**Dr. Duarte, Pastors, Delegates and Friends of this 70th District Assembly,**

It is my privilege to share with you my second report as your District Servant. For over twenty-two months, Cindy and I have given ourselves completely to the work of the Lord in Southwest Indiana. Today, we have much to celebrate!

We begin by praising God as sixty-one of our seventy four organized churches reported at least one person saved through their ministry with a combined total of 659 people experiencing the grace, mercy and forgiveness found only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Forty-eight churches baptized at least one person with a combined total of 251 baptisms which is an increase of 69 from the previous year. Five of our churches had ten or more baptisms: Rockport (21), Point Township (15) Crossroads Community (15) Mackey (16) and Bicknell who led the way with 53 people baptized. We praise the Lord for new life indeed and a renewed emphasis on this sacrament.

We added 317 New Nazarenes through the work of 55 of our organized churches. This was the largest number of New Nazarenes received on SWID since 2009. 51 New Nazarenes came from “The Point” and 31 from Bicknell and 23 from Princeton New Life and 18 from Cory Community and 16 from Columbus First.

17 of our churches achieved the “Bare Minimum” status this year which requests of a pastor and church to have a minimum of three conversions, three baptisms and three New Nazarenes. We congratulate:

Rev. Brad Delp - Bicknell

Dr. James Hicks - Bloomington First

Rev. William Pursell - Cloverdale

Rev. Brian Rogers - Columbus First

Rev. Pat Shay - Cory Community

Rev. Mark Roberts - Crossroads Community

Rev. Mark Wooten - Crothersville

Dr. Todd Stepp - Heartland

Mackey - (Rev. Martin Hodge, Rev. Nate Denning)

Rev. Stan Loutner -Nashville Parkview

Rev. Joshua Nichols - Odon

Rev. Troy DeKemper - Point Township

Rev. Andrew Johnson - Princeton New Life

Rev. Ken Bushey - Restoration

Rev. Brett Cieslack - Rockport

Rev. Ricky Mains - Salem

Rev. Garret Sloan - Vincennes First

These 17 churches accounted for 325 conversions, 174 baptisms and 153 New Nazarenes.

My prayer is that every church and pastor achieve the “Bare Minimum” this coming year.

Congratulations are in order to Rev. Brad Delp and the Bicknell Church of the Nazarene for qualifying for the General Superintendent’s Growth Award.

We paid 108.8% of our World Evangelism Fund as we gave a total of $500,262. We gave 96.7% (416,468) of our District Fund. This year we gave 91.2% ($172,560) to the ministry of Pensions and Benefits. 48 of our churches paid all allocations in full.

Sadly, we saw a significant drop in our giving and support to Olivet Nazarene University this past year as we only gave 81.8% towards our allocated budget for a total of $154,892 which was a decrease of $19,106. We can and must do better!

We are grateful that 23 of our churches were Mission Ten Churches with all funds paid in full plus 10% giving to Missions. These churches are:

Oakland City 29.01%

Evansville First 28.95%

Odon 25.14%

Washington 22.94%

Spencer 20.48%

Mackey 17.67%

Peter’s Switch 16.55%

Point Township 15.03%

Harmony Chapel 13.39%

Petersburg 12.76%

Freedom 12.57%

Grandview 12.07%

Cloverdale 11.74%

Francisco 11.48%

Community Of Hope 10.99%

Stinesville 10.84%

Tell City 10.53%

Columbus First 10.27%

Greencastle 10.27%

Brazil 10.14%

Vincennes Firs t 10.13%

Sullivan 10.06%

Restoration 10.00%

Yet, the report I give today is not simply statistics but it is a telling of the work of our pastors and people. In actuality, this is much more your report than mine. You have given, called, preached, prayed, sacrificed and shared the gospel in so many of the communities which comprise our district.

**Rev. Michael Bell**, and our **Chandler** church are using the city park across the church as a place to do personal evangelism. **Brownstown,** led by **Rev. Timothy Lichtley** offers a support group to families who have loved ones suffering from drug addictions. **Rev. Marlin Betts**, pastor of our church in **Brazil offers** a free Sunday morning breakfast before Sunday School and they have started a Youth for Christ Supper. Lay Minister, **Matt Roberts** and **Haleysburg** serve over 125 families in a Dare to Care Food giveaway each month.

