

# eUpdate

## Northwest Indiana District Church of the Nazarene

January 29, 2009

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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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### **DISTRICT ASSEMBLY INFORMATION COMING SOON**

With the change of dates for District Assembly and NMI Convention this year, pre-assembly meetings and other deadlines will be approximately two months earlier than usual. You will be receiving a detailed letter next week which will cover all the pertinent items of information to assist you in your planning for the end of the year and the preparation for reports, etc as we prepare for District Assembly.

**Note: Please give close attention to important information from NYI President Keith White regarding upcoming NYI events on the district at the end of this eUpdate. Give special attention to the dates for NYI Convention/Remix which will take place on the weekend before district assembly.**

### **KOKOMO FIRST ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN GRAND OPENING**

The original date of the grand opening of the new facility at Kokomo First has been changed. The new date is April 11, one day before Easter Sunday. More details will be passed along as they become available.

### **FRESH ENCOUNTER REVIEW**

Twenty-five pastors and staff persons gathered for “The Fresh Encounter” with **Steve Weber and Gary Schmitz** last week at the Lindenwood Retreat Center. What a great location and what a great event! I think I can say for everyone present that it was a tremendous time of spiritual encouragement.....truly a “fresh encounter.” Every session was marked by the presence of God. The teaching was outstanding!! Both Gary and Steve were uniquely used by the Holy Spirit to call attention to our desperate need to experience the presence of God both

personally and in our local churches. Mark DeYoung did an excellent job of leading us in worship!

The challenges we face in every local church require divine resources. Our effectiveness in building God's kingdom will not happen apart from the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that is significantly beyond what most of us are experiencing presently. The words of Jesus continue to ring in my ears: "Apart from me you can do nothing!"

I will be sending another communication soon with further thoughts about how we can focus minds and hearts on becoming desperate for the presence of God in our personal lives...and how pastors can lead their congregations to become "a house of prayer."

### **FAIRMEADOW COMMUNITY WORSHIPS IN NEW YOUTH CENTER**

The congregation at Fairmeadow Community (Munster) recently gathered for worship in the newly remodeled Youth Center that has been developed as an outreach into the Munster community. There have been miracles take place as a part of this congregation's commitment to impact their community in this way. The school administration in Munster has been incredibly open to cooperate in advertising and encouraging this initiative. Over \$40,000 in special contributions have been given by the congregation for the renovation of the old fellowship hall into a "state of the art" youth center. Grand opening for the youth center will take place this weekend! I know you join me in praying for **Pastor Mark DeYoung** and this aggressive missional effort to impact the youth of the City of Munster.

### **CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR HOBART**

Each pastor recently received a letter from me regarding the new initiative we are involved in with our congregation at Hobart. We have a huge challenge but also a huge opportunity to develop a missional presence in this fine community. I ask you to continue to pray for **Bob Lothenore** as he guides the congregation in this Restart effort. **Currently there is a tremendous need for a worship leader. If you know of a capable person that might be available please let us know!** Negotiations are currently underway to move the congregation to a rented facility, which will help the restart effort significantly. I urge every pastor and congregation to make prayer for the Hobart restart a priority!

### **OLIVET HOSTS HOLINESS SUMMIT**

Each pastor has received information the "Holiness Summit" at Olivet this coming March 22-24. **There is no registration for or cost to attend.** Information can be obtained on the Olivet website by clicking on the "Holiness Summit" graphic. I strong encourage pastors and interested laypersons to take advantage of all or part of this event. Presenters include Mark Quanstrom, Professor, Olivet

Nazarene University; Mark Fuller, Senior Pastor Grove City Ohio; Louis Bustle, Director of World Mission, Nina Gunter, General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene; Frank Moore, Professor, Olivet Nazarene University; Howie Shute, Field Coordinator, Horn of Africa; Tom Hermiz, General Superintendent, Churches of Christ in Christian Union and J.K. Warrick, General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene.

### **NEW OUTREACH INITIATIVE AT HILLSBORO**

**Pastor Greg McDonald** and his congregation have been praying and planning toward a Saturday night service to reach a totally different segment of the population in Hillsboro and the surrounding area. This “Saturday Night Service” began early in January. Pastor Greg recently reported growing attendance at this service. I know you join me in prayer for the success of this new initiative!

### **LEBANON ANNOUNCES “PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS”**

**Pastor Richard Burdett** announces a new mission initiative through the Lebanon Church. Alpha House was officially launched January 11. Included in this facility is: the Howe Meeting Room for youth ministry and various specialty groups, the Ruth Newby Food Pantry serving the community, Celebrate Recovery, Christian counseling service and short term emergency housing. Congratulations to Richard Burdett and the Lebanon congregation in this important new missional initiative.



### **FROM NORTH COMMUNITIES (Westfield)**

**Pastor Dave Anderson** reports an excellence response from his people to a prayer initiative led by Steve Weber prior to the district “Fresh Encounter.” Dave is planning to have Steve back sometime in the fall to follow up and reinforce the impact of this initial event.

