



THE INNER CIRCLE

October, 2009

Volume 10, Issue 2



From The D.S.'s Desk...

I am a Pastor. I am called by Almighty God; To preach His word, To teach His people, to lead His Church, To equip His Body, To do His will.

Mine is a position of service, of humility, of sacrifice, of loneliness, of giving, of loving.

I have the privilege of feeding His sheep, of leading His people, of preaching His Word, of doing His will in His Church.

At times, I am called to correct, to rebuke, to restore, to confront, to admonish. In other times I encourage, uplift, appreciate, and befriend.

There are moments when I am hailed as God's man, revered, honored, applauded, loved.

But there are other times, I am criticized, rejected, accused, deserted, and hated.

I am a Pastor. My business is people; my manual, the Bible; my task, glorifying God; my goal, a God honoring, God pleasing, Holy, Heaven-bound Church.

His call on my life is to live the truth, obey the truth, grow in the truth, practice the truth, proclaim the truth, all in such a way as to exalt the One that called me.

My commitment is to Christ. I will serve Him, honor Him, know Him, preach Him, pray to Him, give to and for Him. My life, my will, my all is His.

I won't operate in the flesh, or embrace the world's values. I won't allow opposition, criticism, discouragement, pressure, pride, power, temptation, or sin to disqualify me from my calling.

I am a Pastor; called of God; committed to Him; commissioned by the church; and there's nothing I'd rather do! Craig S. Staley

Take off your sandals for the place where you are standing is Holy Ground." Exodus 3:5

Over the next few months, and for a host of great "bloom where your planted" reasons, I feel led to share some excerpts from Chapter 1 of *The Heart of A Great Pastor* by H.B. London, Jr. and Neil B. Wiseman.

Every pastor in the thick of struggle must answer significant questions. The answers shape their ministry and determine their effectiveness: What difference will I make? Why am I here? Who sent me? Is this assignment sacred because God placed me here? What does God want to accomplish here?

Every assignment is holy ground because God gave Himself for the people who live there. Every place is important because God wants to accomplish something supernatural there. Every situation is special because ministry is needed there. Like Queen Esther, you have come to the Kingdom for a time like this. All of these factors give a pastor a much-needed sense of destiny about his assignment.

Think of the awesome possibilities. Your assignment may be holy ground because of a specific need in the local congregation. God may want some fresh vision or reconciliation started there. Or some outreach op-

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Every man is the architect of his own character.

“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” Matthew 7:24



The “Renovation Project” is coming to LDJ! This special training, shared with a number of area pastors last year, is now going to be our emphasis. Table group discussions will follow DVD times of learning. It will not surprise me that you will want to be a catalyst for the Renovation Project in your own local. There may even be a few special guests with us to kick this one off! Join us at the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg (the Quads) on Thursday, October 15 from 9:00 to Noon, lunch following.



DISTRICT CAR FOR SALE:

I'd rather sell this 2006 Nissan Altima to you than a dealer, so the DBA is offering it to you at Kelly Blue Book trade-in price of \$8,950. Its a Special Edition, has 56,000 miles on it, is a 2.5L four cylinder (rates 23 cty/29hwy mpg, but I actually get 26 in town and most places 31), includes a sun-roof. Tires and paint are great. I will begin car-shopping in three weeks.

DBMD MEETINGS:

The District Board of Ministerial Development is scheduled to meet with students on October 26th at Fillmore Wesleyan, and May 10th at Big Tree Wesleyan Church.



Hey Pastor...

We Appreciate You!!!

Lin and I love and respect all that you do for the Kingdom!

Thanks for the ways you love and serve and the many sacrifices you make.

Your people are extremely blessed to have you!

“The meaning of sacrifice is the deliberate giving of the best I have to God that we may make it His and mine forever; if I cling to it, I lose it, and so does God.”

Oswald Chambers



“Welcome to our church--even though you're sitting in our family pew...”



NEW PASTOR ORIENTATION
November 11-12:

This is a special initiative of the Board of General Superintendents that brings new pastors to Indianapolis to the World Headquarters of The Wesleyan Church for a denominational orientation.

Pastors are invited to attend who have received their first ministerial assignment with The Wesleyan Church within the past two years. New ministerial appointments may be through transfer from another denomination or through completed requirements for credentialing. Spouses are encouraged to participate as well. The District will pick up travel expenses (in fact, I want to accompany those going and will organize the trip). Once in Indianapolis, all meals and lodging are provided by headquarters. Please contact the district office (716-646-0282) and we will get you registered.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:



The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be held on October 23-25 at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, Amherst, NY. All applications are due by October 9th. Information is available at www.MEWesleyan.org, or the link on our district's website.

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Wives In Ministry..... Lin Koppen

WHAT DO I BUILD WITH ?

I Cor. 3:11-14 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

The building supplies Paul mentions, each have something in common--an assigned value. Gold, silver, precious stones cost a lot. They require sacrifice in order to obtain them, and they don't seem to lose their value. Wood, hay, and straw, are much easier to obtain--they have little or no value, requiring little or no effort or sacrifice.

When I compare these to the building materials in my life, what can I ask myself? "What do I build with? Does it cost me anything? Will it endure? Am I a cheap builder? Do I offer to God that which costs me nothing?" Paul tells us that fire will reveal the quality of the building materials we choose. The trials that we experience here can reveal a lot

about our buildings. The foundation of our life is Jesus Christ. Do the materials of our lives reveal servanthood, humility and grace, or a lack thereof? When the heat is on, the cheap materials will not stand. The qualities of the materials we build on, are a reflection of the foundation of our lives. Consider yours.



