

# eUpdate

## Northwest Indiana District Church of the Nazarene

March 28, 2008

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**“Providing a climate for dynamic holiness ministry through the Church of the Nazarene in Northwest Indiana”**

[www.nwinazarene.org](http://www.nwinazarene.org)

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**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE  
CENTENNIAL  
OCTOBER 5, 2008**



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***“WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE CHURCH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU?”***

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**IT'S TAX TIME. IF YOU NEED A RECOMMENDATION FOR A SPECIALIST IN PASTOR'S TAX RETURNS PLEASE EMAIL ME [lgwoolery@earthlink.net](mailto:lgwoolery@earthlink.net)**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TODD AND RAQUEL FORREST ON THE LAUNCH OF HAMMOND FAMILY COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

Easter Sunday was the launch of this new congregation on the district. The following is a report from Todd and Raquel:

Hammond Family Community Church had a great weekend. We had 26 come to view the Jesus Film on Good Friday, 180 at the Easter Fiesta on Saturday, and 32 come to our church launch service on Sunday. The best news was that we had 4 families that had never attended before. The numbers would have been even better, but 17 “regulars” were either sick, out of town, or had conflicts. So, we actually had more “new” people than the ones we have been building as a core group. God is at work in Hammond. He is risen!

Let's continue to pray for Todd and Raquel and this new mission endeavor!

### **UPDATE ON CHURCHES**

**North Communities:** Some months ago, Dave Anderson located and led the congregation to the purchase of 12 acres of land in a choice location north of Westfield where significant growth will take place in the future. I thought you would be interested in the following email Dave Anderson sent the congregation updating them on the property situation.

*Friends, I thought you may like to see an update of where we are in our fundraising efforts. As you can see by the attached and in the email below, we are almost there – we are only about \$17K away. Thanks again to those who have contributed to God’s cause here. Last year, we had 56 visitors attend our church who were not attending church anywhere; 45 of them have stayed and are now following God. Given that our community of faith only has a little over 100 people who attend, well, you can do the math – this should give you an idea of the make-up of this community of faith. While most of these new Christians are in small groups and continue to grow spiritually, some are not in a small group yet; please pray that they will take the next step in their spiritual formation.*

## **NEW PROPERTY FUND RAISING CONCERT FOR NORTH COMMUNITIES**

*North Communities Church Presents  
John David Webster in Concert  
Summer Kick Off*

*Celebration of Faith, Family and  
Friendship*

*Westfield High School Auditorium  
Saturday June 7th @ 7:00 pm.  
Doors Open at 6:00 pm for Silent  
Auction and Raffle.*



*For ticket information  
[www.northcommunities.org](http://www.northcommunities.org)*



***John David Webster (a Christian musician, who had a couple of top 10 hits last year) has agreed to do a benefit concert for North Communities at a local high school. The NC worship band will open for for JDW. The goal is to raise \$15K for this event. Please pray that this event will come together well, that God will use it to help North Communities to move forward in the purchase of land, and that this event***

***will be effective in connecting with other unconnected people and lead them into relationship with God. The event will occur on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.***

**LET'S MARK SATURDAY JUNE 7 ON OUR CALENDARS. IT WOULD BE GREAT FOR AS MANY OF THE DISTRICT FAMILY AS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THIS FUND RAISER WITH OUR PRESENCE!!**

**Lafayette:** A very thorough congregational assessment done by Mike Ross has been completed and presented to the church board. It has been a valuable process. We are now entering the pastor search process in earnest. Thanks for your prayers as we seek the right pastor for Lafayette.

**Noblesville:** I am working with the board as we seek God's direction for the future at Noblesville. We are calling the congregation to prayer. We need to know what God is saying to us as we move forward. Steve Weber will be preaching April 6, and will make a prayer emphasis presentation to the congregation at 6:00 p.m. Pray with me that God will meet us in a special way at this very important time for this congregation. The following six Sunday evenings Scott Apple will be leading a study of "Desperate For His Presence" by Rhonda Hughey. I am working with the board to develop a "Sacred Space Prayer Room" as well.

**Note:** *One of the learnings that has come out of the prayer movement in Kansas City and elsewhere is that having a dedicated Prayer Room is essential to making prayer foundational in a congregation. I have seen such prayer rooms at Living Grace, Lebanon and DeMotte. If you have developed a "Sacred Space Prayer Room" please let me know.*

**West Lebanon:** The board and congregation will be meeting a pastoral candidate this coming Sunday. Your prayers for this process are appreciated!

**South Bend:** Dave Bartley met with the Advisory Board recently, presenting initial plans for a significant addition to the facilities. Join me in praying for Dave and the congregation as they move forward on this important project.



**Merrillville Living Grace:** This past New Years Michael Brown and the Living Grace congregation opened their **House of Prayer** located on their property. I recently visited there with Michael Brown. A great place to focus on prayer!

If you are interested in setting up a prayer room and want information about how you might go about doing so go to <http://www.spirithome.com/prayroom.html> for helpful information.

