

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

February 2011

FROM THE DESK OF THE TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

Praise God, It has been a great month!

I am writing this article at the end of January because I am in preparation for our upcoming trip to Africa, and time is at a premium.

I would like to start with a special thank you to all the brothers and sisters who came to the farewell dinner held for Bishop Piper and myself on Sunday the 23rd of January. Also a thank you to the W.O.R.I. Dept., Sister Cheryl Piper, and all the ladies that volunteered to come out and help. The result was a fabulous meal and party. To the ministry that spoke at the dinner - thank you. Your words were appreciated and your support was noted including the letter from Bishop Jim Harmon our N.W. pastor, thanks!

I am blessed to be connected with such a great group of people as the N.E./ N.W. Territory! You are amazing in your generosity and dedication to the work of the Lord. God has blessed you abundantly and in turn you just pass the blessings along to others. "Praise the Lord!" I have been a recipient often and for that I thank you all sincerely!

We started out the month by driving the van back from Int. Youth Camp along with Bro. Craig Miller as co-driver. Thank you, Bro. Craig, for your dedication. It was a unique and sometimes enjoyable experience for all of those involved (what happened in the van should stay in the van). ☺

We as a Territory are moving forward as evidenced by our coming together as pastors on a monthly basis to work at advancing our goals as part of the Bride of Christ. This is evident also with our gathering as men at our Advance at the end of January and with our sisters gathering at their Retreat at the end of February. We have also scheduled a Youth Rally in May (info will be forthcoming from our Territory directors Bishop Mike and Minister Marlene Piper) and a tentative schedule for a Couples Retreat in April (info forthcoming from the coordinators Bishop Jesse & Sister Stephanie Cook) So keep your eyes and ears open for your opportunity to assist and participate in these great endeavors. As you can see we are a very busy bunch of people, but I wouldn't have it any other way. How about you?

During the month of February, while we are out of the country, the third member of our Territorial Presbytery, Bishop Ralph Campbell III, will be responsible for handling any difficulties that may come up. Please don't hesitate to call him if you need anything on a Territorial level. Bishop Mike Piper will be overseeing the Youngstown congregation, and Bishop Kenneth Butts will be overseeing the congregation in Monroeville. Please keep these men, as well as Bishop Piper and myself, in prayer.

There is a sign-up sheet for fasting and prayer located with Bishop Ralph Campbell III and one at TCOG-Youngstown. If you would like to fast and pray with the other dedicated saints, please do so. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for us on our journey and your fasting and praying will ensure that we hear from the Holy Spirit.

Until next month, may God bless you is my prayer,

In Christ's service

Bishop H. David Lam

FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSISTANT TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

Keeping the standard !

First of all, I'd like to say "God is an awesome God". I want to thank Him for the privilege of serving Him and being able to share Him with others. I want to thank Bishop Ralph and the Clarion congregation for allowing me to come and hold revival. It was truly a blessing and I know the Lord touched hearts and blessed those that came out. Thank you for the offerings and hospitality.

Next, I want to thank all

those involved with the Africa going away party you had for me and Bishop Lam. You mean a lot to both of us and I thank you personally for taking the time in coming and the kind words of encouragement you offered. Pray for us as we travel through Africa teaching and preaching the gospel of God. We are going there to carry on the standard God has on us. God sets the boundaries and we must obey and stick to them. As God requires from us here, God

also requires from our sisters and brothers in the foreign countries. If we can go there and expect from them, we surely can expect from you here in the states. God requires us to be good, godly people with His standards. Let's do our best to be the people God is looking for.

God bless you and see you when I get back.

Bishop Roy D. Piper

Starting the New Year Out on the Right Foot

We started the first day of this year, with a Youth Service on the Sabbath. No better way to start out a year than by worshipping Yahweh, our Heavenly Father. We are truly living in the Last Days and we need to be aware of it and be living each day in the understanding of that. As I am writing this letter we see the great turmoil that is happening in the Middle East. More than ever before we need to be led by the Holy Spirit and be obedient to God's Will in our lives. He alone is our peace and protector.

During the first week of this year, Bishop Roy Piper came to our church and held a four day revival. The LORD gave us instruction and direction for our daily walk through his ministering the Word to us. We can understand prophecy and revelation, but if we don't have a daily relationship, be committed, dedicated and obedient to the Lord, we will be deceived and not finish the race. So, as Jesus said, be dressed, ready for service, and keep your lamps burning like men waiting for their master to return. Pick up your cross daily and follow Him.

