

IOWA DISTRICT NEWS



Iowa District of the United Pentecostal Church, International

Daniel Flemming, District Superintendent

Getting Started

Rex Deckard, Editor

For several years, the Iowa Gleaner was the flagship of the Iowa District. Although the Gleaner has not been completely retired, the District Board has decided to give her a temporary rest during the year of 2008.

The suggestion was made that— *in order to keep us all abreast on the happenings in the District*—to substitute a quarterly communiqué until the Gleaner returns. It has become my honor to serve as the editor of this temporary periodical.

There won't be much gloss or color, and our goals will be simple:

1. *Stay abreast of upcoming District events*
2. *Promote the vision of revival and growth of the Apostolic movement in Iowa*

Getting Bible Studies Through Relationships

By Daniel Flemming, District Superintendent

The vast majority of us want to be successful in the area of personal evangelism. The law of the harvest is very simple. If we sow we will reap. However, something that is simple is not necessarily easy.

The Bible tells us that if we plant God's word in the hearts of individuals today, we will reap a harvest in our tomorrow. We all want the harvest but we often fail to engage in the planting action that is required today. What I do today or fail to

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3. *Provide opportunities to meet the laborers in our district through an interview in each issue*
4. *Present relevant information for training and inspiration.*

It is the goal of this district to double in a decade. Can we have almost 90 churches by the year 2018, should the Lord tarry? Can the Sunday attendance of each local assembly be twice as much then, as it is now? It is a monumental task that will take prayer, supernatural guidance, faith and a lot of old fashioned work. May this newsletter help in some way to facilitate that growth.

do today will affect my tomorrow. So if I want a harvest tomorrow what do I need to be doing today?

Today I need to be finding a candidate for tomorrow's Bible Study. So then the question becomes where do I look for and how do I get a Home Bible Study? Certainly the information that will be presented here is not the only way to get a home Bible study. You will have to try different methods and find out what works for you. However, I would like to simply share with you a

Please see *Getting Home Bible Studies* on page 4

The Joy of Suffering

Pastor Dan Davis

Suffering! Joy! These words are usually not put together in the same sentence. Most of us like these words to be mutually exclusive. However much we would like to avoid suffering we cannot and neither should we want to. The Apostle Paul was no stranger to suffering. He detailed at length the beating, stoning and peril that he faced as he preached the gospel. His life was not one that most of us would choose. In the face of this suffering; however, Paul was able to write to the Philippian church and speak of joy.

Some of the suffering that Paul was undergoing came from without from brothers who were preaching not out of love and goodwill but from envy and rivalry. Some think these men to be Judaizers who were seeking to impose the law onto grace but Paul never rebukes them for what they are preaching like he does in Galatians 1:8-9. The brunt of Paul's writing is not about their doctrine but more about their motive for preaching. These men were preaching the real Christ with false motives in an effort to cause more trouble for Paul. The NIV says these preachers had *selfish ambitions*.

This phrase in the original language carries the connotation of a politician who is trying to gather support for his cause. While Paul is suffering in jail and at the hand of his critics these men, who are supposed to be on the same team, are seeking to

"In order to truly find [Joy In The Midst of Suffering](#) we must say no to a life of selfishness and say yes to the gospel. In our modern day most are more concerned about self than anything else in the world.



build up a personal following. In the end; however, Paul says, "*But what does this matter? The important thing is the in every way, whether from false motives or true CHRIST IS PREACHED. And because of this I rejoice. (1:18)*"

Paul in the midst of his suffering seeks to remind the Philippians that the Gospel is more important than his suffering and it is more important than the voice of critics. But even if the critic is preaching the Christ and the plan of salvation we must rejoice.

In order to truly find [Joy In The Midst of Suffering](#) we must say no to a life of selfishness and say yes to the gospel. In our modern day most are more concerned about self than anything else in the world. Jesus tells us in Mark 8 that in order to have a truly joyful life we will have to lose our life for the sake of the gospel. It is only in laying down our selfishness and picking up a burden for others that we will find the abundant life we all seek.

I invite you today to consider that your suffering might be an opportunity for the gospel to be preached. The Roman prison became Paul's greatest pulpit. Although others tried to put him down he always kept the Gospel at the forefront of his life and not himself. If you are suffering today please remember to ask God for understanding of why this suffering has come into your life and how you can use it to preach the gospel.

Funnies

A little girl and a little boy were at day care one day.

The girl approached the boy and said, "Hey Billy, want to play house?"

He said, "Sure! What do you want me to do?"

Sally replied, "I want you to communicate your feelings."

"Communicate my feelings?" said a bewildered Billy..."I have no idea what that means."

The little girl nods and says," Perfect. You can be the husband."



Upcoming events in Iowa

For further details, contact your Sectional Representative

February 23 - License applicant seminar, Des Moines, Calvary

March 14/15 - Engage 420 Youth Worker Training and District Sunday School Training Seminar

March 29/29 - RIOT Training, Des Moines, Westside

April 10/11 - Spring Conference, Anamosa

April 19 - Save Our Children Golf Tournament

April 25/26 - Ladies Retreat, Ames

May 2/3 - UPLINK, Des Moines, Calvary

May 16/17 - Men's Retreat, Ames

May 17 - World Changer's Day, Adventureland, Des Moines (Youth)

May 20-23, *Destination '08* Training, St. Louis, MO

A Little IOWA Humor

If your local Dairy Queen is closed from September through May, you may live in Iowa.

