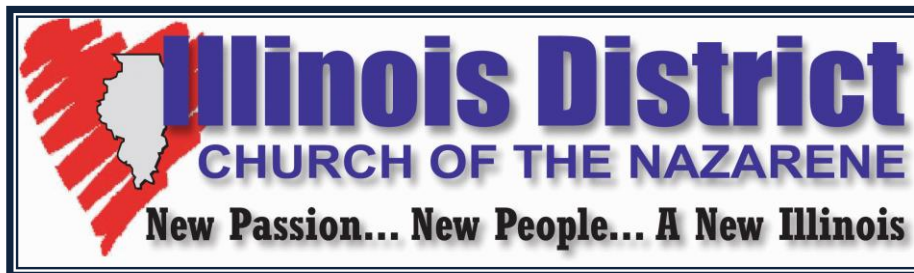


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James Spruce
District Superintendent

VOL 64 NUMBER 4

P.O. BOX 1054 - 2916 GILBERT LN., ALTON, IL 62002 Web Site: <http://ilnazarenedist.org>

JANUARY 2011

Team Day North

On **February 12** Decatur First will host this popular district event with a huge variety of seminars! *Pastors, Sunday School teachers and all laity will find essential information for local church ministries.* Please register! You may check the district website for more information. **The District Finance Committee will meet immediately after Team Day North at 2:30 p.m.**

M-11 at Louisville, KY

If you can possibly attend, please do so. Everyone knows this mid-quadrennial event is eventful, full of activity and opportunities for personal development. But many are praying that God will make M-11 an unforgettable experience in this challenging time for our church and world. Register online today. The dates in Louisville are **February 21-23.**

FUNDING THE MISSION SEMINAR

Want life to be easier? Saturday, January 22 this seminar will be hosted by Decatur First from **9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** ***All pastors and church treasurers need to be present.*** It will simplify your life if you bring your laptop since Bill and Chris Shotts will actually walk you through how to get online with your own church payment system! Shotts, Merryman and Company has completed the incredible new district website to help all pastors and church treasurers! It is a simplified way to keep track of local church budget payment, actually pay online and even report Sunday School attendance! You may still pay by check. Even if you do not use the computer system, do not miss this meeting. Vital information regarding how the new budget system works will be shared.



NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

Bill Brandon, District President
18 Sandstone Ct., Troy, IL. 62294
618-667-0828 E-mail csifsr30@sbcglobal.net
"That the world may know"



Prayer and Fasting

"Prayer begins where human capacity ends." - Marian Anderson

Prayer and fasting are vital to missions. For this reason, the prayer and fasting emphasis is not restricted to a particular month. Nazarene Missions International (NMI) provides special prayer and fasting opportunities in a variety of settings throughout the year. NMI knows that such spiritual disciplines take place in individual, small group, and corporate settings.

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

- Pray for missionaries and their families—for their ministry and safety.
- Pray for missionaries and Christians in creative access areas, where government officials may not welcome missionaries and those who share their faith are in danger on a daily basis.
- Pray for World Mission Broadcast programs and personnel who minister globally via radio, television, Internet, podcasts, and cell phone texting. For more information about World Mission Broadcast, visit www.worldmissionbroadcast.org.
- Pray for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries teams that share the love of Jesus to a needy world.
- Pray for the JESUS film ministry. For more information about JESUS film, visit the [JESUS Film Harvest Partners Web site](#).

On October 13, 2010, my mother, **Doris Brandon**, went home to be with our Lord and Savior. She was a believer and in my heart I know she is in a much better place than the pain filled hospital bed where only morphine could stop the pain just prior to her death. What a blessing death was for her. My siblings and I certainly did not want to let her go but I am so grateful for our Savior. I would like to thank all the wonderful friends and associates from our Illinois District family that sent so many kind words, flowers, memorials, prayers and thoughts and that attended the wake and funeral. A special thanks to Rev. Bobby Parker from Marion First who officiated the funeral service. What an uplifting, inspirational and evangelical message Rev. Parker presented to this diverse group of listeners (my family, like most, has many non-saved members and friends).

Thank you to everyone,
-Bill Brandon

Our Missionary speakers for the Spring Deputation Tour for 2010 was **Jon & Mary Lou Kroeze** who served in Rwanda, Reunion Islands and Madagascar. They have recently accepted the positions as Senior Pastor at our Pittsfield Church. They have big shoes to fill following Pastor Ron Baker (Annette), but I know they are up to the task. How fortunate for Pittsfield to get them and this is also a blessing for our District. We certainly were inspired and enjoyed having them as our speakers. We welcome Jon & Mary Lou to the Illinois District!

