

Northeastern District Family Newsletter

The Northeastern District of The Christian and Missionary Alliance; 6275 Pillmore Drive; Rome, NY 13440
Phone 315-336-4720 Email: office@northeasterncma.com Web: www.northeasterncma.com

Thoughts from Dan

The current situation with the Great Commission Fund (GCF) continues to cause great concern. Last month, I wrote that significant salary and other GCF expenditure reductions were being made to address a serious decline in receipts. Then, almost before the ink was dry on that article, word came that a million dollar gift to the GCF had been received and that the Board of Directors (BOD) had rescinded the salary reductions (to be reviewed again in 90 days). This, of course, was wonderful news for which all of us praise God!

However, within two weeks we received President Benedict's heavy-hearted communication informing us of more hard news based on current GCF trends:

1. The 2009-2010 GCF budget was reduced by the BOD from the 2008-2009 budget by \$3.2 million to \$37.5 million.
2. The BOD postponed the appointment of several missionary couples due to the current financial realities (to be reviewed again at the May BOD meeting).
3. Reductions in National Office staffing are being carried out.
4. From those missionaries currently serving there will be a reduction of 30 to be effective June 30, 2009.

Please join me in praying for God's gracious provision for our workers and families affected in #3 and #4. Clearly, the need for our fervent prayers and faithful support cannot be overstated. This is a time for our pastors and people to recognize, and commit ourselves to, the vital role that each Alliance church and every Alliance person has in maintaining our forward momentum toward completing Christ's Commission. The souls of multitudes are at stake!

I join President Gary Benedict and Church Ministries Vice-President, John Soper, in strongly urging every church in the Northeastern District to:

1. Strive for a substantial and permanent increase in the percentage of Alliance people who regularly give to the GCF.
2. Enthusiastically promote and participate in the Great Commission Sunday special offering next month.

This is my third consecutive monthly article dealing with GCF matters. "Is this really warranted?" you may ask. My answer, "It sure is, it's who we are!"

Keep prayed up,

Dan

P.S. I'm praying for the great blessing of the Lord on your Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday ministries. **HAPPY EASTER !!**



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2009

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*"Then will I go unto
the altar of God, unto
God my exceeding joy;
yea, upon the harp will
I praise Thee, O
God, my God."
Psalms 134:4*



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**Northeastern
District
Office Staff**

**District Superintendent
Rev. Daniel D. Miller**

**Director of
Church Health and
Multiplication
Rev. Jon A. Martin**

**Executive Secretary
Billie L. Merrick**

**District Business
Manager/Bookkeeper
Mr. Frank E. Whiting**

**Church Health
and Multiplication
Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Debra A. Martin**

Church Health and Multiplication

*"Let Me See This World...As Though I Were Looking Through Your Eyes."
"I pray that you might be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full
understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." Philemon v. 6*

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors; as though God were making his appeal
through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."
2 Corinthians 5:20*

Spring is a good time to ramp up the evangelism efforts in your church especially with the meaningful services associated with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Natural Church Development (NCD) offers the following reasons as to why "Need-oriented Evangelism may need to be enhanced in any given church:

- ◆ Few members are cultivating relationships with un-churched people.
- ◆ Special evangelistically oriented events are primarily attended by church people.
- ◆ The word "evangelism" has negative connotations
- ◆ New converts are not mobilized to reach others for Christ
- ◆ You have a lot of visitors on Sunday but few seem to stay and become an active part of the church.
- ◆ Most or all ministries serve the church members
- ◆ No meaningful community outreach or compassion ministry exists
- ◆ Gifted evangelists have not been identified.

Two of the core values for the Northeastern District are: "Lost people matter to God and He wants them found" and "Prayer is our first work not our last resort." Consider the potential dynamic impact of the following prayer points:

"Thank God...for his saving grace which brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Acknowledge...your lack of compassion for the harvest.

Ask God...