If someone in a Home Depot store offers you assistance and they don't work there, you may live in Iowa.

If you've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you may live in Iowa.

If "Vacation" means going anywhere south of Ames for the weekend, you may live in Iowa.

If you measure distance in hours, you may live in Iowa.

If you know several people who have hit a deer more than once, you may live in Iowa.

If you have switched from "heat" to "A/C" in the same day and back again, you may live in Iowa.

If you can drive 75 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, you may live in Iowa.

If you install security lights on your house and garage, but leave both unlocked, you may live in Iowa.

If you carry jumpers in your car and your wife knows how to use them, you may live in Iowa.

Getting Home Bible Studies from page 1
successful method I have used personally.

Develop a list of possible Home Bible Study candidates – five to ten people that you are connected with that are not walking with the Lord.

- *Your neighbor*
- *The waitress you see every Sunday at the same restaurant*
- *Parents of a bus kid in your church*
- *Coworkers, etc.*

Pray over your list and ask God to send you as a “laborer” into the life of a specific person (Matt 9:37–38). Psalms 126:5–6 tells us “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” These are the promises to be claimed in the closet of prayer. Many times I have found that when God burdens me to weep for a specific person in prayer, there will be an open door for Bible Study with that person down the road.

Prioritize relationship building: schedule a time this week when you will work on developing a specific relationship. People understand that you care about them when you give them TIME. Call or get in touch with the person on the top of your list and invite them to breakfast or some meal that you set aside for that purpose. Or just get in the car and go to his or her house when you know he or she is home and knock the door.

“Today I need to be finding a candidate for tomorrow’s Bible Study. So then the question becomes where do I look for and how do I get a Home Bible Study?”

Practice relationship building: Do unto them as you would have them do unto you (Matt 7:12). What kind of a person do we respond to?

We respond when we are encouraged. You probably do not have many strong relationships right now with people who put you down. Your strongest relationships are with those that believe in you and lift you up. Ask God to help you to find a truthful, creative way to express the value of that person in a conversation.

We respond when someone listens to what we have to say. There is a difference between hearing someone and listening to them. Listening means you truly want to hear what they have to say. Sometimes you can practice better listening by parroting valuable information back to the person. This helps them to know that you are seeking to understand them. Don’t look for a short cut in the hard work of relationship building.

We respond when someone gives us hope. Give people the hope that with God they can face their problems instead of running from them. Give people the hope that with God they can solve their problems.

Look for the open door. Some doors open faster than others. Be patient. It takes time for a relationship to develop to the place that a door will open for a Bible Study. Every problem in an individual’s life that they share with you is an opportunity to ask that person for a Bible study. Every person has a story to tell and often when they open up to you and begin to share their story they are inviting you into their life. Many times I tell people that situations can change but it will take time, the word of God, and the people of God in his or her life to bring about the change. It takes more than just will power alone to change things. You have to put something from God into your spirit on a consistent basis. By putting in the new (the Word of God) you force out the old.

The Big Five.....

1. *Read Up* – Take time each day to read one chapter in your Bible and think about what you have read.
2. *Pray Up* – Take a minimum of 10 minutes each day to pray for the church leadership and a friend to whom you desire to be a witness for Christ.
3. *Show Up* – Take the time each week to show up to Sunday School, prayer meetings, Worship Services and workdays.
4. *Give Up* – Take the opportunity to give of three things:
 - a) Time: give time to service of others through church related projects;
 - b) Talent: give the Lord your talents by serving in a ministry and
 - c) Treasure: commit to giving your tithe and offerings.
5. *Build Up* – Take time each day to build up a friend. Find someone to share the love of God with and then do it.



Helpful Links

Here are some great resources on the web to go to for ministry and Church resources:

For many free and greatly reduced printing supplies such as postcards, business cards, magnets and others, go to:

www.vistaprint.com

For the latest in prophecy news, go to:

www.Endtime.com

For the latest in headline news affecting churches and ministries, go to:

www.thecronline.com

For the website of Terry Vik's drama team, go to:

www.terryvik.com

For Brother Deckard's web log (Blog), go to:

www.calvarydsm.blogspot.com

For the United Pentecostal Church homepage, go to:

www.upci.org

For a website for pastors, from Focus on the Family, go to:

www.parsonage.org

For the Iowa Apostolic Youth website, go to:

www.apostolicyouthofiowa.org



Section 1

Rev. Dale Hodge,
Presbyter

Section 2

Rev. Michael Daley,
Presbyter

Section 3

Rev. Rex Deckard,
Presbyter

Section 4

Rev. Alex Kloster,
Presbyter

Section 5

Rev. Clayton George,
Presbyter

“The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Rev. Daniel Flemming,
District Superintendent*

*Rev. Robert Shaw,
District Secretary*

Rev. Rex Deckard, Editor

Iowa District News

2611 Easton Boulevard

Des Moines, IA 50317



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