

Letter written to Southern Missouri missionaries summarizing the 2011 District Council

April 26, 2011

Dear Missionary:

*We have a very special place in our hearts for our District Missionaries. We are aware of your being actively involved in missionary service in your respective field of ministry during our recent 97th Southern Missouri District Council. However, we are grateful to those who were able to attend.*

*This year's Council was held at James River Assembly in Ozark, Missouri. We want to share with you the great experiences of this year's District Council:*

*The Monday Celebration Rally began with Rev. Bill R. Baker, District Superintendent, welcoming everyone and introducing the Host Pastor, John Lindell. Brother Lindell expressed his appreciation and privilege for his church to host the event; he welcomed everyone and prayed for God's blessing on the District Council.*

*The Worship Team from New Life Assembly of God, Oak Grove MO; led us into the presence of God with an inspiring time of Worship!*

*Rev. Jack Hembree, St. Louis Sectional Presbyter and Pastor of Bethel Fellowship, led us in prayer. He was passionate about the Council being a place to come to be refreshed.*

*The Praise of Offering was conducted by Rev. Alvin Blackard, Springfield North Sectional Presbyter and Pastor of Northside Assembly of God in Springfield; followed by Jared Harder, Fine Arts Soloist Winner.*

*Secretary/Treasurer, Stan Welch and Executive Presbyter, Lowell Perkins, presented plaques to the 50-60 Year Ministers and outgoing Presbyters. Reverends Bill Baker, Nelson Booze, Daniel Donelson, Leonard Herrmann, Robert Johnson, William Kolenda, Edgar Lawrence, Ray Thomas, and Guy Trower, received plaques for 50 years of Ordination. Reverends Ada Combs, Frank Goss W. Charles Harris and Allen Wine, received plaques for 60 years of ministry. Reverend John Veazey. Sectional Presbyter of the Joplin Section and Reverend Bracy Hill, Sectional Presbyter of the Sedalia Section, received Plaques for their years of service on the Presbytery Board. Reverend Gerald Penn received a plaque for his service as Executive Presbyter for the Southeast Area for 13 years.*

*It was my honor to preach a message from Mark 11:1-11, "When Jesus is Lord," followed by a time of prayer. Immediately following the service, an Ice Cream Social was hosted by Central Bible College.*

*Tuesday Business Sessions were held in the morning and afternoon. Eight resolutions were presented and passed, which included three courtesy resolutions, the transitions on voting for the Sectional Presbyters from the Western Section of Southern Missouri included newly elected Pastor Trevor Hayes, The Chapel Assembly of God, Rocky Mt, representing the Sedalia Section, and Pastor Ken Robinson, Abundant Life Assembly of God, Neosho, representing the Joplin Section. All other Presbyters of the Western Section were ratified. James (Jim) Calvin was elected as the new Christian Education and Church Growth Director. We look forward to his ministry in the Southern Missouri District.*

*The Speed the Light luncheon was uplifting and encouraging. All leaders were encouraged to continue giving and challenging students to give until the needs of our missionaries were met. Southern Missouri giving for 2010 was - \$393,481.66, Praise the Lord! National Youth Director, Jay Mooney, encouraged everyone from the Word of God.*

*Four families were presented at the Missions Rally. Special music was provided by HeartSong, a group of students from Central Bible College. Reverend James McHaffie, District Missions and Men's Ministry Director, was our speaker for the Missions Rally. In response, the offering and funds committed for the next year totaled in excess of \$60,115.62*

*Wednesday began with the BGMC Breakfast as Assistant C.E. Director, Paul Schepeler and his team of Christian Education Representatives recognized and honored top BGMC giving churches. All in attendance enjoyed the ministry of our General Secretary, James Bradford.*

*Assistant Superintendent, Bill Newby conducted the Communion and Prayer Service Wednesday morning.*

*This year's District Council's format incorporated two breakout sessions. The speakers and sessions included Ron McManus, Executive Director, Church Transformation Networking; Workshop, "Acts 2: Growing a Healthy Church and Tom Matrone, Director, National Music Department; Workshop: The Marriage of Traditional and Contemporary Worship.*

*The ladies attending the Women's Ministry luncheon enjoyed a time together with Debbie Lindell, Lead Pastor, at James River Assembly. Among the fun things that were done was a contest for the heaviest purse, a purse weighing 12 pounds was the winner!!*

*The agenda for the Men's Luncheon was "Food, Fellowship, Fun."*

*The Ordination candidates were honored with a banquet while all other credentialing candidates attended a reception. The Ordination Service began with a procession of the License, Specialized License and Certified Candidates receiving certificates presented by Stan Welch and me. The 30 Ordination Candidates (listed below) and their spouses were led by Assistant Superintendent Bill Newby and the Presbytery as they entered the auditorium in a processional. Worship was led by Tom Matrone, Central Assembly of God, Springfield and Pastor James McIntosh sang Preach the Word during the Ordination Ceremony. General Secretary, James Bradford presented the Word for the Ordination Candidates. After his message, Brad Keller read the names of the candidates and presented them to receive the Ordination Charge from me. The candidates knelt while presbyters, family and friends prayed over them. A mantel was placed on each candidate followed by a prayer from James Bradford. The candidates were then directed to the James River Atrium to be greeted and congratulated by the Presbytery and congregation.*

*Alan Beauchamp*

*Ryan Goeden*

*Aden Lovelace*

*Charles Rosen*

*Jonathan Beckett*

*Tina Green*

*Kevin McCormick*

*Lonnie Stockton*

*Ron Cannon*

*William Hampton*

*Jim Marler*

*Dale Stringer*

*Christian Cleghorn*

*Eric Hernando*

*Mary Marler*

*Fred Williams*

*David Cox*

*Michael Homan*

*Scott Norman*

*Dustin Wright*

*Christopher Craft*

*John Husbands*

*Brad Oyler*

*Gabriel Felan*

*Mark Jones*

*Ionel Popa*

*Errolyn Fraser*

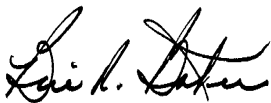
*Daran Lemon*

*Jonathan Ragsdale*

*The evening services will be posted on our website for your convenience.*

*You're in our thoughts and prayers. May God's blessing be upon you as you labor in the Vineyard of the Lord.*

*Sincerely in Christ,*



*Bill R. Baker*

*District Superintendent*

*BRB/bp*