

WESTERN NEW YORK DISTRICT OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
THE INNER CIRCLE February, 2010

Hi Pastor,

With so much of our focus on Jenna's treatments, I am skipping a full newsletter this month (special thanks to the Orchard Park Wesleyan Church office for producing and mailing this). Below are some things that needed to be communicated.

If you want to know more about our daughter Jenna's condition, Orchard Park Wesleyan Church has graciously made a blog site available: www.koppen.opwc.org.

Thanks.

Eternally His,
Neil Koppen

Leadership Development Journey (LDJ) - We will continue with the fourth lesson of the Renovation Project (please read the fourth chapter in your workbook) and will discuss it in our table groups. Also, we will work through a few more of Keith Drury's "Stategetic" models. Join us at the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg (the Quads) on Thursday, February 25 from 9:00 to Noon, lunch following.

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS - At a District Board retreat last year, one of five core values settled on for the district was "Building Healthy Churches" and there was unanimous support to do some NCD surveying and to host some NCD seminars this year. Lonnie Bullock, a consultant with New Church Specialties will be leading two seminars at The Wesleyan Church of Hamburg dealing with four of the eight quality characteristics on Saturday, February 27 and again on Saturday, May 1, both scheduled for 9:00 to 3:00. Lonnie will speak about Empowering Leaders and Functional Structures in February. **You and some lay leaders from your church should attend these seminars whether or not you do an actual NCD survey. By the way, Lonnie just told me that only two district churches have sent back a completed survey to be scored!!!**

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT - The Cove offers special retreats on the beautiful grounds of their Training Center for the purpose of pursuing God through time alone. Besides lodging, a devotional notebook and five meals are provided (dinner on the first night, breakfast, lunch and dinner on the second day and breakfast on the last day).

The cost to those in Full-time ministry are: Standard Room - \$225 single occupancy, \$311 (total) - couple; Balcony Room - \$254 single occupancy, \$339 (total) - couple; Suite - \$338 - Single occupancy, \$415 (total) - couple. The District Board of Administration is offering a scholarship of \$200.00 per couple (\$125.00 for single) to fulltime ordained and licensed pastors and their spouse serving in the Western New York District. The scholarship will be offered to the first 45 pastors registering for a retreat. Call The Cove at 828-298-2092 or 800-950-2092 to make your reservation. Once you have your registration receipt, mail it to the District Office and we will send your scholarship. If you are unable to go on the retreat, we ask that the district subsidy please be paid back.

The dates below are the Personal Spiritual Retreat days offered by The Cove and you are free to attend

any of them: March 5-7 (F-Su), April 16-18 (F-Su), April 17-19 (Sa-M), April 18-20 (Su-Tu), April 19-21 (M-W), May 14-16 (F- Su), June 11-13 (F-Su), June 27-29 (S-Tu), June 28-30 (M-W), June 29-- July 1 (Tu-Th). Check in is at 2:00pm on arrival day and check out is 11:00am on the last day.

PASTORAL EVALUATION - Preparing for Pastoral Vote Sunday, April 11, 2010, I will be contacting pastors this month to set up a time for pastoral evaluation with their LBA and to instruct their Vice-chairperson regarding voting procedures.

According to our records, there are ten churches that are up for a pastoral vote or LBA review (please contact my office if you feel we have missed someone or are in error):

Completing Initial Two-Year Call:

Bradford - Kevin Murrell, Eldred - Bill Nace, East Leon - Al Chase, Silver Creek - Mike Leamon

Completing Four-Year Call:

Cuba - John Ward, Hamburg - Greg McClain, Higgins - Bruce Smith, Houghton - Wes Oden, Olean - Rick Long

Extended Call Review:

Wellsville - Robin George

THE GATHERING 2011 - 2007's gathering of Wesleyan ministers and spouses was such a success (over 2000 attended the 3-day conference) that "The Gathering 2011" is scheduled for Jacksonville, Florida on January 4-7, 2011. As before, this conference is designed to renew, rekindle and retool ministers and spouses toward personal holiness, healthy marriages, evangelism, church multiplication and godly leadership. Cost for registration and lodging at the Jacksonville Hyatt is \$400/Single and \$500/Couple/Roommate (online registration will begin this summer, with Early-bird Deadline, October 30, after that add \$50.00). I am figuring that this trip will cost a couple around \$1,100-\$1,200.00 to attend. The District is offering a scholarship of \$350.00 per couple (\$250.00 for single) to fulltime ordained and licensed pastors and their spouse serving in the Western New York District (This will be offered to the first 40 pastors registering for the event and more info will be coming on how to apply for this as we draw closer to summer). Though there isn't much information yet, you can check out this special conference at www.wesleyan.org/gathering.

