

Pittsburgh District

Church of the Nazarene

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David L. Marker, Editor - admarker@comcast.net



August 2015



Rev. J Bret Metcalfe
District Superintendent

I first want to thank you all for your generosity shown during the District Assembly. What you did overwhelmed us, so again, thank you.

We are on the cusp of better days. Yes, the world seems like it is falling apart around us, but we just need to hold fast to He who does not change, the Lord. I have been working through the Vision 2020 cards in preparation for Dr. Warrick calling for the totals and I believe with you that the Lord wants to do a great and mighty work through this district for His kingdom. Let's not focus on what we have, but focus on what God wants. Let's not let the junk of the world drag us into their degradation, but let us hold fast to Christ and let Him bring us out of the mire and set our feet on the Solid Rock. From there, let's proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and watch Him change lives. We are better

together.

Years ago the Church of the Nazarene called the United States a mission field, so let's do as the missionaries around the world do, let's go into our "nations" and speak truth in love to those who need to hear. Let's band together with brothers and sisters and unite for the greatest impact. Do not be afraid of the church down the street or in the next town, pray for them and seek ways that you can partner together in the name of Jesus to see your community come to Jesus. You know, He can accomplish that if He has faithful people who care enough to share their story.

One of the goals of the assembly was to give you all ideas of things you can do in your community to impact lives for Christ. I know we had a lot of people reporting and that caused us not to have the time to react to what was said. Next year that will change. However, even with the large number of people sharing, I pray that each of you gained some new insight to something that might just work. Maybe you will have to blend several of the ideas together. There is nothing wrong with that. You know your communities better than anyone else, so be creative and do something. If the Lord gives you an idea, He will help you work through that idea and provide what you need. The plan may require you to just open your mouth and ask.

Also during the assembly, we shared the new mission statement, core values, and vision statement for the district. As a reminder, let me share that once again with you. The Mission Statement of the Pittsburgh District is to make Christ like disciples who make Christ like disciples, who make Christ like disciples. This is a movement that has no

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Page 2 - DS (continued), Prime Time Trip and Children's Bible Quizzing end. This is the commandment that Jesus gave His disciples, of whom we also are. The three core values are central to seeing the work of God transform this district. We must Unify Churches. Once again, other churches are not your enemy, they are co-laborers with you. Pray for them. Work with them. Support them. Followers of Christ are the church, so let's show the world we can be unified. We must also Empower Believers. While pastors are called to lead a church, the people of the church are called to help further the mission of the church. Pastors, empower the people of the church and turn them loose. It will be okay. If you have disciplined them, they are ready to go. Lastly, our whole goal should be to Advance the Kingdom. By unifying our churches and empowering believers, the kingdom of God will advance.

What is Christ calling you to do for Him?

Co-laboring with you, J Bret

LANCASTER 2015 HERE WE COME!

Come and Join Us . . . "JOSEPH"
October 16 & 17, 2015

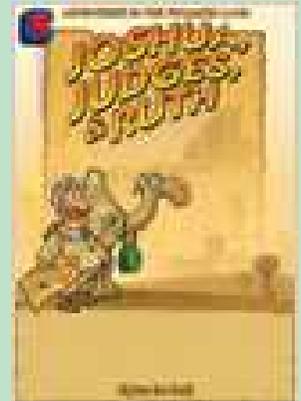
A two-day trip to the Lancaster area is in the final planning stage. Sponsored by the Pittsburgh District Primetime, we are excited about this event for ages 16 & up. The schedule is jam-packed with a good variety of activities, Sight & Sound production of "JOSEPH", shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village and family style dinner at Hershey Farms Restaurant. All meals are covered, except for lunches coming and going which are on your own. A special stopover Saturday morning prior to heading for home is a tour of the Hershey Chocolate

Factory. There are three bus pick-up points to accommodate Prime Timers as efficiently as possible. With only one bus this year, reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis, with any over the 55 full-bus maximum being put on a waiting list. For reservation forms, information, or questions, please contact Rob and Jane Lute at (724) 254-9368 or rcjlute@comcast.net.