**Cory Community**, with **Rev. Pat Shay** at the wheel coordinates a school food program that delivers and feeds 64 children everyday throughout the summer. **Rev. Mark Roberts** and our **Crossroads Community** church have started a Table Talk with their local bikers and are active in the schools in the area.

The fine people of our **Community of Hope** congregation who are led by **Rev. Michael Elliott** are beginning this summer to show Christian movies in their parking lot as they seek to reach out to their neighbors. **Rev. Brett Doninger**, who leads the people of **Evansville Grace** have adopted a nearby elementary school and provide support by volunteering and gift giving.

**Rev. Donald Walker** and the people of **Georgetown** conduct worship services at an Assisted Living facility. T**erre Haute Southside** under the direction of **Rev. Dale Stoops** has initiated a partnership with a local elementary school and recently served a lunch for Teacher Appreciation Day.

**Rev. Steve Beck** has certainly brought life and vision to the people of **Dale**. This church has made numerous improvements on their facility and are attracting several Spanish speaking adults. The people of **Evansville Beacon** with **Rev. Tim Moran** in recent months have started a program helping those who are fighting a battle with addiction. **Rev. Brad Delp** and the people of **Bicknell** are seeing a mighty moving of God’s Spirit as people are being saved, sanctified, baptized and joining the Church.

**Rev. Steve Greene,** the Lead Pastor at **The Point** is currently involved in an Engaging Young Adult Initiative in partnership with the Center For Congregations and the Lily Foundation and this year achieved their highest worship attendance in the church’s history. **Valley Mission** and its pastor, **Paul Whiteford** repurposed their midweek and Sunday evening meeting times and had significant increases in Sunday School and the church is poised for an excellent year. **Rev. George Johnson** who leads the **Washington** church is making significant strides in reaching unchurched children through their van ministry and Sunday evening programming.

**Rev. Fred Grenier** and the people of **Winslow** use community meals to reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ. Our **Peter’s Switch** church under the direction of **Rev. Keith Ross,** is partnering with the **Oasis of Hope and pastor, Sara Jimenez Marquez** in an ESL ministry as well as providing resources to help integrate and document Hispanic immigrants into our community. It is exciting to see these two churches working together.

**Rev. Matthew Upshaw** successfully enabled the people of **Bloomington Eastview** to pay off their mortgage this year as they now look to make a huge difference in their community.

**Rev. Mark Wooten** leads the **Crothersville** church as well as **FOCUS 356** which is an after-school Bible class taught in the local elementary school. A closing rally was held with 226 people in attendance and several adults and children made a commitment to Christ.

**Dr. James Hicks** who leads our district SDMI ministries along with **Bloomington First** continues to guide this great congregation in the study and application of the Word of God.

**Rev. David Warren** who serves as our pastor in Petersburg provides a monthly community supper which is planting seeds into the hearts and lives of many. **Point Township,** with **Rev. Troy DeKempe**r continues to minister to those with addictions through their Parent Affiliated Congregation - **Beyond The Walls** where **Rev. Bryan Thompson** has been using his gifts to the glory of God.

Our **Shalom Hispanic Church** with **Rev. David Morante** is trying to reach a Guatemalan community to establish a church in their native language. **Tell City** led by **Rev. Charles Areson** have been conducting Bible studies in retirement communities and are active in Habitat for Humanity. **Dr. Mark Fleschner** who has led the people at **Terre Haute First** since 2002 reports that they provide a community Thanksgiving Dinner as well as a Fire Tote Ministry.

**Rev. Duane Brown** who leads the missional people of **Turning Point** have seen the presence of God do miracle after miracle as they serve Him faithfully.

Presently, the **Shoals, Sullivan, Cayuga, Bloomington Eastview** and our **Cowboy Church** are in the process of finding a pastor. Yet, even in a season of transition the people of these churches are active in fulfilling the Great Commission and planning for the future.

Several new pastors have arrived on our district and expectations are high. **Rev. David Smith**, our new pastor at **Union Chapel** was just installed this past Sunday and great days are ahead.

**Rev. Sheila Thompson** who pastors **Rockville** has with the oversight of **Rev. Mark Roberts** and **Crossroads Community** experienced a revitalization and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for this church. They have recently started a Wednesday night Bible study for adults and youth and a Sunday evening worship service. **Rev. Paul Blair** will be assuming leadership at our **Columbus Calvary Fellowship** this coming Sunday and we have certainly appreciated the fine work of our D**istrict Interim Pastor, Rev. Bruce Yates** who has helped us during this season of transition.