Dave Bailey is taking his annual **Work & Witness trip to the Bradenton Missionary Village** in Florida. The team will be leaving Decatur at 5:00 a.m. on 3/21/11 and returning on 4/1/11. The cost is \$600 per person with the team limited to 20 people. If interested, you need to contact David as soon as possible. Contact information is:

David & Sheila Bailey
11380 Darnell Rd.
Mechanicsburg, IL. 62545-7986
Phone: 217-364-9533
David's cell: 217-620-3485
Sheila's cell: 217-620-3297
e-mail: 1davidwbailev@comcast.net



NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

Jay Bush, District President
53 Partridge, Chatham, IL 62629
Phone: Church: 217-529-6771; Home: 217-483-2480
E-mail: jayrbush@aol.com



made*

spiritual life retreat 2011

Registration due Sunday, Jan. 2!! See IL District website for forms.

Send forms and payment to
Matt Soulia, Belleville First Church of the Nazarene
1901 Lebanon Ave.
Belleville, IL 62221

When:
Friday, January 14th
- Sunday, January
16th

Where:
Durley Camp
Greenville, IL on
Governor Bond Lake
Cost: \$65 (includes
hooded sweatshirt)

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."
2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV

Main Session Speaker: Darrell Harvey
Workshop Leaders:

Pastor Kevin Hancock
Missionary Andy Kizsee
Pastor Craig Dillman
Inner-city minister Rusty Funk
NTS Students: Libby Tedder & Danny Quanstrom



NYC 2011 *Louisville, KY *July 5-10, 2011
Check out the website for more information:
www.nyc2011.org

Go to the NYI page of www.illinoisnaz.org
for forms and directions for registration.

Upcoming Events:

Spiritual Life Retreat
January 14-16, 2011

District Celebrate Life
March 25-26, 2011
Roxana, IL

District NYI Council WEB Meeting
January 24, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

NYC 2011
July 5-10, 2011



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

TIM CRUMP, District Chairman
1177 West Hickory Point Road
Decatur, Illinois 62526
(217) 875-0616 nazpaz1@yahoo.com



SUNDAY SCHOOL *Make the Connection*

2011 TEAM DAYS

Team Day North @ Decatur First, February 12, 2011
Team Day South @ Salem Grace, March 19, 2011

Registration forms have been e-mailed to all pastors
They are also available on the DISTRICT WEBSITE:
illinoisnaz.org

TOP TEN SS OCTOBER INCREASE

Salem Grace	+85
Edgemont Grace	+46
Carmi	+37
Laclede	+22
Beardstown Liberty	+18
Anna First	+16
Shelbyville	+16
Royalton	+15
Vandalia	+15
Belleville Emmanuel	+13
Glenview	+13

OCTOBER STATISTICS

Sunday School	4,334
Worship	6,037
Responsibility List	11,179
New Nazarenes	16

Those who did not report October 2009 numbers are not eligible for the Top Ten Increase Listing.

TOP TEN WORSHIP OCTOBER INCREASE

Salem Grace	+65
Decatur First	+54
Glenview	+21
Laclede	+21
Royalton	+21
Shelbyville	+19
Fairview Heights Parkview	+14
Viriden	+12
Belleville Emmanuel	+11
Carlinville	+10
Marion	+10
Nebo	+10
Sherman	+10
Urbana Lighthouse	+10

A Glimpse Of What Is Working At Laclede

- I keep the matter of growth before the people consistently.
- I stress that it is God's will to grow and that the lack of growth spells death for the church.
- I emphasize that attendance in Sunday School (to study the Word) and Worship (to hear the Word preached) are means of grace.
- We started a Children's Sunday School where none existed prior.
- I have at least one "big" Sunday Emphasis per month. This can be a "holiday" emphasis or the creation of a theme for the month. Many Sundays are natural derivatives of holidays on the Christian Calendar.
- I try to promote an atmosphere of love for one another. Simply said, people want to know they are loved. Anyone who is absent gets contacted by someone. And, this pastor contacts, by one means or another, everyone that was absent. I "pester" people my congregation with visits, phone calls, letters, cards, etc. I live 92 miles from my church, but I still stay in contact.
- I try to embellish an attitude that serving the Lord is fun. Building the Kingdom is fun. Building the attendance is fun. Raising money is fun. We really are the ones having fun. . .not the world.
- Work the enrollment and membership list. Often we are made to believe that in order to grow we must get new people. Well, that is part of the growth formula, but it is very rewarding to reestablish people that have fallen away. Especially at Laclede we have found this to be a successful means of growth. Thank you for letting me share.

