



# Leaders' Journal

Newsletter for the Michigan District of the Missionary Church

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2009-2010

## Your District Mission Statement

**The heart of the Michigan District of the Missionary Church is to cultivate healthy churches and districts that reproduce and multiply devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**

## Your District Ministry Team

*Rev. Jim Keller, District Superintendent*  
[kellerjw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kellerjw@sbcglobal.net)

*Dr. Al Yerke, Director of District Ministries*  
[ayerke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ayerke@sbcglobal.net)

*Rev. Tom Blaylock, Director of Church Multiplication*  
[tombalaylock@gmail.com](mailto:tombalaylock@gmail.com)

*Rev. Stan Liechty, Director of Church Health*  
[stan@colonialwoodsmc.com](mailto:stan@colonialwoodsmc.com)

*Rev. Christine Crocker, Director of Family and Children's Team*  
[crockchristine@aol.com](mailto:crockchristine@aol.com)

*Rev. Tim Patch, Director of Youth Ministries*  
[rev\\_patch@wowway.com](mailto:rev_patch@wowway.com)

*Rev. Martin Roman, Director of Hispanic Ministries*  
[martin.roman1@yahoo.com](mailto:martin.roman1@yahoo.com)

*District Office*  
Phone: 810-742-7462  
Fax: 810-742-8102  
E-mail: [michdistmc@aol.com](mailto:michdistmc@aol.com)  
Web: [www.mcmichigan.org](http://www.mcmichigan.org)

## Rev. Bruce W. Pearson

1919 - 2009

Former District Superintendent, Rev. Bruce W. Pearson, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, November 8. A celebration service honoring Pastor Pearson was held Friday, November 13 at Faith Missionary Church, Flint.

Born in Snover, MI, Bruce grew up in Port Huron and married his high school sweetheart, Margaret, at the age of 19. The two had two daughters, Barbara and Beverley, and were married 64 years before she preceded him in death in 2003.

Answering God's call into ministry in 1944, Bruce and his family moved to Indiana where he attended Fort Wayne Bible Institute. In 1947, he began pastoral ministry at the Dartmouth United Missionary Church, Flint. He also pastored the Brown City and Faith, Flint, Missionary Churches. From 1958-64 and 1983-1991, he served as District Superintendent for Michigan. After retiring as District Superintendent in 1991, he became Pastor Emeritus at Faith Missionary Church, Flint.

In addition his duties as pastor and District Superintendent, he was President of the Brown City Camp Board and a member of the Bethel College Board of Directors for 14 years, five of which were as Board Chairman. Bruce also became the Founding President of the Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, which continues to serve churches and members throughout the Michigan District.

Bruce had a passion for personally visiting both parishioners and the non-churched. One year, he recorded over 1,000 pastoral calls! He always demonstrated a heart of love and compassion for people. His life's call was summarized by Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."



*OUR DISTRICT VISION: Every Church Mobilizing...**From your District Superintendent...***Drop Everything and Do This!**

It is certain; the Lord is calling our churches back to the basics. Cranking out the administrative needs of the church institution is not enough. Focusing on reaching people for Christ is the “drop everything and do this” priority.

One of the five priorities of our newly stated vision calls us to *Evangelize the Lost and Make Disciples*. If winning people to Christ and helping them to learn how to daily walk with Jesus in the Spirit is not happening, then we are not fulfilling the final commission of Christ.

How? Our Vision statement says, “...we will **embrace and endorse any strategy, methodology, or program that is Biblically sound and results in effective evangelism and disciple making.**”

We all can start individually with our families, our friends, our neighbors, in our work place, school and with anybody else the Lord leads us to.

For the Sake of the Call,

*Jim*

Jim Keller,  
District Superintendent  
[kellerjw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kellerjw@sbcglobal.net)

*From your Ministries Director...***A KICK IN THE SHINS**

I'm writing this article just before Thanksgiving. Did you know that when the Pilgrims held their feast of thanksgiving with the Native Americans back in 1621 they played a game called “Kick the Shins”? The contest is just like it sounds - players stood in a circle and kicked each other in the shins until one person was left standing. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? A kick in the shins doesn't feel too good, but it certainly gets your attention.

