

# THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT

## DS UPDATE

June 5, 2008

Dear Pastor, Congregation and Friend of the Southern District:

Friends often ask “*How are things in the Southern District?*” My answer is “*terrific!*” And I am serious! As I move about the churches and meet with pastors it is extremely encouraging to see the creativity of each and to hear victory stories. Yes, there are some struggles, but through it all I am so delighted to hear how pastors are encouraged and are trusting the Lord for some really exciting breakthroughs in their churches and communities.

Recently I had the pleasure of speaking at *Johnson City Alliance Church* as they honored **Larry and Carol Fish** for their many years of service as Alliance Missionaries. What a delightful congregation and excellent spirit among the people. A good number of people accompanied **Pastor Luis O’Burke** from Elizabethton Alliance Church to celebrate with the people at Johnson City. I might add that the dinner after the service was also excellent. It was also the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. *Pastor Art Joyce* has been there throughout all the years and is greatly loved by all.

Recently Ivan and Bernie Lay moved to The Alliance Community for Retirement Living in DeLand, Florida. They are retired C&MA missionaries from Indonesia who have continued to serve our Lord in numerous ways in the Southern District for many years. We miss them greatly, but know the Lays they are already involved in ministry at DeLand!

On behalf of the Southern District I want to congratulate **Dr. Mark Shaw**, pastor of Clay Christian Fellowship! Dr. Mark received his Doctorate of Ministry as a professional Biblical counselor from Birmingham Theological Seminary the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a great celebration and we are so very proud of Mark.

In April we conducted a special Ordination Ceremony for **Rev. Randolph Hall**, who has just become an Army Chaplain! Randolph has been serving at the Franklin Church as an Assistant while he completed all his ordination requirements. Congratulations Chaplain Hall!

The week of June 1 to 6 about **30 teens** from a number of district churches are meeting at **Poplar Point Camp**. Frank and I just visited the camp and it is quite obvious they are having a great time and great food! Next week the younger children will gather at Poplar Point for their camp. It too is expected to be a terrific time! Our thanks and appreciation to Rev. Larry Smith who is giving leadership to our summer camps.

This week, June 8 to 13, **23 children** plus counselors from around the district are at **Poplar Point Camp**. I was unable to attend due to some district business and a couple medical appointments. I am confident we will have a great report and hear how God has been at work in the hearts of our children. Matter-of-fact some who have participated in our camps for years tell us this is the best ever! Praise the Lord!

Our dear friend, Rev. Ralph Woerner, recently went home to be the Lord. There was a celebration memorial service at Genesis Church in Foley, AL and another at First Alliance Church in McCalla, Alabama. Both were tremendous testimonies of this wonderful servant of the Lord Jesus. Though he will be greatly missed we know that he is rejoicing in the presence of our Lord. Our love and prayers are with Barbara and the entire family.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of the mother of **Pastor Jerry Breedlove**. I am confident that in the midst of sorrow our Lord will use Jerry to be a messenger of comfort and blessing to the entire family. Our prayers are with you.

It was exciting to hear from **Pastor Don Young** that about 75 people gather at the Genesis Church Satellite Campus in Lillian, Alabama for worship! Associate **Pastor Calvin Bartl** is giving leadership to this new outreach.

The *satellite campus* is a great way for just about any church to reach segments of the population that otherwise would not have a viable witness for Christ. Churches of about any size can develop a new campus. Basically the idea is that an established church can develop a new ministry in a neighboring community yet remain under the leadership of the Senior Pastor and others of the home church. With today's technology it is not that difficult to use satellite link up or even a DVD that is a one-week message delay. The satellite campus can develop its own music and ministries yet have the benefit of a mother church giving directive oversight. The new congregation is part of the mother church and is governed by the board and leadership. If you would like to learn more about the possibilities please let us know.

As a point of information the **District Executive Committee** will be meeting at the district office July 29<sup>th</sup>. The various standing committees should submit their reports by early July for presentation to DEXCOM.

Recently I was able to visit the churches along the Gulf Coast and enjoyed fellowship with the pastors at their monthly meeting. It is exciting to see how God is blessing these new works!

I am attaching two papers, both of which address some ideas and suggestions on Church Growth Techniques entitled ***DRAW THEM IN, KEEP THEM IN and MAKING THE CHURCH KNOWN***. These are not comprehensive documents but are intended to assist us in growing the church. I do hope you will find them helpful. If you would like me to address other topics of concern regarding church growth, please let me know. Also, share your ideas! We would be pleased to add them to our district web site! So, please ***let us know what God is doing in your midst***, along with pictures you may submit. I will forward the above papers, along with a couple others to our web master, Erik Pasco so he can make them available to you. Our district web address is: [www.southernema.org](http://www.southernema.org).

Please do put the ***District Conference*** on your calendar. It is scheduled for September 15 to 17 at the Genesis Church in Foley, Alabama. All Official Workers are expected to attend as per our bylaws. Regardless of “requirements” it is our belief that this Conference will be a great time of spiritual refreshment, not only because of the times of worship and prayer but because of the wonderful fellowship we enjoy with one another in the Name of our Lord Jesus. Soon our office will be sending you registration information so please do plan to attend.

[If we have inadvertently left out any special announcement or information please do let us know. We do welcome your help in letting the Southern District Family know what God is doing in your life and ministry.]

Stay in touch and let us know how we can be of service to you and the church.

In His joyous service,

Fred G. King  
District Superintendent