Dr. Bill Chenault, Pastor
Laclede, IL

SDMI REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2010

Church	Enroll	SS	MW	NN	Church	Enroll	SS	MW	NN
Champaign Team - Carlos Lonberger, Chairman					Mount Vernon Team - Tim Mondy, Chairman				
Champaign 1st	127	71	139	0	Benton	66	37	49	0
Champaign New Day	120	45	45	0	Centralia	133	72	73	0
Mahomet	70	34	43	0	DuQuoin	44	18	25	0
Mansfield Community	129	22	29	0	Mount Vernon	160	31	39	0
Monticello	89	25	35	0	Salem Grace	540	239	403	0
Ogden	63	50	73	0	Sparta	32	11	16	0
Rantoul	88	42	78	0		975	408	605	0
Urbana Lighthouse	108	43	55	0					
	794	332	497	0	Murphysboro Team - Bobby Parker, Chairman				
Decatur Team - Greg Wooten, Chairman					Anna First	195	94	153	0
Clinton	162	71	86	0	Carbondale New Beginnings	118	50	46	0
Decatur 1st	750	321	626	5	Marion	81	17	34	0
Decatur Oak Grove	208	30	57	0	Murphysboro	109	44	65	0
Decatur Parkway	210	72	78	0	Royalton	196	98	101	0
Decatur Trinity	110	41	47	0		699	303	399	0
Decatur West Side	152	70	88	0	Olivet Team - William Connell, Chairman				
Lincoln	72	24	41	0	Chrisman	124	53	77	0
Shelbyville	284	119	206	0	Georgetown	89	42	48	0
	1948	748	1229	5	Oakwood	80	19	8	0
Illinois River Team - Leslie Moore, Chairman					Olivet	149	41	66	0
Barry	22	14	12	0	Paris	80	36	59	0
Beardstown	142	83	105	0	Tuscola	100	12	41	0
Beardstown Liberty	60	40	72	0		622	203	299	0
Bethel Community	139	36	61	0	Olney Team - Bob Taylor, Chairman				
Griggsville	76	19	30	0	Carmi	85	51	53	0
Mount Sterling	70	18	28	0	Fairfield	48	10	16	0
Nebo	129	28	50	0	Flora	243	123	179	0
Pittsfield	354	170	237	0	Laclede	62	21	30	0
Quincy Emmanuel	123	53	36	0	Mount Carmel	54	14	29	0
	1115	461	631	0	Mount Erie	36	15	32	0
Mattoon Team - Penny Brown, Chairman					Olney	135	64	85	0
Arcola 1st	117	32	54	0		663	298	424	0
Arcola Spanish	60	21	36	0	Springfield Team - Donald Harrison, Chairman				
Casey	589	116	167	0	Auburn	310	72	44	0
Marshall	118	47	48	0	Carlinville	90	50	50	0
Mattoon East Side	175	88	100	0	Pana	352	148	243	0
Mattoon Real Life Comm.	65	15	29	0	Sherman	135	66	70	0
West Union	65	13	19	0	Springfield 1st	300	140	222	0
	1189	332	453	0	Springfield Trinity	101	40	52	0
Metro East Team - Russell W. Brewer, Chairman					Vandalia	75	15	19	0
Belleville Emmanuel	128	60	59	2	Taylorville	100	50	86	0
Belleville 1st	240	133	195	2	Virden	65	26	42	0
Belleville Korean	48	25	47	0		1528	607	828	0
Bluffview	186	28	43	0	Mississippi Valley Team - Richard Unger Chairman				
Collinsville Good Samaritan	130	80	134	0	Glenview	210	55	86	0
E. St. Louis Rush Mem.	6	7	7	0	Godfrey	198	41	45	0
Edgemont Grace	65	16	27	0	Jerseyville	96	39	41	0
Fairview Hgts Parkview	100	55	67	0	Roxana	227	143	146	0
	903	404	579	4		731	278	318	0
Grand Totals						11167	4374	6262	9

