

Faith and Obedience in the Call

Greetings in HIS PRECIOUS HOLY NAME! Praise the Lord! He has spared us yet one more hour in this New Year! To God be the Glory! As I have been journeying through the Bible in 90 days with a number of you, I have been continually moved by individuals hearing the call from God, and being obedient and faithful in that call. I have become increasingly aware that many times, when we are called by God to do something different, or to change the patterns and norms of life, that many times as we follow the Call, we might get into more difficulty and trouble before we complete our mission!

It's not easy to serve God. In the work of His Kingdom, things often get worse before they get better. Abraham heard the voice of God, obeyed, and entered the Promised Land only to find a famine (Genesis 12:10). God spoke to Moses in the burning bush that he was to go and deliver the people of Israel from slavery! Life was pretty bad for the people of Israel before God sent his special deliverer. After Moses arrived on the scene, things really, really got bad! We must be obedient to do the things that HE wants us to do, when HE wants us to, and how HE wants it to be done! It requires that we have FAITH and Obedience and belief that "He can do all things."

Faith many times is forged in delay. A forge is a furnace heated to a high temperature. Metal is thrust into the forge and made white hot; it is then pounded into shape. God's forge for our faith is the gap between the giving of His Promise and its fulfillment. Faith is forged in delay, but the temptation in delay is, to jump out of the forge. The most common way we do this is by becoming "God's little helpers"... believing we can achieve His ends using our own means. God had promised Abram and Sarai a child, but that was when Abram was 75 years and time had passed, and they were not getting any younger. In Genesis chapter sixteen, they jumped out of the forge, and took matters into their own hands.

We must have the faith to wait in prayer, and be obedient in our call, and not jump out of the forge prematurely. The hardest thing about prayer and obedience is the waiting. Jesus told his disciples in the parable about prayer (Luke 18) that they were to keep on praying and not lose heart. It ended with the question, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" The question that I ask of myself and of you, "will we still be in the forge, praying and being obedient to the call, praying and waiting, our faith being tested and strengthened when He returns?" He has given us each a Call and He has promised that if we are obedient, He will always be with us! In Genesis 18:14, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" I don't think so and I don't believe that you think so either!

Blessings always!

Jessie



The Mission
of the Church
of the Nazarene:

To Make
Christlike Disciples
in The Nations

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District News

Pastors Leadership Training - February 28th

Pastors please keep this date open for leadership training. We are determining if we can integrate this training into the Pastoral Brunches and Dinners. There will be a presentation by Dr. Owens on the Centennial Year celebration for the denomination.

Clergy Retreat - March 4-5

Dan Whitney will be leading us in a time of spiritual retreat and prayer. Please take 24 hours to be with the Lord and your colleagues for spiritual nurture and prayerful intercession. There is time for relaxation and reflection and, as always, good food!

All District Gathering of the Saints - March 8th

This year the Saints will all be gathering at the **Living Hope Church*** in Danvers, MA. From 2:30-5:30 p.m. the people of God from all over the New England District will be gathering for a time of praise, testimony and the word. There will be a variety of pastors sharing the Word and musicians leading in song as we worship together. You can stay the entire time or come for part of the time. It is a wonderful opportunity to give glory to the Lord with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

District Treasurer's Training Class - March 8th

This is a 1-hour seminar focused on new pastors and treasurers who are interested in a clearer understanding of the financial allocations for the local church, the financial section on the pas-

toral reports, fiscal deadlines and sharing how the Lord uses all this to His glory on the New England District. It will be held from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at a location near the Gathering of the Saints event. All are welcome.

New Pastors for District Churches

Rev. Nate and Miranda Patnode



Nate, Miranda, and Olivia Patnode

have begun their ministry in the Burlington-Williston, Vermont Church of the Nazarene where Nate is serving as senior pastor. Nate recently served as associate pastor at the Malden, MA Church and as co-director of our Senior Camp. He was ordained this past May and is excited about the ministry potential in the Burlington area.



