

North Arkansas News

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North Arkansas District Church of the Nazarene

The November/December 2011 Issue

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Dr. D. Randy Berkner
District Superintendent

CALENDAR

November 2011

10 Maximizing Pastors
12-13 IMPACT Weekend
19 District Teen Quiz

December 2011

2 Ministry Team Christmas
Gathering (Conway First)
26-30 District Office Closed

January 2012

7-8 IMPACT Weekend
7 Missions USA Board Meeting
7 Children's Quiz
19 Maximizing Pastors
21 SDMI Council Meeting

February 2012

4-5 IMPACT Weekend
4 NMI Council Meeting
4 Children's Quiz
18 Board of Ministry (East)
24-26 NYI Ignite Retreat
25 Board of Ministry (West)
28-3/1 Ministers & Mates Retreat

The Response of the Redeemed

Reflection on the past often results in a nostalgic longing to return to the time when life was simpler and sweeter. In reality, the "good old days" weren't nearly as good as we remember them. Barbra Streisand was right—"what's too painful to remember we simply choose to forget."

In the Psalms, we do not find a sentimental nostalgia for the past but there is a continual recounting of history that focuses on God's faithfulness to His people. That's especially true of Psalm 107 - a community song of thanksgiving in which the psalmist details the particulars of God's redemptive work and exhorts all the redeemed to respond in gratitude. It was probably sung in the major festivals at the Temple, especially the great fall harvest festival of ingathering.

The "particulars" of their redemption come into view as we walk with the psalmist down memory lane and he recalls the plight of four types of people:

- ▶ those lost in desert places (vv. 4-9)
- ▶ those confined in prison (vv. 10-16)
- ▶ those who suffered sickness (vv. 17-22)
- ▶ those who experienced chaotic storms (vv. 23-32)

By use of a repeating refrain, the psalmist informs them (and us) of the appropriate response of the redeemed: "Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men" (vv. 8, 15, 21, 31).

As we approach our own "great fall harvest festival" (food, family, and football), remember that we too have been lost, imprisoned, sick, and storm-tossed. What did we do? Like the ancients who "cried to the Lord in their trouble," we sought Him for help. What did He do? God did what He has always done on behalf of those who earnestly seek Him...He saved us from our sins, freed us from our "prisons", healed our sickness, and calmed our storms. The only logical response from the redeemed people of God is to "give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men."

I recommend the reading of Psalm 107 at some point during your Thanksgiving festivities. Since each section deals with a distinctive reason for gratitude, you may want to ask family members to recite that section most appropriate to their own situation. Resist the temptation to focus on what we don't have; instead, thank God for all that we have in Christ.

D. Randy Berkner

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Is your church up-to-date in support of the World Evangelism Fund? Have you personally invested in Nazarene mission work underway in 160 world areas? If not, it's time to catch up by giving to the Thanksgiving Harvest 2011 Offering. We urge every church member to participate because WEF is the life line of missions, enabling you to make a difference in regions you may never visit. Our goal is for all 59 churches to contribute at least 5.5% of their total income toward world evangelism.

December

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to Me. Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me. (Matt. 25:35, 36&40)

Compassionate Ministries Month

What is Compassionate Ministries? Jesus has defined it. Are you willing to live it? As we celebrate the Greatest Gift ever given, let's find ways to express God's love to a hurting humanity. Feed, visit, clothe. Jesus says that when we do this in His name, we do it as to Him. December is Compassionate Ministries Month. He was compassionate with us. Will we be compassionate to others?



Where your treasure is,
How's Your Heart?
There will your heart be also.

Work and Witness

When you say "yes" to God, you never know what he's going to do with your obedience. Bentonville's youth group (17 students, 9 adults) learned that back in July when they took a Work and Witness trip to the Dominican Republic. Their ministry was based out of the El Factor Church of the Nazarene in the province of Nagua. Because the team was fairly large, it was divided into 3 groups: construction, sports and VBS. On the last day, over 200 children were in attendance. One of the things the kids liked the most was a modified version of "calling the hogs", adapted to "call Jesus". As silly as that sounds, God used a former UA cheerleader to bring over 80 boys and girls to Christ. Now that's something worth cheering about!