PASTOR RESIGNS - After 2 years of ministry at Fellowship Wesleyan Church in West Seneca, Matt White has resigned and will be looking to lead a church plant in Windermere, Florida. We wish Matt, Teresa and the kids all the best as they transition (their last day will be March 14). We also ask for prayers for the Local Board at West Seneca as they begin their lead pastor search!

EQUIPPING FOR MINISTRY - Ministerial training classes scheduled for May 17-21 are: Homiletics, Expository Preaching, Wesleyan History and Discipline (I have been asked to teach this one), and a Bible elective. Go to www.houghton.edu and click on "Spiritual Life"; then click on Church Relations", and finally, "Equipping For Ministry" to learn more.

- **Ready to widen your ministry circle to another part of the world?** Here are 3 possibilities:

- **Invest in Haiti for the long term.** Response has been excellent from local churches that have sent offerings for immediate relief efforts in Haiti through the Wesleyan Church. When a natural disaster strikes that brings a country to the world's attention, those organizations that have already been working in the area have the advantage of ready-made networks,

equipment and personnel who know the language, and understand the setting and culture. The Wesleyan Church has a long history in Haiti, and it's heartening to know that missionaries like Cory and Kris Thede have been committed over the long term to offer much needed medical and agricultural ministry.

Global Partners Operations Director Peter Moore observes that the need for immediate relief in the form of water, food, clothing, and shelter, along with medical supplies and treatment remains the paramount focus of the church right now. While continued giving for this is essential, prudence also calls us to prepare for next stages in development as we continue to meet the current needs.

It was my privilege in October to attend a 3-day meeting for district directors and mission pastors with area directors of Global Partners. Pastor Kim Gladden of Eastern Hills Church participated as well. On the first evening, Dan Irvine, the area director for the Atlantic Caribbean region, and Peter Moore, gave an excellent presentation on Haiti.

At the time of this writing, Dan Irvine has sent word that "We have now determined at least ten churches and a similar number of large school buildings were destroyed with dozens more damaged. We need the Church in North America to pick partners among these and commit to raise \$40,000 to \$220,000 to help these congregations rebuild." This need to rebuild is a high priority since these congregations are worshipping in the yard!

The night before the earthquake I heard an encouraging news report on PBS about increased international investment in Haitian businesses to bring much needed economic turn-around. Then the rock-splitting force of the quake slammed Haiti into the ground again, this time in tragic proportions. The more I learn about the history of Haiti and injustices endured by the people, and the more I hear about the present crisis, the more I believe now is the time to accept the challenge to set right long-standing injustices and to offer our aid to rebuild the nation anew.

So let's continue gracious giving for relief, but also plan for long-term faithful giving that will be essential for the future of our neighbor nation Haiti.

- **Honduras Trip - for Pastors** - WNY District pastors are invited on a mission trip to Honduras June 7-14 to encourage, coach and teach (through translators) pastors of newly planted churches. This trip will also give our pastors an opportunity to observe firsthand our district's ministry partnership there in Jesus Film ministry and church planting. Some Spanish speakers from our district, Marcus Dean, Howard Garver and Steve Strand will offer classes for these new Honduran church leaders. Contact me if you have interest: strandsc@gmail.com or 716-665-4070).
- **New Orleans Relief teams organized by the Salvation Army** - Jim Yager from our district is organizing a trip for April 10-18 to New Orleans where the Salvation Army is still at work after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. They are building 125 homes for first responders like fire fighters and other emergency personnel. Travel will be by bus and cost is less than \$300. This is an equal opportunity service trip for Colts fans and Saints fans! Call Jim for more information at 628-3174.