What does God do when He wants to get our attention? Will he use a burning bush like He did with Moses or a still small voice such as the time He spoke to Elijah? Will He send an angel to make an announcement, ala Mary and Joseph, or simply reveal

Himself in his perfect timing like He did with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

In my life, God knows how to get my attention. Sometimes it's through His Word; other times it's through His people. Perhaps it's a set of circumstances or even a crisis event. Sometimes those moments are pleasant and inspirational; other times they're like a kick in the shins. Whatever the case, the question is, “Am I paying attention?”

I'm not sure about playing the game “Kick the Shins.” Yet I'm grateful God cares enough to go to painful extremes, even if that's what it takes to get my attention.

*Al*

Al Yerke  
Director of District Ministries  
[ayerke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ayerke@sbcglobal.net)

**The Leaders' Journal** is a publication for pastors and lay leaders in the Michigan District of the Missionary Church. Our address is: 1091 Creekwood Trail, Burton, MI 48509. Al Yerke is the editor. He may be reached at [ayerke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ayerke@sbcglobal.net) or 810-742-7462. The Journal is available on the District's website ([www.mcmichigan.org](http://www.mcmichigan.org)).

*From your Church Multiplication Director...*  
**The Road Rally Called Life**



“Can you give me a clue?”

My wife, Sandi, and I serve as youth leaders at our church. Recently we held a “Road Rally”. For those who don’t know, a road rally is a treasure hunt of sorts,

where teams are given clues to various locations. Once they arrive at the location they complete a challenge and are given another clue. The first team to figure out all of the clues and complete all of the challenges wins.

Life, at times, feels like a road rally. We run around from one thing to the next always searching for those clues that will lead us to lasting satisfaction and true meaning. Don’t you wish God would give us some good clues so we can figure this thing out once and for all?

In fact, He did. In Matthew 22:37 – 39 we read, “Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'”

So, are you loving God with all you are today? (Remember, we show our love for God by obeying His commands – 1 John 5:3.) Are you loving those around you as you love yourself? Whenever we are at a moment of discernment, these are the clues that will direct us down the right path. And only God’s path leads to true treasure.

*Tom*

Rev. Tom Blaylock  
Director of Church Multiplication  
[tomblaylock@gmail.com](mailto:tomblaylock@gmail.com)



**VOX**

Gather → Grow → GO

**Matt Woodburn  
Church Planter  
Chesterfield Township**

***From your Children's Director...*****Family And Children Team (FACT)**

Please read our article re: Healthy Home Initiative on page seven of the Leaders' Journal. This will give you an overview of our ministry here in Michigan.

***Christine***

Christine Crocker  
District Children's Director  
[crockchristine@aol.com](mailto:crockchristine@aol.com)

***From your Church Health Director...*****HCI Update**

E<sup>3</sup> Pastor Clusters continue to meet. I trust that your group is getting together regularly, and that your time with each other is beneficial. If you are not presently in an E<sup>3</sup> Cluster, please contact me and I will work on placing you in one.

Our Healthy Church Team meets again in January. Each District board, committee, or team is in the process of reviewing their purpose to make certain that they are functioning, based upon the new District mission, vision, and goals. If you have input for the HCI Team, please contact one of us and share your thoughts. We are preparing for expansion, as our District moves to become a Region. The following

people serve on your Healthy Church Team: Robert Johnson; Jim Jordan; Larry Salsburey; Steve Severance; Jim Keller, District Superintendent; Al Yerke, Director of Ministries.

Two Strategic Pastoral Mentoring Groups are presently being conducted in the District. One group gathers in Kalamazoo, while the other meets in Port Huron for day-long training on the principles of church health. It is not too late to join either of these groups. Simply contact me: 810-984-5571 or [stan@colonialwoodsmc.com](mailto:stan@colonialwoodsmc.com), and I will arrange it.