- ◆ to open your eyes to see the lost people you are in contact with every day
- ◆ to enlarge people's hearts to include newcomers into their circle of friends
- ◆ for effective outreach strategies which will win many to Christ
- ◆ for the growth of new Christians to maturity
- ◆ to help you value lost people's future freedom above your present comfort
- ◆ to break your heart with the things which break his heart"

"Need-oriented evangelism intentionally cultivates relationships with pre-Christian people so they can become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who are actively participating within the life of the church and community." Jesus modeled genuine compassion for the lost,

"He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it..." Luke 19:41.

May the lyrics of the song, "Looking Through Your Eyes" challenge our hearts anew and afresh: "...grieve for men, hell bound eternally, for if once I could see this world the way YOU see, I just know I'd serve you more faithfully."

For a Healthy Today and Tomorrow, *Jon*



*"My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul.
Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise you, O Lord,
among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love,
higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God,
above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth." Psalm 108: 1-5*

District Items of Interest

Northeastern District Family Newsletter

Articles for the **May**
Newsletter should be sent to
da_martin@northeasterncma.com
by **Monday, April 27, 2009**



*Behold
the
empty
tomb!*

In Transition

Rev. J. Railey and
Esther Gompah to Unassigned

Mr. James L., III
and **Julie Outman** to Unassigned
607-565-9314
36 Rt. 34, Waverly, NY 14892-9703
jimo@nwchapel.org

Sympathy

Mrs. Norma C.
(Rev. Louis J., III) Isch
Wife of Former District Pastor
November 29, 2008

Miss Eunice Harris
Former District Worker
Sister of Rev. Sidney Harris
February 26, 2009

Mr. Robert Chappell
Brother-in-law of
Rev. Jonathan Youngmann
March 11, 2009

Rev. Nathan J. Rakestraw
Retired District Pastor
March 16, 2009

Mr. Thomas Goon
Father of Mrs. Cindy Prahst
(Pastor's Wife, Nelliston, NY),
March 18, 2009

Rev. Elwood A. Mann
Retired District Pastor
March 28, 2009

General Council

May 26—31, 2009
Louisville, Kentucky

Reminder:

A **Certificate of Lay Delegate**
is required at the District Office for
each lay person to be an
Accredited Delegate, eligible to vote
and debate.

Looking forward to seeing you on
Thursday, May 28, 9:00 PM
at our
Northeastern District Reception,
following the evening service.

District Directory and Conference Proceedings

Electronic copies of the 2009 District
Directory as well as the
District and Prayer Conference
2008 Proceedings
are available by contacting
Frank Whiting at
fe_whiting@northeasterncma.com
in 2009.

Births

Arianna Marie to
Rev. Kevin T. and Becca Ellwood
March 3, 2009



New Official Workers Forum (NOWF)

Simpson University, Redding, California,
June 22–25, 2009

C&MA Church Ministries will provide nine meals through the on-campus dining area at the university for those attending. Attendees will be responsible for providing their own transportation. Instead of the usual registration fee, attendees are being asked to pick up the cost for lodging for three nights in the dorm, which will be \$100 due at the time of registration. If a spouse plans to attend, there will be an additional cost of \$153. This NOWF will meet one of the requirements for ordination/consecration.

DEXCOM Meeting:

Reports to DEXCOM and other items for DEXCOM consideration must be received at least two weeks before scheduled DEXCOM meetings in order to be placed on their Agenda. It is important to send information for their April 20 meeting to Frank Whiting at fe_whiting@northeasterncma.com

Looking for Pastors or Interim Pastors in NY

Ballston Spa, Olean,
Schoharie, Springville
Wellsville and Whitesville

Looking for Assistant or Associate Pastors in NY

Kingston and Syracuse

TRAINING GROUND

a one-day training seminar for
Children's and Youth Workers
sponsored in part by the
NED Disciplemaking
Ministries Committee

May 16, 2009
Registration opens at 8:00 am
Opening Session at 8:30

Cost \$15.00 to include lunch
More details will be available at
District & Prayer Conference



Parsonage to Parsonage

"No one ever taught me how to be a Pastor's wife. I wish I had someone to talk to." Are these words spoken in your heart? If so, perhaps you would like to meet with another Pastor's wife who can encourage you on your journey.

