

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

Tim Laniak, a professor of Old Testament at Gordon Conwell

Theological Seminary, has written an inspiring book of 40 meditations for church leaders. Though not intended as an advent devotional, you wouldn't know it by the title. While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks is the result of extensive research by Tim into the lives of shepherds in Israel. I think he actually spent time living with Bedoin shepherds (by the way Laniak rhymes with maniac) to gain the deepest insights of what it is to shepherd sheep in the often harsh conditions of the Middle East.

The individual daily meditations in the book are grouped under three critical areas of a shepherd's work – Provision, Protection and Guidance. From his face-to-face interaction with Bedoins and his careful study of Scripture, the author has provided today's spiritual shepherds with timely insights and inspiration which will benefit all of us who spend the time to receive and consider them.

The 40 meditations bear interest-peaking, thought-provoking titles like, "Greener Pastures" and "Spring Up, O Well" under "Provision;" "Recognizing the Wolves," "Facing the Lions" and "Guard Yourselves" under "Protection;" and "Think Flock" and "Authority and Abuse" under "Guidance." Each contribution is thought-provoking, and firmly anchored in the Word.

In the prologue, "The Wilderness," Laniak writes:

"Our lives can become a wilderness when experiences expose our frail and tenuous existence. Episodes of bewilderment, abandonment and inner terror reveal our soul's restless cravings and fundamental neediness. In the wilderness we can lose our bearings or regain them. The wilderness can be such a catalyst for good, we may voluntarily create one for the purpose of recharging our relationship with God. We can block out the calendar and unplug the technological gadgets for some uninterrupted time in a setting that isolates us in His presence. (Reading this) could reflect a deliberate, intentional choice to meet with God."

Shepherds – during this time of preparation to lead God's people in a Christ-honoring celebration of the birth of the Good Shepherd, I highly commend to you While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks. You can obtain it from Peacemaker Ministries or from any on-line bookstore, I imagine.

May God bless your advent season and the year ahead.

Your partner in the gospel, *Dan*



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2009

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*Celebrate
Jesus!!!!*

**Northeastern
District
Office Staff**

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

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

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

**Administrative Assistant/
Executive Secretary to the
District Superintendent
Mrs. Tracy M. Murphy**

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



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Church Health and Multiplication

Advancing the Kingdom Charging into the darkness

What will it take in today's world to "Advance the Kingdom" and "Push Back" or "Charge into the Darkness?" Recently 14 adults representing the Northeastern District, went to a comprehensive high quality sXt (The Alliance Strategic Multiplication Church Planting training) at Beulah Beach in Vermilion, Ohio. Having been pushed to the limit, each team expressed great appreciation for the practical "nuts & bolts" format. The presenting team was top notch! The cream that rose to the top was the need for genuine throne room praying. Party line prayers or carefully edited prayers will not cut it. Former District Superintendent now church planter, Dr. Gordon Meier gave a closing Joshua challenge: "Exercise Courage, Faith, Radical Obedience, Total Consecration and Coordinated Action."

For those on the "Ministry Continuum" of churches/pastors/church leaders leaning toward a more "missional" rather than an "attractional" philosophy, you may find "The Tangible Kingdom" book and primer by Hugh Halter & Matt Smay to be advantageous (purchased only on line at www.thetangiblekingdom.org). Anyone who is totally serious about Advancing the Kingdom and Charging into the darkness, will probably find that both "incarnational and missional" principles are needed (along with "Holy Spirit dependence and developing godly leadership"). Not only are they necessary but they will most likely serve as a powerful "lightening rod" for that endeavor.

The primer of The Tangible Kingdom effectively explains a common sense principle as to why both missional and incarnational living is vital for this task:

Mission is the 'sending' impulse and call for every Christian. Amazingly, however, that impulse can send people off into really goofy or offensive behavior in the world. For the sake of "mission" some people threaten abortion clinics or preach fire and brimstone with a megaphone on a street corner, trying to start spiritual conversations with people with whom they have no relationship...Like harsh words spoken without tact, or a fire burning outside a fireplace, missional by itself can hurt the cause of Christ more than it helps. This is why missional has an inseparable twin. The word is incarnational. It means "to take on flesh." If missional means "to go," incarnation is about how you go and what people see as you go. It encompasses your posture, your tone, your motives, and your heart. Incarnation is critical because it will eventually determine whether or not people will want to know you or your God. (p. 2.1).

