

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

January 2011

FROM THE DESK OF THE TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

Greetings and Happy New Year from the NE/NW Territorial office to you!

We have had a great month of fellowship and activities starting with Evangelist Rick & Eileen Steffey and his always on time messages. He is a supporter of our views on the need for the five gifted ministry in these last days, knowing that without all of them working in conjunction with each other our work would never be complete. Rick loves to come here because he can relax and just fellowship and preach. Thank you all for blessing him this way!

We also had a great time this month with our joint-fundraiser, the roast beef dinner and yard sale. Meeting old friends and making new ones as we raise funds to further the gospel message that God has given to us. Thanks to everyone for putting your best efforts into these.

Next we made preparation to go to International Youth Camp in Ocala, Florida. With a van load of people driven by Craig Miller and myself, a car load driven by Joy Piper and Sister Lam, (they also picked up Keyla Piper in Jacksonville, FL) plus car loads representing Greensburg, Clarion, and Monroeville as well, we traveled to "sunny" Florida for a week of fun with friends and family. Even the cold couldn't stop us from the fun and fellowship! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this trip possible. Your kindness does not go unnoticed! Also thanks to all those who went to contribute to the ultimate success of this year's camp.

In the coming month of January, Bishop Roy Piper and I are in preparation for another mission trip to Africa. We will be going to Zambia, Tanzania, and

Kenya. This is not a "vacation", although it will be great to see old friends and to make many new ones in Kenya for the work of The Church of God. We are excited about the potential growth in all of these areas because of this visit. With that in mind, I would ask all of you to be in "constant prayer" for the work there and also for our families here in the states. I hope to see all of you on January 23 at 1 p.m. in Youngstown for a going away party for Bishop Piper and myself being hosted by the Territorial WORL.

We are anticipating new growth strides in our Territory for this new year God has given each of us to use to glorify His name. Please go before the Lord and ask Him what you can do personally to make this happen!

Thanks to you all and may God bless you is my prayer!!

Bishop H. David Lam

FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSISTANT TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

God is good all the time and all the time God is good! Our life in Him is great and it's a glorious one. Think about the vision you have, both naturally and spiritually. Both came from the Lord. The Bible says in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish, but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." We need to thank the Lord for our sight. The spiritual sight we have is His revelation. So be encouraged and adjust to His will, His laws and happy will we be.

I thank the Lord for what He is doing in our Territory. I see all the ministry and His people desiring to do the will of God. As we continue this year, to see His will and follow the Lamb wherever He

goes, He will take us to the place we need to be in Him. So, when you face a trial or problem, look at the vision He has given you. Let's not ever take our eyesight for granted, naturally and spiritually.

Continue to pray for the upcoming Men's Retreat and also the Women's' Retreat. I know God will show us more of His will, His revelation as we come together in His name. So let's encourage Bishop Kenny and Deaconess Cheryl as they prepare for these retreats

Also, keep the trip to Africa in prayer that God has His will and remember we are blessed. Our territory is sending Bishop Lam and myself to go as representatives of

Headquarters and Jesus Christ to share the vision, the revelation of Jesus Christ in other parts of the world. Remember, it's about the vision of all, catch it and then share it.

I also want to thank Bishop Lohr and the congregation at New Florence for having us come and hold a revival in December. The Holy Spirit moved and we were blessed. Sister Cheryl received the Holy Spirit and the Lord enlightened and encouraged, for which we give Him all glory and honor.

May the Lord continue to bless you is my prayer,

Bishop Roy D. Piper

Testimony Time

WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE

I'm thankful God gave man the knowledge to invent and know-how to use it successfully, but modern technology let the surgeon down. You see, my left eye was so bad, it wouldn't let the machine do it's job. When I returned to the doctor the next day the world was very bright but I could not read one letter. I was very disappointed so I went before the LORD and had Sister Lam pray for my sight. When I returned to have my right eye done, the surgeon and I decided to try once more. I am very thankful and pleased to say I now can see quite well. Both eyes are doing great. Thank you, Jesus!

Sister Barbara Lohr
New Florence Church

***The name of the Lord
is a strong tower;
the righteous run to it
and are safe.***

~ ***Proverbs 18:10*** ~

I want to thank God for the new addition He is giving me and my family. Baby #3 will be arriving sometime the end of July/beginning of August. I thank God for this blessing because Psalm 127:3 tells us "Children are a gift from God; they are his reward" And I thank Him for the new gift He is giving us. Please continue to pray for me because I have been extremely sick and haven't been able to do much lately. Thank you for your prayers.

