

New England Ministers' News

Volume 21, Issue 12

December 2012

New England District Church of the Nazarene



Dear Friends,

“Breathing Space” – “a pause for rest, a short respite, a pause for relaxation, sufficient room for easy breathing or movement.”

Been thinking about this phrase “breathing space.” I find that there are times when I need to intentionally build into my life and schedule – “breathing space.” It is easier said than done, eh? Yet we know that these times are crucial, vital to our spiritual growth and physical and emotional stability. And when the schedule becomes particularly intense, it brings all the more reason to build within that intensity of schedule, breathing space – a pause to rest, a short respite – I’ll even add – a pause to reflect and process all that is happening.

As we come to the birth narratives of Jesus in the gospels, it’s intriguing to me the “breathing spaces” that come into play during this rather intense time in the lives of the main characters of this incredible narrative. Permit me to share some of those “moments” with you.

Mary, during her visit to Elizabeth. How do you think this “breathing space” helped her to process all that had happened and was about to happen? Elizabeth, as Mary visited her. How did this “breathing space” for Elizabeth help her? The Magi – on their long journey to visit this child – especially when considering the request of the king just prior to their visit with Jesus. Joseph – between the announcement from Mary (seemed like a wild story) and his dreams. How about the journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph – this journey didn’t happen overnight. How did this “breathing space” give them opportunity to talk and share and pray? Then there was Zechariah – I would say that his “breathing space” was rather forced. Or, perhaps he had no choice since he expressed his lack of understanding (which was a choice wasn’t it?) which is a theological dialogue in and of itself. Simeon as he waited for the “consolation of Israel” and the revelation to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he would see the Messiah. Anna was another who experienced these “breathing spaces.”

What about you? Are you creating breathing spaces in your life? Have you set aside time for those respites? Or will you be like Zechariah and “enjoy” an unplanned “breathing space?” I like the description of some of Mary’s breathing spaces where Luke records; “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19)

May you experience His presence in your ministry and in the life of your family – both your community of faith as well as your immediate family – as you journey through this Advent season. We are deeply grateful for your ministry and pray for you often as you serve Him.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all on whom His favor rests.”

You are deeply loved,

Ken



Rev. Kenneth Stanford
District Superintendent



Have You Ever Wondered?

Have you ever wondered why The Gospel is making great strides in some parts of the world, while in other parts “nothing” seems to be happening?

Have you ever wondered if anyone has studied this phenomenon?

Have you ever wondered if there is something we could do different that might make a difference?

A study has been conducted and a book has been written, but...

Danger!!! Reading this book might be disturbing; even life changing.

If you want to give it a shot, here's the info...

Church Planting Movements, How God is Redeeming a Lost World
by David Garrison / WIGTake Resources, 2004

May you have great joy in celebrating the incarnate Christ!

Holiness Summit -- Takeaway #2

The doctrine of holiness is the sufficiency of God to transform my life into a person that I was not before. God does it - but my part is I have to *want* it. Only then does God's sufficiency transform.

The doctrine of holiness is about the Character of Christ being manifested - it is not about having more holiness members or proving doctrine. The goal is for Christ to be seen in us. The goal of atonement is that saved men and women would live their lives to the glory of God.

Being entirely sanctified is the beginning, not the end, of what God is wanting to do in your life.

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 We are being transformed from glory to glory. I was, I am, I will be transformed. Change and transformation are not the same thing! (Masquerade vs. metamorphosis.)

Salvation grants us forgiveness for having lived a tarnished image. Sanctification allows us to live in the sufficiency of God to restore the image - so that the image of God is being seen.

God wants to transform YOU not your stuff (problems). The question is not can God heal me (of some dreaded disease), but can I live to the glory of God while I have it. Most of our prayers are about our burdens (and there is nothing wrong with praying about them); but what we need to do is to pray about transformational issues.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord! (From October's Holiness Summit with Speaker Michael W. Benson)



Rev. Dr. Kim Richardson

Changes are coming!

On November 3rd Rev. Gerry Whetstone indicated that the district will be using an email service for communicating important news to pastors and district leaders. The goal is to make the information easier to access (no attachments) while still presenting a visually attractive format.

Early in new year, the *New England Ministers News* will also switch to the email service format (MailChimp). Instead of one newsletter - you will be receiving news stories on a weekly basis. This will hopefully reduce information overload and improve the timeliness of NEMN news.

