

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

to the
Seventy-fifth Annual District and Prayer Conference
The Western Pennsylvania District
The Christian and Missionary Alliance

It has been an incredible conference year from being nominated to being elected to serving as district superintendent of the Western PA District of the C&MA. The transition from a Regional Team Leader to District Superintendent continues to be a learning curve as each day brings a new perspective to the role. I am humbled and honored to serve you in this capacity. As I depend on the Lord for every challenge and decision I face, He is sufficient to lead me.

Marcia and I are so grateful for the firm foundation that was set before us and for those who have gone before us. Jeff's and Lynette's faithful service and the impact of their ministry is seen throughout the district. We as a district are indebted to them as well as the others that have served in this capacity previously. Continue to keep the Norris family in your prayers as they serve in West Virginia and especially for Lynette as she continues to receive treatments for her cancer. May God's very presence give them strength as they obey Him in this new ministry.

A Christ-like Acts 1:8 Family

President John Stumbo leads The Alliance into his second term. The Alliance is a Christ-like Acts 1:8 family. I often hear that we are an Acts 1:8 family, but all that we do is about Jesus. I agree with the president, desiring a greater level of ownership and engagement among our Alliance family. The last several years in our District, we have been pursuing an ever-deepening level of intimacy with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Out of this intimacy, out of our personal relationship with Jesus, flows the love, passion and life itself. I am seeking a greater understanding and experience with the Holy Spirit in my own life. He has been leading me, as I know He has been leading you, forward in His presence with a strong sense of expectation. In this journey to have a greater understanding of and submission to the Holy Spirit, District Leadership meetings begin by silencing and submitting ourselves to Him. Each LO&CC and DEXCOM begin this way, for the glory of God. His caring, teaching, instruction and conviction will lead us to new areas of His passion and purpose. Let us not neglect the Holy Spirit in our personal lives and in the ministries that we are engaging. The President is calling the Alliance family to increase our engagement in the following four areas.

Love – there are some world religions where love is not even a core expression of their faith. Love is a defining value of those that follow Jesus Christ. Does love define you and me? Does it define our actions, interaction, compassion, diversity and our generosity? Love is the demonstration of His presence within us and our willing submission to His Holy Spirit.

Proclaim – A clear, understandable presentation of the Gospel of Jesus in both word and deed. The changes in society and culture have pushed many to find new non-verbal ways of Gospel expression and these lifestyle responses are critical. At the same time, presence alone is inadequate – we must be able to give a clear and understandable proclamation of the good news of Jesus, to skillfully and in relationship connect the needs of the heart of man with the solution of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Reach – Engaging people with the Gospel of Jesus is a joy that we have as Christ followers, and it has been a passion of the C&MA since its beginning. It was reported that there are 60 thousand new believers in Vietnam alone last year. Former Marxist regimes like Cuba are being flooded with the Gospel story. The church in China is no longer called the underground church because of the exponential growth of believers. Every year within our districts, hundreds come to faith in Christ, because of the impact of our Alliance family. Good fruit is coming forth in spite of the growing secularism. Yet, there remain many outside of a saving relationship with Jesus. Statistics tell us that one out of two people that we encounter in Pennsylvania say that they are not associated with any faith. How will they be engaged? There are an increasing number of immigrant and refugee peoples that have come to our district. Some of them come with a vibrant Christian faith; others are in need of hearing the good news. Hospitality, generosity and kindness are powerful expressions of the power of the Gospel. Jesus teaches that our relationship with God and our neighbors cannot be separated. President Stumbo stated that “the church always loses when she gets near sighted – when she sees only her issues.” May the Holy Spirit always engage us in mission, moving us intentionally beyond our comfort zone and entering the world of another.

Launch – let us begin new efforts for the sake of the Kingdom. Renewed efforts to revitalize plateaued and declining churches. Plant new missional communities of faith – there are places, communities and people that do not have a viable Gospel witness. The only way that we will reach them is to establish a witness among them, and continue to build new partnerships/networks between Alliance churches that will strengthen and increase sustainability of local ministry. I am grateful for the efforts of a number of our churches that have seen and responded to the needs of neighboring Alliance churches and made a difference.