Sister Stephanie Cook
Greensburg Church

Working For the Lord

God is Great! Another year has gone by and if you are not satisfied with all the goals you had set and not accomplished all you wanted to do for the LORD, we have a new year and a fresh start to do even more and better works for our Savior. December was a challenging but still a productive month in Clarion. The weather was cold and rough for our roast beef fundraiser. We were short on help, but God blessed us beyond our expectations. We even had new people come in that we have never met before. God can do more than we can imagine or hope for.

We helped the Martin family move to their new residence and helped them haul donated appliances to their

home. God moved on people to bless them and meet the needs that they had.

We had a wonderful nursing home service and one of the residents there sang a special song. The services we hold there are always well attended. The residents there tell us that we are their favorite group that comes in to visit them. Praise the Lord.

We were proud to send our youth director Amy Bachman and her daughter Kayla to the International Youth Camp in Florida this year. They had a wonderful time in spite of the cold weather. Coldest weather on record in 80 yrs. I was told at the end of the week a few brave ones even took a swim in the lake. Oh to be young again.

We had some visitors for our Sabbath and worship services in December. We welcomed them and invited them back.

We are looking forward in 2011 for God to bless our faithful labors for Him. Let us keep moving forward in dedication and commitment to our Lord and Savior. And as He said, with our hands on the plow, not looking back.



May God Bless His Church
Bishop Ralph Campbell III

Expectation and Honor

Happy New Year to all my brothers and sisters in The Church of God. I pray Yahweh has blessed you in this last month of the year, and you come with great anticipation and expectation of what the Lord has in store for us this year.

We have been doing a new bible study called "Honor's Reward". It has been such a blessing to all that have attended and it is changing lives. I want to share with you what the Lord has laid on my heart, about expectation and honor.

First of all, true faith is never found alone; it is always accompanied by expectation. The man who believes the promises of God expects to see them fulfilled. Where there is no expectation there is no faith in God or His promises. The routine of church can lull us to sleep. We step out of expectation and into obligation, and our love for God, while still there, is over shadowed by boredom, and we begin to treat God and His people as common and ordinary, when both the Lord and His people are far from common or ordinary. To honor is to esteem highly, to highly respect in both words and actions. To dishonor is to consider common or ordinary. A key to unlocking the blessings of God is to honor all those God has put over us and all those God has put us in charge of. Look at Matthew 10:40-42 NKJV and wherever the word "receives" is, replace it with "honors".

Let us honor God this year and each day He gives us, expect to see Him working in our lives. When we come expecting we are telling God "I believe what Your word says." To believe in word and action is true honor. I have so much more to tell you, but I will stop here for now. May God bless you and keep you is my prayer, Happy New Year!

Bishop Jim Harmon

He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward, and He who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Matthew 10:40-41

Soldiers for Christ

As the year 2010 comes to a close we can only look back and have memories of what was. The exciting part is what we have entered into in the new year 2011 and are about to enter into a new era and a new day with the Lord. Each year we draw closer to the return of our Savior and the promise we have of being with Him forever. We now put 2010 behind us not just as memories, but as a testimony of how God has kept us another year through.

December 2010 was a special month for our youth as they gathered together in Florida for International Youth Camp. Our youth are important to us, they are not The Church of God of tomorrow, but are the church of today. It was the largest youth camp so far and from the beginning to the end it was blessed by the Lord. Our children were taught about being soldiers in the army of the Lord. Each morning started out with devotion time where the children could get instructions from the Word of God as they started into their day. The day had activities and classes for all ages and ended with a church service and more instruction from the Word of God. There is not enough time to tell of all the good things that God did in Youth Camp, but I believe that through the Word of God that we have young people that are well instructed on being **SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST.**



I would like to say thank you to Brother and Sister Combs for all of their work organizing this camp. May the Lord bless the labor of your hands. I would also say thanks to each one who helped whether it was as a counselor or kitchen help or whatever assignment you had. It took everyone working together to make camp successful, but the most thanks need to go to our children for having a desire to go to camp and doing their part as we all together learn to give glory to God.

May God Bless

Bishop David Dillie

God is Real

Another year is gone. It is amazing to see how the Holy Spirit is moving in our services. We know this is what He does as the Word says, "Draw near to Me and I will draw near to you." In our Bible study on Wednesday nights we have been having good turnouts. We are studying the Catechism on the subject of The Kingdom of God, The Church. We are starting on the Restoration of the Church.

