

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

June 2011

FROM THE DESK OF THE TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

To all our congregations in the NE/NW territory, I bring you greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I pray that this newsletter finds you blessed in your work for the Lord, and that you are also filled with anticipation for the upcoming Feast of Pentecost.

Well, we have had an exciting month of May this year starting off with our celebration of Mothers' Day in our churches. Sister Dollie and I then had the opportunity to go to Montana to celebrate two of our grandchildren's graduations as they had a combined party in Fairview. Only three more grandchildren to go, then we start with the great-grandchildren's graduations!! Children are a gift from the Lord, and we are abundantly blessed!

While there, we also were able to minister to our saints in our church in Sidney, MT. Bishop Jim Harmon and his wife Deanna (who just received her minister's license, congratulations!) are doing a fantastic job along with Minister Dan Wilsey and the faithful congregation they serve. We were guests in the

Harmon's home and had a wonderful uplifting visit, as we were treated like royalty, as always. Minister Fred Flick and his son Kevin were visiting there as well. They went fishing for "paddle fish" on the Missouri River. It was great to see them!

I also had an opportunity, along with some of the other men, to assist in working on Brother Jack and Minister Cathy Brinko's house roof, where we had work, fun, good food, and great fellowship, and the Lord provided nice weather for this project. My thanks to everyone who came together to help this brother in need.

The month of May ended with a fundraiser for our territory missions effort. Bishop Piper and our CMA dept. staged a motorcycle run to the campground to fulfill our obligation of riding 100 mi. (actually 200 mi.) to earn the pledges from generous givers. My thanks to all who participated either in giving or riding. While we were there we attended the first Summer Camp Church service for the season with Bishop Kenny Butts as our host speaker. The sermon and service were excellent and there was a nice

turnout. Again the weather was good and our return ride was uneventful.

We are now looking forward to the Feast of Pentecost that will be here before we know it! I hope that you have made plans to attend this God called appointment. If not please start now to make plans to attend next year! Feast will be here and gone and then we launch into a full summer of activities such as: VBS, Sabbath School picnics, Family Camp, Teen Camp, Caravan, and Feast of Tabernacles! "Phew" I'm tired already! Good thing we all can rely on the Lord's strength to do His work. Let's start preparing to fulfill our part in all of these endeavors, so that the "Summer of 2011" will be called a great success for Jesus Christ and His Church, Amen! Approach every event with excitement and it will catch on!

My earnest prayer for all of us is that we be found doing our very best for the furthering of the Kingdom of God, and that you receive the very best that Yahweh has to offer! See you all soon!

Bishop H. David Lam

FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSISTANT TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

Praise the Lord! It's Feast time and we anticipate a great Feast celebration. The Lord is truly moving in these last days to build His church, and we need to give Him our full attention and commitment as He inspires us with His revelation. So as we go to the Feast expect to hear His voice and watch what He is telling our ministers to give to each of you. May He truly bless each one as we walk in His truth. Let's also remem-

ber about the 4th of July parade as we go as the Army of the Lord. Also remember to come out to the picnic afterwards.

We also have Family Camp. What a great way to worship together as we all gather in His name for teaching, preaching, worshiping and fellowship. The Lord has something for you and your children. Chief Bishop Kramer and Sis. Sara Mae will be there with us. Praise the Lord! Let Bishop Mike and Sister

Marlene know that you're coming. Let's not forget the Caravan in August as we go to Jonesboro, AR. Here we come to assist you in outreach in your area, and we will be going to Gettysburg as well. If you are planning on going to either one, I need to know by June 30th so we can make arrangements. I hear the sound of the coming of the Lord! May God bless you in this summer's outreach and activities.

Bishop Roy D. Piper

Time To Pray

Greetings in the name of the Lord! Hope to find that the Lord is blessing you as He has been blessing us. We, as always, have had a good month in serving the Lord. We have had great services as well as great fundraisers and fellowship. Isn't it good to be a servant of the Most High God? In all the good things that God does for us, we still find ourselves in need and reaching out to God. I am so thankful that He is there for us when we need him. His Word tells us that where two or three gather in His name that He is there in the midst of them and that whatever we ask for in His name that we receive. During this past month knowing these things has brought much comfort. It is a **time of prayer** that we are living in, taking our needs to the Lord and expecting to receive of Him.