"Now turn to hymn 206. Sing the first verse. Mumble the third. Hum the fifth."

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

During this month of Pastor Appreciation, I pray you are blessed immeasurably! I've been blessed by you and here are a few of the ways:

- Encouraging words
- A smile
- Prayer (the best!)
- Acts of kindness
- A hug when needed most
- Humility
- Pure hearts
- Gentle and sweet spirits

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Jeff O'Vell 10/6
- John Wood 10/8
- Teresa White 10/10
- Gale Cirocco 10/12
- Deb Nykyforchyn 10/15
- Barb Farrow 10/18
- Joe Payne 10/25

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- Dick & Sally Kaylor 10/7
- Paul & Holly Gartley 10/16

SYMPATHY EXTENDED

Please pray for Becci & John Wood and family in the recent loss of Becci's father.

WE WELCOME Pam & Patrick Jones, as they begin their ministry at Eastern Hills.

SAVE THE DATE

This year's District Women's event will be held on Saturday, April 24 at Levant Wesleyan Church, with guest speaker, Kathy Coleman.



Daylight savings time ends on Saturday, October 31st.



YOUTH CONVENTION:

With church budgets being fleshed out, now is the time to plan for sending some Youth to the area convention in Baltimore this December! Check out convention program, costs and registration information at www.mywycon.com. Also, talk to Becci Wood (Wesleyan Church of Hamburg 716-649-6335) about the District Scholarship to this event!



THE GATHERING 2011:

Now is the time to begin planning for your trip (pastor, spouse and family) to this special pastor's conference. There will definitely be a District scholarship given to each licensed and ordained minister that wants to attend, but I am guessing that for a couple to attend it will be about \$1,000 more. Ask your church to start putting back \$25-30.00/week toward this special trip.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOUGHTON COLLEGE:

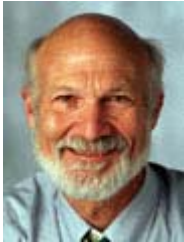
Youth Pastor's Conference

*With Mark DeVries**"Sustainable Youth Ministry" on October 12, 2009*

Mark DeVries (M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary) is a leading national consultant and the founder of Youth Ministry Architects based in Nashville, TN. Mark also serves as associate pastor for youth and their families at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville. He has trained youth workers on five continents and taught at a number of colleges and seminaries.

Registration cost is \$49.00/person or \$39.00 if more than one from a church attends. Bring your youth group students (grades 10-12) for the Admission Office's Encounter Day for prospective students and your conference fee will be refunded. To qualify you and your students must register by October 5. For more info, go to www.houghton.edu/churchrelations/mark_devries.htm

Staley Lecture

Dr. Stanley Hauerwas on October 12, 2009

Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Duke University Divinity School, will deliver this year's Staley Lecture on Monday, Oct. 12, at 8:00 pm in Wesley Chapel. The title of the lecture is "War and the American Difference: A Theological Assessment". Dr. Hauerwas was named "America's Best Theologian" by Time magazine in 2001. His book "A Community of Character" was selected as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the 20th century.

Houghton Reads: unChristian

The book "unChristian" by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons has been chosen as the 2009-2010 Houghton Reads selection. Please join the Houghton College community in reading this book and plan to attend an evening lecture with author David Kinnaman on Wed, Nov. 11, 2009, 8:00 p.m. in Wesley Chapel.

Woolsey Lecture in Theology & Culture on November 17-18, 2009

Jeremy Begbie is the Thomas A. Langford Research Professor of Theology at Duke Divinity School. He teaches systematic theology, and specializes in the interface between theology and the arts. His particular research interests are in the interplay between music and theology. He is an ordained minister of the Church of England and a professionally trained musician. Lectures will be held on November 17 at 7:30 p.m. and November 18 at 10:15 a.m.

EQUIPPING FOR MINISTRY:

Houghton College will provide classes for those non-traditional students who are seeking ordination in the Wesleyan Church (classes can be audited by any pastor or person interested). Upcoming classes scheduled for November 16-20 are: Bible Study Methods, Pastoral Leadership Intro to Theology, Advanced Theology. For more info, go to www.houghton.edu, click on "Spiritual Life" at the top of the page. Once on the "Spiritual Life" page, click "Equipping For Ministry" under Church Relations.

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(HOLY GROUND continued from page 1)

portunity may await you—a neighbor to led to Christ, a ministry to be started, a church to be refocused on Biblical priorities.

Moses discovered in his lifetime that God’s presence turns ministry into an adventure. As the evangelist, Luis Palau, suggests, “any old bush will do because it is not us doing something for God, but God doing something through us.”

Eugene H. Peterson reminds us in his paraphrase of Scripture, The Message, “When you’re joined with Me and I with you in an intimate and organized relationship, the harvest is abundant.” What an extravagant promise. What amazing potential. What an unconquerable force for changing the world for Christ.

You are needed. You are important. You are empowered by God. You serve in the middle of the action. God wants to enable you to transform your present assignment into holy ground—a place where He accomplishes supernatural achievements through ordinary people.



CONFLICT SEMINAR, October 29-30 (Indianapolis)

Any pastor planning to accompany me to this should contact my office by Wednesday, October 7th.

UPDATES FOR DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR:

Williamsville-add Don Schara as spouse to Robin; add Andy & Kari Broad

Fillmore-add Mike Wrigglesworth

Lyndonville-add Shawn & Sue Dewey



MORE DETAILS SOON:

Instead of providing a Pastor and Spouse Retreat and Pastor’s Prayer and Fast Retreat, the district would like to help you get away to Billy Graham’s “The Cove” to experience their “Personal Spiritual Retreat”. I will explain more about this soon.