On the 8th we went to Clairview Nursing Home for a service and visit with the residents. We look forward to it as much as our brothers and sisters there do. We always have good attendance and enjoy sharing love and the Word to them. They tell us that we are their favorite group that comes in to see them. Praise the Lord!

Because of the rough weather on the 9th the attendance to our roast beef fund raiser was slim, but as always, the LORD blessed us. We thank Him and give Him all the credit and praise.

On the 23rd, all the churches met at Youngstown and had an appreciation and send off fellowship meal for Bishops David Lam and Roy Piper. This send-off was for their missionary trip to our brothers and sisters in Africa. We are proud of them for their dedication and willingness to be representatives of both God and TCOG to our fellow covenant members in the countries in Africa. We are daily fasting and praying for God's open door of divine appointments and for His hand of protection and leading in a dangerous country. If God be for us, who can stand against us?!?

On the 28th, 29th, and 30th we attended the 2011 S.O.A. Advance in Ligonier, PA. What a great time of fellowship, fun and refreshing in the Lord. Every year it is like the Feasts and the Councils. It gets better and better. We have worship, testimonies, singing, ministering of the Word and altar prayer services. If you ever get the opportunity to attend you truly will be blessed!

Until we see you again, keep busy working for our LORD and be praying for our Bishops and churches in Africa. May God Bless His Church,

Bishop Ralph Campbell III

Learning About Honor

God's people amaze me, when a truth from God's word is taught to open hearts and minds, obedience is immediate. We have been teaching on honor and this last week we were talking about double honor. The only place in the Bible that says someone is worth double honor is in 1 Timothy 5:17 NKJV.

As this principle in God's Word was being taught by Brother Dan on a Tuesday night, that very night our congregation honored us with an extra offering and also have stepped up in many other ways in cleaning the sanctuary, etc. And in them honoring us they have been receiving blessings from the Lord in their daily lives. One testimony was from Glenn and Megan Dotson. They believed because they honored their Pastor, God blessed them with a very low repair bill on their vehicle that they expected to be large. Favor and blessing flow from God when we apply His Word to our lives.

Montana's praise team is sounding better every Sabbath. We are adding new music every week, and under Sister Helen's direction, as she plays piano, Pastor Jim on guitar, Sister Connie on tambourine,

Sister Karen leading singing, Brother Joel on bass and Sister Jessi on keyboards our congregation is entering into deeper worship before the Pastor delivers God's message.

The ladies have been putting together a new timbrel dance, and everyone has been contributing moves to the dance as the Lord leads. We are excited that we will be bringing a dance this year to the Feast of Pentecost.

February 20th will be a fund-raising chili feed to benefit our youth group. Get your tickets now and come warm up with a hot bowl of chili and cornbread! The youth are diligently working on their program. Every third Sabbath of the month the youth take charge of the service and minister to the adults. We are truly blessed.

Bishop Jim Harmon



Greetings from New Florence

What an exciting month! The Spirit of the Lord has been moving here. We had more visitors who enjoyed the services. We've prayed for the sick, and they were touched. Our Bible study is being well attended. We are still studying about the church from the Catechism.

Thank you, Brother Craig and Sister Norma, for taking care of the services while I was at the Men's Advance. I was glad my grandson, Keith Jr., went with me to the Advance. Many were touched by the Holy Spirit and the young men who ministered did a great job. Our presbytery who ministered also did a great job! All who were there received a blessing. It was exciting to meet new brothers from the different churches.

I hope to see you next year at the Advance.

Bishop Lester Lohr

Mentoring God's Men

Our theme for the SOA Advance this year was "Mentoring God's Men" and we assigned specific age groups to three of our local youth leaders. They taught us how to mentor the young, the teens and the elderly. Bishops Lam, Piper and Campbell ministered to us on mentoring also. Our local pastors moderated each session. One of our pastors lead praise and worship with some of the young men at each session.

I was overwhelmed as the Lord moved among our men. Just to see God's Spirit blessing was great. We had fun fellowshiping and the younger men took the fun to a higher level. I must admit I was a little worried for a while as to what route all that energy would take. Well, it all worked out. They know how to control the energy and I was very proud of them.