Gerry Whetstone

Rev. Gerry and Ellen Whetstone began their ministry in the Malden, MA Church of the Nazarene on January 13th. Gerry is well-

known to most of us in New England having served in a variety of District leadership positions (NYI President & District Secretary). He has served at ENC in constituency relations and most recently has served as a registered evangelist and founder of HIS Servant Ministries:

<http://HisServantMinistries.org>.

Gerry is also the author of *Pause To Ponder* devotionals:

www.pausetoponder.org/.

Churches without Pastors

The following churches are currently without pastors: Quincy, MA Chinese; Cambridge, MA First Church; Fitchburg, MA; Haverhill, MA; Hooksett, NH; East Charleston, VT; Saugus-Cliftondale, MA; and St. Albans, VT. Please keep them in prayer.

New Start/Ministry Initiatives

Some of the new start churches include: Henniker, NH; Stratford, CT; Worcester, MA Haitian; a Brazilian work at New Hope, Danvers, MA; and a Hispanic work at New Bedford First, MA. Please keep these churches and their pastors in prayer.

****Directions to Living Hope Church:*** Where I-95 and Route 1 come together people need to take Route 128 North toward Gloucester. Take exit 22 (Route 62) off Route 128 toward Beverly. The church is less than one mile on the left. If you cross into Beverly, you have gone too far. A large lighthouse sits toward the front of the church. (Living Hope Church, 188 Elliott Street, Danvers, MA)

Nazarene Missions International

February Emphasis: Alabaster



Goal: Every church participating

Alabaster is a “God-Thing” in the Church of the Nazarene. Since the first offering received in 1949, more than 3,314 churches and chapels, 351 Bible schools and school buildings, 348 mission and district centers, 36 hospitals and clinics, 336 missionary homes, 990 national workers homes have been built, and 1,341 parcels of land purchased. The Alabaster offering is a key component of our global mission to reach the lost with the good news of Christ, disciple new believers, and plant churches. (*Heartline*)

The NMI web site has creative ideas to help you promote the Alabaster offering. Log on to www.nazarenemissions.org and click on the “Giving” tab.

Keep These Dates Open:

March 2-8, 2008 Nazarene World Week of Prayer

Please check the internet for prayer requests for each of the world regions.

March 2, 2008 District Mission Prayer Brunch

10:00 am – 1:00 p.m.
Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.
\$7.50 per person
Lunch is Included



Dan & Brenda Hopkins

Missionaries: **Rev. & Mrs. Dan Hopkins**, Dominica (See bi-gray information on page 7.)

Music: **Cambridge Betesda COTN and Out Word Bound** from Fitchburg

Where: **Living Hope Church** of the Nazarene, 188 Elliott Street, Danvers, MA. (See directions on page 2.)

Who: All prayer warriors. “The District praying together will accomplish much!”

“For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:8

Coming in May: District NMI Convention

The District NMI Convention will take place on Wednesday evening, May 28 and Thursday, May 29, 2008. Speaker this year will be R. Franklin Cook, former Eurasia Regional Director.

End of the Year Reports

We are only two months away from the end of the church year. Start now to do a check up with

your NMI president to make reporting easier. Do you have your WEF and DMEA up to date? As of December the District WEF is 47.77% paid. Let’s pray and believe that your church can pay 100% of their World Evangelism Fund.

World Evangelism Fund - Easter Offering for Evangelism - March 23, 2008

Congratulations to Preston, CT for 100% payment of WEF so far this year!

Financial Responsibility

Would you like to be able to check your own church giving to WEF, LINKS, MISSION SPECIALS and Pensions & Benevolence on line? If so please contact Gerry Perry at Gerryper-ry2@Comcast.net and I will give you the information of how you can get your church report.



Gerry Perry
District Missions
President

2008 Discipleship Summit is Coming to New England April 5th!

It has been a little over a month since I was appointed to this position, and I am grateful for how God is working in meeting our needs here on the New England District in the area of Sunday School.

