

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Let your light shine before men Matthew 5:16

A Publication of the Northern Territory of The Church of God Jerusalem Acres

August 2011

FROM THE DESK OF THE TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

Greetings in Jesus' name!
July was an exciting month as we started out with the Fourth of July parade with many participants from our churches involved in the parade. A great time of fellowship followed with a picnic at Mammoth Park. We then went to Family Camp where Chief Bishop Samuel Kramer was our guest speaker. My wife and I had a great time hosting him and Sister Kramer in our campground trailer. My thanks goes out to all the churches for hosting them at your campsites and for your generous offerings that you gave for them. Also a big thank you to Bishop Mike Piper and Minister Marlene Piper for your tireless efforts to make this camp and Teen Camp a success. I also would like to thank all the teachers for their labors of love in teaching our youth and adults. And finally, thank you to our youth leaders for all that you did to make this camp successful.

The month of August started out with a bang as the annual Highway Gospel Caravan got under way. There was a gathering of churches

at the Youngstown church where we enjoyed a "kick-off" service and a fellowship meal the day before the caravaners left. We had good weather for traveling to Jonesboro, AR, some rain but mostly sunshine, and a lot of hot weather! While we were there, we had the opportunity to lead three souls to the Lord and to direct many more people from the community to the local church. It also was my privilege to give Sister Granny Thompson a ride on my motorcycle. She will turn 92 soon! What an inspiration she is to all of us! A special thanks to Pastor Fred & Shirley Flick and the congregation in Jonesboro for being so gracious to the caravaners.

After leaving Jonesboro the caravan traveled to Gettysburg, PA to campout for a few days and to share Christ's love with folks there. All in all we had a great time of fellowship with our church family throughout the entire caravan. We love all of you!! Thanks to Bishop Roy Piper and Bishop Jesse Cook for their direction on this trip.

I would like for us to begin to direct our attention toward the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles, and our plan to have it in the Pittsburgh area. I felt led of God to visit each church and promote this event. The ministry in our territory is working together under the inspiration of the Lord to create a great opportunity to reach the surrounding area with the Gospel message and the message of New Testament Judaism. We hope to do some effective advertising in newspapers and on television. Remember "word of mouth" is our best advertiser and that's where we all can help. I am hoping to receive your prayerful, financial and physical assistance to get this work done!! My prayer is that you will jump on board to help all of us make this endeavor a great success for God and The Church of God! I want to thank you in advance for all that you are going to do to help win souls. God bless your willing hearts!

Your servant for the Lord,

Bishop H. David Lam

FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSISTANT TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

Yes, Lord, here am I. We are getting ready for Caravan. I am so excited when we can go out to the highways and hedges and compel them to come in. This is prophecy. The Lord has called each of us to be his witnesses. He also calls us into His church, and He has a job for each of us to do. By His Spirit He draws us and also equips us to do His work. So take the time and ask Him what would you have me do, Lord, and tell Him Yes, Lord, here I am, use me.

He called all of us to be fishers of men. He also tells us that He would make us fishers of men.

Understand, He called you just like them, and He also called you to be the church just like them. Listen to His voice, the call is true and it is precise. In His Word he also tells us to go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything that He commanded. So let's go out in His name and accomplish for Him. Remember us on the Caravan that the Lord would use us to His glory, and may God continue to bless each of you as we surrender to His Will. I thank God for my salvation and also yours and may we reach others so they can enter the Kingdom of God.

Let's go fishing for men.

We also had a blessed and anointed time at Family Camp. Thank you Bishop and Deaconess Kramer for all you gave and did for the Lord. I also want to thank each teacher. You also were anointed of the Lord. A special thanks to our Territorial Youth Leaders, Bishop Mike, Minister Marlene, Brother Jerrod and Sister Jen as well as our local youth leaders. Together you made this year's Family Camp a success. Thank you, Lord. We give you all glory, honor and praise.