## PRAYER SATURATION WEEKENDS SCHEDULED

When **Steve Weber** spoke to our fall retreat on prayer, he offered 3 weekends to those present for a **“Prayer Saturation Weekend”** event he has been developing. The first three weekends in August, Steve will be holding this event at **Lebanon, DeMotte and Fairmeadow**. The question has come up whether other churches might participate. The experience with these events so far has indicated that the weekends are most effective when limited only to the local church where the event is being held.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SCHEDULING A PRAYER SATURATION WEEKEND CONTACT STEVE WEBER AT [slwmpi@yahoo.com](mailto:slwmpi@yahoo.com)**

## COMING DATES TO REMEMBER

### 2008 DISCIPLESHIP SUMMIT

April 12, Kankakee, IL

#### **Discipleship Summit Event Schedule**

8:00 - 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 - 10:15 AM	Session I: Conditioning for the Climb
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Session II: Checking Your Equipment
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Lunch (provided) Ministry Areas: Children, Youth, Adult
12:15 - 1:30 PM	Session III: Choosing Your Climb Ministry Area Breakouts: Children, Youth, Adult
1:30 - 1:45 PM	Break
1:45 - 3:00 PM	Session IV: Charting Your Course
3:00 - 3:15 PM	Commissioning and Dismissal



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For further information and to register go to: [www.nazarenesundayschool.org](http://www.nazarenesundayschool.org)

## CENTENNIAL RESOURCES DISTRICT TRAINING SESSION

**April 17, District Office**

**9:00 a.m. to Noon**

This is a mandatory meeting for all senior pastors

<p><b>Please mark SEPTEMBER 11, 2008 for a final training event before CENTENNIAL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2008</b></p>
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### **CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT**

#### ***“HOW TO DEVELOP LEADERS”***

Dr. Ken Priddy

Friday, May 16, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

District Office

Cost: \$15.00 (includes lunch)

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### **DEEP CHANGE OR SLOW DEATH?**

**The following article is based on the book, “Deep Change” by Robert Quinn. It is very insightful...somewhat academic at first but well worth the read. It’s the most succinct and descriptive summary of what happens to minimize effectiveness in both our personal lives and our churches.**

Energy is the capacity for doing work and overcoming resistance. From the second law of thermodynamics we learn that all systems tend toward increasing entropy. Increasing entropy means that energy in the system is being dispersed and therefore that the system is becoming more disordered. Less energy is available to do the work of the system. In a parallel fashion both the social structure of organizations and the psychological structure of individuals tend toward increasing entropy. Unless work is done to the contrary, natural processes will take the organizational culture or the individual ego toward stagnation and decay. The pull toward entropy gives rise to a pattern known as the “deep change” or “slow death” dilemma (Quinn, 1996).

The slow death of an individual...or a collective culture is natural. It results from a number of tendencies. The first tendency is our unconscious conservatism; we adjust our behaviors and aspirations to preserve the status quo. Behaviors become habits, and we act reflectively, choosing familiar methods without thinking about why we choose them (Bargh and Chartrand, 1999). Moreover, we normally adjust our goals to match past performance; we judge our current state by comparing it to what we have accomplished in the past (Cyert and March, 1963). The result is that most behavior is conservative and recapitulates the past.

The second tendency relevant to the slow death is the desire for control; we need to feel that we understand and shape our lives (Depret and Fiske, 1993).

Our self-concepts hinge upon our sense of control. We are uncomfortable in situations that we do not understand or that we cannot influence. The third tendency is for the environment to change. Regardless of our personal desire for predictability and control, the external environment is constantly changing, demanding new responses from us. Together, these three tendencies combine to create the slow death dilemma. We rely on old behaviors, even though the environment is constantly changing. As a result, we fall out of alignment and receive signals suggesting the need to change. Nevertheless, we need to feel that we are in control; thus, our natural reaction to demands for change is to practice denial. Such denial is a defense mechanism. It defends against the pain of anticipated personal or collective change. However, this denial is a form of closure, which increasingly closes out some aspect of the evolving external world. As we close down, we increasingly lose information, energy, and other resources. We experience slow death. Although such denial is potentially destructive, it is quite common. Following the natural laws governing physical systems, individuals and organizations travel along the path of least resistance (Fritz, 1989). We do the easy things first. We leave the path of least resistance only when we make commitments, take risks, and move to new levels of performance. We then plateau.

At first the plateau is a positive time of consolidation and success, but it eventually becomes a zone of comfort. At that point external signals begin to call for change. However, we react by practicing denial because we want to continue using the strategies that worked in the past. We choose slow death over deep change. As a result, most of us normally live in a reactive state (Fritz, 1989). We are trying to preserve our ego or current self. We do this by denying signals for change. To practice this form of denial is to practice self-deception. In this sense we are all hypocrites; there are gaps between what we espouse and what we practice (Argyris, 1988, 1991). We espouse change, dynamism, and learning, but we practice preservation, resistance, and denial. Therefore, it is normal for us to live in hypocrisy while denying that we do. Because of this hypocrisy, our organizations and social systems, like us, are unconsciously but systematically designed to remain in a reactive state; they ignore change, seeking to preserve the status quo and to maintain order. Consequently, they become systems of fear, orchestrated to deny the need for change. We design them in our normal, reactive state to motivate people who are also in the normal, reactive state; they thus give rise to patterns of slow death. However, individuals and organizations do not have to experience slow death. The alternative to slow death is deep change. The dilemma that we continually face, both personally and organizationally, is the choice between deep change and slow death, between integrity and hypocrisy.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A FULL COPY OF THE ARTICLE  
EMAIL ME AT [lgwoolery@earthlink.net](mailto:lgwoolery@earthlink.net)**

*God's Grace and Peace to you in fullest measure!!*