Respectfully submitted WNY District Global Partners Director, Steve Strand

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WESLEYAN WEEKENDS – two weekends are offered this spring, with the first held at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY (March 19-21) and the second at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center in Amherst, NY (April 23 – 25). Helpful materials (posters, videos and powerpoints) and registration applications are available at our web site: www.MEWesleyan.org. All applications must be mailed in at least two weeks before the desired weekend and you can contact Dan Duda for more information: 716-532-2956 or danduda@bluefrog.com.

A Clergy Précis is for you to understand what Marriage Encounter and better promote it to your people, but it is not to be copied and distributed to prospective attendees of a weekend. For you and your spouse, as a clergy couple, we are prepared to exempt your \$45.00 Application Fee to ease the financial burden on you.

Please consider attending a weekend with your spouse, as well as encouraging your people to attend. If others in your church are in charge of marriage ministries, please forward this information on to them as soon as possible.

DISTRICT WOMEN'S EVENT

Saturday, April 24

9:30-3:00

Levant Wesleyan Church ~ Guest speaker, Kathy Coleman

A Silent Auction is planned to help benefit Hope Refugee Services. Begin planning now to take part in this. If any churches would like to spend the night, there are some options on the district's website, along with one more we just received from the Comfort Inn. They have offered a group rate under Levant Wesleyan. Any group can be tax exempt if they bring their church's exempt form. The rate is \$70 w/ 2 queen beds (no extra charge for additional adults), free breakfast, fitness access to JCC, and only 3 miles from the church). Flyers and registration brochures are available on the District's website! [Please register by April 10th!](#)

Human Trafficking ~ Up Close and Personal

An event will be held on March 15th at Jamestown Community College. Two guest speakers, very knowledgeable about human trafficking, will be sharing with us on that evening. Theresa Flores, who was trafficked at the age of 15 will be telling her story and Lisa Thompson who is with the Salvation Army in Washington D.C. will be sharing timely and relevant topics with the sex trafficking going on in this country as well as in other parts of the world. There is no cost for the evening and all are welcome to attend. If you have any questions please feel free to call Kathy Short at 716.665.6128

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Many of you may remember that last August there was a training "Hands of Hope" for human trafficking at headquarters in Indianapolis. Two of our district women were blessed to be able to attend this training. God is now opening doors for them to share with others what they have been learning concerning human trafficking and what can be done about it. Amongst the many things they have learned, probably the most unsettling is that it is in our backyard. Western NY is one of the few places in the country that gets federal money to fight human trafficking because it is so prevalent here! Not a pleasant thought. God has led them to be educators to others concerning this issue and are making themselves available to you. They are willing to come and do a presentation to your ladies, your church, any organization or group that you are involved with that would like to learn

more about this issue. If you are interested please contact Kathy Short at 716-665-6128 or Becky Garver at 716-665-4541. You may also email them at freedom4all2day@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bill Nykyforchyn 2/1

Steve Strand 2/3

Sue Dewey 2/12

Dick Kaylor 2/19

Gary Beers 2/26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bill & Carol Nace 2/9

Todd & Wendy Glendenning 2/18

“ISLAM, JIHAD AND TERRORISM - A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE” - Houghton College’s Office of Church Relations invites you to this special spring conference on Thursday, March 18 (Please note that this is the same day as LDJ) from 8:15am-4:30pm. A variety of workshops will be available including: Islam 101, Intro to the Qur'an, Sharing our faith with Muslim neighbors, a compassionate response to Muslims in crisis. To register call 900-777-2556 or e-mail at: churchrelations@houghton.edu.

DR. GORDAN MACDONALD - will be speaking on “Leadership in a Rapidly Changing World” from 8:30am-4:00pm at Northeastern Seminary (2265 Westside Drive, Rochester, NY 14624) on Wednesday April 14, 2010. Dr. MacDonald is a noted author, speaker, and editor-at-large with *Leadership Journal*. The cost is \$45.00 with lunch for most and \$35.00 including lunch for students and alumni. To register call 585.594.6800 and ask for Jennifer or e-mail at: catalano_jennifer@nes.edu.