As you know, it was necessary to cancel our 'Equipping Hour' this past year which meant another year would pass without an opportunity to bring the leadership of our church together for a conference.

The Discipleship Summits, which are replacing the TEACH Conferences, had been scheduled a year in advance with the closest one to us being Toronto, Canada. To make a long story short, SDMI director, Dr. Woody Stevens, approved the addition of another conference to be held the 5th of



Dale Mingleorff
District Sunday
School and
Discipleship Ministries
Chairman

the closest one to us being Toronto, Canada. To make a long story short, SDMI director, Dr. Woody Stevens, approved the addition of another conference to be held the 5th of



April at our Manchester Church of the Nazarene. You can access information for the Summit by 'CTL + clicking' on the following web-site:

http://web.nazarene.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Manchester_Connecticut. From there you can access Dr. Stevens introduction of the summit, as well as information including the event schedule, 'what to expect,' directions, accommodations, registration, etc.

Since there are less than 90 days until the conference, please begin to promote this conference with all of your ministry leaders, teachers, and staff. Let's plan on taking advantage of the experts that will be with us that day to help us "explore the possibilities of expanding beyond Sunday programs to everyday disciples discipling disciples." This will be a conference you will not want to miss.

THANK YOU...

To Marilyn Clinger for gathering and coordinating our STATS and to all of you who called or emailed your statistics to Marilyn Clinger at 802-644-5580 or MEL-

CLING@aol.com respectively.

Some of us have gotten out of the habit of sending our monthly averages for SS, AM Worship, and Responsibility List. Please make sure that they are received no later than the Monday following the last Sunday of the month. This month we had 48 churches reporting compared to just a few last month.

Let's strive for 100% for January. I am confident that you can do it!!!

Dale W. Mingleorff

District SDMI Chairman
New England District
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District Chaplaincy

Chaplains, please save the following dates on your calendar:

- March 8, 2008 - meet just before the Gathering of the Saints
- August 8-9, 2008 - Traumatology Workshop at ENC

Details regarding these events will be forthcoming, so make sure you save the dates.



Sally Miller
District Chaplaincy
Director

**Am I living
my life
for God
and God alone?**

"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." ~ Matthew 6:33

Spiritual Formation Tools

The *Prayer Devotional Bible* (Zondervan) "leads you in discovering the exciting and transforming work of prayer." An example prayer from Numbers 6:24 (*The Lord Bless You*) follows.

"The Lord bless you": A blessing is not a religious way of saying, "Have a nice day." Blessing is a powerful Biblical word. It is expansive, comprehensive, concrete, touching on all aspects of the good life lived under God: health, abundance, a good marriage and a happy family (see Genesis 9:1; 17:6; 28:3).

"and keep you": God is a warrior

and a defender of his people - our shield and fortress (see Psalm 18:2; 121:7-8). We pray that he will protect and guide those we pray for.

"the Lord make his face shine upon you...the Lord turn his face toward you":

A shining face is a beautiful picture of a friend who delights in you, or of a bridegroom with love in his eyes, gazing at his bride. God is looking at us this way - read it in Isaiah 62:5. We pray that he will do what he loves to do.

"and be gracious to you": God is gracious and shows favor to those who don't deserve it (see Exodus 34:5-6). In fact, not deserving it is

what makes it gracious, the very condition for grace to be grace! We pray that others will receive the good things they *don't* deserve.

"and give you peace": Peace is another word like *blessing*, and often in the New Testament the two are linked: "grace and peace." Peace, God's shalom, is comprehensive well-being, the kind of blessedness that is experienced as inner peace and tranquility.

For more information on this devotional tool, visit the Zondervan website: www.Zondervan.com and search for *Prayer Devotional Bible*.

Reynolds Institute Announces New Classes

The following have been added to Reynolds' schedule of classes.