Let us respond to President Stumbo’s call for a greater ownership and engagement in our Alliance family. Let us commit to increasing our cross-cultural skills and competencies. We don’t work together as well as we would like to think. Suspicion is a slippery slope – mutual trust will help us to find pathways to move forward. Many churches have experienced ongoing decline and a few have even closed. Somehow, we must understand these situations better and be willing to address the circumstances that have led to this point in the life of the church.

As a Christ-like Acts 1:8 family, let us continue to prioritize our personal intimacy with Jesus and may we invite others to join us on this exciting journey. Our district’s three primary end-products are namely, the producing of Growing Spirit-Filled, Christ-like Servant Leaders; Healthy Christ-centered Churches; and a Christ-like Acts 1:8 Family living the call together! The following is a brief overview of these vital areas:

A PRIMARY END-PRODUCT OF THE WESTERN PA DISTRICT IS THE PRODUCTION OF GROWING SPIRIT-FILLED CHRIST-LIKE SERVANT LEADERS

Coaching Cluster Ministry

The Coaching Cluster ministry has had an exciting year. The goal is to provide a safe, stimulating environment, which invites intimacy with Jesus Christ along with authenticity with our colleagues. These monthly gatherings focus on the development of Holy Spirit intimacy

through worship, prayer, and sharing as well as developing our Christ-like servant leadership abilities. All official workers and their spouses are invited to attend the coaching clusters held in Greensburg, Altoona, Grove City, and Ridgway. We are looking to expand the locations to the Beaver Valley and Erie areas. Contact your Regional Team Leader with your questions or the district office.

Chaplaincy Ministry

The Chaplaincy Ministry has provided a safe, confidential place and person to allow workers to unpack whatever is on their heart or conscience. Bernie Knefley along with his team have served faithfully and been a great blessing to our district and workers. The chaplains are appointed annually by DEXCOM and in recent months there have been a number of transitions. Concluding chaplains are Dave Snyder, Roland Gray, Ed Dixon and Pat Walsh. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your compassionate visits, phone calls and interactions with our workers. Your ministry has been deeply appreciated. We welcome our new chaplains, Clyde Davis and Don Hunter. Be praying for Bernie and the team as we are looking to add additional chaplains including female chaplains to more effectively serve our workers. Get to know your chaplain. In addition, the Sutton Cottage at Mahaffey Camp is for you. This is a fully furnished cottage, available to official workers and their families at no cost. Please contact your chaplain and reserve the Sutton Cottage.

Anything can be shared with your chaplain and he will journey with you. Yes, Pennsylvania's mandatory reporting laws are followed, but even then, they will advocate for you. One person's comments, "Don't wait. Pride gets in the way, making me think that I am doing okay, when inside I'm screaming – 'help!' Acknowledge it to someone." Our chaplains are available, please don't remain lonely and isolated.

Ordination/Consecration Ministry

We continue to refine and improve the ordination/consecration ministry. Our goal is to assist men and women being called into ministry in the areas of intimacy with Jesus, Christ-like servant leadership competencies and emotional health. There are challenges that the LO&CC are facing from an increasing number of candidates entering Alliance ministry. Our current process is complicated, heavy on the intellectual with minimal emphasis on leadership, character and emotionally healthy spirituality. Additional mentoring couples are needed to invest into the lives of these new workers. Might this be a way that you can increase your engagement and ownership of the needs in our district.

A SECOND PRIMARY END-PRODUCT OF THE WESTERN PA DISTRICT IS HEALTHY CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCHES

Church Health Team

The District Church Health team is being chaired by Rob Douglas and is intently seeking the Lord's will concerning how to best assist our district churches. The team has facilitated prayer gatherings to seek the Lord. The team brings resources and assessment tools and is willing to journey with you in shaping new directions.