We hope you will be patient as we work out how best to provide you with district news. Our goal continues to be to provide information that supports your ministry.

Sincerely,
Melissa Andrew
NEMN Editor



Sunday School and Discipleship Ministry



Fern Woodruff
District SDMI
Chairperson

Well, the 2012 Sunday School Convention has come and gone but the ripples are still being felt. Over 200 pastors and laypeople from across the district gathered in Nashua as Dr. Sam Vassel expounded on the theme "Piercing the Darkness: Exploring the power of God's Word to penetrate the darkness of secularism and unbelief in a post-modern world." Postmodernism and its effect on the church, and in particular on how we communicate the truths of the gospel to the world around us, is not a new topic. The discussion has been going on for a number of years now, but many of us are still struggling to grasp the concepts and what they mean, in practical terms, here and now in our day-to-day or week-to-week ministry. Dr. Vassel has helped us along the road to understanding. After explaining the differences between traditional, modern and post-modern thought, Dr. Vassel emphasized that if we want to communicate the gospel effectively in our day 1) we must handle the Word correctly, and 2) we must understand the world view or mindset of our audience. Neither of these ideas is new, in fact Paul said the same thing back in the first century. The challenge for us today is to know our audience, i.e. How do post-moderns think? How does that affect our presentation of the Word?

Dr. Vassel presented the following outline based on Leonard Sweet's acrostic E.P.I.C.

- Experiential – the Word must be really *alive* with the mysterious power to *encounter*
- Participatory – the Word must be *done* not merely *heard*
- Image Rich – the Word in the form of *metaphors, narratives and stories* is more effective than abstract propositions and rules
- Connectivity – there is a *hunger for relationships and community* that the Word must satisfy (facilitate and generate)

To add to the challenge, an observation coming out of the breakout sessions is that our society is not exclusively post-modern but includes a mixture of traditional, modern and post-modern thought. Hmm ... Does that mean that we can't take the same approach with everyone?

Let's keep the conversation going, share our experiences, and encourage one another as we seek to carry out our mission of sharing the good news of the gospel in our churches, in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods.

Monthly Statistical Reports

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Sunday School Average	4,364	4,396
Extended Ministries Average	47	449
S.S. & Extended Ministries Average	4,411	4,845
Total Responsibility List	12,995	12,964
Primary Worship Average	7,472	7,332
Churches Reporting	53	53
Churches Not Reporting	39	39

Mark your calendars for these important dates:

January 25-27, 2013
- Women's Spiritual Renewal at Windsor Hills -
Dr. Jossie Owens,
Speaker

July 21-26- Boys and
Girls Camp at Windsor
Hills

November stats are due by
noon on Wednesday,
November 28.

Our Goal: 100% Reporting

Report by email to:
fernw@comcast.net
or by phone 603-434-0207.

Guidelines for Reporting:
[http://nazarene.org/
files/docs/
ssm_attendance_guideli
nes.pdf](http://nazarene.org/files/docs/ssm_attendance_guidelines.pdf)



Piercing the Darkness

Exploring the power of God's Word to penetrate the darkness of secularism and unbelief in a post-modern world.





Nazarene Youth International

Hello Everyone,



Denis Desrochers
District
NYI Director

This month I had the opportunity to meet several Youth Leaders from across our district at both the SDMI Convention in Nashua and at the District Festival of Life in Lowell. Pastors, I would encourage you to pass this newsletter along to your Youth Leaders since several of the people I recently met indicated that they were not aware of what we are doing or the support we are trying to provide. In the roundtable discussion many expressed that they were new to the position and that they were looking for some support and direction. Although a portion of what I share is about the upcoming NYI District events, I want to be sure to express that the primary focus of the District NYI is not on the events we sponsor; rather it has been and will continue to be about supporting and encouraging every teen and youth worker across our district. We provide these events as a service to all of you to allow teenagers from across the district to get together and grow together in Christ. We would love and encourage every church to be involved in every event we sponsor, but we also understand that there are limitations and local events that need to be supported as well. As I mention each month, we continue to work on improving our communication across the district. Please also join us on Facebook with our New England District NYI group. This will allow us to be able to share information and great pictures and videos of camps and other District activities.