On December 17th and 18th we had special services with Bishop Roy Piper. He blessed us with the message To Tell the Truth on the 17th. On the way home I received a call from one in attendance. He told me he had a filling like he never experienced before. He wanted to know what happened to him. He had the experience of stammering tongues as in Isaiah 28:11. I have seen a difference in his walk with the Lord.

On Sabbath, the 18th, Bishop Piper ministered on Listen, Pick it Up and Follow. During the altar call one of the sisters was praying after everyone had gone back to their seats. I asked Sister Cheryl if she was ready to receive the HOLY SPIRIT and she said, "Yes". I asked Bishop Piper if he would pray with her. He explained the gift to her and that as an apostle he had the ability to impart the gift to her. She believed and received the gift by the laying on of hands. What an awesome God we serve. OUR GOD IS REAL.

Pastor Lester Lohr

Relationship with God and Each Other

On December 4th at 4pm a State CMA service was held at the Youngstown PA Church. Rick & Eileen Steffy representing the "Christian Motorcycles Association" visited us again this year. They have become special friends to Bishops Lam and Piper and to many of us in our territory. Rick is an evangelist and preaches with the same voice as if one of our ministers were speaking. He spoke on priority in our lives and crying out to God for revival in the time we are living in. He told us that the church lacked in seeking God and having a close intimate relationship with Him. Rick based his overall thought on 2 Chr. 7:14 "If my people who are called by my name will....." God is inspiring men like Brother Rick with a Pastor's heart for the people. We always enjoy seeing Rick & Eileen when they can take time from a very busy schedule to be with us.

Fellowship and Fundraising

The women of the churches in our territory gathered together on December 11 at the Greensburg Church for our quarterly prayer breakfast. These times together are always special as we not only get to hear the word of God, but also get to share with one another in love and prayer for their needs. As we come together in unity, we can help each other carry a heavy load, or rejoice together in answered prayer. It was exciting to hear of the plans that Sister Cheryl has for the women for the next year. It will be an exciting year as we try some new things in our meetings. It is always good to hear Sis. Cheryl share her heart for the women of our territory.



Our roast beef dinner was on the 12th with our sister church in Youngstown. This, once again, provided an opportunity for the Pittsburgh-Monroeville church to earn funds to help carry our share of the load. Again, I would like to thank Bishop Lam and the Youngstown church for the opportunity they provide us on this behalf.

Minister Cathy Brinko

On December 7th the WORI and SOA leaders met with the Territorial Presbytery Board. The Presbytery made some recommendations for the coming year 2011. The past Prayer Breakfasts were a blessing, and we have seen greater show of unity between our churches. With the new schedule we will be meeting fewer times in the year but with greater effect. The Presbytery will be meeting with the Pastors in January to set the dates for the new schedule. We are excited and are anticipating increase from this effort. We want to thank Bishops Lam, Piper & Campbell for their leadership in this work.

Bishop Kenny Butts

Changes Concerning the Prayer Breakfasts

The ministry in the Territory met in December to discuss some ideas for the Prayer Breakfast that both the men and women have each year. With the present set up, it took 10 Saturdays a year, 5 for the men and 5 for the women. This was starting to take affect our local congregation worship as well as attendance. We love meeting and fellowshiping together, but we don't want to hurt our local congregations. And how many know, when the pastor and others are away for whatever reason, visitors show up. Therefore, we have come up with the following format:
2 Sundays a year, different location each time and men and women going on the same 2 Sundays. We will do 2 Sundays a year and the locations will change each year. The Territorial Directors of SOA (Bishop Kenny) and WORI (Deaconess Cheryl) will be organizing the breakfasts, including the menu and topics for discussion. The Breakfast will

stay the same format as it was, lasting approximately 2 hours and then we are adding a "workshop" this year. That means after we eat breakfast, go through the regular format (worship, prayer, message, etc) we will then have a 1 to 1-1/2 hour workshop, discussing a topic of director's choice. We will also be assigning "care takers" to take care of the small children as there is no age limit on these breakfasts. The director will have subject matter for you to teach the children that pertains to the adult workshop. These caretakers will be rotated each time so the same person isn't involved. We will not have the 2 Sunday dates until after the pastors have their monthly meeting on January 23rd and set up their fundraisers for the year. I am looking forward to this new change and I know God will bless our efforts as we work and labor for Him.

