

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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DS UPDATE

Dear Southern District Family:

I have a sense that 2008 will seem to rush by. When looking at the calendar it appears to be a very, very busy twelve months. That's okay! As long as our business is as a result of the ministry of God's Spirit. I am truly excited about all that He is doing in our midst.

Family Stuff

As most of you know 2007 was an interesting year for the King family. Just one year ago this month my wife, Carol, was temporarily blinded when some plant insecticide was sprayed into her eyes. It was scary to say the least! But it is also wonderful to report that the Lord has undertaken and her eyesight is terrific! There is only a very slight scar in her left eye but it does not affect her vision. To God be the glory!

I was hospitalized briefly with some kind of infection in my blood. Again, the Lord intervened and whatever it was is gone! Later in the year I began to experience some allergic reactions that required two different trips to the emergency room to get some IV's. The last time interrupted my long planned for hunting trip... the deer are safe!

The first of November I was on a ladder behind my house doing some work when the ladder collapsed and I crashed down hard on my left side, fracturing my left arm and acquiring a number of cuts and bruises. It is still sore some of the time. Trust me, that is no way to get sympathy! Some of the guys are giving me a hard time about ol' guys shouldn't be climbing on ladders. Hummmph!

In July our younger son, Jonathan was married to a wonderful young lady, Mandy, from Fairhope, Alabama. They are living in Denver and doing very well. We miss them but were able to see them when attending the November DS conference in Colorado.

District Stuff

There are a number of potential new church plants on line, but I will leave all that for Frank Smith to report. Suffice to say that the birth of a new church is always exciting and we love to see it happen.

We have been busy visiting many of our churches, but really got behind on our optimistic schedule and plan when we experienced all the physical problems. So,.... I am hoping

to be in most of our churches in 2008. I will be in contact with pastors regarding the schedule.

Men's Ministries

I am really pleased with the excellent ministry of Jimmy Johnson, our Men's Ministry President. Jimmy's wife, Elaine, recently suffered some heart trouble, but, thanks be to God, she is doing very well. Jimmy is really getting around to our churches encouraging them to develop outreaches to men.

Last May our Men's Retreat at Poplar Point Camp was a huge success with Doug Grogan as our speaker. This coming May 2 and 3 we are excited to announce that Rev. Craig Smith will be with us. Craig is Native American and former Superintendent of the Native American District. He is also an outstanding gospel singer. Craig is now Director of On Eagles Wings that is reaching hundreds of Native young people all across America. Folks, we are in for a great treat at our retreat! Soon your church will receive a Registration Brochure. May I suggest you register as soon as the brochures arrive in order to reserve a bed at the camp. Also, as a reminder, we do have hook-ups for camper trailers at Poplar Point Camp.

Poplar Point Camp

Speaking of Poplar Point Camp. Have you joined our 20/200 Club? If not, I urge you to do so. Our goal is to see at least 200 people commit to donating \$20 each month. This would be an incredible help and boost to our camping ministry. It is greatly needed.

I do hope you will be promoting Youth Camps for the coming summer. Our new District Camping Director is Rev. Larry Smith, pastor of Mt. Olive Alliance Church. We are going to have some great camps and now is the time to start talking to young people and parents about this fantastic opportunity.

Recently the Missions Mobilization Committee sponsored a youth camp called "Impact" and the Lord really spoke to a number of youth.

Cross Cultural, Multi-Cultural Ministries

Just look at this list of churches that are somehow involved in helping with ministries to people of a different ethnicity or culture ... this is evidence of missionary hearts!

- Brewster Road Alliance – sponsoring Brewster Road Spanish Church
- Genesis Church, Foley – sponsoring Foley Spanish Church
- The Church at Trussville – assisting Forestdale Community Church – African American
- Vestavia Alliance Church – hosting a Chinese Congregation
- North River Alliance, Hixon, TN, - special English language ministry to Hispanics
- Heritage Bible and St. Andrew Churches, Panama City, - hosting new Spanish Church meeting at Historic St. Andrew Church
- New Hope Church, New Orleans – an international congregation
- New Haven Fellowship, Baton Rouge – African Americans

- Vietnamese Alliance Church, Pensacola, FL

In addition to these very wonderful and intentional ministries, a number of our churches are beginning to look like international congregations. We are truly looking like The Christian and Missionary Alliance – internationally!

Coming Events

Our License and Ordination Council is busy. We have quite a number of people being interviewed for ministerial license and others for ordination. Matter-of-fact we expect to ordain some of our men at our September District Conference!

Jerry Breedlove, Pastor at Crossroads Fellowship, Clarksville, TN will be ordained on March 9th at the church. If any of you can attend that would be terrific.

Larry and Carol Fish have retired as Alliance Missionaries, but knowing them retiring from ministry is far from their thinking! This evening we are honoring them with a great dinner and program at Brewster Road Alliance Church. No doubt they will remain available to minister in your church so don't be shy about asking. They are on tour in the Southern part of our district so some of you will see them soon.

Vicki Murdock, from Africa, is our missionary on tour in the more northern areas of the district. She is going through a major transition as the missionary team from Gabon is being redeployed to other fields.

Be sure to attend your church missionary conference and prayerfully and sacrificially give to the Alliance Great Commission Fund that supports our workers worldwide!

District Conference will be hosted by the Genesis Church in Foley, Alabama September 15-17. We have a great program in store for you. We have invited Dr. Gary Benedict to attend. Should he not be able to attend we hope John Soper, Vice President of Church Ministries to be with us. Also, I have scheduled Mr. Don Thompson to come a present a seminar on how to invest, to deal with indebtedness, and how to put together an excellent retirement plan. He will also be available for private consultation meetings. I have been personally delighted with the great guidance he has given our family.

We love to hear from you! It is especially wonderful to receive stories of people who have come to Christ or have experienced His blessings in their lives. If you would like to tell about something special that has occurred in your life, ministry, church, please let me know so I can pass it along for all to share in the blessing!

I love you in Christ,

Fred King
Superintendent