Church Planting/Multiplication Committee

Dave Nagel is leading the district Church Planting Committee. There have been a number of gatherings to better understand the concept of Green House Churches as a means of raising up church planting leaders. The Northeast Region of the C&MA has appointed Rob Parker as a point person to work with the six geographic C&MA districts to further the cause of multiplying churches. Praise God for increasing expressions of churches that are engaging neighboring Alliance churches; i.e., Somerset Alliance who is working with St. Michael Parkview Alliance church to become a viable missional light in their community; Mars Alliance has engaged North Hills Alliance to become a satellite campus. Out of this, LifePointe Alliance has been launched with campuses in Mars and Franklin Park. Allegheny Center Alliance Church (ACAC) partnered with Faith Journey Alliance in leadership and resources, and ACAC is looking to expand Gospel influence to a number of Pittsburgh area communities.

Updates on Our Regions

Southwest (Pittsburgh) Region—Rev. Paul Cope (Connie) is serving as our Assistant District Superintendent and the Regional Team Leader in the Southwest Region. Paul and Connie are living in the Mars area, and ACAC is graciously providing an office to Paul several days a week. Paul and Connie have served faithfully with their passion and ministry skills. Through their efforts, the Southwest Region has seen the placement of new pastors in churches and creative partnerships with churches coming alongside each other to bring new life and vision. Paul will conclude his term as Assistant District Superintendent and Southwest Regional Team Leader on December 31, 2017. Paul will then assume his new position as Pastor of Visitation at LifePointe Alliance Church—Mars and Franklin Park Campus.

Northern (Erie) Region—Rev. Rob Douglas is the Northern Regional Team leader, the District Church Health Director and the District Missions Mobilizer. I am grateful to the Lord for the skills and gifting that the Lord has equipped Rob with to lead in these areas well. There have been a number of pastoral transitions through which he has led congregations. I am always amazed how God works in the hearts of a church and the heart of a pastor to bring conviction regarding the will of God. Please continue praying for Rob; the Lord is using Rob to impact eternity in powerful ways!

Southeast (Altoona) Region—Southeast Regional Team leader has had a vacancy since January since Dave stepped into the Superintendent role. The Southeast region rejoices in the strong sense of collegiality among the pastors as they seek to impact their communities for the Kingdom of God.

Disciplemaking Ministries—Cheryl Grossoehme served faithfully as Disciplemaking Ministries Director for 11 years. DMM teams work in the areas of Children's Ministries (Kim Greenleaf), Youth Ministries (Nathan Grossoehme), Adult Ministries (unfilled), Legacy Builders (Carl Schmidt), Missions Mobilization (Rob Douglas), Quizzing (Ken Sproul) Ministry Workout and the production of Great Commission Connections. Cheryl concluded her role at the end of April, 2017. Cheryl, along with her husband Mark, have joined the Envision Atlanta ministry team and relocated there in just these last few weeks. Our district is deeply indebted to Cheryl's skillful leadership in this area. During this time of transition and in an effort to better understand the scope and impact of these ministries, the district superintendent will chair this committee for the

short-term. If you have any questions or have needs with which this committee can be of help, please contact the commission lead or our district office.

Be praying as we are actively seeking God for two new regional team leaders and discerning the role of Assistant District Superintendent. As God raised up His leaders in the past, so also will He lead us in these leadership positions.

A THIRD PRIMARY END-PRODUCT OF THE WESTERN PA DISTRICT IS A CHRIST-LIKE ACTS 1:8 FAMILY—LIVING THE CALL TOGETHER

The Pennsylvania Bible Institute (PBI) led by Rev. Joe Toomey continues to equip individuals for the work of the ministry. At this District Prayer Conference, we celebrated the graduation of 14 people that have sensed the call of God on their lives to enroll and complete the PBI program. Classes have been held in Pittsburgh, Erie and Somerset in the past and currently are being held at ACAC in Pittsburgh. PBI is raising leaders from the harvest for the harvest, and if you know of lay people that sense God's call, please direct them to this excellent preparation opportunity.

Denise Howard serves on a part-time basis to help churches identify, track and invest in people who sense God's call on their lives. In the past, too many people called into the work of the ministry could fall through the cracks. Denise has facilitated two Send Me Now conferences. This year's event saw exponential growth from the previous year of those wanting to follow Christ wherever he would lead them. Denise is available to you and those called to serve from your church.

