

North Arkansas News

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North Arkansas District Church of the Nazarene

The January/February 2012 Issue

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Dr. D. Randy Berkner
District Superintendent

CALENDAR

January 2012

- 19 Maximizing Pastors Session
(Dr. Tim Crutcher, guest)
- 19 SDMI Council Meeting
- 28 Women's Ministry Council

February 2012

- 4-5 IMPACT Weekend
- 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

March 2012

- 2-3 PK Retreat @ SNU
- 3 Children's Zone Quiz
- 6-8 Prime Timers Tour
- 8 Advisory Board Meeting
- 24 Maximizing Pastors
Session/Golf
- 31 District Children's Quiz

April 2012

- 7 Children's Zone Quiz Meet
- 13 NMI Finance Cmte. Mtg.
- 14-15 IMPACT Weekend
- 20 Board of Ministry
(1st time Licensee/Ordinands)
- 27-30 District Lay Retreat

Character Counts

Ready or not, the election season has arrived. In Robert Wilson's *Character Above All*, a book of biographical essays about 10 U.S. presidents, Peggy Noonan observes: "In a president, character is everything. A president doesn't have to be brilliant; he doesn't have to be clever; you can hire clever. You can hire pragmatic, and you can buy and bring in policy wonks. But you can't buy courage and decency, you can't rent a strong moral sense."

Her observation about the presidency is true of everyone: *character counts*. But what is it? Billy Sunday said, "Your reputation is what people say about you; your character is what God and your wife know about you!" It involves integrity, honesty, patience, courage, kindness, generosity, and a strong sense of personal responsibility. Character is the foundation upon which a good and godly life is built. That's why Solomon advised, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Prov. 4:23).

There are two word pictures suggested by this imperative phrase, "guard your heart." The first is a military image, where a commander posts a sentinel to watch and protect lest the enemy inflict harm. The second image is the picture of someone who has a great treasure to protect. In the Bible, the heart is the home of affections, the center of the will and moral purpose. The clear message is that we need to guard our heart more carefully than we guard anything else – our cars, our homes, our investments, etc. Sadly, we tend to focus on that which rusts and decays.

How do we guard our hearts? Lean forward and listen carefully to the counsel offered by the Scripture:

- "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Ps. 119:11).
- "I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands" (Ps. 119:10).
- "Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain" (Ps. 119:36).
- "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart" (Ps. 86:11).
- "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3:5)

The primary season provides various opportunities for us to vet the political candidates. As we examine their character, let us engage in some self-examination:

- Echo the Psalmist prayer: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23-24).
- Ask yourself, "Does my walk match my talk? How would I feel if my private life were fully exposed to the public?"
- Humbly confess your sins, shortcomings, and stumbling.
- Receive God's forgiveness.
- Bathe yourself in the Word of God that can and will shape your character from this day forward.
- Find an accountability partner that will speak the truth in love and meet with him or her regularly.

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What began as Men in Missions in January 1974 has changed and grown into what is now Work & Witness. Over 190,000 people have been involved since its establishment. Work & Witness teams help with construction, medical and technical work, and evangelistic needs all over the world. Steve Hall is our District Work & Witness Coordinator. We will be making announcements concerning Work & Witness opportunities at the District NMI Convention in June. One of our dreams is to have an on-district Work & Witness opportunity to help one of our smaller churches. If this kind of involvement interests you please make this a matter of prayer. Contact us as to your interest. Some of us may never be able to go on an out-of-country Work & Witness trip, but we could become involved in an on-district trip. Be in prayer with us about this dream.



GIVING

Missionary Care

January is the month your District NMI Council has set aside to focus on Missionary Care. We are now into the second half of this church year. How is your church doing in Missions giving? Are you up-to-date in giving to the World Evangelism Fund? Have you received offerings or designated giving from your Faith/Promise program to fund the various aspects of the Mission? In particular, January is a good time to look at the health care needs of our missionaries. Missionary Health Care helps pay for the medical expenses of Nazarene missionaries. It accounts for about 25% of the total medical expenses (approximately \$500,000). Hopefully, with increased awareness of and participation in Missionary Health Care, that amount will increase. Why not use this month to look into the possibilities of giving to this vital need.

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





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SUNDAY SCHOOL
Make the Connection

Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International

New Wineskins

In preparation for our annual 21 Days of Fasting, I have been reading Luke 5 where Jesus is talking about preparing for the new things that God wants to bestow on His people. He uses new and old wine to make His point—a subject good Nazarenes are less informed about than Jesus’ immediate audience. The point He was making was that old wineskins could not contain the powerful force of fresh wine. They would most likely burst. New wineskins were essential to preserve the new.

Essentially, Jesus was talking about preparation—preparing for the new. It got me thinking about the “new wine” He longs to give us in regards to discipleship. Jesus promises that, if we pray and fast, there is new “wine” on the way. The question is: Are we prepared? Are we preparing for something new from the Lord or have we settled for “nothing new under the sun.”

