

## **Annual Report of the South Carolina District Superintendent July 26, 2011**

General Superintendent Dr. Jesse Middendorf, Trevecca Nazarene University President Dr. Dan Boone, USA/Canada Regional Director Dr. Bob Broadbooks, fellow ministers, delegates, and friends of this assembly: With joy and a grateful heart I welcome you to this 69<sup>th</sup> annual assembly of the South Carolina District Church of the Nazarene. It is a privilege for me to present this fifth annual report.

With Paul I say, "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe" (Ephesians 1:16-19).

### **TOP TEN**

This year's "Top Ten" list highlights some of the many ways the Lord has blessed the district since our last assembly.

**10. Camp Dining Hall Groundbreaking:** This ceremony was held April 5, 2011. We have now completed Stage 1, and all work completed to this point has been done with cash on hand from many generous donors. Richard Coleman is providing excellent leadership in this project.

**9. 2011 Ministry Team Retreat:** This year's retreat had a larger attendance than any retreat in the last ten years. I want to thank the District Advisory Board for encouraging a weekend retreat, enabling bi-vocational pastors as well as pastors' spouses who work outside the home to attend. I also want to thank church boards for investing in their pastors and spouses and for recognizing the importance of the fellowship, encouragement, and inspiration this event provides.

**8. Successful Local Church Building Programs:** **Cayce** finished their new Community Outreach Center. The fellowship hall, which will seat 160, was completed debt free. **Charleston Calvary** dedicated their new Family Life Center on June 12, 2011. **Chester** has finished their Family Life Center and is enjoying this new ministry venue. **Rock Hill Trinity** enjoyed the first Sunday in their beautiful new facility on April 3, 2011. Dedication is set for September 11, 2011.

**7. God's Creative Generosity:** Early in the church year it became apparent that the reduction in the district budget percentage adopted by the 2010 District Assembly would result in a significant district deficit. The district did what many local churches found it necessary to do – evaluate priorities, reduce expenses, and maximize missional impact. Significant adjustments to salaries and programs were strategically implemented and gracefully accepted. As our faithful pastors and committed District Ministry Team were responding to the challenge with faith and a Christlike attitude, God began to show His "Creative Generosity." Three of our churches received generous grants from the Cannon Charitable Trust for facility improvements. A church

received the donation of adjacent property. Another church remembered the district assistance they had received during a difficult time a couple of years ago, and returned the blessing by sending the district an unexpected check for \$4,000. Two of our churches, after paying their own budgets in full, helped three other churches pay their district budgets. The camp benefited from the receipt of a life gift annuity. These are only a few of the ways God showed His “Creative Generosity.” Our resources have been stretched, but so has our faith. By God’s grace the district, all departments, and the camp ended the year in the black despite having received \$100,000 less in Fair Share contributions than anticipated.

**6. 2011 Camp Meeting.** Camp meeting continues to be an opportunity for the district family to come together for a week-long spiritual emphasis, strongly enhancing the “connections” between our people and churches across the district. We experienced inspiring worship with Greg and Geri Rosser and TNU’s EverPraise, great preaching by Susie Shellenberger and Nelson Perdue, and many victories around the altar.

**5. Marriage Matters:** Diane, following her passion for marriage and family, hosted pastors and spouses from all seven of our Mission Areas for “Marriage Matters” dinners in our home. Over 70 pastors and spouses attended. This year she will be hosting full-time pastoral staff and their spouses for “Marriage Matters.”

**4. Notable Fruitfulness:** The following churches experienced growth in both attendance and membership, including significant growth in at least one area in addition to fulfilling all denominational allocations: Aiken “Ebenezer” (Pastor Ben LaPlace), Clemson “The Bridge” (Pastors Ken and Mary Paynter), Conway (Pastor John Griggs), Florence Family Life (Pastor Karen Lawson), Greenville First (Pastor Chuck Fountain), Hartsville First (Pastor Carey Pratt), Midland Valley First (Pastor Kyle Poole), Moncks Corner (Pastor Jason Leviner), Myrtle Beach “The Connection” (Pastor Brent Walker), New Ellenton New Life (Pastor Thom Harvey), Rock Hill Trinity (Pastor Phil Jones), Simpsonville LifeSpring (Pastor Bill Segur), Sumter Wise Drive (Pastor Sammy Geddings), West Columbia Central (Pastor Jim Thrower), and Wallace (Pastor Bobby Norris).