One of our strategies in bringing the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth is through partnerships. We have a two-pronged approach to strategic partnerships. First, we are developing multiple partnerships within the North and Central Asia (NCA) region of the C&MA. Rob Douglas, our District Mission Mobilizer, has been leading the district in developing partnerships that build relationships with our district international workers (IW's), mobilizing prayer, financial commitment and giving of ourselves to go. Partnerships are a strategic way to make an impact with international workers and the global work of the Alliance.

Along with these partnerships, let us pray and ask God to bless our churches to raise up one hundred accredited workers to work with the Alliance. Would we not see a greater advancement of the Gospel if each church could increase their Great Commission Fund (GCF) giving by 10% and see an increase in the number of our churches that have a partnership with our district IW's and beyond.

The WPA District has historically championed the mobilizing of international workers and supporting the GCF. Thank you for what you have done and may God bless us to make an even greater impact by mobilizing the current and future generations.

UPDATE ON DISTRICT OFFICE

District Office Staff

I am humbled by the skill and competency that our office staff brings to every task that they do. Marcia Nagel has been assisting as the office manager, conference administrator and Choice Tour coordinator. Kathy Anderson is the administrative assistant to David Nagel. Janeen Barrett is the receptionist. (Janeen has been out on extended medical leave; please continue praying for her complete recovery.) Debra Wolfe is the administrative assistant for Paul Cope and works with the PBI program and those in the ordination and consecration track. Ruby Piszker has been lead administrative assistant working with Disciplemaking Ministries. She also maintains our web site. Pam Hogan serves as our financial assistant and keeps all the books in order. Another asset to the team is Joe Anderson. Joe is our information technology specialist. I am deeply indebted and dependent on the gifts and skills that each of these bring to our district office.

Transitions—September 21, 2016 — September 17, 2017

PERSONNEL: ADDITIONS

Bernard, John J.	(Katelyn)	Chippewa (Assistant/Family Ministries)
Brown, Sr., Kenneth B.	(Nancy)	Retired
Buchmann, Jordan M.	(Crystal)	Belle Vernon Gospel
Covington, Brock E.	(Dawn)	Ambridge
Cuthbert, Christian P.	(Melissa)	Bakerstown
Brown, Terry W.	(Krystal)	Johnstown
Larson, Brett J.	(Mary)	Mahaffey (Youth)
Simpson, Delroy A.	(Christina)	Cambridge Springs
Rossi, Steven M.	(Julie)	Ali Crestmont (Assistant)
VanProoyen, Nathan E.	(Julie)	Altoona (Assistant)
Voelker, David M.	(Tina)	Erie East Lake Rd (Executive)
Waite, Daniel J.	(Holly)	Fuoss Mills Faith
Wiedemann, Calvin M.	(Carol)	Portage
Yanchek, Paul J.	(Julie)	Ali Christ

PERSONNEL: TRANSFERS

Ayers, Rodney L.	(Dimphina)	Greensburg to Unassigned
Blakeslee, Blair T.	(Karin)	Corry to Special Ministries (Edinboro Camp)
Bryner, Christy M.	(Russell)	Greensburg to Unassigned
Conley, Ernest S.	(Donna)	Pgh North Hills to Mars LifePointe
Dail, D. Roy	(Donna)	Greensburg Senior to Associate/Transition
Ditter, Jonathan M.	(Shenna)	DuBois to Homer City
Ester, Gerald W.	(JoAnne)	Unassigned to Tionesta
Gerhart, Joseph M.	(Amy)	Coudersport to Erie FlightPath
Gierhart, Jr., Michael D.	(Wendy)	New Castle First to Unassigned
Graham, Matthew	(single)	New Castle First to Unassigned
Haynes, Eric J.	(Carole)	Chaplain Trainee to Unassigned
Keefer, Samuel R.	(Tammy)	Scullton to Clymer
Kiel, Jeffrey T.	(Phyllis “Jo”)	Cambridge Springs to Hollidaysburg
Kunes, Jim J.	(Deb)	Unassigned to Berlin
Lamming, Cory W.	(Jennie)	Oil City to Unassigned
Lawther, Jeffery L.	(Shirley)	Mars LifePointe to Franklin Park LifePointe