During this past month we have lost a sister in the Lord, Sister Beverly Hignet. Our church has been praying for her for a long time for a healing, and God chose to give her the ultimate healing as she has now received her reward. It is **time to pray** for her family that God brings peace and comfort to this family in their time of loss. Also during this past month Sister Cheryl Stein's granddaughter Nikki was in a motorcycle accident. It is **time to pray** and ask God for a healing touch for Nikki and to ask God to give this family strength as well as peace and comfort throughout this time of recovery. It has also been a time of loss for the Cook family as Pastor Jesse's grandmother has passed on. It is **time to pray** for the Cook family as they look to God for the peace and comfort that will see them through their time of loss.

We are now preparing for the Feast of Pentecost. It is **time to pray** for a mighty move of the Holy Spirit on God's people so that God's Will can be done here on earth as well as in heaven. If it wasn't for being able to go to God in every situation, we would not have been able to have the great month that we had. **IT IS TIME TO PRAY**

Bishop David Dillie

Large Turnout For The Youth

Greetings from New Florence! The months are going by fast! I would like to thank everyone who had anything to do with the Youth Rally at our church. Bishop Mike did a wonderful job in setting everything up. Thank you to all the youth leaders who came and did a wonderful job for the Lord. We had 12 visitors, and our total attendance was 63 people. The youth had a great time, and we older people also had a wonderful time. Sister Marlene did a great job in ministering. Thanks again, Bishop Mike, for letting God use you.

We are looking forward to going to the Feast of Pentecost. We believe God is going to move in a mighty way. Are you ready? We are looking forward to see what God will do this summer. Pray that I will be a willing vessel for God's Holy Spirit, and that our church will also let go to the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Lester Lohr

Thank You, Lord

Praise the Name of the Lord! God has been so great. He has blessed us in that there is always something to do for Him. It has been a busy month at church. The summer functions are already at full-throttle.

I first want to give thanks to the Lord for having the opportunity to lead Wayne Piper to the Lord. I received a call from Sister Jeannie on a Saturday afternoon asking to meet with them, and through conversation and prayer, Wayne gave his life over to the Lord. He has been coming to church faithfully as his relationship with the Lord grows. It is always amazing to see the change in someone's life when Christ takes over. I encourage everyone to pray for our new brother in the Lord.

God also had His hand on Nikki Stein. God truly preserved her life this last month. She and her husband Tim were in a motorcycle accident and were life-flighted to Presby Hospital. Tim was released the next day with a large cut on his forearm. Nikki remained in ICU with a shattered arm, a broken jaw, and bleeding on her brain. I thank the Lord that they were wearing helmets. When Nikki hit the guardrail, the chin guard on her helmet was crushed from the force of hitting face-first. I ask you to keep her in your prayers. She has a long road to recovery, but we thank God for preserving her life.

The Bible tells us that our life is but a vapor. Here only for a moment, and then gone. We all must realize that we don't know when we will take our last breath. That is why it is important that we keep our life pure by remaining covered by the blood of Christ.

I also want to thank all those who gave to support the Run for the Son. It doesn't matter who you gave to, we were all working together to raise funds to help bring Bishop Joe Kerkulah from Liberia, West Africa over for the Feast of Tabernacles. Now we have a good start to the funds that we need to do this, but we still have a way to go.

We had an enjoyable motorcycle ride up to the campground where we supported Bishop Kenny in the first service there this year. Afterward, we of course had to stop and eat lunch at Farmer's Inn. God blessed us with good weather, good fellowship, and a safe trip. Thank you, Lord, for your blessings.

Bishop Jesse Cook

Thank You, Youth

You were a joy and a blessing! It was so good to see the church filled and to enjoy the blessing of the Lord. Leaders you can be proud of the Youth who were so well behaved. Come back any time, and we older ones will be glad to rejoice in the Lord with you.

