

Meade Church of the Nazarene
Monthly News Brief
May 2009

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IN FOCUS



From the Pastor's Desk

I was intrigued by the devotional thought in our "Reflecting God" devotional book for Saturday, April 25. In 1 Peter 1:13-16 we are reminded that we have been called to be a holy people. We

are counseled not to conform any longer to the evil desires and sinful lifestyle of our former life which we lived apart from Christ. We are urged not to live any longer in ignorance. Then we read these words: "But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" [1 Peter 1:15-16]

In the very next verse we are urged to "live our lives as strangers here in reverent fear." As we spend our time here on this earth we are to live our lives as strangers or aliens – and to live that way in the fear of God. Sara and I know very well what it is like to be a "stranger" and an "alien" in a foreign country. Try as we might, we could not hide the fact that we were different – very different than those we lived among. In our churches our lily-white skin was immediately evident among the great congregations of our African brothers and sisters. Our language was different, our dress was different – we were strangers in a foreign land.

The Scripture instructs us to "live as strangers" in this present world. We are called upon to be holy in an unholy world; we are called upon to be honest in a dishonest world; we are called upon to be righteous in a wicked world. If we do that then we will be different – very different.

We generally don't like to be different in social settings. We try to wear clothing that does not draw attention to us, and we try to behave in a manner that does not put us on public display. But when it comes to this matter of Christian living and holy living, we are not supposed to try to look like the world and act like the world – we are supposed to be different! Our speech, our lifestyle, our desires, our language, our attitudes, our actions – everything about us is to be different. I like Dean Nelson's conclusion: "**Blending is not the point. Being holy is.**"

With the help of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can live a holy life in this unholy world. *Pastor*

Ron

Celebrating Mother's Day with a *Symphony of Praise*

A service of music, praise and reflection – a time of worship for everyone!

On Sunday May 10th we will be honoring all the women in the church in the 10:45 a.m. service.

Join us for this special day of worship!

Baby Day is Sunday May 3rd. We will honor all our babies ages newborn to 3 years in the morning service.

Installation of Church Officers – The newly elected church officers will be installed into office during our morning worship service on Sunday May 3.

Hamburger for sale – As a special "fund raiser" for the Quiz Kids going to the World Quiz in Orlando, some freshly frozen hamburger has been donated. These one-pound packages are priced at a suggested \$3.00 per pound and all proceeds will be for the Quiz Kids. The meat is in the Fellowship Hall freezers with a jar for the donations. (Special thanks to the Lee family!)

SPECIAL THANKS to "Under the Influence" youth group for the great Easter party for the children on April 11! We had about 50 children attend! It was a great afternoon of fun for all the children.

**"I the LORD am holy –
I who make you holy."**

Leviticus 21:8, NIV

NMI – Mission News Alert!



At the end of May the NMI Council will be sending Crisis Care Kits to Nazarene Headquarters to help replenish the dwindling supply. There have been many emergencies world-wide to which these Crisis Care Kits have been sent. Each kit costs about \$20. If you would care to donate to this cause, please mark your gift and put it in the offering plate or give it to Margaret Blehm or Vera Robertson. Thank you for all your past help.

Thank you for your faithfulness in your Faith Promise giving. We have been able to pay 100% of our mission obligations to the district and general church for the on-going missionary work of the church around the world.

District NMI Convention will be Monday, June 15, in Wichita. This will be a great time of blessing and encouragement as we hear our missionaries speak. All are encouraged to attend.

Delegates to the District NMI Convention. The following individuals were elected to serve as district NMI delegates: Shannon Conway, Linda Norsworthy, Ron Novinger, Mary Ryckman and Ron Ryckman. Alternates: Barbara Webb (1st), Kathy Novinger (2nd), Trish Jackson (3rd).

NMI President. Congratulations to Margaret Blehm on being re-elected as our local missions president! Be sure to encourage Margaret as she serves in this important role.

Local NMI Council. The following individuals were elected to serve as our local NMI Council: Nelda Carlile, Rose Lee, Linda Norsworthy, Vera Robertson, and Barbara Webb.

From the Record Book: April 2009

Average Sunday School attendance	59
Average Morning Worship attendance	88
Average Evening Service attendance	37
Total Offerings – church	\$17,608.16
Total Offerings – missions	\$ 3,836.65

We want to thank each of you for your faithfulness over the past church year with your tithes and offerings. Because of your generosity we have been able to meet all our obligations locally and pay in full the budgets for our district, MidAmerica Nazarene University, and the pension fund.

We have seen a very slight increase in the attendance figures for all areas of the church. Let's work hard to see those numbers increase even more in the coming church year.

From Barb Webb: I would like to say "Thank You" to all of you who help in the Sunday School Department. It is almost time to end our church year and start a new one.



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Make the Connection

A. Thank you to Ron Ryckman and his group of men who help with the Fifth Sunday Breakfast.

B. Thank you to Sara Willard who worked with our Quiz Kids. Some of them are going to be on their way to General Assembly. Good job everyone! Gook luck at General Assembly.

C. Tom & Denice Kuhns have been working with our teens. They have had several projects going and they meet Sunday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. Thank you for all your hard work.

D. Linda, Vera, Nelda and Jim who work counting S.S. offerings, keepng the S.S. records and driving the Church van. Thank you, Thank you!

E. Thank you to our teachers, Ron Ryckman, Mary Ryckman, Tom Kuhns, Denice Kuhns, Margaret Blehm, Vivien Garten, Sara Willard, and helper Carrie Lee.

F. Thank you to Rose Lee who is the director of Children's Church.

And once again "Thank You" Pastor Ron for putting up with me. I still do not know what I am doing sometimes. But I am praying for our Sunday School and I feel that it is going to be a good year.

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Ladies Fellowship

Nine ladies met on Sat. April 25th with Susan Kurtz and Melinda Ferguson from Newton. They shared about their church and the ladies who have been working with the "Circle of Hope" in Guatemala. After their talk and slide presentation we went shopping and looking at the beautiful work made by the women & girls in Guatemala. And you know us women, we had to buy some of those things. Then we enjoyed a nice salad supper.

Church Election Results

Church Board

Jim Conway, Carolda Edwards, Steve Norsworthy, Mick Ohnick, Vera Robertson, Ron Ryckman, Barbara Webb (S.S. Super), Margaret Blehm (NMI Pres), Denice Kuhns (NYI Pres).

District Assembly Delegates

Larry Classen, Linda Norsworthy, Mary Ryckman

District Assembly Alternate Delegates

Ron Ryckman (1), Sara Willard (2), Trish Jackson (3), Janet Bartel (4), Betty Jackson (5), Steve Norsworthy (6), Paul Jackson (7).