BUDGET REPORT NOVEMBER 30, 2010

Church Name	District	Olivet	NMI	SDMI	NYI	WEF	P & B
	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
Anna First	\$5,161.26	\$2,702.16	\$334.27	\$225.45	\$290.98	\$7,116.00	\$2,161.73
Arcola First	\$1,282.26	\$876.00	\$83.05	\$56.01	\$72.30	\$2,885.00	\$507.31
Arcola Spanish	\$598.36	\$312.50	\$38.75	\$26.15	\$33.74	\$576.00	\$209.00
Auburn	\$312.73	\$179.83	\$20.25	\$13.66	\$17.63	\$894.42	\$325.25
Barry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Beardstown	\$3,124.67	\$1,820.56	\$202.35	\$136.47	\$176.16	\$4,812.25	\$1,382.37
Beardstown Liberty Hispanic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Belleville Emmanuel	\$1,069.52	\$568.86	\$69.27	\$46.71	\$60.30	\$1,242.29	\$455.09
Belleville First	\$7,444.54	\$3,861.68	\$482.15	\$325.19	\$419.71	\$3,000.00	\$7,070.00
Belleville Korean	\$2,186.58	\$0.00	\$141.61	\$95.55	\$123.26	\$1,022.00	\$512.00
Benton	\$2,404.90	\$1,255.05	\$155.75	\$105.04	\$135.58	\$2,617.16	\$1,004.05
Bethel	\$2,058.33	\$1,028.22	\$133.31	\$89.91	\$116.04	\$1,233.25	\$429.31
Bluff View Christian Center	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carbondale New Beginnings	\$200.03	\$0.00	\$12.95	\$8.74	\$11.28	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carlinville First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$730.00	\$200.00
Carmi	\$2,137.66	\$0.00	\$138.45	\$93.38	\$120.51	\$0.00	\$0.00
Casey	\$7,988.27	\$4,554.60	\$517.35	\$348.92	\$450.37	\$11,596.00	\$3,604.22
Centralia	\$1,991.70	\$1,040.00	\$129.00	\$87.01	\$112.29	\$2,625.00	\$965.25
Champaign First	\$3,861.73	\$2,015.17	\$250.09	\$168.67	\$217.71	\$4,433.35	\$1,609.76
Champaign New Day	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chrisman	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clinton First	\$4,223.82	\$2,000.00	\$273.54	\$184.50	\$238.14	\$4,350.00	\$1,600.00
Collinsville Good Samaritan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Crossroads Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Decatur First	\$18,028.87	\$11,413.92	\$1,167.62	\$787.52	\$1,016.43	\$23,225.00	\$7,527.04
Decatur Oak Grove	\$1,190.73	\$614.00	\$77.11	\$52.02	\$67.14	\$1,424.00	\$520.00
Decatur Parkway	\$4,499.04	\$2,445.46	\$291.38	\$196.53	\$253.66	\$5,163.53	\$1,877.66
Decatur Trinity	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,444.06	\$899.66
Decatur West Side	\$4,119.69	\$4,093.24	\$266.81	\$179.94	\$232.23	\$4,267.31	\$1,551.75
Du Quoin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
East St. Louis Rush Mem.	\$189.72	\$139.00	\$12.29	\$8.29	\$10.70	\$218.00	\$79.00
Edgemont Grace	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairfield Fountain of Life	\$589.75	\$0.00	\$38.19	\$25.76	\$33.25	\$1,675.00	\$60.40
Fairview Heights Parkview	\$2,067.23	\$1,699.57	\$133.86	\$90.31	\$116.58	\$3,941.00	\$1,191.09
Flora	\$4,651.57	\$2,657.63	\$301.26	\$203.19	\$262.26	\$6,193.40	\$1,971.70
Georgetown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Glenview	\$3,210.16	\$1,259.75	\$207.90	\$140.23	\$180.98	\$4,923.00	\$1,233.65
Godfrey	\$2,035.67	\$894.94	\$131.86	\$88.93	\$114.77	\$2,090.47	\$763.11
Granite City CTM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Griggsville	\$901.42	\$388.00	\$58.38	\$39.38	\$50.82	\$869.00	\$466.00