I’m convinced that God has something marvelous he wants to fill us with. A new revelation, a new and great purpose, a new presence He knows you are sure to enjoy. But there is a price. What God does is always connected to who He does it to. That means WE have to be prepared. We have to be willing to change in order for us to experience His next move.

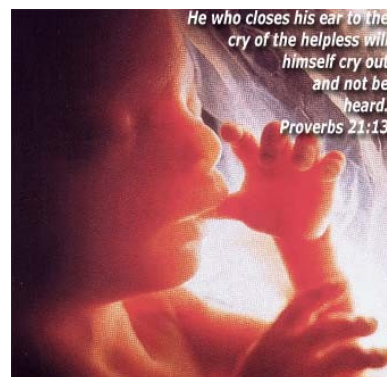
In the next few days and weeks, take some time to pray and fast and discuss among your church leaders what God might be saying to you in order to prepare you for the new things He wants to do in His church through our discipleship efforts.

- Tim Kellerman

Board of Ministry Meetings

February 18 - Fayetteville
 February 25 - District Resource Center

Those who are requesting a district minister license should contact Rev. Tim Bullington (tbullington@conwayharvest.org or 501-329-7148) and make an appointment for your interview with the Board of Ministry by contacting Debbie in the District Resource Center at 501-328-3382 or 501-242-1605 (cell).



Don't forget...

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

January 22, 1012



Peter Kline
District NYI President
 3115 Rhonda Drive
 Jonesboro, AR 72404
 (870) 897-2432



NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

North Arkansas District NYI Winter Retreat



Ignite is back and better than ever!!! Take a ride on the EDGE*—2,000 ft Zip line—that's over 1/3 mile long, test your aim at skeet shooting*, blast your friends in paintball*, test your skills on the low ropes course (youth groups only—no individuals)*, challenge someone to a game of disc golf, or take a ride on the back of a horse*.

Speaker: SUSIE Shellenberger

Worship: Robert Click Band

Cost: \$90

Dates: February 24-26, 2012

Location: Sky Ranch Cave Springs, Quapaw, OK

Forms/Money **MUST** be postmarked by Feb. 13

*see registration form for additional fees



Teen Bible Quizzing

Bible quizzing is a great way to compete, have fun, travel, and hide the Word of God in your hearts. Anyone interested in finding out more about quizzing should contact Melissa Mullen at (479) 841-4404 or mejamu@juno.com. You may want to attend one of the remaining events on the 2011-12 calendar:

- January 14 - District Quiz
- January 28 - Oklahoma Quiz
- March 3 - District Quiz
- March 24 - Dallas Quiz

- April 14 - District Quiz Finals
- May 26 - Extravaganza at SNU
- July 2-7 - Q2012 at ONU

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

Items of Interest

- ◆ Pastoral transitions: Paul Kirkdoffer was installed as pastor at our Morrilton Church on January 8th; Roy Broadbooks has been appointed interim pastor in Russellville; Mark Sanford recently left the Van Buren Church; Troy Lyles resigned the Fort Smith Southside Church. Please pray for all of these ministers and churches in transition.
- ◆ Rusty Brian, pastor of Student and Discipleship Ministries at our Bentonville Church, recently earned the Ph.D. degree in Theology and Ethics from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Congratulations, Rusty!
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ God is doing awesome things at Pleasant Hill Church, especially among their students. Youth director Jason Spears is providing excellent leadership. To God be the glory!
- ◆ Two NARK District churches were among the Top 100 Nazarene churches who participated in the "Kids Reading Kids" Mission Offering Project: Bentonville (40th) - \$979; Heber Springs (46th) - \$900. Funds raised go toward various projects around the globe including child sponsorship, VBS in the Ukraine, literature in the Asia-Pacific region, etc. Check out the promo pieces related to the 2011-12 "His Hands" Project at www.KIDSREACHINGKIDS.com.
- ◆ Rev. Carl Amos, longtime pastor/evangelist on the NARK District joined the "Church Triumphant" on January 12th. He was 99 years old. Please pray for his family.



Rev. Chuck Lauver has accepted the call to become pastor of Fort Smith Trinity Church and will begin his ministry there on February 12th. He and his wife Annette have been serving the Sebring, Florida Church. They have four children: Abby, Amy, Emily, and Kenneth.

- ◆ Every local church is encouraged to give in the annual offering for Nazarene Theological Seminary on Sunday, January 29th. New president Dr. David Busic is committed to preparing "more preachers, better preachers." Let's have 100% participation in this worthy cause.