**3. Honea Path “Genesis” Church of the Nazarene** was officially organized on Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011. Pastor Bill Higgins received 19 charter members into the fellowship of the new church.

**2. Clemson “The Bridge” Church of the Nazarene** was officially organized on April 3, 2011. Pastors Ken and Mary Paynter received 12 charter members into the fellowship of this new church.

**1. South Carolina District / South American Region Partnership:** The reported population of South Carolina has increased 15.3% in the last decade, from 4,012,012 to 4,625,364. During the same period our Hispanic population has increased 153.9%, from 92,878 to 235,632. God is helping us address this growing mission field. Through the leadership of our Hispanic Ministries Director, Javes Munoz, we have formed a partnership with Nazarene Theological Seminary in Quito, Ecuador, to train Hispanic men and women in South Carolina who have been called to the ministry. Presently, there are 34 of our Hispanic brothers and sisters in the course of study. We

now have Hispanic ministry taking place in 7 locations. We have the potential for Hispanic ministry in 65 locations – in every local church in South Carolina.

Let's look at the progress made toward our three district goals.

## **Goal #1: Foster a Hunger for God**



**Hunger  
for God**

Our strong desire is to see a sanctified passion for God in each individual and church on the South Carolina District and a move of the Holy Spirit in each local church.

The District Awakening Tour, with Dan and Chad Bohi, was attended by approximately 750 South Carolina Nazarenes, including almost all of our pastors. As a result, many are even hungrier to see an authentic move of God in the churches on the South Carolina District.

The D. Moody Gunter Camp and Retreat Center continues to be an important tool for fostering a hunger for God. Only eternity will reveal the lives impacted there in just the last year. Camp meeting, two youth camps, three children's camps, a Pastors' Prayer Summit, four Hispanic Encounter weekends (with 200 conversions), and numerous retreats have provided opportunity for significant spiritual development. We will continue to build on these opportunities.

We have implemented an intentional prayer emphasis preceding district events, promoted Prayer Rooms at camp meeting and district assembly, and continued the Pastors' Prayer Summits.

This year we encourage our pastors and churches to foster a hunger for God by:

- Preaching and teaching entire sanctification
- Designing and implementing a prayer and fasting strategy in each local church
- Challenging each member to daily Bible reading and prayer, and regular fasting
- Scheduling at least one spiritual renewal/revival-type series of meetings

## **Goal #2: Facilitate Leadership Development**

We desire to have pastors who think missionally, understand strategies for effective change, equip local leaders, and have the relational skills to lead congregations through times of change. We intend to raise up leaders who model Christlike discipleship and godly service and who in turn invest in the development of other leaders.

Much progress has been made in this area. Six of our pastors completed the Pastoral Leadership Development program this year: Sammy Geddings (Sumter Wise Drive), Bill Harmon (West Columbia First), Thom Harvey (New Ellenton), Bill Higgins (Honea Path Genesis NewStart), Kyle Poole (Midland Valley), and Harry Varn (Winnsboro). This investment in pastors may be the most important thing I do.



**Leadership  
Development**

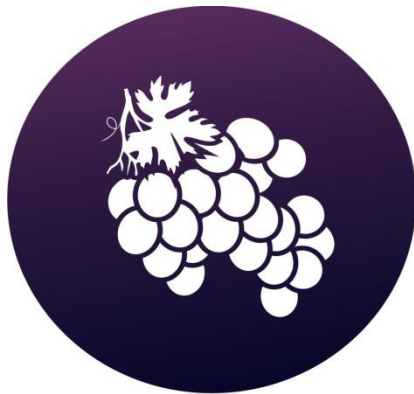
Thirty-four Hispanics have begun the course of study for ministry at Greenville First.