Bishop Roy D. Piper

Growth in Sidney

I apologize to everyone in our territory. The last two newsletters I missed the deadline, but I made sure I beat this one. My prayer is all of you have been walking in the blessing of the Lord. This letter comes just as you all have finished Family Camp and Teen Camp. I know Yahweh moved mightily in lives in both camps. We were disappointed we could not make it this year, but I thought about all my brothers and sisters who could attend all week long, and remembered what a blessing Family Camp was for my family last year.

I would like to give you a few highlights of what has been going on in the Sidney church. We had a child dedication right before we left for the Feast of Pentecost. Her name is Abbey, 2 years old, daughter of Glenn and Meagan Dotson. I was proud of them for wanting their child set apart for God. May the Lord strengthen the Dotson family.



We also had a Minister Installation ceremony. My wife Deanna has been set forth in her calling. What a great day that was. Soon after that service, the ladies of the church did the timbrel dance they did at Feast at "Arts in the Park". It is a festival held every July in Sidney. These ladies were true ambassadors for Christ that day. Everyone who saw the performance complimented them and they gave the glory to God. I was so excited and proud of them as I am sure the Lord was.

Well, I am sure I missed many things but I would like to leave off with a prayer for the caravan that will be heading out Aug. 7th.



God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, strengthen the men and women of the caravan. Give them courage to carry out the Great Commission that you gave to all believers. Lord, stir the hearts of many to join the ranks of our brothers and sisters. Prepare the hearts of men and women in their path to receive the Gospel and enter Your Kingdom. I also ask for supernatural protection for each and everyone that will be on the caravan this year. Bless them physically, mentally, spiritually and financially as they serve you, Yahweh, creator of heaven and earth. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Bishop Jim Harmon

New Florence News

Greetings from New Florence. July is gone. We went to the Fourth of July Parade. We passed out tracts. Many people received them by request. On the 7th we went to Johnstown for Bible Study at Sister Rose Myers. We had a great time at Family Camp. Bishop Kramer delivered mighty inspiring messages. We had the privilege to take Bishop and Deaconess Kramer out for dinner Friday Night at camp. We had a work day on the 27th and 28th. We put down the baseboard in the bathrooms and main room. We are looking forward to the caravan trip

Bishop Lester Lohr

Fourth of July Parade

We had a beautiful day for the parade in Latrobe this year. Participants turned out from each of our churches: Clarion, Youngstown, Greensburg, Pittsburgh, and New Florence. There were motorcycles, marchers with banners, timbrel dancers and some handing out tracts. In our red and black army colors, we marched to the Glory of God. The float is always an attraction for those watching as we go by with the big Bible and Cross portraying Christ Jesus. Pastor Lohr estimated that we handed out over 500 tracts. They are the same tract they hand out on Caravan. After we ministered to the crowd we went to Mammoth Park for a picnic. Good fellowship was had by all.

God Bless,
Bishop Kenny Butts

Seven Minute Family

Teen camp this year was like no other. There were 5 boys and 1 girl this year at camp, but it was a good time in the Lord. Just getting to know each other more was a blessing. Jerry brought a friend, Zack. It was a privilege to meet him. He fit right in with us. Sister Virginia and I told him the first five minutes you're a guest, then the next minute you're a friend, then the next minute your family. That's how a family grows in seven minutes. The boys had a good time in the cabin with rubber bands and ping pong balls. Everyone had a good time going down the river and playing the Meeting of the Saints "game". It only took them 45 minutes to win the game. I think some of the counselors are getting old. Above all, it was a good time in the Lord. Please encourage our youth now to begin to plan on coming out for next year. Thank you to all who gave of themselves to be a blessing to our youth and, above all, to give back to the Lord.

In His Service,
Bishop Mike Piper
Territorial Youth Director

Growing God's Kingdom

What a blessed time we had at Family Camp. It was our privilege to have our Chief Bishop and Deaconess Kramer with us this year at Family Camp as our guest speakers. The sermons were anointed of God to give young and old alike the direction that we need to walk with God and to be obedient in the calling that is placed in all of us, and to be found pure before God.