***Stan***

Stan Liechty,  
Church Health Director  
[stan@colonialwoodsmc.com](mailto:stan@colonialwoodsmc.com)

***From your Youth Director...*****Holy Spirit Dependence**

Gerald Hawthorne in his book *The Presence and the Power--the Significance of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus* states: "Luke... makes explicit the source of Jesus' ability to fulfill his mission. He writes: '*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.*' (4:14a) With this extraordinary prefatory remark Luke makes it clear that, as far as he understood things, Jesus did not begin to preach, to teach, or to perform miracles, nor did He continue to do such things (cf.4:14b) which presupposes an extended ministry on His own initiative or by virtue of His own skills or because He possessed inherently some power for healing or exorcising. Quite the contrary, Luke precisely identifies Jesus' power as the power of the Holy Spirit, and thus attributes those things Jesus did, which caused people to spread His fame far and wide (4:14b), to the *dynamics*, 'the power' of the Spirit. Jesus thus begins His mission armed with the Spirit and goes forward to accomplish that mission in the power of the Spirit. Here is to be found the source

of Jesus' ability to restore people to wholeness and health--the Holy Spirit" (pp.147-148) [Taken from Harmony Study, SonLife Classic]

Some people are good at attracting a crowd. Some are good at teaching. Some parents make sure their teens are in church so we may have a lot of activity within our youth groups. Our prayer is that we go beyond what we can do as mere mortals and see the Holy Spirit move in our lives—and in the life of our youth group—far more than what we think or imagine. With increasing competition, and spiritual battles, we need to see God's Spirit work as never before. We also want our youth groups to be about more than slick programming as we try to "sell our program" for students to come to our place. We want to see the Spirit of God drawing them. This is the place where they meet God.

***Tim***

Tim Patch  
District Youth Director  
[rev\\_patch@wowway.com](mailto:rev_patch@wowway.com)

## FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT

**Bethel, Yale** held a mortgage burning ceremony in November. (Rev. Brent Kriesch)

**Bliss, Levering**, reports that their new building project is progressing well. (Dr. Curtis Alexander)

**Calvary, Livonia**, praises God for a wonderful Harvest Party with nearly 100 people attending, including several visitors. (Rev. Joe Purdy)

**Colonial Woods, Port Huron**, held their Annual Trunk or Treat Halloween Alternative attracting over 5,500 people. (Rev. Phil Whetstone)

**Crossroads, China**, praises God for four people who accepted Christ as Savior in October. (Dr. Mike Cadrette)

**Davison** held two midweek outreaches in October: Pizza, Pizza, Laugha, Laugha, and a Children's Carnival. Each attracted over 400 people. (Rev. Allen Sudmann)

**Evergreen, Lowell**, praises God for two recent salvation commitments. (Rev. Rick Ferguson)

**Evident, Macomb**, thanks the Lord for four recent salvation commitments of faith. (Rev. Josh Hossler)

**Faith, Flint**, hosted a Fall Car Cruise September 13 as a community outreach. (Rev. Tom Knight)

**Grace, Bad Axe**, reports a good response among people taking the daily "5x5x5" Bible reading challenge. (Rev. Larry Salsburey)

**Kalamazoo** welcomes Rev. Brian Ake back as their Associate Pastor. Over 500 attended their Harvest Festival October 31. (Rev. Ken Smeader)

**Lamotte, Marlette**, has begun a Sunday School ministry with classes for all ages. Turnout has been encouraging. (Rev. Rich Thomas, Interim Pastor)

**Midland** gives glory to God for being able to pay off their building loan. Approximately 100 people

came through their Halloween Alternative. (Rev. Fred Becknell)

**New Hope, Lapeer**, recently conducted a church board retreat to plan for the future of New Hope. (Rev. Gerald Sims)

**Primer Iglesia Misionera Hispana, Lansing** offers praise to the Lord for two salvation decisions in September. Four new members also joined the church that month. (Rev. Margarito Mondragon)

**Trinity, Yale**, has added Rev. Christine Crocker to their staff as Associate Pastor of Family and Children Ministries. (Rev. Anthony Ferriell)

**Walled Lake** praises God for five salvations, five baptisms and six new members in September. (Rev. Matt Maloney)

**Watertown, Sandusky**, offered a clothing give-a-way, ministering to 35 families in the community. (Paul Melcher, Interim Pastor)

**West Michigan, Muskegon**, welcomed two new members into the fellowship in October. (Rev. Robert Johnson)

### Ministers' Retreat Report

Forty-five pastors and lay leaders attended the Annual Ministers' Retreat at AuSable Institute, Mancelona, on October 5-7.

**Dr. Ben Jennings**, founder of the International Prayer Council, guided the group in extended seasons of intercession and prayer. **Rev. Frank Taubitz**, Associate Pastor at Calvary, Livonia, led worship.

The group enjoyed the fellowship, fun and camaraderie at AuSable. The retreat concluded with Communion.