NOTE: Registration deadline is already upon us, so don't wait to follow thru right away! Cost - \$210.00: \$100.00 due now;

\$110.00 due October 1, 2015 (or pay in full)

Children's Bible Quizzing



Congratulations to our Eastern Field contestants! Of our 32 Pittsburgh quizzers, there were 11 Gold, 15 Silver and 6 Bronze awards earned.

Our new season begins in September as we study Joshua, Judges and Ruth. Remember, churches, if you are starting a quizzing program for the very first time, I will purchase your Leader's Guide and Scripture portions for you!

Our first invitational will be held on November 14. Contact me asap if you would like to host this event.



Rev. David Smith
SDMI Chair

Sunday School Discipleship Ministries International

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SUNDAY SCHOOL | DISCIPLESHIP
 MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Find Us Faithful

The Seedbed Blog ***Where Children's Discipleship Begins***

Posted on June 15, 2015 by [Christina Embree](#)

Picture this moment. The pastor of your church has been away on Sabbatical for a few weeks. His sole purpose in going to was to seek God for His will for the church. The entire congregation has been praying for him and waiting expectantly to hear God's words. The first Sunday he returns, the whole church gathers together and without hesitation, he begins to share these words, "Church, we are serving the one and only true God. His call to us is to love Him with everything we have, every fiber of our being, every piece of our soul. He wants that to be written upon our hearts. We need to tell our children. We need to speak this truth to them every day, everywhere we go, in everything we do. Our homes need to be places where from the moment we rise until we go to bed we are intentionally impressing on our children who our God is and how we are to love him. That is the most important thing."

How would your church react? How would you react?

I shared this scenario once with a couple of soon-to-be new pastors and the reaction I was met with was basically, "Yeah sure, sounds good. Nothing new or mind-blowing here." But then I asked them to think about how churches were traditionally structured and consider what these churches were doing to equip parents for the work of discipleship at home. What were the churches doing to intentionally help families grow together? What kind of mentoring relationships existed between the older generations and the younger generations to allow for these interactions to take place? Did the older generations even know the names of the kids and the teens? In other words, was this not-so-new, not-so-mind blowing thing actually happening in the church, or do we just assume that it is?

Do we assume that having a successful children's ministry or a thriving youth group means that kids are being discipled? Do we expect that parents are carrying on faith conversations at home? Do we just believe that prayer is happening, Bibles are being read, faith is being shared outside of the church building just because attendance numbers are up?

Sadly, the answer for many years has been, yes – we do assume, and we assume a lot. But reality paints a different picture.

Reality tells us that 59% of youth ages 15 or over disconnect permanently or for an extended period of time from church ([source](#)). Reality tells us that only 12% of kids dialog regularly with their

parents about faith at home ([source](#)). Reality tells us that the home, not the church, is the primary place for faith formation and that parents feel woefully unequipped for the task ([source](#)).

Part of the problem is that parents have often let the church assume that primary discipleship role for their kids. Just like they drop their kids off a school for academics and at the gym for sports, the church becomes a place to “drop off and pick up” rather than a place for corporate worship and continued faith formation together. Another concern is that parents don’t feel like they “know enough” themselves to talk about God with their kids or they don’t have ideas about how to bring God up in everyday conversation.

Instead of impressing these commands on their children all day long, every day, faith becomes compartmentalized to a certain place on a certain day at a certain time. Bibles are read in church. Worship takes place on Sundays. Prayer is done at an altar. And the impression isn’t one of an active growing faith in an always-present God but a regulated faith in a Sunday-only God.

That’s simply not how God arranged it. Going back to our example of the pastor returning from Sabbatical, replace “pastor” with Moses and replace “church” with Israel. And these are the words that we read, the message God sent with Moses of primary importance, so important that Jewish people still recite these Scriptures every day to this day.