It is a blessing to work with people that love our children. All of the youth leaders did an excellent job with their crafts this year. It is exciting to see them in action, doing for the Lord, helping mold the minds of our future leaders in the church. Because of all the work that you all have done, everyone who had a part in Family Camp, from teachers to students, God sees everyone's work, and will reward each one accordingly. I want to thank you all, as well. Without us working together, camp would not be a success.

Above all, I want to give glory to God for what he has done. He has given an increase of 2 into the Kingdom - Sister Shelly and Brother Cody. Now that's what I'm talking about. Just to be a part, in some way, to further the Kingdom is awesome.

If you were not able to make Family Camp this year start now to plan to be there next year and see what God will do for you. The dates for next year are July 8 – 14, 2012. The guest speaker for camp 2012 has already been asked to come. Please keep this matter in prayer.

In His Service,
Bishop Mike Piper
Territorial Youth Director

Family Camp 2011

This year's Family Camp was a memorable one, as always. The theme for the week was "Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street". I had the privilege to teach the little kids age 0-5 this year again with the help of Sister Stacie Piper, and we had a blast. We had a lot of new faces this year, and it was such a blessing. Next to the adults, we had the biggest class this year with 13 kids in and out all week. Praise the Lord!! Sister Stacie and I would teach the lesson, make a craft, and then have a snack. If we had some extra time we would play games. It is so awesome to see the little ones absorbing all the things that we taught them, from the stories, to the lessons, to the songs. I know that it might seem like they are not getting it, but I know they are. I just want to thank all the help we had with the kids because without them we wouldn't have been able to do this.

Also at camp we had one person give their heart to the Lord and that was Sister Shelly Funk. We are so blessed to have her with us, and we thank the Lord for moving in her life. New this year was something that Bishop Mike was inspired to do. He went out and got stones and if God touched you or moved you at camp you were to place a stone around the flag pole. I think that was an excellent idea and some even wrote on the stones to remember what God did, so for years to come others can see how God moves at Family Camp.

We want to say a big thank you to Bishop Mike and Minister Marlene for making Family Camp happen and for all of their hard work. Can't wait for next year and hope to see everyone there.

Your Sister in Christ,
Sister Jen Piper
Assistant Territorial Youth Director

Youth Outing to the Pittsburgh Pirate's Game

On the 23rd of July, the youth department of the Pittsburgh church sponsored a youth outing to a baseball game. Around thirty people met to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the St. Louis Cardinals. The game was sold-out a month in advance, so needless to say, the stadium was packed. We all gathered in the outfield bleachers to watch the game, wondering whether the rain was going to hold off. The good Lord did hold off the rain for us, and we had perfect weather for the game. It was hot and humid, but it didn't seem to bother anyone. A good time was had by everyone. The Pirates didn't fair as well in the game. They lost 9 to 1, but that didn't damper the spirits of anybody. There was laughter and joking among all while some were even caught dancing.

After the game were some of the best fireworks I have ever seen. They were choreographed to music, and the arrangements were extraordinary. I encourage you to plan to attend next summer when we do this again. Even if you don't like baseball, I guarantee you'll have a good time. Between the stadium food, the enthusiastic crowd, or any of the many activities that happen between innings, there is something that will make you smile. We had folks not only from our churches in PA, but family members from Wisconsin and California, as well. It was truly a good time of fellowship in the LORD! Thanks to everyone who supported this outing, for you are what make these events worth while.

Brother Ralph Campbell IV
Pittsburgh Youth Director

Family Camp 2011

A week of family time, praise, teaching, fellowship, and lots of food was waiting for everyone! Get the car packed! Get the groceries! Class supplies ready? Count the kids! Don't forget the bicycles and bedding! OK, let's go! So were the preparations at our house for Family Camp this year.