The enrollment in the Carolinas School of Ministry has increased significantly to 56 under the direction of Dr. Larry Wagner.

District assembly workshops offered by Dr. Mark Lail, Director of Stewardship Ministries, and Dr. Roberto Hodgson, Hispanic Coordinator USA/Canada, provided resources for our leaders in the areas of stewardship and multi-ethnic outreach.

This year we will transition from an interview-based credentialing process to an assessment-based process for individuals who are testifying to a call to ministry. Pastor Chuck Fountain is leading this effort.

Eurasia Regional Director, Dr. Gustavo Crocker, will lead a Leadership Development training day for pastors, "Leading Churches for Missional Engagement," on Tuesday, August 30, 2011.



## **Fruitfulness**

### **Goal #3: Further Fruitfulness**

We desire to see an increase of healthy, growing disciples and healthy, growing churches.

We concluded the church year with 10,003 members (-24); 353 new Nazarenes (-175); 6,469 worshippers each week (-69); 5,037 in Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries each week (-55); and \$9,834,300 total church income (-\$230,235). There were 1,005 conversions (+167) and 218 baptisms (-21) in our churches. We were able to organize 2 new churches this year (+1)—Honea Path "Genesis" and Clemson "The Bridge"—and ended the year with 62 organized churches (+1) and 3 NewStarts (-3). Our NewStart churches are progressing toward organization. It is time to give renewed attention to

additional NewStarts. May God call more men and women to the exciting and challenging opportunity of starting a new work in South Carolina!

It appears that we have lost some of the significant gains in attendance and membership made last year. We can do better in all of these areas of fruitfulness. Lost souls are at stake. The expectation is that each church and each pastor will be fruitful.

Our financial commitment to others improved significantly this year, and the percentage paid toward denominational investments increased in every area. World Evangelism Fund: \$537,839 (109%); Trevecca Nazarene University: \$182,751 (81%); Pensions & Benefits: \$156,992 (87%); and District Fair Share: \$522,386 (96%).

### **GRATITUDE**

Thanks be to God for His saving, sanctifying, and sustaining grace. He has blessed us beyond measure. I am grateful for the pastors and laity of our district and for their commitment, sacrifice, and fruitfulness. Our District Advisory Board and Mission Area Directors continue to serve with distinction. Special thanks to District Secretary Greg Pressley, District Treasurer LaNora Jensen, and District Finance Committee Chairman Bill Harmon for their service

throughout the year. Department leaders LaNora Jensen (NMI), Jim Thrower (SDMI), and Mike O'Hair (NYI) have provided strong leadership. In the district office, Peggy Smith and Rachael Watts continue to endear themselves to South Carolina Nazarenes through their servant's hearts and notable abilities. I am especially blessed by Diane's partnership in life and ministry.

The district mourns the passing of retired pastors Rev. Sidney Murphy, Rev. Hubert Richardson, Rev. William Carter, and Rev. Warren Holloway. The passing of Rev. Ed Kessler—a young, active pastor—was a significant loss to the district. I was so proud of the way you supported the Kessler family. Our pastors filled up one-third of Charleston Cross Community Church for Pastor Ed's memorial service. Our churches gave generous love offerings to his family. We saw our connectionalism at its best.

Rev. Dennis Johnson is retiring after ten years of exemplary service at the D. Moody Gunter Camp and Retreat Center. We are so very appreciative of his ministry, and we have every confidence that Rev. Alan Pullen, who will become camp manager on August 1, will be able to continue the excellent leadership Dennis has provided.

### **CHALLENGE**

South Carolina District family, we have worked hard together during this past year to advance the cause of Jesus across this great district, from the Low Country to the Midlands to the Upstate, and there is much work still to be done. We must evidence an urgency to see the lost saved and the saved disciplined. We are engaged in a majestic effort and our calling is nothing less than to be used of God to see transformed lives, families, neighborhoods, and communities across South Carolina. May God equip us, empower us, and enable us to see it happen!

Warmly Yours in Christ,

Edward L. Estep, Superintendent  
South Carolina District Church of the Nazarene