Highland	\$107.79	\$0.00	\$6.98	\$4.70	\$6.08	\$323.00	\$40.00
Jerseyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Laclede	\$364.03	\$197.43	\$23.58	\$15.90	\$20.52	\$315.80	\$114.84
Lincoln	\$1,759.95	\$784.03	\$113.98	\$76.86	\$99.21	\$1,710.84	\$622.38
Mahomet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mansfield Community	\$1,194.17	\$624.00	\$77.34	\$52.17	\$67.32	\$1,065.00	\$499.00
Marion First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marshall	\$858.50	\$0.00	\$55.60	\$37.50	\$48.40	\$0.00	\$500.00
Mattoon East Side	\$1,594.02	\$831.88	\$103.24	\$69.63	\$89.87	\$6,309.14	\$1,318.08
Mattoon Real Life Community	\$2,319.90	\$1,210.69	\$150.24	\$101.34	\$130.79	\$3,079.12	\$1,128.00
Monticello	\$1,147.81	\$668.00	\$74.34	\$50.14	\$64.71	\$1,337.00	\$371.00
Mount Carmel	\$728.86	\$50.00	\$47.21	\$31.84	\$41.09	\$120.00	\$500.00
Mount Erie	\$1,124.43	\$556.84	\$72.83	\$49.12	\$63.39	\$1,379.75	\$505.26
Mount Sterling	\$441.05	\$74.26	\$28.59	\$19.26	\$24.86	\$0.00	\$92.82
Mount Vernon	\$1,098.55	\$584.30	\$71.14	\$47.99	\$61.93	\$1,275.00	\$470.85
Murphysboro	\$2,867.10	\$0.00	\$185.69	\$125.24	\$161.65	\$0.00	\$1,289.37
Nebo	\$1,828.39	\$981.47	\$118.41	\$79.86	\$103.07	\$2,132.26	\$785.18
Oakwood	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oasis Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ogden	\$925.92	\$552.84	\$59.97	\$40.44	\$52.21	\$1,729.71	\$639.26
Olivet	\$1,822.60	\$951.00	\$118.03	\$79.62	\$102.75	\$0.00	\$951.00
Olney	\$2,197.63	\$1,075.92	\$142.31	\$96.01	\$123.90	\$1,549.71	\$860.74
Omaha	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pana First	\$2,325.45	\$1,215.49	\$150.61	\$101.59	\$131.10	\$3,220.22	\$1,412.45
Paris First	\$1,333.97	\$719.85	\$86.40	\$58.26	\$75.21	\$1,706.66	\$580.81
Pittsfield	\$7,267.12	\$9,792.49	\$470.64	\$317.44	\$409.69	\$12,188.16	\$3,033.99
Quincy Emmanuel	\$1,566.52	\$817.52	\$101.45	\$68.43	\$88.32	\$1,783.56	\$654.02
Rantoul	\$741.94	\$587.20	\$48.05	\$32.41	\$41.83	\$1,984.09	\$309.76
Roxana	\$9,893.52	\$4,773.07	\$640.74	\$432.16	\$557.78	\$11,339.14	\$4,140.76
Royalton First	\$2,643.94	\$0.00	\$171.23	\$115.49	\$149.06	\$0.00	\$0.00
Salem Grace	\$11,255.28	\$6,149.95	\$728.94	\$491.66	\$634.55	\$13,956.24	\$5,148.56
Shelbyville	\$7,614.94	\$3,797.77	\$493.18	\$332.64	\$429.30	\$8,232.42	\$3,016.48
Sherman	\$3,028.02	\$1,566.79	\$196.11	\$132.27	\$170.71	\$2,163.05	\$770.28
Sparta	\$473.42	\$0.00	\$30.66	\$20.68	\$26.69	\$0.00	\$0.00
Springfield First	\$2,575.50	\$0.00	\$166.80	\$112.50	\$145.20	\$3,102.00	\$2,000.00
Springfield Trinity	\$429.25	\$500.00	\$27.80	\$18.75	\$24.20	\$1,000.00	\$700.00
Taylorville First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuscola	\$1,293.02	\$1,000.00	\$83.74	\$56.48	\$72.90	\$3,255.00	\$1,000.00
Urbana Lighthouse	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vandalia	\$76.02	\$8.18	\$4.92	\$3.32	\$4.28	\$87.28	\$31.73
Virden	\$1,484.30	\$560.89	\$96.13	\$64.85	\$83.68	\$2,048.66	\$571.04
West Union	\$717.71	\$0.00	\$46.47	\$31.35	\$40.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$164,630.83	\$88,452.00	\$10,662.15	\$7,191.36	\$9,281.54	\$193,959.30	\$74,834.06