**Rev. Sherman Beville** is leading a season of spiritual vitality in his early days at **Clarksville Parkwood**. The people of **Mackey** are thrilled about the coming ministry of **Rev. Jared Henry,** who is on the way and will be installed on July 15. Great days are ahead and the people of God are filled with holy excitement! Of course, Mackey this year is sending out their youth pastor, **Rev. Nate Denning** along with a core team to plant **Northside Community** in north Evansville. Their launch date is August 12, 2018.

Soon the **Princeton New Life** church and its pastor, **Rev. Andrew Johnson** will be worshipping in their new facility. They are praying for the overflow of God’s glory to fill that place and are experiencing great growth in recent months. Lay Minister, **Brett Cieslack**, and the people of **Rockport** have constructed a new Fellowship Hall and are ministering to a home for men/women with mental illness twice a month. This is a church that is alive, friendly and growing.

Brother **Wayne Rowland** and the **Francisco** church are in the midst of building a Fellowship Hall and remain faithful and true to the call of God. **Rev. Joshua Nichols** has started the very first Compassionate ministry center on our District and along with the people of our **Odon** church are reaching out to their community and beyond. Great days are ahead for our church in Odon.

Our **Orleans** church with **Rev. Jerry Richardson** provides a community food pantry and **Lay Minister**, **Clarabelle Jukes** who leads our church in **Patricksburg** rejoices over a great revival, a new furnace and air conditioning unit and their ministry to those who deal with addictions. **Rev. Rick Main** and the people of **Salem** are experiencing great days as people are being saved, baptized and joining the church.

The **Spencer Church** under the direction of **Rev. Gary Davey** has actively cultivated “Intimate Community” through a series of events designed for outreach and this year is focused on the theme: MULTIPLY! **Rev. Ben Muncie**, and the people of **Stinesville** are seeing great days as lives are being transformed and people are using their spiritual gifts for the Lord.

**Rev. Karolyn & Joel Parsons** and the people of our **Mitchell** church are continuing to provide great ministry to their community and have launched their first ever “student council who are leading their age group ministries. **Rev. Ken Bushey** and our **Restoration** church in Bedford have continued to see their Childcare & Preschool introduce more families to their church and this year launched an All Pro Dads chapter at their neighboring elementary school.

Our **Cowboy church** though having lost their pastor, **Rev. Doug Hanner** conducted another great Christian Trail Riders retreat with Dr. Lew & Melody Sterrett. **Rev. Darin Nossett** and the fine people of **Oakland City** have continued to be a leader on SWID of giving to our World Evangelism Fund and yet have been been leading the way in being generous for our new plant-Northside Community with a recent offering of $1,816. In addition, they arelooking at building plans to provide space for their youth and children’s ministries.

**Rev. Chet Todd** and the faithful folks at **Evansville First** are leading a prayer initiative throughout Evansville and are active in ministering in Honduras as well. The **Greencastle** church led by **Rev. Robert & Jane Muncie** are using the gifts and talents of the women of their church in a “Care & Comfort” ministry that provides blankets throughout the county as emergency personnel dispense to those in need. **Rev. Dale Braker** and the people of **Freetown** are active participants with the Angel Tree Ministry and are helping local families during the Christmas season. **Rev. Randy Boyer** and the people of **Grandview** are active in Compassionate Ministries and a monthly Nursing Home program.

**Rev. Darrell Wineinger,** has completed his 57th year on SWID and together with our **Springs Valley Church** are ministering to the needs of their community and around the world. **Zion Community** and **Rev. Doug Lane** are just beginning to do life with one another but already there are signs that God has great things in store for this church which is strategically located to reach young families for Jesus Christ.

The **Carbon Church** with **Rev. Larry Carr** will soon be coming to an end. Rev. Carr has been leading this small group of faithful and dedicated individuals since 2002. Though unable to maintain their building this church is looking to become a house church in the days ahead.

I am thankful for **Rev. Dennis King** who has faithfully served 29 years as the pastor of our **Newburgh** congregation and continues to guide them to help others through their Bread Of Life Food Pantry. Just down the road, the people of **Newburgh New Life** and **Rev. Jonathan Scott** are focused on providing more discipleship opportunities for children, youth and adults in newly remodeled rooms.  **Rev. Brian Rogers** and the people of **Columbus First** continue their missional endeavors with Kidz First Daycare ministry. They also helped the Freetown church this year with many needed repairs.