As always, testimony time is my favorite part. To hear the men testify of the greatness of God is uplifting to say the least. Some of our local SOA leaders read excerpts from the SOA Organizational Training Guide and made comments. This is just the beginning of an exciting year for the men. April 24th will be our first breakfast for the year at New Florence. Our second will be Sept. 25 at Clarion. The presbytery recommended that we have workshops at these sessions focused on men and family issues.

The retreat was great, yet unique from all the previous ones. Thank You, Men, for participating.

Bishop Kenny Buttz

Faithful and Strong

Greetings from Pittsburgh/Monroeville!

We are so thankful that the Lord has been moving in our midst! Our Wednesday night Bible Studies have been a real blessing, as Pastor Roy has been 'stretching' us to face ourselves! One of our recent subjects has been "FAITHFUL - HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS?" How does our faithfulness (or lack thereof) affect our lives, our families, our relationships with others and with God? The word 'faithful' means to be deserving of trust, loyal and honest. If we are faithful, we are stable. If we are unfaithful, we are unstable. Unstable buildings fall with the wind. Another subject was 'STAND STRONG - DO NOT BE AFRAID'. How many times do we let fear enter in and stop us from doing what God has called us to do? There are multiple times in the Scriptures where the Lord says to be strong and courageous. When we are afraid, we want to run and hide. But the Lord wants us to stand strong - in the power of HIS might, and let Him work through us. He can't use us if we are so afraid that we are hiding under the bed! Psalm 31:24 says, "*Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD*". So the bottom line question is - where is our hope? If it's in the Lord, than we have no need to fear anything. So let's all be strong and take heart. For truly, our hope IS in the Lord!



I also want to say what a blessing the January Roast Beef dinner was. Bishop Lam and the Youngstown church are still extending the invitation to us to assist them with that fundraiser. We want to thank them, as it is a special time for us to be there and help out. There was a good turn out and we were able to bless a lot of people, not only with good food but with good fellowship. Thanks again, and may God bless you abundantly as you share a little of that blessing with us!

Let's all remember to pray for our Bishops while they are in Africa - and their wives and families that they left behind. I just want to say a special thank you to Sis. Cheryl and Sis. Dollie for being so unselfish and allowing their men to travel, as they have. I know it will be a long February for you - when you have lonely days and nights, remember God is not only traveling with them; He's also here with you! We love you.

God bless you all -

Minister Margie Funk

Preparing the Pastor for Africa

By the time you are reading this, the Bishops will be in Africa working hard for the Lord. We are privileged to be able to send them to the harvest fields. The church in Pittsburgh honored our Pastor with a service and dinner as he was preparing to leave. The service included speakers representing the youth, the WORI and the SOA. Each speaker followed their presentation with a small going away gift for the Pastor.

We were honored to have the Pastor's family with us that day in the service and celebration. It was a blessing to hear their hearts as they were sending their special loved one on his way. I would like to thank all who participated that day in

letting Pastor know how special he is to all of us. We will miss him while he is gone, but we have pledged our faithfulness and support in his absence, which means more to him than anything else we did.

Last week we had a small outing with the WORI. It was supposed to be a movie and dinner, but with many so ill, we had a few go for dinner and outreach to another lady. God is so good that He allows us to work for Him. I love Him, don't you?

God bless!

Minister Cathy Brinko

Our Provider & Source

God is Worthy of all our praise!

In December the Sidney Church of God members came together for a meeting. We discussed looking into getting a dishwasher as we have a fellowship meal every Sabbath. The amount of paper products we throw away every week made us consider being better stewards of the Lord's provision. We also discussed our refrigerator needing to be looked at as it was not working correctly. The members decided to pray for direction from the Lord in these areas as well as other business discussed. God knows our needs and He knows what we are going to pray about before the words flow from our lips. Not even a week after our meeting, Sister Helen got a call from her daughter, Gloria.



She and her husband were upgrading all of their appliances and all we had to do was get to Billings to get them. This is what God did: to the church was given a dishwasher and refrigerator, to the parsonage was

given a washer, to Sister Helen was given a stove and dryer. We are so blessed! All of our praise belongs Him. He is truly our Provider and our Source.

The Church of God
Sidney, Montana

Praising at the Home

What a wonderful time of praise and worship we had at the Mountainview Nursing Home in January. Our friends are always so happy to see us and they just love our kids!