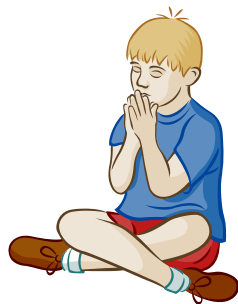
Deaconess Cheryl Piper

What a Mighty God We Serve

I always have something to say in testimony for my Lord, Jesus Christ. He has been so good to my family and me.

Getting ready for Youth Camp this year was quite a challenge. The enemy tried to discourage in every way, even as far as making sure we had major vehicle repairs before we could go. I am proud today that my Father already knew a need was coming up, and supplied the need before it even surfaced. The scripture tells us that He knows what we need even before we ask. We truly serve a great God.

Camp for me was a wonderful treat. I was able to spend my days fellowshiping with the other ladies in the church, and getting to know some of them better. Evenings were spent hearing God's Word and responding to what we were hearing. God moved in the altar services, and we saw youth crying out before the Lord for various needs in their lives. I believe God is going to touch



each and every need that was brought to Him. I felt to pray preservation over each youth that I prayed for. I want God to preserve the work He is doing in their lives. I want to go into the enemy's camp and take back what he tried to steal.

The trip to and from Florida was a beautiful time of fellowship and harmony. God has blessed me with some wonderful spiritual family. A great big thanks to Bishop Kenny and Brother Ralph for the anniversary celebration that they gave to Jack and I on our 25th anniversary. We love you guys!!!

As usual, I have to mention how God continues to help us in the new work He is doing in the Pittsburgh/Monroeville area. God has blessed us with a unified team and I believe IN HIS TIME He will add to the church there. We continue to pray for guidance in how He wants us to reach out.

God is so good. I could go on and on, but will stop here with a big "HALLELUJAH".

God bless!

Minister Cathy Brinko

God's Armor in God's Army

God bless you all in the name of the Lord!

Wow! God has given us an awesome year that went by so quickly!!! We just like to give thanks to all of those who went to International Youth Camp this year! Without you, camp would not have been successful! The teens and youth alike developed a stronger bond between each other. The messages were very timely. The Spirit of the Lord moved at the services. How awesome is the power of God??? Everyone had a blast from the kickball games, to canoeing, to archery, to swimming (when it was freezing out), to trips to St. Augustine (the oldest city in the United States) and Disney's Animal Kingdom, to drama skits and dance routines, to ending the year with a dance party held at the camp. Let's just say the camp was an absolute success. Our prayers go out to those whose lives were changed and that they continue to grow in the Lord. We pray that everyone walked away from camp a better Soldier for Christ. We are marching in the Lord's Army.

We have to put faith in our youth as God made them strong. They can withstand 20 laps around the building. As we get older our physical strength decreases. So we must put on the full armor of God and watch how the Lord will protect us in times of battle. Notice that God gives you armor in the front... What will protect backs?? Each and every one of us should protect one another. Do we **have each other's back???**

Ready on the right? Ready on the left? Ready on the firing line? Range hot! Commence fire! Boom!



We have to make sure our can-tees are filled up so we don't go thirsty. We have to be prepared and ready for battle. When we become saved we are part of the Lord's army. As others have said, this year was a unique year. We had the most youth and counselors ever in the history of International Youth Camp. Praise the Lord!!! We brought in the New Year with our friends and church family. The Spirit of the Lord moved in a mighty way. This camp will always be remembered because lives were truly changed. Praise God!! We encourage those to go next year, Lord willing. God has a plan and a purpose for all of us. It is where we fit in that plan and that purpose. God bless you and keep you this upcoming year. May He bless all the labors of your hands.

In Jesus' name,

Brother Jason and Sister Felicia Dillie
Greensburg Youth Directors

Freezing Florida Plants Warm Memories

It was not the weather I expected for my first trip to the Orange Capital of the US, but despite the cold weather, the boys and I had a wonderful time at International Youth Camp 2010. We arrived around 10:30pm, tired, but glad to be able to lie down. Sunday was a quiet day as the other campers arrived. We spent most of the day around the fireplace warming ourselves and greeting each newcomer.

The opening service was unlike anything I've been to. The drum corps was amazing! Way to go, guys! You've got a special talent! Each church presented a banner—some with songs and some with cheers. All were presented with enthusiasm and flair!