Bishop Mike and Minister Marlene Piper did a great job of organizing this year's camp with the theme "Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street". All of the teachers were well-prepared with their lessons, crafts, and activities related to each day's lesson. The heart of the lessons were 5 parables Jesus taught on compassion, forgiveness, faithfulness, grace, and gratitude and how each of us can have these attributes in our own lives.

The youth directors from each church were tasked with coordinating a craft for each day. The kids went home with luminaries, 4Given keychains, mosaic crosses, splatter T-shirts, and Yield signs for their campsites. The crafts were well thought-out and really helped support the lessons. Thanks, youth directors, for your creativity and hard work. I especially want to

thank my husband, Jerry, for the amount of effort he put into the Yield signs. He bought the wood, painted it, cut the signs, sanded the corners, painted the red borders, and drilled the holes for the posts. That was way more than I could have done on my own!



We also enjoyed all of the group activities. We had kickball, volleyball, and the infamous waterslide and candy hunt. It was good to be together playing and laughing in the sunshine. The kids really store these times away in their hearts. The entire camp shared hot dog roasts, an Ice Cream social, and a Potluck luncheon. Thanks to everyone who participated in all of these events.

The best part of this camp was the opportunity to spend time with our Chief Bishop Samuel and Deaconess Sara Mae Kramer. We had the pleasure of each church providing lunches and suppers for them throughout the week. At the evening services, we all learned from Bishop and Sister Kramer's life and marriage about God's plan for the family. The Kramers are a good example to all of us on what commitment and marriage really look like. Thank you, Bishop and Deaconess Kramer, for coming and sharing the Word of God with us.

Make it a commitment to come to camp next year. It binds families together like nothing else.

Sister Virginia Dohey
Youngstown Youth Director

Teen Camp 2011

Teen Camp took place the last weekend of July at the church campground. It seemed to sneak up on us this year amongst all the other activities that have been going on. This year's camp was unique in that it was one of the smaller groups of campers that have been there. But that didn't deter us from having a great time. How many know that GOD has done some amazing things through small groups of people? There were only two veterans this year at camp so they had to show the newbies the ropes.

We went canoeing Saturday morning and, as always, everyone ended up getting wet. The river was at the perfect level for drifting and the water was warm. After the river, we stopped at the mysterious maze where the youth wandered their way through the pitch black maze while others tried their skills driving golf balls at the range. I'll just say this, there aren't any up and coming Mickelsons in our group.



When we arrived back at camp, the campers prepared their game plan for the Meeting of the Saints game later that night. By the time we made it to the Farmer's Inn that evening, everyone's breakfast was worn off, and we were anxious to eat. The food was excellent, and there was plenty of it. Bishop Mike treated everyone to an ice cream cone after dinner in celebration of Noah's 13th birthday.

After dinner we had our evening devotion around the camp fire and patiently waited for night to set in. After it was dark, we gathered to begin the meeting of the saints game. The campers made it difficult on the counselors, or Gestapo, and won the game in record time. Before their victory, some found out what it's like to not be permitted to be a Christian like in some countries. They realized what great freedom we have here to praise GOD freely and without fear of serious persecution. I pray that the youth take something from this experience and never take what they have for granted.

Overall, the LORD gave us a wonderful weekend full of fun and fellowship in His name and drew everyone closer to Him in the middle of it all. Thanks be to GOD!

Brother Ralph Campbell IV
Pittsburgh Youth Director

Teen Camp 2011

Jerry and I got to experience Teen Camp for the first time this year. I went as the newly appointed youth director for Youngstown, and Jerry turned 13 this year. It was special to me that we shared this camp together.

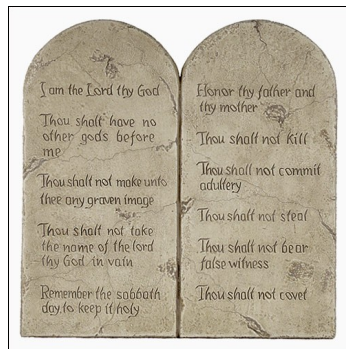
I was told the camp had the least number of kids attending than previous years. There were just 6 teens with 4 of them attending for the first time. There were also 7 counselors who participated. We all agreed that God had the teens and counselors there that He wanted. It was a quiet group, but we all got to know each other around the fire Friday night. I heard that the boys livened up after we retired to our cabins for the night. Something about ping pong balls, gum bands, and sleeping bags? Who knows!