The sports group ministered through basketball and baseball. God used sports to open many doors in the El Factor community. They partnered with the local youth baseball league and did an instructional camp. This league had 2 baseballs to share among 60 kids and many of them did not have gloves. BFC did an equipment drive in Bentonville, enabling them to supply all the kids needed to learn the game. They did instruction and practice drills in the morning for the young ones and played in the afternoon with the older kids. On the 2nd to last day, some of the students shared testimonies using a baseball they had colored: black (sin), red (Jesus' blood), white (purity), green (growth) and yellow (heaven). In the dugout of a disheveled baseball diamond, God's Holy Spirit moved and over 29 young men came to Christ. Pastor Felix reports that the league director and many of these young men remain active in his church today!

The special bond between BFC and El Factor Church will be strengthened during the next trip scheduled for 2012.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Make the Connection

Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International

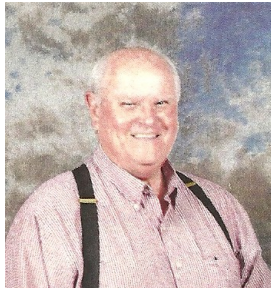
Jesus said in Matthew 28 to “go and make disciples.” The essence of that phrase seems to indicate that disciple-making is ongoing. In other words, discipleship efforts regardless of the form and fashion, are a never ending process.

Speaking of process, I think it is worth noting that efforts toward discipleship require commitment, diligence and consistency—which may be our hardest task. Sometimes discouragement sets in when it seems all our efforts at making disciples fall short. Recently, I came across an article by Josh Hunt about discipleship. In it he suggested five practices every group or class can do to aid in the process of transformational discipleship:

1. **TEACH** a halfway decent lesson each week. Nothing else will do!
2. Invite every member and every guest to every **FELLOWSHIP** every month.
3. Give “Fridays” (or any other day) to **JESUS**. Practice personal hospitality!!
4. Encourage your group toward **MINISTRY/OUTREACH!**
5. **PRAY** over your enrollment.

Perhaps your group or class can discuss one or more ideas to reenergize your efforts to make disciples.

- Tim Kellerman



Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant

Rev. Larry J. Jeffries, retired Nazarene elder who pastored our Pleasant Hill and Russellville churches, lost his battle with cancer on October 16th but won the crown of life. Please pray for his wife Sandra and their family.



**North Arkansas District
 Ministry Team
 Christmas Dinner**
*(for all credentialed
 Ministers, active and retired)*

Friday, December 2, 2011
 6:30 p.m.—Meet and Greet
 7:00 p.m.—Christmas Dinner

Conway First Church of the Nazarene
 1501 Scott Street

Special Guest: B. J. Johnston “The Man From Aldersgate”

Mail in your invitation or e-mail Debbie at DBerkner@aol.com.

Important Date Change

With approval of the District Advisory Board, we are announcing date changes for the 2012 NARK District Assembly/Conventions to be held at Rogers First Church. Here’s the new schedule of events:

- Sunday, June 10, 7 p.m.—District Praise Gathering (DS preaching)
- Monday, June 11—NMI Convention (Jennifer Brown, speaker)
- Tuesday, June 12—SDMI Convention
 Ordination Service (pm)
- Wednesday, June 13—District Assembly (Dr. Stan Toler presiding)

Please mark your calendars. We’re requesting that local churches cancel their Sunday night services so that all pastors and lay leaders can attend the District Praise Gathering.



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NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

Extreme Reality 2011

Students, do not miss Extreme Reality—an awesome “lock in” event held December 30-31 in conjunction with the South Arkansas District NYI. The starting location is Little Rock First Church of the Nazarene, 1200 N. Mississippi St. where the Lawrence Cheatham Band will lead praise and worship. Event activities include dodgeball, basketball, ice skating, and MORE! Cost: \$25. Note: an Apple iPod will be given to one lucky student who registers before December 14th. See your NYI president for more info and registration.