Sister Barbara Lohr

Campground Chapel Service

May 29th was opening day for the Camp Chapel services. Some of the motorcycle riders did a one-hundred mile run to raise money for missions. Bishops Lam, Piper, Campbell, Cook and Dillie drove their motorcycles, and Deaconess Cheryl Piper rode with her husband. The day was beautiful, and it was completely uneventful. After Chapel service we had a Pastors' Meeting. Bishop Lam has a gathering for the pastors each month. These meetings are always informative and unifying.

This month at the Monroeville Bible Study, Pastor Piper taught about faithfulness in our calling and had each one share about that calling in our personal lives. We also studied the Feast of Pentecost from the Manual. Bible Study is always great, and we are looking forward to other home Bible Studies that we may see others grow in the Word. Sister Mary Jo brought a friend Mary to two of the Studies, and she really appreciated Pastor Roy's inspiration.

Bishop Kenny Butts

Youth Rally Was Huge Success

Praise the Lord! The Youth Rally at New Florence was a huge success! With the Lord's inspiration and everyone working together we had a good time in the Lord! The youth and youth leaders for the North-East churches went to encourage and support the church growth, and it worked. It was a blessing to have 12 guests there. I even had one guest apologize to me for being late because she knew she missed out on some of what the youth had to offer to the Lord. Isn't that amazing?

It was a fun-filled day after the service. We had a cookout, and everyone was invited. The ladies in New Florence went above what we could of even hoped for with the salads that they had prepared and the desserts. Thank you, ladies! Thank you to everyone who cooked, help set everything up, and serve. What a blessing it was to see everyone working together.

Then we had games for all the youth. The youth leaders brought games for all ages; there were even prizes for all of them. Thank you all for participating.

We pray that it encourages the people in New Florence to attend the regular services and be a part of The Church of God. God blessed our day and held the rain off until everything was put away and cleaned up.

I thank God for everyone that was there and helped make this day a huge success. God will richly reward all of you for your efforts.

Bishop Mike Piper

Love In Action

The Month of May proved to be a very busy month for us. It started out with our Mother's Day service and lunch. We were honored at the service, and then the men served lunch to us. The lunch they served was very nice. It was good to see all the visitors we had out that day. We were honored to have Jack's mother attend the service and eat lunch with us. What a blessing!

We also had another Roast Beef Dinner this past month. God blessed our work with a wonderful turnout of customers. We thank the Youngstown church and Pastor Lam for allowing our church to fund-raise with them. This has been a huge blessing to our church.

Last, but not least, we were very blessed to have a huge crew turn out to help Jack replace our roof. It was a very hot day, and the roof required a lot more work than originally planned, but God blessed as the men worked. It was a long day for them, but again we want to thank each of our brothers and sisters who came out to help. You'll never know what a blessing you are to us. It's nice to have brothers and sisters in the Lord that we can count on. Again I want to thank each and every one of you. I am so proud to be a part of a church that puts their love into action.

Minister Cathy Brinko

Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames

The Youngstown teens went to a live presentation of Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames presented by the Tree of Life Assembly of God in Latrobe. It was a visually and emotionally striking presentation. Our Youth were touched by the drama, with one of them rededicating their heart to the Lord because of it.

The drama depicted the deaths of "normal" people who had excuses for not attending church, for rejecting Jesus, and for living sinful lives. Those excuses were ripped away at the gates of heaven, and the Truth was exposed. How sad it was to see people pulled into hell when Jesus was so close, crying out for them to turn to Him.

The presentation ended with an altar call and the Sinner's Prayer. Thank you, Jesus, for touching the hearts of those there who opened their hearts to You.

The group then went to McDonald's and had ice cream. We had a good discussion about the presentation and went home with a new appreciation for our message of love and hope.

Love in Christ,

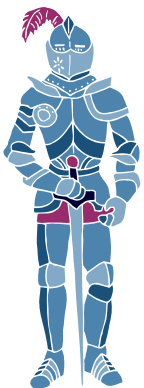
Sister Virginia Dohey

And The Youth Rallied

God is so good! We had a great time of praise & worship, fellowship, games, and yummy food at our Youth Rally in New Florence. There were at least 24 Youth who participated in all parts of the service and in the games our Youth Directors coordinated.