**Rev. Stan Loutner** and **Nashville Parkview** have a strong missional heartbeat and are seeing lives transformed through the love of Christ and discipleship into their community. **New Albany Christ’s Community** and its leader, **Rev. Danny McDowell** started C2Kids Care in January and are becoming a church whose mission is outside its walls. Several new families are attending the church. For that we are most grateful. **Rev. Chris Breeden, pastor of our Freedom** church is experiencing great days and they are looking to build a Fellowship Hall for their growing congregation and community.

**Rev. Steve Kochersperger** is leading both the **Owensville** and **Fort Branch** churches and is actively involved in dreaming and planning how these two small churches might better impact the growing county in which they find themselves. A major focus of Steve’s time and energy has been a growing Wednesday Children’s ministry which is bearing spiritual fruit.

The **Huntingburg** Church (which by your action has changed its name to Faith Community Church of the Nazarene) and its pastor, **Rev.** **William Covey** are involved in a number of Community endeavors: Faith, Family & Ball Game Night, Get Out & Serve (community mission projects) as well as working with the Salvation Army and assisting with the Community Food Bank and Clothing Store. These are just a few of the missional endeavors of this great church.

**Rev. Michael Suits** and our church in **Jasper** are seeing good days both financially and spiritually. I am so thankful for this pastor and wife and the stability and vitality they are showing in this season. **Rev. Larry Latham** and the people of **Jordan** haveimproved outreach through the creation of a Blessing Box. God is on the move in this small but vibrant church.

**Wow!** Pastor **Floyd Fisher** and the **Kurtz** church are seeing young people’s lives being transformed through their Worship on Wednesdays. Wow! **Dr. Todd Stepp** is leading **Heartlan**d to numerical growth in recent days and had the privilege this year to issue his son, Matt, his first local ministers license. God is good!

**Harmony Chapel** under the leadership of **Rev. Glen Sprouls** is seeing outstanding days as people are joining the church, getting baptized and getting involved. Our **Vincennes First** Church with **Rev. Garret Sloan** provides Bible studies for men and women in the Knox County Life after Meth program and are engaged in a prayer walking ministry. **Rev. Ron Higgs** who has led the **Dana** church since 1999 was thrilled at having a new convert, Kristina Higgs who he also baptized. **Evansville Faith** with Pastor **Cathy Wes**t has started a Celebrate Recovery Ministry and just sent five children to Children’s camp.

**Rev. Ken Walker** has had a successful launch of our new **Family Fellowship Church** in Palmyra as he seeks to reach young and old alike. I am so grateful he responded to the call of God! **The Cloverdale** church with **Pastor William Pursell** hosted a community Fall Harvest party with 200 children in attendance. In addition, they are ministering to the employees and teachers of a local school. **Boonville** with **Pastor Paul Gates** will be celebrating their 100th year as an organized church in the coming days and are determined to reach more people for Christ. We have much to thank God for - so may we celebrate!

**So Where Are We As A District?**

Obviously, there are many good things happening across our district. However, we are like many other Nazarene districts across the USA and Canada. We are in decline! As your District Superintendent, I am doing everything I can possibly think of to change the trajectory of our district.

This year we saw a decrease of 33 in our Sunday School/Discipleship Attendance and our combined Worship Attendance dropped by 50.

This past church year we saw the following new endeavors birth . . .

**“The Way”** which is a new Parent Affiliated Congregation associated with our church in Bicknell under the direction of Rev. Brad Delp.

A **Compassionate Ministry Center** in the former Greene County church which is led by Rev. Joshua Nichols with assistance from our Odon church.

A new Church Type Mission - **“Family Fellowship”** in Palmyra under the leadership of Rev. Ken Walker which has started meeting in June of this year.

**Northside Community Church of the Nazarene** located in North Evansville under the leadership of Rev. Nate Denning with launches on August 12.

At this point, the new endeavors which we have started have not yet had the opportunity to help us turn the tide of decline but it has been several years now that all across this country we are seeing decline. A majority our churches are desperately in need of revitalization.

Last year, I shared with you a vision of what together we might do with God’s help!

**35 X 25 35 new organized churches by 2025**

**75 by 25 Seventy-five new endeavors** (Church Plants, PAC’s, CTM’s and at least four Compassionate Ministry Centers and new organized churches by the year **2025**.