### MICHIGAN MISSIONARY LOANS & INVESTMENTS



Effective July 1, MMLI  
3.5 % interest on  
investments to members of  
Michigan District  
churches. For a  
prospectus or more  
information, please call  
810-742-7462.

### Churches in Transitions

The following churches are in transition:

**Bates (Williamsburg) - Cliff Batterbee, Interim**

**Lamotte (Marlette) - Rich Thomas, Interim**

**Marquette - Milt Davis concluded his interim ministry November 15.**

**New Hope (Clare) - Charlie Green, Interim**

**Royal Oak - Larry VanSlambrook, Interim**

**Warren - Jim Thompson concluded his ministry October 25.**

Currently, Marquette, Royal Oak and Warren are processing resumes and interviewing candidates.

Pray for God's guidance and blessing on each church as they seek God's will and future direction.

## Reorganization Update

On November 3, The District Executive Board (D.E.B.) adopted the following recommendations made by a District Task Force on Reorganization:

*We recommend to the D.E.B. that the Michigan District, based on its new Statement of Vision, Mission, Values and Five-Year Goals, become the Michigan Region. This Region will be initially comprised of all current District churches, pastors and ministries.*

*We further recommend that, as time, resources, vision, etc., permit, Mission Districts within the Michigan Region be formed. Regional leadership will seek to provide an environment for local churches to multiply and establish Mission Districts. Rather than dictate and impose structure for the development of Mission Districts, Regional leadership will partner with churches so they can create vision, take ownership and develop leadership for the organic formation of Mission Districts.*

*In addition, we recommend that current District ministries (e.g., camping, retreats, HCI, CMT, etc.) continue to operate under the new Regional structure, but be thoroughly evaluated as to their effectiveness in fulfilling our Statement of Vision, Mission, Values and Five-year Goals.*

*Furthermore, we recommend that the D.E.B. appoint a transitional team to develop and implement these recommendations. This transitional team will work on the following items:*

- 1. Address the various issues related to reorganization (e.g., bylaw changes).*
- 2. Formulate a plan to become the Michigan Region by July 1, 2011.*
- 3. Submit their plan of action to the D.E.B. by Feb. 2, 2010 for an update, interaction and initial approval.*
- 4. Host two forums this winter for District pastors and lay leaders in order to share details of the transition, gather feedback, and answer questions.*
- 5. Present a final plan of action to the D.E.B. by April 1, 2010 for approval and recommendation to District Conference on April 22, 2010.*

*If approved by the District Conference, we recommend that July 1, 2011 become the target date for the appropriate legal action and bylaw changes to be implemented. At that time, the Michigan District will be known as the Michigan Region, the District office as the Michigan Resource Center and the District Superintendent as the Michigan Regional Director. Additionally, appropriate modification, bylaw changes and adjustments will be completed by July 1, 2011 for the various positions and job descriptions of current District staff, directors, boards, committees and ministry teams.*

In light of these recommendations, the District Executive Board has appointed a transitional team of Rev. Doug Connelly, Rev. Jim Keller (convener), Rev. Larry VanSlambrook, and Dr. Al Yerke (secretary). The transition team meets on December 9 with Rev. Bob Ransom, Denominational Director of U.S. Ministries for work on issues related to reorganization.

# Healthy Home Initiative



**Michigan District of the Missionary Church**  
 1091 Creekwood Trail  
 Burton, MI 48509

Equipping the Workers → To Prepare the Parents → To Train their Child

Ministry in general - and children's ministry in particular - can be a tiring, thankless job. We want you to know that the **Family And Children Team (FACT)** Ministry of the Michigan District exists to equip, encourage, and empower you in the Kingdom work you are doing.

**Who We Are** ~ Formerly known as the Children's Board, the name and make-up of the team has changed to reflect a focus on supporting churches as they minister to children and their families as directed in Deuteronomy 6. In order to better serve you, members of FACT represent a variety churches throughout the state.

**What We Do** ~ Our ministry includes (but is not limited to):

- Preparing and providing children's camp experiences (Happy Time, Mancelona, and Brown City);
- Providing direction and support for local churches in the implementation of plans for the prevention of child abuse;
- Improving skills among children's workers via networking opportunities and CE<sup>3</sup> equipping sessions for the sharing of ideas, resources, training, and encouragement.
- Guiding children's workers in implementing the strategies of the *Healthy Church Initiative* within their ministry, such as the Biblical foundation; prayer base; love environment, and assessing disciples (realistic expectations from birth through adults).