College Days is a great way for prospective students to experience first hand what college life at SNU is all about—staying in the dorms, eating in the dining hall, interacting with students, meeting professors, and experiencing campus life.

November 11-12
April 20-21

Youth workers, are you looking for student or leader resources? Check out Barefoot Ministries for all this and so much more at www.BarefootMinistries.com

Teen Bible Quizzing

- November
 - 5 Bible Quiz at Olathe (9 chapters)
 - 19 Bible Quiz (District)
- December
 - 2 - 3 Bible Quiz at St. Louis, MO (top ten only)

IGNITE RETREAT

February 24-26, 2012
 Sky Ranch Camp • Quapaw, OK

Susie Shellenberger, Speaker

SAVE THESE DATES

May 25-28—Extravaganza @ SNU
 July 16-20—Teen Camp @ Windemere (Roach, MO)

For more info related to NARK District NYI, visit www.northarkansasnyi.com

Items of Interest

- ◆ Dallas Tharp has joined the North Arkansas District ministry team, serving as the new youth pastor at our Liberty Church. Welcome Dallas and Christyn.
- ◆ Due to their phenomenal growth in children and teens, the Altus Church desperately needs a small bus—preferably one that is dependable and inexpensive. Contact Pastor Sonny or Brandy Morgason at sonray32@gmail.com or (479)209-3297.
- ◆ Rosalie Purtee, long-time member of Jonesboro First Church, went to be with the Lord on October 25th. She was 104 years young! By now, she has heard the Master say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”
- ◆ God came to the Searcy Zone Campmeeting and did what only God can do — miraculously transforming lives! He used Dr. Bob Broadbooks and a host of singers to accomplish His purposes. Thanks to the Beebe Church for hosting the event and all those who cooperated in the planning.
- ◆ Have you visited the newly-designed NARK District web site? Go to www.narknaz.com for the latest info, calendar, and helpful links. We're grateful to Ashley Sanford for her creative design and site updates.



- ◆ New members at Springdale Primera: Alucias Arancely Rugamas, Alicia Mena, Ena Macal, Oscar Cifuentes, Teresa Ramos, Gilma Blanco, Celia Martinez, Yasmin Velasquez, Jeremia Figueroa, Christopher Brothers, Hilario Hernandez.

Developing a Missional Church

Pastors in training and others interested in “developing a missional church” are invited to attend Tuesday evening classes January 10-March 27 at the District Resource Center. Rev. Kevin Rector will teach the course which explores the culture of the church and the world, the mission that God is on, and how the church can adapt to embrace the mission of God in a changing world. Cost: \$75. This is the second offering of classes in the ministerial course of study. For more info and registration contact Kevin at kevin.d.rector@gmail.com.