We started the service with prayer and scripture and then entered into praise with Sister Felicia Dillie leading. The congregation enjoyed the music as we lifted our voices to Him. How wonderful it was to see everyone participate during "This Little Light of Mine". Our main goal is to shine His Light everywhere we go.

The Youth shared their talents and specials with us including songs, piano solos, reading from the Word, and testimony. Sister Kayla Bachmann gave us our mission—"to minister to those around us RIGHT WHERE WE ARE". How true that message is. Thank you, Sis Kayla, for speaking what the Lord put on your heart.



Bishop Mike Piper sang "Hold Us Together", and a lot of the youth and directors came up beside him to sing together. Our love for each other holds us together and shelters us from the storms of life. Minister Marlene then spoke to us about *The Armor of God*. She reminded us that each day is a new beginning and we can put on our armor and go and minister to those around us. I'm thankful for Bishop Mike and Minister Marlene for their dedication to the Lord and to the Youth of our church. Thank you both for all you do.

After the service, we all assembled downstairs and fellowshiped while the hot dogs were grilling. A grilled hotdog tastes so good! Yum! It was a great meal with the New Florence sisters making us cookies, extra salads, and chips. Not one of us left hungry!

Then we wrapped up the day with games for every age group. The kids all had fun trying every station, and there were prizes for everyone at the end. Eggs were flying and smashing, the Ninjas were matrixing (is that a word?) and all the little ones were running and running and running.

The most important part of all were the 12 visitors we were able to minister to. Pray they come back for more of the love they received at the Rally.

Thanks to Bishop Lester and Bishop Mike for hosting and for putting this whole event together. It was great! Job well done!!

In His Service,

Sister Virginia Dohey

Success In May

Youngstown's Women of Ruth had two fundraising projects this past month. The first one was Avon which was very successful, and the second one was Pennies From Heaven. Pennies from Heaven was mostly \$6.00 jewelry with lots of nice things, and it was successful, as well. We're planning another one in the fall.



We also finished up with our last Roast Beef Dinner for the summer. This was very successful, as well. I think everybody came out as they knew it was the last one until fall.

God is so good to all of His children! He's blessing not only us in Youngstown, but all The Churches of God in the state.

God bless you,

Sister Thelma Overly

Fellowshipping Together

Praise the Name of the Lord! We had an opportunity to have a Youth Rally at the New Florence church. What a blessing it was! God wants to bless the young people. Minister Marlene Piper spoke about having the armor of God. We need to protect ourselves from the things of this world. We fight battles daily, but with the armor of God, we can be protected and fight Satan.

Afterwards we had fellowship downstairs with yummy food, and then we played games outside. God kept the bad weather away the whole time. All of the kids had a blast playing different kinds of games. God truly is amazing. I know that He moved upon hearts that day. What an opportunity. God is good!

In May, we also had our local Women of Ruth outing at my house. We had so much fun with our Mexican theme, from making jewelry to whacking a piñata! It was a good time.



God is truly awesome for the things He does and will do. It is something to go through, but God had His hand in it all the way. God said He would turn it around, and He did just that. Praise the Lord!

Sister Felicia Dillie



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- June 20 - 24 Vacation Bible School at the Youngstown church
6-8 PM, Monday -Thursday & 7 PM Friday
- June 26 Youngstown's Sabbath School Picnic @ Mammoth Park
- June 30 Deadline to let Bishop Roy Piper know if you will be attending
any or all of the Caravan
- July 4 Fourth of July Parade in Latrobe, PA
Picnic after the Parade at Mammoth Park
- July 10 - 16 Family Camp @ The Church of God Campground in Sigel, PA
- July 29 - 31 Teen Camp @ The Church of God Campground in Sigel, PA



God Bless America!

Next Deadline for News Article Submission: July 9, 2011

E-mail to eastdeer@verizon.net

Please hold newsletter announcements to church information only