This plan was not something hatched but birthed in my heart and soul as I read about the early years of this District. Years where the holy fire of God burned in the hearts of the pastors and people of Southwest Indiana District. Back in those days, the NYI bought a tent for revivals and even raised funds to purchase land for a new church. Imagine that happening today!

During the twenty-two months we have been together we have seen seven new endeavors on our district begin. In your recent reporting to the denomination about twenty pastors on this district expressed a desire to mother or plant a new work in the next five years. While this is a good trend, I realize that having a desire to plant or go multi-site in the days ahead is a good gesture but it will take action and not mere desire. Most likely 1/3 of whatever we start will fail.

During the past twenty-two months, we have seen two churches become inactive or close and one of the new PAC’s we formed - our Haitian ministry in Evansville is no longer Nazarene. It is likely that within the next five years we will see a number of our churches close without a dramatic revitalization within them. Many of our facilities are out-dated and some of our churches rarely see a new person. This is difficult for many of you to comprehend or explain but it is happening all across our country. It is happening here! Many have sought to blame our changing and shifting culture but friends there are churches even within our denomination that have been able to lift up the life of holiness and still be a vibrant and growing congregation. But these churches have embraced change and have moved their focus from themselves to those who are lost, lonely and separated from God.

In the article, “Missionaries to America,” Dr. James Emery White states: ***"It is difficult to think of America as a mission field, having been the exporter of faith for*** ***so many generations, but that is precisely what it has become.”***

Last year, I shared with you that twenty years ago the USA/Canada region became a Mission Field but I am not sure we yet fully understand the ramifications of that action. We still tend to think in terms of the local congregations of which we are a part. Most of time we think we are doing fine. Our thoughts and focus are on the activities and programs which we offer and occasionally we are reminded of a world that needs a Savior and so we do what we believe is our part - we give to the World Evangelism Fund.

As a district, we have for years been one of the highest percentage giving districts in the world. So we have done all that Jesus Christ asks of us? Someone, somewhere has to have the courage to say - that is not enough! It certainly is a great place to begin! It is difficult to think of one being missional without giving to missions. But it is not enough to simply pray for our missionaries around the world! It is not enough to simply read books about others sharing their faith and planting churches. It is not enough to have a missionary or two speak in our churches. No! It is time- right now and right here for all of us to say it is our time!

This year, our new work, Northside Community received $12,000 in Alabaster funds to help them secure a location for their new mission work! Did you hear what I said? I am calling for new strategy. We have strategized but have we evangelized? Our mission field is ripe unto harvest but the workers are few. We cannot put our heads in the sand. While it is enjoyable to go and serve God outside the USA we must see the mission field where we reside. I must admit my focus has sharpened these past twenty-two months. They have turned to the communities I drive through day after day. For whatever reason God has placed us in Southwest Indiana and He has given us a task.

Now before anyone comes to the conclusion that I am discouraged or defeated I need to tell you I know who can make difference. You! Each of you can make difference! How do I know that truth? Because this year, I saw it lived out in two of the least likely of places.

Our Rockville church was very close to closing. Some on the District Advisory Board were wondering what was taking so long. In my heart, I just couldn’t believe we would have to close the church. Now, Rockville is a wonderful community and there are many people there who need Jesus. But things were not looking good!

Pastor Mark Roberts of Crossroads Community had allowed three of his district licensed ministers to rotate preaching for a few months but things were not improving. Until one Sunday, a young lady who had previously attended the church and shared that she had heard the church might close. She informed those in attendance that God had told her come to Rockville and start bringing people to church. Amazingly, this young lady had previously been hurt by people within the church but she listened to God. Remember one person can make a difference. Before long she was bringing up to ten or eleven people each and every Sunday. On Mother’s Day they had 64 for worship.

A few weeks ago, the Terre Haute Mission area pastors and people gathered for a work day at Rockville. They painted walls and pulled shrubs and bushes and cleaned the church from top to bottom. Near the entrance of the church, there were a number of weeds and overgrown bushes Carol Lee, pastor’s wife at St. Bernice and her son, Adam and a young man by the name of Brady started cutting and removing the overgrown brush and weeds. Amazingly, underneath it all was a number of white stones that had been laid in the shape of a cross. As I stood that day looking at the cross I thought that is what happens to churches across our country-we lose sight of the cross of Jesus and as a result our churches shrivel up and die.