CHURCH NEWS

Thank You

The Family of Keith Wooten finds healing in God's tender embrace, and in knowing others remembered and cared.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

-- Lu, Gail, Alexis, & Family

Friendship

"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES." PROVERBS 17:17

Dear Illinois District Family,

Thank you for thinking of me during my surgery! The flowers brightened my room and my day. It is truly wonderful to be a part of such a great family! I will be back in the swing of things soon.

--- Lisa Lacher

COMBOINED THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On Sunday night, November 21st we held a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving at Parkview that included Rush Memorial, Edgemont, Dupo, and Parkview. It was a service of wonderful and diverse music. I really think that all who attended were blessed by all the music. There were 82 people present. Each church had people bring special music as well as congregational singing. A special evening indeed.

-- Jay Shoff, Pastor Fairview Heights Parkview



www.m11conference.org

<http://www.nazarenemedialibrary.org/channels/Home/M11-Promo-Videos.aspx>



Missional Strategy
MARK COPLEY, District Missionary
P.O. Box 373, Casey, IL 62420
Office: 217-932-4522; Cell:
E-mail: pastor@kznaz.org



A New Year and New Priorities

January 2011 will mark three years for me serving as District Missionary for the Illinois District. In that time, I have worked with three churches in ReFocus efforts and with five NewStart churches as well. I have assisted with TIPS (Transitional Interim Pastor) presentations in two of our churches, recruited pastors to attend New Church University, and worked hand in hand with our Mission Strategy Team to provide further training and funding for our churches.

Our contract with New Church Specialties has not changed during this time. It provided for 50 days of service each year. This was in addition to my full-time service as pastor at Casey. We've always known that there was much more work to be done than 50 days could allow. While serving as pastor at Casey, I always kept my work there as a priority. Yet, I have grown to enjoy the work of encouraging pastors and leaders and seeking to serve the mission of the District. As you know, I recently made the difficult decision to resign there in order to seek a new direction from the Lord. I am so thankful to Dr. Spruce and so many of you who have prayed for me, my family, and the church at Casey during this time.

In their most recent meeting, the District Advisory Board accepted a proposal to expand the District Missionary role to that of District Missional Strategy Director, providing for the extension of this work to 150 days per year. Briefly the work will include the following priorities:

1. To work closely with the District Superintendent in implementing the Mission Strategy of the District.
2. To act as chairman of the Mission Strategy Team, communicating the vision and agenda of the Mission Strategy Team across the District, and to overseeing the implementation of its strategy.
3. To develop networks on the District to promote prayer, coaching, and church planting.
4. To help launch a church multiplication movement on the Illinois District.
5. To assist the District Superintendent in the recruitment and assessment of NewStart pastors.
6. To provide assessment and training for pastors and churches in the areas of Church Health and ReFocus (using the resources of New Church Specialties).
7. To oversee the planning of training events promoting church health and missional strategies for pastors and church leaders on the District.
8. To regularly report progress to the Mission Strategy Team and the District Advisory Board at scheduled meetings.

I also believe God is calling me to enter into the work of church planting myself. More than anything else, this part of the District Missionary's work has captured my heart and imagination. I really can't see trying to lead the District to plant more churches without my own personal commitment in the work. I have found some part-time employment (at Starbucks) in Effingham and I am beginning to build relationships there. Candy and I are hoping to sell our home soon and relocate there to begin gathering friends to form the core of a new church.

I am humbled and thankful for the faith the District leadership has placed in me to lead this work. God has truly captured my heart with a missional vision for our district that I can now fully pursue. However, this work depends on all of us and adjusting our priorities according to God's purposes. How can we begin this new year together committed to do so?

First, pray. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into the harvest field that is the Illinois District Church of the Nazarene. In Luke 10:2, Jesus teaches his disciples to begin his mission with this commandment. Set your cell phone alarm to remind you to pray each day at 10:02. Imagine the impact of hundreds of Nazarenes calling out to God each day for harvest hands. Remember to pray as well for our pastors and churches for a genuine spiritual renewal that will empower us for the work to come.

Second, ask God if he is sending you to be part of a new church plant. As the disciples prayed for laborers, the next passage found them being sent *as those laborers* into the harvest fields themselves. Tell Christ you are willing to go and to adjust your priorities in any way necessary should he call you to join him in this work. I believe the hope of our District lies in our obedience to Christ's call.

Finally, commit, or recommit yourself to making a new disciple this year. Ask God to give you the names of two people who are not presently following Christ. Pray for them daily and grow your friendship with them. Listen to their stories, discern their needs, and seek to bless them. Open your life to them as well. Be vulnerable and real, confessing your own dependence on Christ. In time, ask them if they'd be interested in reading through one of the gospels together and discussing it weekly. Let God use you to plant the seed of his word in their lives, and trust him to grow it to full fruitfulness.

2011 is a new year, and should we allow Christ to lead us in new ways, we will see new progress toward a new Illinois!

In Jesus,

Mark Copley

District Missional Strategy Director