"I wish I had known then what I know now." If these words are in your heart, perhaps you would be willing to be a mentor to another Pastor's wife.

"Mentor" is defined as "an experienced advisor and supporter." If you desire to seek advice and support from another woman in ministry, or you are willing to give advice and support to another, please contact me and I will attempt to match mentors with mentorees (I think that is probably not a word).

I am not talking about a life-long commitment and one more thing added to your already busy schedules. Personally, I like Jill Briscoe's idea of mentoring as she defined it in the Spring 2009 issue of *Just Between Us* magazine:

"Often, I have had people ask me, 'Would you mentor me, Jill?' I usually answer, 'No, Jesus will mentor you, but I will meet with you a few times to show you how to let Him do that. And once in a while, we can meet to share the lessons He is teaching us both.' We must not become *holy substitutes* for the Holy Spirit! Or people will lean on us instead of Him!" Jill goes on to say "We have so many holy substitutes. It's so easy to be friends with Jesus' friends rather than friends with Jesus!"

As the District Superintendent's wife, I am always a listening ear and a praying voice. Please never hesitate to call me. If mentoring or being mentored is something you desire, please let me know. Telephone: 315-336-1051 or E-mail: Miller91270@yahoo.com or SplashesofSerenity@yahoo.com.

DON'T FORGET: April 9 is the deadline for reservations for the April 23 Ministry Women's overnight at the Holiday Inn in Auburn. We'll be doing some mentoring there too. Hoping to see many of you at Conference, the Overnight, and Spring Refresh!! Can't wait for your hugs!

Keep clinging to the resurrected power of the cross!

Elaine

Directory Updates

Please make note of these directory changes in your District Directory for future reference and continue advising the District Office at office@northeasterncma.com of your address, phone, e-mail and website changes as they occur. Thank you!

Albany

office@pineviewcommunitychurch.com

LaGrangeville

names changed to: Crossroads

Rev. Daniel P. Groh

Delete: (Cell) 845-891-4017

Rev. Timothy P. Armstrong

revtpacma@netzero.com

Rev. Philip R. Barner

Home: 607-478-8678; psbarner@juno.com

Rev. Burton F. Huegel

huegel.judynburt@yahoo.com

Mr. Ricardo Volcy

ricardo@syracusealliance.org



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Dates to Remember

APRIL

- 2 Mohawk Valley Coaching Cluster Town and Country Big Impact, District Office, 10:00 AM
- 6 DEXCOM Agenda items due at District Office
- 7 CMTeam Meeting, District Office, 10:00 AM
- 10 **GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY** – District Office Closed
- 12 **HAPPY EASTER!**
- 14 LO&CC Agenda items due at District Office
- 20 DEXCOM Meeting, Auburn Alliance, 1:00 PM
- 21-23 **District and Prayer Conference**, Auburn Alliance
(Registrations per: Individual \$60; Married Couple \$90)
- 23 Pastors' Wives and Women Official Workers Breakfast, 8:00 AM, Holiday Inn, Auburn
- 23 Pastors' Wives and Women Official Workers Dinner, 5:00 PM Holiday Inn, Auburn
- 24 District Office Closed
- 24-25 AWM Spring Refresh Conference, Holiday Inn, Auburn
- 24-25 District Quiz Finals, Jamestown Alliance
- 30 Missions Committee Meeting, District Office, 10:00 AM

MAY Great Commission Month

- 3-10 Alliance World Week of Prayer
- 5 LO&CC Meeting, District Office, 10:00 AM
- 14 Evangelism Committee Teleconference, 3:00 PM
- 25 **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY** – District Office Closed
- 25-26 National AY Worker Gathering, Louisville, KY
- 26-31 **General Council**, Louisville, KY
- 28 District Reception, Council, Thursday, 9:00 PM

Nyack College

Students from C&MA churches may receive Nyack College grants of up to \$12,500 per year if they enroll at the residential campus as a new undergraduate student. Eligibility is based on C&MA church membership/attendance.