One person started inviting people to church! Now, I am not saying that Rockville will be in existence five years from now. Only time will tell. What I saying this morning is that you can make a difference if you desire. I can’t imagine what would happen this year if every church had just one person who would start bringing people to their church. Not convinced?

Prior to my time as your District Superintendent the district brought in New Church Specialities to evaluate our Bicknell church. The conclusion they came to was it was as good as dead. I have the report in my office. But remember, one person filled with the Spirit of God can make all the difference in the world.

It took awhile to find a pastor for the Bicknell. But if you have noticed in the past several months something is going on in Bicknell as a number of people are getting, saved, sanctified, baptized and joining the denomination. There is a price to pay to see a dead church come alive! Just a couple of months ago, I received a request to meet the Bicknell church board as I was looking to reappoint Pastor Brad for another year. In that meeting, one of the church board members shared a concern with me. This person who I love and appreciate shared that a new person who had just started attending their church did not know better and was sitting on the front row of the sanctuary eating a donut. I understand about things being sacred and set apart for God’s use. I grew up in the days we would never attach a fellowship hall to a place where we worship God. But friends, I would place in the district budget a line item for donuts for local churches if they were being consumed by people who were hungry for God and sitting in the front rows of our churches waiting for worship. We need a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit! Are you okay out there? Listen to me, if all it takes is a few dozen donuts to bring a dead church to life . . . gets some donuts.

Disappointed ??? Discouraged ???? Are you kidding me? I see what God is doing in the small pockets on this district. He is raising us up to be missionaries on the Southwest Indiana District. Are you kidding me - we already have one Compassionate Ministry Center birthing! Praise God!!! We had a former missionary, Rev. Ken Walker who was at District Assembly a year ago and he and his wife are now leading a church plant in Palmyra!

Will you join me! Pastor, with renewed vigor and spiritual unction and determination will you give yourself fully not only to your local congregation but to the fellow Nazarene churches around you? Will you see your mission area as being beyond the four walls of your church and beyond the community you reside?

If you are not a pastor this morning, then I want to ask you a question: Are you a missionary? How about it? Are you giving yourself fully to the work of God in the church you attend? Are you praying and supporting your pastor, sharing the gospel, and then having done those things are you ever giving any time or energy you have to help fellow Nazarenes make a difference in your part of Southwest Indiana?

You may be wondering what have I been doing this past year. I have sought to bring revitalization to our declining congregations. For several months now, I have been leading two separate cohorts, training a total of ten SWID pastors in Vibrant Church Renewal. I am looking from these ten pastors to have at least three or four of them be willing to lead their own cohort so this training will travel across the district. I have held Young Pastors training sessions to assist our new and younger pastors deal with conflict and how to lead a Church Board meeting and establish a Mission plan for a local congregation. I have conducted Mission Area Huddles across the district.

I have sought to improve financial accountability on the district and local church level. I am grateful for the pastors and church boards that have reviewed their financial policies, procedures and records this year. These include Bloomington First, Brownstown, Cloverdale, Dale, Evansville Faith, Freedom, Greencastle, Haleysburg, Mitchell, New Albany Christ’s Community, Newburgh, Newburgh New Life, Spencer, Tell City, Valley Mission and Vincennes First. Once again we have enclosed in your District Assembly packet a document to help any size church take steps towards being financially accountable.

This year we separated the District funds into two accounts: The SWID Operational Fund and the second, The SWID Missional Growth Fund. The Missional Growth funds are designed to help us start new works and provide training and resources to accomplish the mission God has given us.

I have given myself to the Intentional Leadership Development of pastors and lay people. Last year, we had our first “Equip” training event at Valley Mission in which we offered close to 30 workshops and had an excellent crowd. This year, we have Dr. Scott Daniels, pastor of the College Church in Nampa, Idaho as our featured speaker. Once again, we will be offering DCPI training on the district.

In the midst of change and challenges there is one constant. Our constant is a God who challenges us and calls us to live a Christlike life and to be Great Commission people.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Every church should participate in the Nazarene Theological Seminary and Nazarene Bible College offerings.
2. Every Church should Fund The Mission FULLY! That is 100% on WEF, P&B ONU, SWID.

We short-change the mission when we fail to Fund The Mission completely!

3) Become a SWID+ Church by giving beyond 100% of your District Apportionment and

receive an offering which will be used for new plants, PACs, CTMs, multi-site ministry,

Compassionate centers and creative ideas that will help us reach others for Christ.