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deut. 6:4-7)

The next few articles in this series will focus on giving parents practical tips to engage those four intentional moments of every day life. The idea isn’t to “add more” to what families are already doing. Our lives are full and busy and adding more to the plate is often unrealistic. Instead, the focus will be intentionally inviting Jesus into our moments by making space to welcome Him in our sitting, our going, our sleeping and our rising. The lasting impression left from this intentionality is one of a faith that is not found in a pew or a building, but a faith that is formed within the heart and lived out every day in the home; a faith that lasts and a faith that reminds us every day that “the Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

Dave Smith, Making the Connection

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Pittsburgh Promoter Mailing List?

If you want onto the Pittsburgh District Promoter E-Mail list, please contact: David Marker at admarker@comcast.net.

The Promoter is published in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December of each year. Copies of all Promoter issues are also available on-line at the Pittsburgh District website at: www.pghnazarene.org.

District Lay Retreat

As the SDMI council, we feel that it is important for the lay people to get together and build relationships, worship together and be refreshed and renewed in Christ. George Tutor is the District Lay Retreat Director and has scheduled a lay retreat for the district. We want to encourage you to plan on going. This retreat is at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center. It is a quiet place where you can go and just relax and spend time with your spouse and others. You can visit the website at www.laurelville.org to see pictures and learn more about the retreat center. This is the same place and speaker that the ministers and spouses use for their retreat.

Below is the information for the retreat:

Date(s): September 25-27, 2015

Location: Laurelville Mennonite Church Center

941 Laurelville Lane
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Speaker: Rev. H. L. and Leta Hendrix. Rev. H. L. has been a pastor, professor, and a hospital chaplain. Originally from Oklahoma and he has a way of looking at the Christian life in a down to earth way. He has stories of victories and heartbreak. They are easy to love and enjoy.

Cost: \$155 per person double occupancy.

Meal Schedule: Saturday Breakfast, Dinner; Sunday Breakfast.

If you have any questions contact:

Rev. George Tutor
Union City Church of the Nazarene
E-mail: nazpasgeorge@gmail.com
Cell: (814)590-2281

WITHOUT GOD
our week would be
SINDAY
MOURNDAY
TEARSDAY
WASTEDAY
THIRSTDAY
FIGHTDAY
SHATTERDAY
7 days without God
makes ONE WEAK

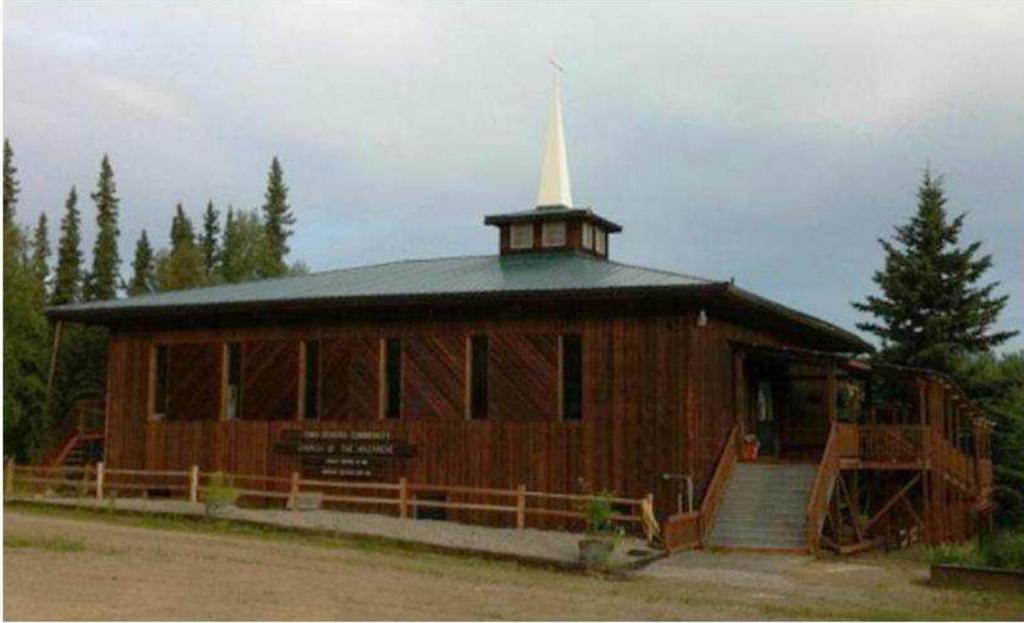
Women's Ministries Fall Fest

Saturday, September 12, at Mt. Chestnut Nazarene District Center. Ask your SDMI or Women's Ministries Director for details or go to www.pghnazwomn.org