October 2011 Attendance Stats

Zone/Church	SDM	MW	+/- SDM
Beebe Zone			
Beebe	97	113	1
Cabot Family Life	68	63	5
Cabot Russell Chapel	128	66	60
Hickory Plains	19	25	-12
Jacksonville	117	150	12
Sherwood	NR	NR	
Conway Zone			
Clinton	26	26	-9
Conway First	194	257	-24
Greenbrier	280	313	130
Harvest	72	110	-12
Liberty	68	93	15
Morrilton	NR	NR	
Pleasant Hill	58	47	22
Russellville	11	13	-39
Wilonia	NR	NR	
Ft Smith Zone			
Altus	52	78	-22
Clarksville	40	40	6
Ft. Smith 1st	136	156	-4
FS Southside	NR	NR	
Ft. Smith Trinity	NR	NR	
Maple Shade	23	27	11
Ozark	NR	NR	
Van Buren	139	78	55
Jonesboro Zone			
Beech Grove	23	23	-27
Blytheville	5	6	-1
Corning	14	9	-8
Jonesboro 1st	73	46	16
Jonesboro Forest Home	111	179	-41
Jonesboro Living Water	22	30	-22
Marion Cypress Creek	NR	NR	
Osceola	NR	NR	
Paragould First	33	37	1
Paragould Woodland Hills	8	5	0
Mountain Home Zone			
Berryville	16	14	-33
Harrison	41	52	-6
Marshall	8	8	0
Mountain Home Twin Lakes	33	45	-17
White River	36	28	-5
Ozark Zone			
Bella Vista Family	15	38	-4
Bentonville	NR	NR	
Bentonville Spanish	21	27	-13
Bethel	24	33	-15
Farmington	NR	NR	
Fayetteville 1st	82	116	4
Goshen Bridgeway Community	9	23	-9
Hiwasse	12	21	2
Pea Ridge	41	57	-3
Rogers 1st	305	295	25
Rogers New Hope	NR	NR	
Rogers Primera	NR	NR	
Siloam Springs	104	75	25
Springdale	89	42	12
Springdale Primera	120	84	56
Searcy Zone			
Batesville	44	67	-8
Heber Springs	52	78	0
McCrory	NR	NR	
Newport	5	6	1
Pickens Chapel	28	33	9
Searcy	84	89	-3

Investments for Others

Church	WEF Fund	P&B Fund	SNU Fund	District Fund
Altus	951	346	432	1,037
Batesville	4,749	1,636	2,045	4,703
Beebe First	1,452	528	1,112	1,747
Beech Grove	143	70	0	0
Bella Vista Family	1,695	456	486	972
Bentonville	10,854	0	0	2,300
Bentonville Primera	0	0	0	0
Berryville	0	0	0	0
Bethel	223	750	0	0
Blytheville	0	0	500	600
Bridgeway Community	1,424	500	624	1,462
Cabot Family Life	1,276	638	319	957
Cabot Russell Chapel	2,629	533	654	1,568
Clarksville New Hope	0	0	0	0
Clinton	610	226	283	650
Conway First	9,309	1,531	0	10,146
Corning	0	0	0	0
Farmington First	2,232	949	987	1,630
Fayetteville First	7,684	2,831	1,956	4,498
Fort Smith First	8,407	3,079	3,808	8,759
Fort Smith Southside	200	100	0	0
Fort Smith Trinity	1,791	569	710	1,655
Greenbrier	13,288	4,900	5,801	15,087
Harrison	1,095	405	568	1,307
Harvest (Conway)	1,648	632	0	500
Heber Springs	3,690	1,360	1,690	3,890
Hickory Plains	311	113	81	379
Hiwasse	1,626	464	0	0
Jacksonville First	0	500	0	1,000
Jonesboro First	421	154	192	460
Jonesboro Forest Home	0	4,427	0	12,726
Jonesboro Living Water	278	114	122	302
Liberty	3,755	1,381	1,726	3,790
Maple Shade	805	108	135	311
Marion Cypress Creek	800	0	0	488
Marshall	0	0	0	0
McCrary	2,517	924	1,155	2,656
Morrilton	1,127	481	513	1,230
Mountain Home Twin Lakes	2,088	768	935	2,243
Newport	174	64	60	140
Osceola	876	480	100	239
Ozark	0	0	0	0
Paragould First	0	196	412	948
Paragould Woodland Hills	50	1,000	1,200	3,000
Pea Ridge	969	448	224	1,342
Pickens Chapel	0	323	556	928
Pleasant Hill	489	178	222	534
Rogers First	14,691	5,401	6,751	15,527
Rogers New Hope	1,421	517	646	1,485
Rogers Primera	0	0	0	0
Russellville	811	282	352	1,052
Searcy	3,590	1,010	1,125	3,057
Sherwood First	3,440	1,056	188	1,813
Siloam Springs	2,273	689	861	1,980
Springdale First	2,519	924	968	2,657
Springdale Primera	0	0	0	0
Van Buren First	0	0	256	513
Vilonia	2,293	745	932	2,143
White River	1,161	201	127	0
Total	123,833	44,984	41,814	126,411