The District Festival of Life (FOL) was on November 17th at the Lowell Church. Our district was represented by approximately 85 people from 15 different churches across the district. Once again the teens amazed us with their talents and their willingness to present their gifts from God. The teens performed music and drama, exhibited art, sculptures, and creative writing, and competed in sports like basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball, and the newly introduced DODGEBALL (among other things). Phil Nase once again did an amazing job of directing the event this year. Congratulations to everyone going onto the regional competition. Please keep our students and leaders in your prayers as they prepare for our regional event in March 2013 at Eastern Nazarene College. This is one of the few events that we do that builds camaraderie not just across our district, but across the entire Eastern Region of the Church of the Nazarene. Please contact Phil Nase at phil.nase@wconaz.org for any additional information.

As for our upcoming events, we are continuing our Bible Quizzing on November 30th - December 1st in Wareham with the Gospel of Matthew (Chapters 1-15). Please contact Lori Jeffery (lori_jeffrey@comcast.net) if you need more information or if you would like to help out in quiz mastering, scorekeeping, etc. The rest of the Bible Quiz Meets are as follows:

January 25-26	Nashua Church	Chapters 1-21
February 15-16	Duxbury Church	Chapters 1-24
March 22-23	Lowell Church	Chapters 1-28

Youth Leader's Retreat is on January 10-12 at Windsor Hills Camp. This is a great weekend to gather and network with the adult leaders that are leading our teens across the district. I strongly encourage every church to send their youth leaders to this event. More details about this event will be coming out in the upcoming weeks.

Finally, our JR/SR High Winter Retreat is also coming up on February 22-24 at Windsor Hills Camp. We are currently looking into the option of adding tubing to our annual ski trip. The forms and updates will be posted on our NED NYI Facebook page.

Please contact me at mr.dj.des@comcast.net if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything concerning your youth group or the District NYI.

In His Service,

Denis Desrochers
NED NYI President

Nazarene Missions International

December Emphasis: Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and Prayer

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc3xIlpoONo&feature=em-share_video_user

"I wish I had heeded the warning" was a common statement made by those in New Jersey who did not evacuate their homes before Hurricane Sandy hit. Above is a link to a powerful video on YouTube of work that is being done by the Church of the Nazarene in the aftermath of the storm. We have learned that some of the areas hit will not have their power back up and running until sometime in February.

Unlike other Christian denominations, the Church of the Nazarene was ready and continues to be ready for natural disasters that affect populated areas of the world. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) not only stores Crisis Care Kits and Clothing but they also have an account called the NCM Fund. This fund is tapped into immediately when disasters happen for the purchase of food and water, medical supplies, and other needed items.

Here on our district, the collecting of CCKs, Clothing, and Pal-Paks is continuing for the purpose of restocking the warehouse in Fawn Grove, PA. December is Nazarene Compassionate Ministries month and we are hoping that many will consider giving to NCM. If you or your group would like to send in an offering or a contribution of any amount to NCM, please make your checks payable to **General Treasurer** and send them to:

Global Treasury Services
Church of the Nazarene
P.O. Box 843116
Kansas City, MO 64184-3116

Be sure to put **ACM1186** in the memo area. Thank you for your contribution.

If you would like to know more about Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, please visit their website on the internet at: www.ncm.org

His servant,
Phil Smith



Philip D. Smith
District
NMI President



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BOSTON, MA

Kenneth Stanford
District Superintendent

Gerald Whetstone
District Secretary

DECEMBER 2012

NMI Emphasis - Compassionate Ministries & Prayer

- 1 District Committee Meetings Finance/
Pastoral Support/CSA
- 1 NYI Quiz Meet
- 1 Crisis Care Kits & School Pal Packs are
due
- 7 Ministerial Credentials & Ministerial
Studies Committees, Nashua, NH
- 8 NYI Council 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 8 NED Pastors & Spouses Christmas
Luncheon
- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

And there were shepherds living
out in the fields nearby,
keeping watch over their flocks at
night. An angel of the Lord appeared to
them, and the glory of the Lord shone
around them, and they were
terrified. But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid. I bring you good
news of great joy that will be for all
the people. Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you; he is
Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to
you: You will find a baby wrapped in
cloths and lying in a manger."
~ Luke 2:8-12 (NIV)