The God
who created the
universe is the
**GOD WHO
LOVES YOU.**

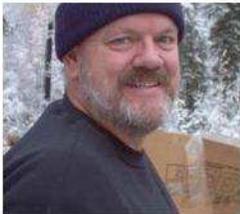
2016 DOMESTIC WORK & WITNESS TRIP

Come with us and work at the most northern
Church of the Nazarene in the **WORLD!**



TWO RIVERS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

4629 Chena Hot Springs Rd, Fairbanks, AK



Pastor Bob Sugden is excited about the impact the Pittsburgh District Domestic Work & Witness team can have in his community.

>> Date for trip: August 13-20, 2016 <<

The details are still being worked out!

We are limited to 20 people for this trip!

The cost of the trip will be between \$3000.00 to \$3500.00 per person.

We will fly from Pittsburgh to Fairbanks, Alaska!

**NYI Scholarships
available for first
time youth
applicants.**

**Our trip will be exciting and rewarding!
We will work at the church and in the community!
Are you ready to be the hands of Christ?**

**NMI Scholarships
available for first
time youth
applicants.**

A \$500.00 deposit is needed to secure your spot on the team.
The first 20 people to send in their deposit will be on the team!

Send your deposit to:

Rev. Peter Roy
1819 Worton Blvd.
West Mifflin PA 15122

Make the check payable to:
Pittsburgh District NMI

District Events Schedule * 2015

- July 26-August 2:** Family Camp
July 29 and 30: Prime Time Days at Family Camp
September 12: District Ladies' Retreat
September 21-24: Ministers' and Mates' Retreat
September 24-27: District Scrapbook Retreat
September 25-27: District Laymen's Retreat
October 3: District Children's Council Meeting
October 9-11: Victims to Victors Retreat
October 16-17: Prime Time Trip to "Joseph" (Lancaster PA)
November 12: District Assessment
November 12: 1st 2015-2016 Children's Quizzing Tournament (TBD)
November 21: NYI Festival of Life
December 5: Annual Snowflake Craft and Gift Show

2016

- January 9:** District Children's Council Meeting
February 6: 2nd 2015-2016 Children's Quizzing Invitational (TBD)
February 28: Last day for Children's Talent Competition/Local
March 11-12: District Ladies' Retreat
March 12: Children's Talent Competitions/Zone (Locations TBA)
March 26: District Children's Council Meeting
April 9: Children's Quizzing District Finals (District Center MPB)
April 23: District Children's Council Meeting
May 7: Children's Talent/District Finals (District Center MPB)

* Dates are subject to change.

DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS:

Thank you for your faithful giving to the District Ministry Fund and the other allocations. Please remember to send your district allocations into the District, SDMI, NMI and NYI. If you haven't started giving, it's never too late!

Payments can be made to the following:

District Ministry Fund:

Henry Twentier, District Treasurer
 177 North Road, Butler PA 16001

Make checks payable to:

***Pittsburgh District
 Church of the Nazarene***

NMI:

Debra Shutak
 428 Great Belt Road
 Butler PA 16002

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District NMI

SDMI:

Rev. Ronald Schaeffer
 141 Tressler Drive
 Confluence PA 15424
 Make checks payable to:
Pittsburgh District SDMI

NYI:

Tom Aaron
 141 Supervisor Drive
 West Newton PA 15089
 Make checks payable to:
Pittsburgh District NYI

ENC:

23 E Elm Avenue
 Quincy MA 02170