Alliance Theological Seminary is in its third year of offering a grant of up to \$6,250 per year for fulltime students who are in a ministerial degree program and headed for ministry with the C&MA.

For more information, contact the respective admissions office.

Nyack College

800-33-NYACK

admissions@nyack.edu

ATS

800-541-6891

admissions.ats@nyack.edu

Grant Writing Seminar

**A Grant Writing Seminar
April 18, 2009
Pearce Memorial Church
North Chili, NY
10 AM – 3 PM**

**Cost for lunch and workbook is \$45 per person
Group rates are available at \$35 per person (3 or more)**

Through this seminar, churches and religious organizations have received:

- \$1,200 for landscaping and trees around the church
- \$1,000 for fishing poles and tackle to take "At Risk Teens" fishing
- \$1,000 in free Hasbro games for a church daycare
- \$15,000 for a church run food pantry
- \$30,000 for a new After School program

This one day training will help you learn to write successful grants that will help provide much needed money for ministry.

To register call 330-382-1086 or at www.FirstMatrixMinistries.org

Evangelism Minute

I want to share with you a product that I think is the best resource bar none to help equip your people to be able to share their testimony with unsaved loved ones.

**Billy Graham Association Life & Witness Course
available now on DVD at \$29.99
for the complete course**

We are using this in Sidney and it's a great program to help your people feel comfortable about evangelism in a friendly easy to share way.

Here is the url to go and purchase the program http://www.billygraham.org/Grason_Product.asp?PFID=609

I hope you will find this tool helpful in training your people to reach our lost world.

God bless,
Kelvin McKnight
Evangelism Committee



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District and Prayer Conference

April 21-23, 2009

Auburn Alliance Church

Theme: ***Living the Call Together . . . In a Culture of Peace!***

Although we are past the March 31 deadline, pre-registrations are still being accepted at the District Office: \$60.00 all **Individual** Conferees OR \$90.00 per **Married Couple** Conferees

Registration at Conference for ALL attendees starts Tuesday, 10:00 AM.

Conferees are encouraged to arrive in time to kick off our Conference at 12:00 PM with concerted **Prayer** and Fasting before our **1:00 PM** Welcome session.

Peacemaker Ministries Seminars with **Mr. Rick Friesen** and **Mr. Tim Pollard**

Biblical Foundations of Peacemaking – Tuesday, 1:30—4:00 PM

The Four “G’s” of Peacemaking -- Wednesday, 9:15—11:45 AM

Leading Your Church to a Culture of Peace -- Thursday, 10:00 AM —12:00 PM

Official Workers -- seminars qualify for Continuing Education,
plus one Ordination/Consecration In-Service Training day as applicable.

International Banquet

Tuesday evening, 6:00 PM

Springside Inn

6141 West Lake Road

Auburn

featuring Missionaries:

Rev. Paul and Beverly Clark – Brazil

Rev. James and Rebecca Derksen -- Guinea

Rev. Alan and Trish Eggleton -- Russia

Miss Kathy Petteys – Venezuela

The cost of this lighthearted, informative and inspiring banquet is included in the registration fee for all registered Conferees (come *internationally dressed*, if you so desire)

Wednesday evening

District Superintendent’s Message | Communion | Healing

Public Service 7:00 PM

Auburn Alliance Church

Rev. Bruce A. Overstreet will be honored for his **25** years of C&MA service, and **Rev. Timothy C. Koffkey** and **Rev. Jonathan W. Youngmann** will be recognized for their **15** years of Alliance ministry. **CONGRATULATIONS**, *Bruce & Sheryl, Tim & Heidi, Jonathan & Loyce!!!*

People from our churches are encouraged to drive in for this evening of worship and spiritual enrichment as well as fellowship and refreshments following the service.

If any District pastor has reached 15 or 25 years of Alliance ministry this year and is not mentioned please contact Billie at 315-336-4720, Ext. 201 or office@northeasterncma.com at your earliest convenience (or if anyone desires more Conference information).