Llewellyn, James F.	(Cindy)	Murrysville to Greensburg
Owen, P. Lionel	(Amy)	Asst @ Emporium to Emporium
Patton, David A.	(Megan)	Mars to Unassigned
Povich, James J.	(Carla)	East Freedom to Saltsburg Faith
Repic, Joel A.	(Chelsea)	Ali Crestmont Youth to Senior
Snyder, C. David	(Ruth)	Erie First to MidAtlantic District
Toth, August	(Myra)	Unassigned to Pgh All Ctr (Cong Care/Vis)
Turnbull, Jennifer L.	(James)	Greensburg to Unassigned
Weihe, David P.	(Heather)	Unassigned to Mars Lifepointe (Asst)
Whipple, Thomas J.	(Miriam)	Homer City to Unassigned)
Woodlee, Scott A.	(Christine)	Franklin to Unassigned

PERSONNEL: LOSSES

Brumley, Mark E.	(Jeddie)	Mid-Atlantic District
Carpenter, Robert E.	(Kelsey)	MI (outside C&MA)
Flaherty, Robert W.	(Michelle)	Southern District
Grossoehme, Cheryl M.	(Mark)	South Atlantic District
Grossoehme, Mark H.	(Cheryl)	South Atlantic District
Haddon, James E.	(Naomia)	Ret Int Shinglehouse to Ohio Valley District
Hammond, Bryan J.	(single)	Not credentialed
Haynes, Mr. Eric J.	(Carole)	Northeastern District
McAdoo, Erin E.	(Daniel)	Central District
McNutt, Kris B.	(Sandra)	Credentials Expired
Norris, Jeffery A.	(Lynette)	Central District
Smith, Jon E.	(Jennifer)	South Atlantic District
Snyder, C. David	(Ruth)	Mid-Atlantic District
Spriggs, John C.	(Lura)	Western Great Lakes District
Wilson, Jason E.	(Sarah)	MidAmerica District
Yorty, Jr., Arley J.	(Crystal)	Credentials Expired

PERSONNEL: MARRIAGES

Jennifer Conley and James Turnbull	October 21, 2016
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PERSONNEL: DEATHS

Doris Lindsey (widow of Kieth)	November 13, 2016
Richard E. Bartmas	December 6, 2016
Arlene Cogan (wife of John)	February 8, 2016
Joseph T. Beckley, Jr.	December 30, 2016
Betty Ketterer (wife of Andrew)	May 15, 2017
William P. Wood	September 6, 2017

PERSONNEL: ORDINATIONS

Keefer, Samuel R.	July 8, 2017
Furman, Jr., George J.	September 16, 2017

PERSONNEL: CONSECRATIONS - none

RETIRED

James R. Evilsizor	October 30, 2016
C. David Snyder	February 28, 2017
William C. Mullins	August 31, 2017

SPECIAL EVENTS:

April 29 & 30, 2017 Blairsville C&MA 75th Anniversary
May 21, 2017 Latrobe C&MA Dedication of Ministry Center
June 4, 2017 Homer City C&MA 75th Anniversary

CHURCH ADDITIONS/CLOSURES/MERGERS:

Additions: (none)
Closures: Moon Twp West Hills Closed August 31, 2017
Shinglehouse C&MA* Closed September 16, 2017
*to begin secondary association as Crosstown Alliance Church w/Northeastern District
Number of Churches and Church Plants: 142

My Personal Spiritual Journey

The Anglican George Croly, who served at St. Stephen Walbrook in London, expressed the depth of his passion to have only one passion motivating his heart and life.

“Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
And make me love thee as I ought to love.

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The kindling of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and thy love the flame.”

Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37-38 NIV). Jesus calls us to Himself, a vibrant and exciting relationship with one whose love is pursuant and never ends. His call to me is an exclusive one – in a world of competing interests and loyalty, I want that “One Holy Passion” to characterize who I am, my works, actions and leadership.

Marcia and I thank you for your prayers and support in the months of transition into this new role. It is an awesome privilege to serve God’s choice servants in our district.

In Christ,



David A. Nagel
District Superintendent