4) Every church should have at least one person entering into ministry every three years. (Lay

People called into ministry)

5) That we accept the “Bare Minimum” for every church and pastor:

3 New Nazarenes, 3 people baptized, 3 people saved, and at least 3 people sanctified this coming year.

6) The District NMI Council spearhead a 2nd Compassionate ministry center on SWID.

7) The District NYI Council consider planting a church that would attract young people and

families.

8) The District SDMI would train 75 disciples in the next two years who would then train 750

disciplers the next year.

9) That each of our eight Mission Areas would start at least one new endeavor this year.

As I come to the end of this report, I want to express my appreciation:

To Sandi Miller, who has served as the District Office manager for over twenty five years. As her time in this role came to an end at the close of this past church year, the District Advisory Board and myself wanted to tangibly demonstrate our gratitude for her service with a gift of $500 for each year of service. We thank Sandi for her work on our district.

Our District Secretary, Rev. David Warren has been extremely busy preparing for this Assembly and his continued attention to detail, his servant heart and his godly wisdom is a benefit to all. Thank you, Pastor Dave!

Gary Ritter, our District Treasurer is in the midst of his second year in this vital and important role. We have made great strides in becoming more organized as we properly care for the financial resources God has given us. Most of our churches are now more fully using the “Funding The Mission” website and we all long for the day when we will be able to send our allocations to Olivet Nazarene University through that website. Thank you Gary!

Rev. Mark Thompson, our District NYI President and our NYI Council continue to faithfully lead our young people. We are fortunate as a district to have such a capable and resourceful young man leading us in this important and vital ministry. We are spoiled to have him and the excellent team who lead our youth ministry. Thank you Mark!

Dr. James Hicks continues to leads our SDMI endeavors across the district. His desire for the Word of God to be taught and applied are making a difference across the district. This year he went across the district teaching and training those who desired to see small group ministry flourish. Thank you Dr. Hicks and your SDMI council for a job well done!

Christy Boes, who has just completed her first year as District NMI President has done an outstanding job along with her council. All it takes is a few moments with her or one of her leaders to see why SWID is really # 1 when it comes to Missions! God bless you, Christy and your council.

To Steve Deckard, P.J. Doerner, Doug Jones, Bruce Marshall, Amy Meek, Tim Scott, Rev. Ken Bushey, Rev. Steve Greene, Rev. Jane Muncie, Rev. Darin Nossett, Rev. Brian Rogers, and Rev. David Warren, our District Advisory Board words cannot express what you mean to me and our district. Thank you for the long hours and dedicated work of the Lord!

I also want to take a moment and express my appreciation to every pastor, staff member, church board member and faithful church attender. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Thank you for your sacrifice and commitment to God! I really have appreciated your prayersI

Lastly, I want to remind my wife of 35 years that all we ever wanted in those early days was an opportunity to do something great for God. Who would have ever imagined all God would do through these years. Thank you Cindy, for your love, prayers and heart which beats for Jesus!

We must be diligent to the work God has given us here! We must not simply look at our own individual churches as our kingdom but our eyes must be lifted to the Savior who will once again call us to scatter the seed on all types of soil wherever we live, work or play! We must quit making excuses for the times in which we live or the condition of the soil where God has planted us. We must experience afresh and anew the Reckless Love of God . . .

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Crump

SENT TO SCATTER

God gave to me a bag of seeds

When I received my new birth.

He said to scatter all of them

Throughout the ends of the earth.

Scatter seeds along the path,

Or wherever I may go;

Scatter the love of Jesus

So that these seeds will grow.

I’ll never know the type of soil

Where my seeds may fall,

But even in the wildest weeds

This seed is meant for all.

I may not know the condition

Of the soil where I scatter,

But I toss it everywhere

To whom... it doesn’t matter.

Christ has placed it in my hands,

This bag of “Gospel seed,”

And sent me out into the world

To love the world in need.

This bag of seed will not run out.

It’s replenished every day.

No matter where I travel

I’ll scatter along the way.

It isn’t the “sower”… but the “seed”

That lands on fertile ground.

It’s God who directs the seed you know,

And His harvest then is found.

So scatter wherever you go,

The seeds that are in God’s Word.

Some on the path... and some in the weeds

So His message can be heard.

Barbara Cook 4/30/17