

Shepherd to Shepherd

"Stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord" Micah 5:4

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Pastors' Newsletter

02/16/09 * Issue 25



Eddie Estep

District Superintendent

- *Christlike Disciples*
- *Holiness Pastors*
- *Missional Churches*



From My Heart to Yours

WHY LENT?

February 25, 2009, is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season called Lent. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the custom, in some Christian denominations, of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of penitence. The ashes are obtained by burning the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday celebration.

Lent is to Easter what Advent is to Christmas—a season of preparation. Lent lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays, and is marked by repentance and renewal. It is a special time for meditation, prayer and recommitment to Christlike discipleship.

Often people "give up" something for Lent. Fasting—the giving up of something we usually enjoy—is a key theme during the 40 days. To fast is to sacrifice something as a daily reminder of the supreme sacrifice Jesus made for us. Sometimes people give up meat, or chocolate, or soft drinks, or desserts. Some people fast from food for several days; others

give up one big meal a week or do without between-meal snacks. Others give up watching television, or playing video games, or certain social activities. Still others determine to "give up" selfishness, or impatience, or anger.

Lent is not only a good time to "give up" something, it is also a good time to "take up" something. Take up a good habit. Take up a spiritual discipline. Take up some positive act that will help your neighbors. Don't just "give up" something; "take up" something.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me." - Luke 9:23

Let's rediscover how special 40 days can be.

Eddie Estep
District Pastor

Next month:
Why is "WEF" so important?

Bits-N-Pieces

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Hubert Richardson (Batesburg); Paul Wiggins (retired pastor) who recently suffered a stroke; the family of Charles Horne (retired pastor) at his passing; the family of T. P. Phipps (retired pastor) at his passing; Aubrey Smith (Fort Mill First) and family at the passing of his father, Rev. Doyle C. Smith; Norma Smith

(Fort Mill First) and family at the passing of her mother, Mrs. Frances Parrish; Kimberly Wells (Sumter Celebration pastor's wife) as she continues to battle sickle-cell anemia; missionaries David and Lisa Johnson.

A memorial service for Rev. Luis Valverde will be held Friday, February 27, 5:00 p.m. at Columbia First Church.

Pastors are asked to encourage their churches to participate in the Nazarene Bible College annual offering. If you need envelopes or brochures, please call 1.800.873.3873, ext. 5065. This year's offering from South Carolina churches to Nazarene Bible College totaled \$1,315, significantly down from last year's \$3,803.

The next Pastors' Prayer Summit will be held February 23-24 at the campground. This will be a Pre-Lent Prayer Summit, facilitated by Rev. Brad Bellomy.

Camp Work Days will take place March 30-April 2 and April 27-29.

Cherrydale Hispanic (NewStart) Church of the Nazarene is urgently in need of the following: chairs (adult and children), microphones and PA system, video projector, musical instruments, computer and computer desk, and church van or bus. If you are able to provide any of these, please contact Pastor Jonathan Saenz at 954.465.3969.

PALCON 2010 at TNU will take place May 11-13, 2010. All South Carolina ministers are encouraged to mark their calendars and plan for these important days together.

Men of Valor Conference, April 4, 2009, in Charlotte: Pastors are invited to a free luncheon at Central Church of God in Charlotte on either Tuesday, February 17, or Thursday, February 19, (your choice) to hear details. Please RSVP to Dave@nationalcoalition.org. Men of Valor is a discipleship conference for men of all ages (high school age +) from churches of all denominations. Men will be equipped on a variety of key issues, including sexual purity, dealing with anger, solving difficulties in marriage, becoming better leaders in the home, and many others.

Congratulations to Pastor Allan Rashford and the Charleston St. Andrews Church at their successful review.

Chaplain David B. Crary, ordained minister on the South Carolina roll of elders, is currently assigned as Garrison Chaplain, US Army Garrison-Yongsan.

Rev. Dale Turner, pastor of Manning NewStart Community Church of the Nazarene, has been appointed NewStart District Coordinator for the South Carolina District. Pastor Turner was chosen for this volunteer responsibility because of his obvious passion and success in NewStart endeavors. Pastor Turner will be attending an orientation for district NewStart coordinators at the Global Ministry Center in Lenexa, Kansas.

South Carolina World Evangelism Fund giving, as of 1/15/09, totaled \$275,813, or 40% of our goal of \$686,685.

What's Working?

What is a fruitful, exciting, or especially beneficial ministry taking place in your local church that you would like to share with other pastors on the district? Please e-mail your suggestions to eddieestep@scnazdist.net for inclusion in upcoming issues.