Spring Semester 2008

THE-3033 Systematic Theology II

A systematic study of the Christian faith from a uniquely Wesleyan-Holiness perspective with emphasis on the doctrines of God, humanity, sin, and the person and work of Jesus Christ. Related areas covered will be revelation, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, the Trinity, creation, and the atonement.

Instructor: Lawrence (Larry) A. Ogden, M.A.



Lisa Morrison
Director of Education
Reynolds Institute

Location:
Community Chapel,
Nashua, NH
Time and Dates: Thursday, 6:00 to 9:40 p.m.,
March 6 to

May 8, 2008

PAS 1023 Introduction to Spiritual Formation

A course exploring the uniqueness of a person's lifelong spiritual development toward Christ-likeness with attention given to the shaping power of Scripture and spiritual disciplines.

Instructor: Rev. Daniel Whitney, BS, M Div

Location: Windsor Hills Camp, Windsor, NH

Time and Dates: Fridays 7-11, Saturdays, 8:30 -5:30, March 14, 15; April 11, 12, May 2, 3, 2008

PAS 3043-Christian Preaching II

An application of homiletic principles and practices through preaching. NBC Prerequisites: Christian Preaching I, Biblical Interpretation, Intro to NT, Intro to OT.

Instructor: Rev. Lisa M. Morrison MRE, MDiv, ThM

Location: Wollaston Church of the Nazarene

Time and Dates: May 7 and 21; June 4, 11 and 25, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fall Semester 2008

PAS 3023 Pastoral Care and Counseling

A course dealing with principles of psychological and biblical counseling, providing ministry to the physically, spiritually and emotionally ill. This study is integrated with other more traditional aspects of pastoral care. Self-understanding and listening skills are emphasized, as well as religious resources and exercises such as Scripture, prayer, openness and obedience to the inner direction of the Holy Spirit.

Instructor: Lawrence (Larry) A. Ogden, M.A.

Location: Community Chapel, Nashua, NH

Time and Dates: Thursday evenings from Sept. 11- Nov. 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

To register for courses, please log onto the Reynolds website at: www.reynoldsinstitute.org and click "Schedule," scroll to the desired course and click "Register."

Windsor Hills Camp and Retreat Center

Schedule Retreats Now!

May is a great time to schedule a church retreat! The camp is coming to life and folks are ready for a change of pace.

Most of the month of May is wide open for retreating groups. The following weekends are also available-- March 28-30 and



April 11-13. While the Inn is filling up on many weekends, Burgess Hall is still open frequently. Give us a call to set up retreats for your church group!

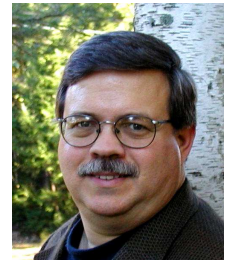
Still Time to Register for Senior High Retreat!

By now you will have heard the reports of the Junior High Retreat held January 25-27. Your Senior High Teens will be wanting to come on February 22-24 for their own session. Find the registration forms on the NYI website – you'll be glad your teens invested the time and money!

Spring Workdays: June 6,7 and 13,14. Hope your group will join us!

Dan Whitney

Pastor, Community Christian Fellowship
Executive Director, Windsor Hills Camp and Retreat Center
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Dan Whitney
Windsor Hills Camp
Director

Nazarene Youth International

Today's youth culture has its challenges! Did I really need to tell you? All of us who love and care for teenagers; whether parent, youth leader, youth pastor or caring adult, need to equip ourselves with the resources to better understand the challenges our teenagers face every day. I wish I could tell you I had all the answers after over 23 years of ministry to teenagers and nearly 5 years of parenting a teen but I can't. What I can do is share with you two resources which continue to impact my understanding and view of today's youth culture.

First is a ministry that exists to equip us with more resources than any one person can digest. The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding is a nonprofit organization committed to building strong families by serving to bridge the cultural-generational gap between par-

ents and teenagers. CPYU helps parents, youth work-

ers, educators, and others understand teenagers and their culture so that they will be better equipped to help children and teens navigate the challenging world of adolescence. You can check out their website and resources at www.CPYU.org.