Saturday was a perfect weather day as we had devotions and went to breakfast at Farmers Inn. Kim, at Farmers, is a special person and she opened up a half-hour early each morning for our camp. She truly made a difference to us as we enjoyed the country breakfast buffet. After breakfast, we prepared to go canoeing. What a relaxing trip it was. We had 7 canoes and most everyone seemed to maneuver the canoes really well (step away from the oar, Sister Marlene!). There were some intentional capsizing and soakings as we drifted down the river. About halfway, we beached the canoes and swam at this giant rock. Jerry had to be rescued from the current a few times and the game of waterball was fun to watch.

Pittsburgh Bible Study

Greetings in the name of Lord! Our past couple of Bible studies have been great. Our youth are taught by Minister Cathy and Sister Jen and the kids are learning the Ten Commandments. Pastor Roy and Bishop Kenny have been teaching the adults about salvation and water baptizing. Two weeks ago Brother Sergio gave his heart to the Lord! We all need to keep him in our prayers. Last week we had a water baptismal service at the Brinko household. Newly saved Sister Shelly Funk got baptized. It was good to have her family and friends there to witness the new Shelly. God has truly been blessing our church and we anticipate seeing what He does next.

Your Brother in Christ,
Brother Jerrod Piper



Saturday night we had dinner at Farmers Inn and were blessed with wonderful country cooking, again. After dinner, we sat around the fire as we listened to Brother Mike share about the choices we make during our lives. He shared about how God changed him and how important it is that we never deny Christ. He was preparing us for the Meeting of the Saints that we played once it got dark. That was an intense time of hiding in the woods and trying not to get caught and interrogated!

Sunday morning came and we went to another full breakfast buffet at Farmers Inn. We had a gift of thanks for Kim and her staff that we presented to her with a card. We then returned to camp for devotions where Sister Marlene reminded us that our "dash", that line between our birth and our death, is what matters. She reviewed the 10 commandments with us, reminding us that God doesn't think these are suggestions.

Sadly, the weekend came to end and we had to clean up the camp and shut everything down. Jerry, his friend Zac, and I left with a new appreciation for our call as Christians and our commitment to never deny Christ no matter the cost. Thanks, Brother Mike and Sister Marlene for providing this camp for us.

Sister Virginia Dohey
Youngstown Youth Director

The Ten COMMANDMENTS

- I. You shall have no other gods before me
- II. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything
- III. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God
- IV. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy
- V. Honor your Father and your Mother
- VI. You shall not murder
- VII. You shall not commit adultery
- VIII. You shall not steal
- IX. You shall not give false testimony
- X. You shall not covet



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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|-----------------|--|
| Aug 21 - 23 | Indoor Flea Market @ Greensburg church |
| Aug 28th | Noodle Making @ Youngstown church |
| Aug 29 | Bishops Meeting @ Youngstown @ 6 PM |
| Sept 2 - Sept 4 | International WORI Retreat in Cleveland, TN |
| Sept 11 | Roast Beef Dinner @ Greensburg from 12 - 3 |
| Sept 15 | Deadline to reserve a room at the Holiday Inn for the Feast of Tabernacles. |
| Sept 17 | Hayride @ Bishop Mike's House @ 2 PM |
| Sept 25 | Prayer Breakfasts
Sons of Abraham @ Clarion
Women of Ruth @ Youngstown |
| Oct 16 | Territorial Feast of Tabernacles celebration at the Holiday Inn in Pittsburgh. |

CHANGE IN NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

Please submit all articles to Stephanie: steph_jesse@hotmail.com

Next Deadline for News Article Submission: September 4, 2011

Please hold newsletter announcements to church information only