December 2011 Attendance Stats

Zone/Church	SDM	MW	+/- SDM
<u>Beebe Zone</u>			
Beebe	NR	NR	
Cabot Family Life	NR	NR	
Cabot Russell Chapel	90	78	22
Hickory Plains	NR	NR	
Jacksonville	108	150	3
Sherwood	83	92	-1
<u>Conway Zone</u>			
Clinton	41	27	6
Conway First	159	407	-59
Greenbrier	232	324	82
Harvest	62	98	-22
Liberty	64	83	11
Morrilton	NR	NR	
Pleasant Hill	73	47	37
Russellville	18	10	-32
Vilonia	25	37	-2
<u>Ft Smith Zone</u>			
Altus	77	61	3
Clarkeville	NR	NR	
Ft. Smith 1st	159	162	19
FS Southside	NR	NR	
Ft. Smith Trinity	33	65	0
Maple Shade	40	30	28
Ozark	NR	NR	
Van Buren	NR	NR	
<u>Jonesboro Zone</u>			
Beech Grove	25	20	-25
Blytheville	5	5	-1
Corning	12	11	-10
Jonesboro 1st	92	55	35
Jonesboro Forest Home	175	221	23
Jonesboro Living Water	24	34	
Marion Cypress Creek	40	24	
Osceola	50	31	31
Paragould First	30	35	-2
Paragould Woodland Hills	NR	NR	
<u>Mountain Home Zone</u>			
Berryville	NR	NR	
Harrison	43	56	-4
Marshall	NR	NR	
Mountain Home Twin Lakes	NR	NR	
White River	NR	NR	
<u>Ozark Zone</u>			
Bella Vista Family	9	30	-10
Bentonville	422	288	197
Bentonville Spanish	29	38	-5
Bethel	27	39	-12
Farmington	NR	NR	
Fayetteville 1st	NR	NR	
Goshen Bridgeway Community	13	30	-5
Hiwasse	NR	NR	
Pea Ridge	NR	NR	
Rogers 1st	285	323	5
Rogers New Hope	NR	NR	
Rogers Primera	20	25	-6
Siloam Springs	NR	NR	
Springdale	45	41	-32
Springdale Primera	100	97	36
<u>Searcy Zone</u>			
Batesville	NR	NR	
Heber Springs	101	87	49
McCrary	43	41	-5
Newport	7	6	3
Pickens Chapel	31	37	12
Searcy	NR	NR	

Investments for Others

Church	WEF Fund	P&B Fund	SNU Fund	District Fund
Altus	1,502	508	541	1,524
Batesville	6,552	2,285	2,857	6,570
Beebe First	5,285	1,731	1,435	5,459
Beech Grove	143	70	0	0
Bella Vista Family	2,716	619	689	1,377
Bentonville	21,616	2,500	0	17,300
Bentonville Primera	0	0	0	0
Berryville	0	0	0	0
Bethel	1,382	1,000	0	0
Blytheville	600	300	500	600
Bridgeway Community	2,370	832	1,040	2,417
Cabot Family Life	1,276	638	319	957
Cabot Russell Chapel	3,416	803	991	2,344
Clarksville New Hope	0	0	0	0
Clinton	1,269	413	516	1,211
Conway First	13,473	5,824	0	16,744
Corning	0	0	0	0
Farmington First	3,698	949	1,212	2,681
Fayetteville First	10,135	3,446	3,507	9,286
Fort Smith First	11,040	4,053	5,071	11,664
Fort Smith Southside	900	400	0	700
Fort Smith Trinity	2,892	898	1,113	2,574
Greenbrier	19,174	7,043	8,429	21,248
Harrison	1,928	531	663	1,525
Harvest (Conway)	1,648	632	0	500
Heber Springs	6,735	2,475	2,565	7,110
Hickory Plains	757	275	283	661
Hiwasse	2,846	709	0	0
Jacksonville First	0	2,500	0	3,000
Jonesboro First	421	154	192	2,954
Jonesboro Forest Home	15,590	6,559	1,500	16,352
Jonesboro Living Water	1,050	114	122	302
Liberty	6,573	2,447	3,058	7,942
Maple Shade	1,400	108	135	311
Marion Cypress Creek	2,020	218	271	897
Marshall	0	0	0	0
McCrary	3,531	1,294	1,617	4,149
Morrilton	2,203	752	746	2,044
Mountain Home Twin Lakes	3,245	918	1,142	3,750
Newport	253	93	83	222
Osceola	876	480	100	239
Ozark	0	0	0	0
Paragould First	1,292	496	619	1,425
Paragould Woodland Hills	10,655	1,000	1,200	3,000
Pea Ridge	1,701	723	362	1,759
Pickens Chapel	1,461	624	556	1,793
Pleasant Hill	1,394	507	633	1,521
Rogers First	27,607	8,894	9,052	25,570
Rogers New Hope	1,421	517	646	1,485
Rogers Primera	0	0	0	0
Russellville	1,487	470	587	1,369
Searcy	3,877	1,452	1,627	4,430
Sherwood First	6,072	2,654	1,050	6,471
Siloam Springs	3,571	976	861	2,437
Springdale First	3,571	1,309	1,636	3,763
Springdale Primera	0	0	0	0
Van Buren First	3,102	1,694	707	513
Vilonia	3,433	1,101	1,244	3,146
White River	2,006	501	127	0
Total	233,165	77,489	61,604	215,296