I appreciate the support of our brothers and sisters who come out and worship with us. Thanks to Bro. Chad for always leading the singing and interacting with the residents so well. I also appreciate our Junior Praisers who come and do their banners for all of us. The residents enjoy watching, as well as hearing, the praise songs.



I was blessed to be approached by one resident's daughter who was in tears over the message the Lord had given me. I spoke on taking time to read God's Word, to slow down and really think about what the Word says, and how most people break their New Year's resolutions because they expect an immediate fix to their problems. The daughter told me her mother's physical therapists had given up on her mother because she hadn't responded instantly. We prayed together and it was a joy to me to see her peace afterward.

God bless!

Sister Virginia Dohey

Couples Teaching & Retreat

Hello Everyone!

We are excited to be starting a new program in the territory. We feel God has inspired us to start a teaching for married couples. As most of us know, the family is the most basic institution that God has created from the beginning. And because families are the foundation of the church, Satan has launched an attack to destroy families and therefore destroy churches. It is imperative that we combat this attack. Whether you've been married a couple months or many years, we all can benefit from setting apart time to focus on our relationships with our spouses and our children. As Benjamin Franklin once said "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



We will meet once a month to discuss various topics relating to marriage and family. But before we start the meetings we'd like to kick it off with an exciting weekend marriage retreat. This retreat will be held April 1-3 at the New Stanton's Days Inn. The cost will be \$160/couple which will include 2 nights stay at the hotel, breakfast at the hotel, and the cost of materials. (You will be on your own for lunch and dinner) We will have sessions Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. Saturday evening will be reserved for you and your spouse to have a date night to spend some quality time alone together.

We encourage you to start planning now to attend and use this weekend to draw closer to your spouse. Because strong families build strong churches.

May God bless you and your family

Bishop Jesse & Sister Stephanie Cook

Test Your Bible Knowledge

Who killed all seventy of his brothers (except one) to become king?

- A. Jotham
- B. Jerub-Baal
- C. Zebul
- D. Abimelech

(Answer on page 6)

Soldiers in our Youth Service

This month's Youth Service was pushed back a week but for a good reason - all of our youth were down in Florida for International Youth Camp. Before our speaker came up to preach the Word, we gave each youth the opportunity to come up and show their talents to God. We were truly blessed by each and everyone, whether they sang a song, played the piano or read a scripture it was a blessing to be there, and we are proud of all of you for stepping it up for the Lord.



Since the theme for camp this year was Soldiers for Christ, Bro. Jerrod preached on just that. He spoke about the qualities that a good Christian Soldier should have and how to go out and use these qualities to teach the world about Jesus. After Bro. Jerrod was finished he had each of the campers and counselors come up and just say a few words about their experiences at camp. Each had their own story to tell and it sounded like they all had a fantastic time despite the unusually cold weather.

We would like to say a special thank you to our van drivers, Pastor Lam and Bro. Craig for taking up the responsibility to drive our campers down to Florida safely and bring them home. We also would like to thank anyone who helped raise any funds to help cut the cost of camp, whether you sold things for the youth department or just simply bought a candy bar. Your help is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

Please invite friends and family out for next month's Youth Service and see how the Lord will bless.

God Bless,

Brother Jerrod & Sister Jen Piper

Youngstown Youth Directors



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Feb 1 - 22 Bishop Lam & Bishop Piper in Africa. Please fast & pray.
- Feb 13 Roast Beef Dinner @ Greensburg from 12 PM - 3 PM
- Feb 13 Roast Beef Dinner @ Clarion from 11 AM - 2 PM
- Feb 13 Pancake & Sausage Breakfast @ Youngstown from 9 AM - 3 PM
- Feb. 9, 16, 23 Prophecy Seminar / Bible Study @ Clarion @ 7 PM
- Feb 20 Territorial Youth Outing, Hidden Valley Resort,
Snow tubing, 10 AM - 12 PM \$12/person
- Feb. 25 - 27 Women's Retreat @ the Ligonier Conference Center

~~~~~  
Test Your Bible Knowledge Answer:

D. Abimelech (Judges 9)

**Next Deadline for News Article Submission: March 5**  
**E-mail to [eastdeer@verizon.net](mailto:eastdeer@verizon.net)**