All week we enjoyed excellent food, great classes, thought-provoking devotions, and spirit filled worship services. Even though it was just in

the twenties and thirties, the Spirit kept us warm! I really appreciate that Sister Ginger Atkins had crafts that the little guys could do. Jesse is very proud of his bracelets, necklaces, and sun-catchers.

We had two memorable day-trips. On Tuesday we visited St. Augustine and on Thursday we visited Disney World's Animal Kingdom. My only regret was not knowing the Safari stopped at a certain time. We missed it by 15 minutes!! Boo-hoo!

Thanks to Bishop Patrick and Sister Kim for their hard work in hosting this camp. You both did a great job! Also, thanks to all of the counselors who watched after the kids and kept them safe and clean.

Love in Christ,

Sister Virginia Dohey

International Youth Camp 2010

By the time that you read this, we will have been back from youth camp for about a week. If you haven't heard, we had a great time; just ask anyone who went. When headed southward, you don't expect the cold weather to follow, but it did. Who would have thought we'd be wearing winter coats, hats, and gloves in Central Florida. We didn't let that hamper what we were there to do though. It was all about the youth and helping them to develop a closer relationship with God.

The time for International Youth Camp to start was finally here and we were all ready. All the time spent raising funds to go to Florida finally paid off. There were 39 people from the Northeast/Northwest territory, 8 of those being from Montana. We had our banners made and our cheers ready to share with everyone when we arrived. It was inspiring to see how much time and effort everyone put into preparing for the pep rally the opening night of camp. Some of the youth from Florida had their local drum line they participated in play for the rally. Talk about some great drum playing, if it didn't get you excited for the week, I don't think anything would have. It was just what we needed to get warmed up from the 20 degree temps. If you haven't heard your local youth groups cheer, ask them to share it during the next church service. They were all different but followed this year's theme, Soldiers for Christ. That's what we were ultimately there to do, to become better equipped soldiers to share of the love of Jesus.

It was inspiring to see so many youth that love God and weren't afraid to show it. God truly touched everyone that went. I can't begin to tell you about everything we did because it would encompass this entire newsletter. I will tell you to ask someone who went to share about their experience with you. Just make sure you have some time because you may be listening a while. Brother Patrick and Sister Kimberly Combs truly love God and the youth and did a spectacular job putting together a fun filled week combining the two. I feel that every youth that went benefited beyond measure from the experience. To all those reading this; parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, cousins, and neighbors; we all have some young people in our lives that could benefit from going to youth camp. Now is the time to start preparing and encouraging for next year. If you want the youth that matter to you to stay motivated and encouraged about God, then help them to make this trip next year. This would be an investment that can't be destroyed. International Youth Camp is a great way to help them achieve a closer personal relationship with the LORD that we all need. Thank you all who helped support those who were able to attend. I pray that God truly blesses you for your generosity and support.

Brother Ralph Campbell IV
Pittsburgh/Monroeville Youth Director

~ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength ~

A Year of Being Available

GOD has given us another good year! We had sub sales ,WORI & SOA prayer breakfasts, roast beef dinners, as well as, family camp in PA & International Youth Camp in FL. GOD has so blessed each one of us. He has kept His hand of protection upon us & blesses us daily. Let us keep on doing. If you make yourself "available" He will use you!!!
God Bless!

Sister Thelma Overly

Test Your Bible Knowledge

What King was captured and had his thumbs and big toes cut off?

- A. Adoni-Bezek
- B. Sihon
- C. Og
- D. Balak

(Answer on page 8)



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Jan 16th Roast Beef Dinner @ Youngstown from 12PM - 3PM
- Jan 23rd Sending-off Party for Bishop Lam & Bishop Piper @ 1 PM @ the Youngstown church
- Jan 28th - Jan 30th Men's Advance @ the Ligonier Conference Center
- Feb 1 - 22 Bishop Lam & Bishop Piper in Africa. Please fast & pray.
- Feb 13 Roast Beef Dinner @ Greensburg from 12PM - 3PM
- Feb 13 Pancake & Sausage Dinner @ Youngstown from 9AM - 2PM
- Feb 25 - Feb 27 Women's Retreat @ the Ligonier Conference Center

Test Your Bible Knowledge Answer:

A. Adoni-Bezek (Judges 1:6)

Next Deadline for News Article Submission: February 5

E-mail to eastdeer@verizon.net