Prior to the Beulah Beach Conference, I spent a few days with my daughter, Amanda, who is turning out to be a gutsy Intensive Care RN. Ok, it's a Dad's perspective! We spent a considerable amount of time seriously discussing these principles and had even more fun asking the question regarding our intended actions and thoughts, "is this incarnational living?". By the end of our time together, I was compelled to give her my copy of "The Tangible Kingdom" primer. Would it not be great if our casual church relationships could get "to" and "beyond" that level of incarnational and missional living? If so, we would be... "Charging into the Darkness"... "Advancing His Kingdom" and it would be a tangible way to share the best Christmas gift, Jesus, to a hurting world.

For a Healthy Today and Tomorrow,

Jon



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District Items of Interest

Northeastern District Family Newsletter

Articles for the January 2010
Newsletter should be sent to
da_martin@northeasterncma.com
by **Monday, December 14, 2009**

District Office Hours:
Monday—Friday,
8:30 AM—12:00 PM
1:00—4:30 PM

Between 8:45—9:00 AM
(prayer time)
and “after hours,”
voice mail is available.
Please feel free to call
Dan Miller and
Jon Martin at home if
necessary.

70th Anniversary Celebration

Retired Former
District Pastor and Wife
Rev. Charles and Dot Droppa
2 Chestnut St. Apt. 103
Whitinsville, MA 01588
celebrated their 70th Anniversary on
November 23.
CONGRATULATIONS,
Charles and Dot!



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Ordination/Consecration In-Service Training.

ATTENTION: *Provisional* official
workers and those preparing for
ordination or consecration,
please note that Tuesdays,
May 18 and **October 12, 2010,**
are In-Service Training days at the
Delta Lake Bible
Conference Center
Rome, NY
10:00 AM—3:15 PM

A cordial invitation also is extended
to all District Official Workers and
spouses to attend this training
which qualifies for
Continuing Education credit.

In Transition

Rev. Scott T. and Juliana M. Wolf
to Senior Pastor
Horseheads, NY
607-739-8500
164 Ridge Rd.
Horseheads, NY 14845
pastorscott@stny.rr.com

District Resources:

If you would like to receive
an electronic copy of the
Northeastern District
Events Calendar
please contact Tracy Murphy at
office@northeasterncma.com

Continuing Education Credit Information

for 2009 should be compiled
and submitted to the
attention of Debra Martin at the
District Office by
December 14, 2009

Looking for Pastors or Interim Pastors in NY

Campbell, Cortland, Delhi,
Frewsburg, Port Crane,
Rochester/Savior's Chapel,
Ticonderoga and Whitesville

Looking for Assistant or Associate Pastors in NY

Oneida and Syracuse

For an electronic copy of the 2008
District and Prayer Conference
Proceedings or the 2010 **District**
Directory contact Frank Whiting at
fe_whiting@northeasterncma.com

With Deepest Sympathy Mr. Rick Byrne

Brother of Mrs. Sandra
(Rev. Philip) Barner
November 2, 2009

ATTENTION: District senior pastors and church office personnel

The Christian and Missionary Alliance Annual Report to the President.

District Deadline: Monday, January 25.

This report must be completed by every District church.

It would be very much appreciated if you would please make every
effort to submit your December 31, 2009, church **Annual Report** by
Monday, **January 25**, 2010, even if a later date is specified on the
material to be sent directly to your church by the National Office (usually
snail mailed early in January). Your cooperation in completing the report
by January 25 will allow time for the District Office to review all District
church Annual Reports and formulate information for their District and
Prayer Conference Reports. It is crucial for ALL senior pastors to
carefully verify each statistic submitted for your church.

Also, the *Church Personnel, Pastoral Remuneration* and *District*
Operating Budget forms for 2010
will be needed at the District Office by January 25.



Parsonage to Parsonage

During this Season of Wonder, I am in awe of the exclamation points in Luke as the birth of Jesus is foretold:

“The Lord is with you!” At Christmas we miss those who aren’t with us. With a son at war and a mother in Heaven, I am comforted knowing that the Lord is with them and the Lord is with me. The Lord will never leave us—even if we wanted Him to.

“Don’t be afraid....” In a world filled with fear, we are reminded to not be afraid. God is in control—man is not. Phew!

“...for you have found favor with God!” For reasons I don’t understand, God chose to reveal Himself to me and to you. He sent the baby Jesus to die for the sins of the world. Yes, the human race—you and I—have found favor with God! Thank You, Lord.