## **NOBLESVILLE SPANISH CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP**

**Gersayn Estrada** the Pastor from Piedra Angular (Cornerstone) a new multicultural church in Noblesville, needs the following resources for this new congregation: musical instruments, colored spotlights, chairs. If you can help or for further information regarding this need, contact Pastor Estrada at 317-701-8523.

## **CELEBRATION SUNDAY AT RENSSELAER LIVING STONE**

Just received this update from **Amber Karkosky-Litten** and wanted to share it with you.

We continue to have some neat things happening in our church. We have decided to declare this Sunday a Celebration Sunday. We have had some great things happen over the last few months, and we are setting this Sunday aside to give thanks and Praise God! People are coming to know God's love and accept that love. I see some great spiritual growth in our peoples' lives along with spiritual fruit. I heard from several people the testimony about having a church family being such a blessing in their lives. Many have never had a church family before. I have been talking to a young couple (with three kids) interested in getting married and they hopefully will be there for the first time. Our teenagers are bringing friends, our new families are bringing their friends and family, and we are attracting some from the community. A neighbor from down the road is starting to come to church. I just want to share a testimony about the blessing we are experiencing.

I am not saying every detail is easy, but when we are experiencing such great things, it is easy to keep our focus on our purpose. **WE are building a church with human Living Stones one person at a time.**

## **RECENT PASTORAL REVIEWS**

Congratulations to **Gregg Davis, Michael Brown, John Leitzel and O'Neal Stover** for excellent pastoral reviews and unanimous board affirmations of a four year continuation of their service to their congregations.

## EXPERIENCING GOD

I've thought recently of the prayer ministry of Henry Blackaby, and his book, "Experiencing God", written 15 years ago. I just reviewed his "7 Realities of Experiencing God" once again. They are still profound. Everything begins with #2: **God wants to spend time with us. It all starts in the "secret place."**

### 7 Realities of Experiencing God

- God is always at work around you.
- **God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.**
- God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
- God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.
- God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
- You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
- You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

***Let's find out what God is doing where he has placed each of us...and join Him!!***

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM NYI PRESIDENT KEITH WHITE

**Winter Retreat-** By now you are getting ready to postmark your registration forms and get them on their way to David Brock at South Bend. Our pre-estimate numbers once again remind us that this event is a big one for us and we look forward to gathering together at Gull Lake in just a few weeks. Be in prayer for this event. There is a significant chance students will come to know Christ this weekend and that our students who already believe, will have some new steps taken in their spiritual journey. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

**District Celebrate Life-** Well the new format is here! March 14 is creeping up quickly. I have had the chance to talk to Eric Wood of Valparaiso about this event and things are coming together extremely well. Our hope is that the low cost of DCL will enable more to afford the RCL event in May. Even though this event is low cost it is going to be packed with a lot of great stuff. Our guest speaker is going to really challenge your students and he is a great communicator who will hold their attention. Our sports venues are secured and looking like a great place for our students to try out for whatever sports team they hope to be a part of. The talent element of DCL is also looking sweet. I think Eric's new format is going to help us encourage our talented students in a whole

new way. I am looking forward to that day and hope you are even now pumping this event to your students.

**Regional Celebrate Life**- May 14-16, 2009. I hope we have a great group going this year to RCL. For the past several years we have been having more and more students come and their enthusiasm at the event continues to grow and unite us together as a district family. RCL allows our students to experience Olivet, hear challenging and relevant teaching, hang out with give or take 3000 other students from all over Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Let's get them there.

**Invasion/Remix**- June 6-7, 2009. Kokomo, Indiana. With the change in District Assembly schedule this year, we are adjusting our schedule as well. We will be combining our Remix/NYI Convention with our invasion event that traditionally is in August. So what does this mean? Two great days of exciting district events! Remix will be on Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon we will head out for some great service projects that are getting put into place for us. Saturday night activity, Sunday morning youth worship, Sunday afternoon work projects, and Sunday night generational service. It's going to be a great weekend in the life of NWIN district NYI. It will be a weekend filled with change, servant hood, worship, fun, friends, new friends, and end with our students seeing the church as a whole at the generational service. Mark your calendars now. More information coming soon.

**Bible Quizzing**- this ministry keeps rocking and moving forward this season. If you have never had a quiz team before then make next year your launching year. Want to see what quizzing is like? Then pop into the quiz on February 7<sup>th</sup> in Crawfordsville and check it out!

**Nazarene school Scholarships**- the scholarships we offer on our district include 4 new student scholarships and 1 youth ministry major scholarship. If the student attends our regional school, Olivet Nazarene university, they will match the funds. If you are in need of these scholarship forms, please respond to this email and I will get it sent to you.

**Student Leadership Application**- For students who are interested in being a part of the District NYI Council, this is the way in. Students who turn in their applications are the names that are brought to the nominating committee for the next years council. Please encourage your students who love district activities to get an application filled out. we know there are leaders out there that the district council and others may not be aware of. If you need one of these forms, please email me back and I will get it to you.