**What You Can Do** ~ Do Not Hesitate to Participate!

- Encourage your people to be involved with the camps and other events. If you are not receiving the appropriate brochures and information flyers, contact the District Office.
- Let us know if you are interested in a District-wide background check and other preventive measures to protect our children.
- Be pro-active. If we can be of help, contact us. We operate on an "invitation basis" and don't always know when a church would like some help. Contact the District Office or one of the FACT Ministry members.
- Pass this information on to the people in your church who would most likely use this resource.

**The FACT Ministry Members ~**

- Bart Adams .....Lighthouse MC, East Jordan
- Lynn Adams .....Lighthouse MC, East Jordan
- Charlene Gaffney..... New Life MC, Bay City
- Mickey Hobson..... Faith MC, Flint
- Leanne Palmateer .....Colonial Woods, Port Huron
- Larry Salsburey ..... Grace Community MC, Bad Axe
- Eric Smith .....Midland MC, Midland
- Christine Crocker.....FACT Director
- Al Yerke ..... District Ministries Director
- Jim Keller.....District Superintendent

**Contact Information**

Michigan District of the Missionary Church  
 1091 Creekwood Trail, Burton MI 48509  
 phone: 810-742-7462  
 e-mail: [michdistmc@aol.com](mailto:michdistmc@aol.com)

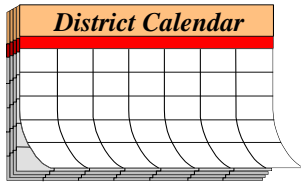
Rev. Christine M. Crocker  
 FACT Director  
 e-mail: [CrockChristine@aol.com](mailto:CrockChristine@aol.com)  
 phone: 810-444-3072

or phone the FACT member nearest you!

Creating an Environment to



Connect through  
 Encouraging  
 Equipping  
 Empowering



- Dec. 1 ~ DEB Christmas Dinner**  
*Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth*
- Dec. 3 ~ District Office**  
*Church Multiplication Team*
- Dec.9 ~ District Office**  
*Transitional Team Meeting*
- Dec.10 ~ Grand Blanc**  
*District Directors Luncheon*
- Dec. 28-30 ~ Toledo, Ohio**  
*3DYC (Youth Convention)*  
[www.3DYC.org](http://www.3DYC.org)
- Jan. 12 ~ District Office**  
*Christian Education Board*
- Jan.14 ~ District Office**  
*Youth Ministry Team Meeting*
- January 14-15**  
*Metro LEAD Team Meeting*
- Jan.15 ~ Col. Wds., Port Huron**  
*Strategic Pastoral Mentoring*
- Jan. 21 ~ District Office**  
*Healthy Church Team Meeting*
- March 19-20 ~ Lexington**  
*Pastors and Spouses' Retreat*
- April 22 ~ Evergreen, Lowell**  
*District Conference*

## Pastors and Spouses' Retreat

- Date:** March 19-20, 2010  
2:00 PM Friday to 1:00 PM Saturday
- Location:** Lakeview Hills Golf Resort  
6560 East Peck Road  
Lexington, MI 48450  
(888) 355-4004 (Web Page: [www.lakeviewhills.com](http://www.lakeviewhills.com))
- Purpose:** Our annual retreat for pastors and spouses is designed to provide an opportunity for ministry couples to “get away” from the demands of ministry and fellowship with other couples in Christian Service.
- Speaker:** **Rev. Doug Connelly**, is the Senior Pastor at Parkside Community Church, Sterling Heights, MI. He is a popular speaker and author. He and his wife Karen have three grown children.
- Cost:** **\$150 per couple early bird registration rate due February 15** (\$175 per couple after Feb. 15).  
Registration includes three meals, one night’s lodging and program fees. No cost to missionaries and retired pastors.  
**Churches are urged to cover the cost for their pastors.**



### REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK BOX:**

- \$150.00 Early Bird Registration (due Feb. 15)
- \$175.00 Regular Registration (after Feb. 15)
- No charge for missionary, retiree, evangelist

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
**MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF THE MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
*Churches are urged to cover the cost for their pastoral staff.*