **Pastor Jim Williams** (Pineville: Edgewood FMC) on the recent passing of his father, a retired pastor. Jim was able to lead his dad’s funeral.
- Congrats to writer **Beth Goddard** (wife of Pastor Dan at Deville: Martha’s Chapel) on publication of her most recent Christian fiction book **Oregon Outback**.

FALL RALLY DAY on SAT, SEPT 15:

Next to the spring Annual Conference weekend, the mid-year Fall Rally Day is our next biggest event. The day of inspiration & training with Supt. Riley will again take place at Pineville: Edgewood FMC, with lunch included. This is not a meeting just for pastors. It is a CONFERENCE WIDE event for ALL ministry leaders, delegates, and church attendees in every congregation, in addition to clergy. Start promoting this day NOW and make sure the 15th is free of any and all local church events. Fliers will be coming soon to help you promote the event and provide a schedule.

ALABAMA – GEORGIA MISSION CONFERENCE:

AUGUST GA DISTRICT PASTORS MTG

Thursday, Aug 16, all GA Pastors will gather in Newnan at Browns Mill Church at 9am. District Leader Keith Cowart, who will be back from sabbatical, will lead the meeting.

PASTORAL UPDATES

- Church Planter **Kenny Johnston** and the **Macon: Trinity Life Church** just celebrated their one year anniversary and baptized five people. Since receiving Launch church planter coaching this spring, their attendance is up by 50%.
- **Pastor Joe Shuffett (Pleasant Grove: Faith)** and four teens flew back from their LOVE Bulgaria missions trip on Thurs, July 26. Ask them about their awesome experience!
- **Nick & Dianna Cash** continue training in TX before departing on Mercy Ship to W Africa

JOINT AL-GA PASTORS GATHERING

The initial Fall Rally Day planned with Bishop Roller on Sept 29 has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. By mid-August, an alternative joint gathering date in October will be announced. Thanks for your flexibility.

SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE:

PASTORAL UPDATES:

- **Jason Leadingham**, formerly of St. Pete: Cornerstone, becomes pastor at WPB: Hope Fellowship Aug 1. Send greetings to him at jaleadingham@gmail.com or 727-798-0800
- **Jose & Ada Hernandez** are sharing last days with Michelle before her homegoing.

CONFERENCE CABINET RETREAT

Fri – Sat, Aug 3 – 4, all MEG, MAC and BOA members will gather for an overnight retreat at Lakeland Park. Just as each of our churches are challenged to set aside time to pray, discuss & discern God's direction, our conference leaders are modeling this priority.

REMINDER to MENTORS of CMCs:

Mentors, make sure to meet with your CMC this summer. Whether your CMC is Yr 1, 2, or 3, there are provided books or articles to be read and discussed in preparation for each session. **Thurs, Aug 16**, Asbury Seminary Orlando will provide a day of Mentor Training, 9am – 3pm; register with lisa.perez@asburyseminary.edu or call 407-482-7567.

RIP FEST 4

Saturday, Sept 22, St Pete: Cornerstone will once again host our fall all-conference rally of inspiration, worship & workshops. National speaker & prolific writer Stan Toler joins us:

- 9:00 – 10:00am: Registration, Coffee Bar & Continental Breakfast from 9:00 – 10:00am;
- 10am – 3:30pm: General Sessions, lunch & workshop breakouts

Reserve the date & start promoting this opportunity NOW! Promo Fliers will be sent soon.

SCRIPTURES AT SEA II: November 12 - 17

Pastor Leland and Paula Crist are hosting a cruise for SAC couples, complete with sunrise & sunset devotions together. The five day Carnival Caribbean cruise will stop at Grand Cayman & Cozumel. \$299/person + taxes & fees, dbl occu. Contact Paula: 765-667-5537.