Next is the book "Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers" by Chap Clark. This book is well worth reading, it might just change how you view youth ministry. Chap does

an excellent job of painting a not so nice picture of how our culture has abandoned our youth. He ends the book with practical things every adult can do to reach today's teenager.

Teenagers today need adults who love them unconditionally. Understanding the world they live in is vital to help navigate them through to becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



Steve Guertler
NYI Council Vice President

Getting Ready ... to Win Our Next Ten

February is the month of love, for declaring "valentines," for escaping to Florida or Arizona or some other warm climate. It is the month of the Super Bowl, shoring up coaching staffs and getting ready for "March Madness." Will it also be the month we put into writing our churches plan to win/disciple our next ten people to Jesus? I hope so.

Recently, a pastor handed me the plan he and his church are pursuing. He called it "simple." It was -- and it was good! It fit who they are and they are excited about "working the plan" --- the plan they believe God has given to them. Kennon Callahan's "Twelve Keys

to an Effective Church" continues to be one way to look at and build upon your strengths. The Natural Church Development Survey continues to be one way to analyze how to use strengths to correct weaknesses.

In 2007, the New England Patriots barely missed another appearance in the Super Bowl. They did very well using their existing strengths, but they also recognized the need to strengthen the linebacker core and get some better wide receivers. This is exactly what they did.

Ask the Lord how to build on your existing strengths and ask Him what is holding you back. Don't try

to do too much. Keep it simple. Build on strengths. Correct weaknesses. Set your face to win and disciple those God puts in your life.

God bless,
Kim Richardson



Kim Richardson
Mission
Strategy
Coordinator

Dan and Brenda Hopkins - Missionary Speakers for Prayer Brunch

Dan and Brenda Hopkins are missionaries on specialized assignment with the Church of the Nazarene on the island of Dominica in the Caribbean Region.

Both Dan and Brenda attended Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California. Dan received a B.A. in religion and philosophy in 1984 and Brenda went on to study at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, Missouri and was ordained a deacon of Christian education.

Dan held many positions prior to his missionary appointment including senior pastorates at the following Churches of the Nazarene: Marin Church, San Anselmo, CA; 1st Church, Fremont, CA; New Life Church, Poway, CA; First Church, Astoria, CA; Trinity Church, Independence, MO; and

Eastridge Community Church, Modesto, CA. Dan also served in youth pastorates at Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, Tucson, AZ and Bresee Church of the Nazarene, Pasadena, CA.

Brenda has been active as children's pastor, Eastridge Community Church of the Nazarene, Modesto, CA; children's quizzing director and on the Children's Council for Kansas City and Central California Districts. She served on the Sunday School Ministries Board on the Central California District.

The Hopkins were called to the mission field at a missionary service at General Assembly, Indianapolis, 2006. Dan and Donna's vision for the island of Dominica is to plant 13 churches in addition to the 7 already established, develop a

school of ministry for new pastors and see the church grow from 300 to 1500 Nazarenes.

Dan and Brenda enjoy hobbies including their lovely grandchildren, travel, coin collecting and are San Francisco Giants baseball fans. Dan also enjoys preparing BBQ for the family, smooth jazz and reading action novels. Brenda is an avid baker and enjoys reading Christian novels.

The Hopkins have four children: Jamie, Erin, Kristen and Daniel (now in the Navy stationed in Japan), and five grandchildren.



Dan & Brenda Hopkins

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New England
Ministers' News

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New England District Calendar - February 2008

NMI Emphasis - Alabaster & Prayer

- 1-2 NYI Quiz Meet
- 9 NYI Council Meeting
- 16 District Finance Committee/Pastoral Support/ Christian Social Action - Quincy
- 22-24 Sr. High Retreat
- 24-March 1 Nazarene World Week of Prayer begins
- 28 Pastors Leadership Training



O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you,
in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

~ Psalm 63:1