“... His Kingdom will never end!” Wars, corruption, evil, and immorality abound on this earth. But, His Kingdom will never end. We are citizens of His Kingdom—not this one. Hallelujah!

“For nothing is impossible with God.” Some situations seem impossible. But, nothing is impossible with God. My efforts are futile—God’s are not. That’s good news.

“I am the Lord’s servant.” And so are you. What a privilege!

We serve a God whose Kingdom will never end. One Who can do the impossible. He tells us to not be afraid because He is always with us and we have found favor with Him. We have reason to celebrate! A Savior has been born to us! What a blessing to be His servant.

Merry Christmas with love from my parsonage to yours! Elaine

District Items of Interest *Continued*

District and Prayer Conference April 19—22, 2010

Theme: **Open Doors!**
Niagara Alliance Church
7041 Witmer Rd.
Wheatfield, NY 14120

January 11, 2010 -- Introductory Packets to be mailed from the District Office

March 5, 2010 – District Committee/Leadership **Conference Reports** Due at District Office

March 19, 2010 – **Registrations** due at District Office.

Registration Fees (per person; Tuesday Banquet included)

Postmarked by March 19:

\$65.00 per **Accredited Delegate** (Official Worker/Lay Delegate)

\$35.00 per **Corresponding Delegate** (nonvoting)

Postmarked after March 19 and at Conference:

\$90.00 per **Accredited Delegate** (Official Worker/Lay Delegate)

\$60.00 per **Corresponding Delegate** (nonvoting)

March 19, 2010 -- **Lay Delegate’s Authorization Form**: due at the District Office. Pastors are encouraged to duplicate the **reports** to be mailed to you for any lay delegates who may not have registered by March 19 so they may read them prior to registering at Conference.

April 20, 2010 -- **Tuesday Evening**: 6:00 PM

Church Health and Multiplication Banquet for all registered Conferees. Non-delegates attending the Banquet only the cost is \$25.00 per person. Location at: Classics V Banquet and Conference Center, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd. Amherst/Tonawanda, NY 14228.

April 21, 2010 – **Wednesday**: 12:00 PM; **Pastors’ Wives and Women Official Workers Luncheon** at Pane’s Restaurant, 984 Payne Ave., N. Tonawanda, NY 14120. Cost: \$7.00.

If you have any questions or desire further information, contact the District Office at 315-336-4720, Ext. 0 or office@northeasterncma.com

**LIFE 2010
COLLIDE**

July 6-10, 1020
Louisville, Kentucky
Registration: \$395.00
Website:

www.lifeimpactcma.org/LIFE/2010.html

In the British Weekly a letter was published about the preaching ministry of Pastors:

"Dear Sir, it seems ministers feel their sermons are very important and spend a great deal of time preparing them.

I have been attending church quite regularly for 30 years and I have heard over 1,000 of them. To my consternation I discovered I cannot remember a single sermon. I wonder if a minister's time might be more profitably spent on something else."

For weeks a storm of editorial responses ensued, ending with the following letter:

"Dear Sir, I have been married for 30 years. During that time I have eaten 32,850 meals, mostly my wife's cooking. Suddenly I have discovered I cannot remember the menu of a single meal, and yet I have the distinct impression that without those meals I would have starved to death a long time ago!"

Source Unknown

Submitted by:
Mark Patterson



Directory Updates

Ballston Spa

www.ballstonspaalliancechurch.weebly.com

Billie Laraine Merrick

Pg. 1: delete name, ext. email address

Pg. 3: delete home/office phone, home address, email

Campbell

delete e-mail

Mr. Timothy B. Kong

Cell: 518-728-0306

Rev. Peter E. Sears

Home: 716-794-3064

Cell: 724-525-0653

pes20032002@yahoo.com

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

14 District Family Newsletter Items Due

24 -Jan. 3, 2010 **CHRISTMAS Recess**

District Office Closed

25 -- **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

JANUARY

1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** – District Office Closed

5 LO&CC Agenda Items Due at District Office

11 **Conference** Introductory Packets to be sent

14 Evangelism Committee Teleconference, 3:00 PM

19 CMTeam Meeting, District Office, 10:00 AM

19 DEXCOM Agenda Items Due at District Office

19 DMC Teleconference, 9:00 AM

21 Missions Committee Teleconference, 10:00 AM

25 **Church Annual Reports**, Church Personnel, Pastoral Remuneration, District Operating Budget Forms due at District Office

25 Newsletter Items Due at District Office

26 LO&CC Meeting, District Office, 10:00 AM

