

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

March 2011

FROM THE DESK OF THE TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

It is wonderful to be back home although not for long... as I am preparing to leave for the Council of The Twelve at Headquarters. By the time you are reading this newsletter, that council will be over and we will be home and back to work at the church!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for fasting and praying while we were in Africa; I appreciate the faithfulness you all showed in doing this. I could really feel the power of the Holy Spirit leading in every decision that had to be made to bless God's people on our journey and bless TCOG. It was an honor to go and represent everyone of our fellow ministers and brothers and sisters in Christ. You are awesome servants of the most high God!

God saw fit to add another church in South Africa under the direction of Bishop John Kaleba's son. He came specifically to become a part of this doctrine of truth, and he and his congregation were gladly received into TCOG. The church in Kenya has over 1000 members total and is growing quickly... all are "family" there and are a very precious people. It became clear that Bishop John Kaleba was truly a senior Bishop over all this great work the Lord is doing in these parts of Africa. Bishop John lost his mother during this trip and Sister Florence of Kenya lost her sister right before we arrived. Both of these dear

servants of God chose to go forward with the work in front of them and not leave their posts. Pray for the comfort of the Holy Spirit to be with them. I know God will reward them for their faithfulness in enduring the pain and pressing onward!

Over 400 photos were taken of the travels. I have whittled that down and put them into two albums that I hope to share at the upcoming Feast of Passover celebration (this reminds me to say please be in preparation for this upcoming event. Invite someone out to hear the truth of God's Word.) From the start to the finish of this trip everything was done with growth in mind, both spiritually and numerically. I believe we will see this happen all over the world as God's people cry out to hear truth. It is our responsibility to go and feed them as they cry out! Thank you all for being supportive as the need to go is met!

A special thanks to Bishop Ralph Campbell III for watching over the NE/NW Territory, to Bishop Mike Piper for watching over Youngstown, and to Bishop Kenny Butts for doing the same in Monroeville. It was a great comfort to know I could safely trust these men, as well as the other pastors, to do their jobs in my absence. May the Lord bless them for stepping up to their ministerial calling.

Bishop Kenny Butts did a fantastic job organizing the SOA Advance. I was very impressed

with his thoughts on mentoring and using some of the younger men to minister. All that attended were pleased and a great bonding has taken place between the elder and younger men, even if they had to "wrestle" them into it!! Thank you, Brother Kenny!

The WORI Retreat was well attended. It was a privilege to have our International Women of Ruth Director, Deaconess Pat Allen and Minister Debra Ross in our home, and as special guest speakers this year. They not only spoke but ministered as they participated in the games and stayed up until very late being a part of the action. It proved to have a very positive affect and lasting impression especially on the younger ladies. Thanks, Deaconess Cheryl!

I missed out on the preparation before, and the Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, the Roast Beef Dinner, Subs, the Youth Outing, and the Rest Home visits while in Africa but I got home just in time to help with the local Meals on Wheels! Never a dull moment in the Lord's service, and I'm glad of it! You all worked together to make these fundraisers happen, but a special thanks goes out to Sister Thelma and Brother Don Overly for their dedication to see to it that all is done well. Please know you are very much appreciated !

Serving Always,

Bishop H. David Lam

FROM THE DESK OF THE ASST TERRITORIAL OVERSEER

The spirit of the Lord is truly moving in the world today. Everywhere we look we see the hand of God as prophecy is being fulfilled. He is totally in control as we see and feel the shaking in this world. It all points to the soon coming of our Lord.

As Bro. Lam and I were sent to Africa, we saw and felt the love that God has purposed for His people, to prepare themselves for His soon return. As He tells us in Matthew 24:44, "you also must be ready for the Son of Man will come on a day or hour when you do not expect Him." As we travelled to Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya, this was our mission to help prepare the ministry and the people for the times in which we live. We felt the true love and hunger that they had for the truth of His Word. It is time everywhere to lift up the standard of truth. God is building a city, do you want to come? And His bride made herself ready. Bishop Kaleba in Zambia was our first stop and his son Jacob Kaleba

also met us at the airport. As we traveled to Mufulira that evening, Jacob met with us. He lives in South Africa. He desired to join the church and bring his church in South Africa to The Church of God. As we did this, we knew it was the hand of God moving, and we give Him all glory and honor. A new work, a new church in a country where there was none. Praise the Lord. We ministered in Zambia, Mufulira, Kitwe and the capital city Lusaka.

In Tanzania we appointed Bro. Godlove Mwakibinga as the Bishop in Tanzania. We ministered to the ministry and in the churches in Tanzania. We also bought a motorcycle through the CMA Dept. for Bishop Mwakibinga.

In Kenya, we also ministered to the ministry and the churches and also appointed Bro. Evans as the Bishop of Kenya. This is the first time that we were in Kenya. The people received us well and they love the Lord and the Church.

I see the hand of God moving in Africa. We also are sending Bishop Kaleba back to Malawi to find our people, so this trip actually reached 5 countries. I can keep going on and on because we are so excited of what God is doing.

I would like to thank Bishop Kramer and The Church of God for sending us. God bless you. I also would like to thank the CMA Dept in Pennsylvania, through this work, we bought 2 motorcycles, 4 bicycles and a car. I thank everyone for raising the money to do this, but most of all I thank the Lord for His calling and His commission He has on our lives.

I thank the Lord for His saving grace and great love that He gives us. We give you all glory, all honor and all praise. Thank you Lord. May He continue to bless each of you.

Bishop Roy D. Piper



Work Until the Work Is Done

Praise the Lord! It has been a busy month, and God gives us strength and provides for our needs. He is faithful. The first Sabbath of the month is our youth service. We are always excited to hear the Word that God has for our youth. After the service, we enjoy a fellowship with a covered dish meal with our church family. Then we go to Clairview Nursing Home for a worship service with the residents.

This month we spent a lot of time visiting in the nursing home. One of our dear friends, our neighbor and brother in Christ, went home to be with the

Lord. Richard Burns will be missed, but we are joyful that he is with the Lord. We had a service for him on the Feb. 11th.

Three Wednesday nights this month we had Prophecy Seminar/Bible studies at our church with visitors every night. Praise God! We have been taking the Prophecy Seminar and slowly going through it teaching and studying the Word of God. Our members and guests are



learning and wanting to know more about prophecy in the Word of God.

Our ladies came back from the WORL retreat this year happy, refreshed, and excited in what the Lord has for the women to accomplish for Him in the Church.

We all need to be continually instructed and encouraged in our work and commitment in the Lord's service. We are a family and it will take a team effort and commitment to fulfill our calling to be the Bride of Christ. So, let us be yoked together with Christ and be about the Father's business. We have to work until the work is done!

May God Bless His Church
Bishop Ralph Campbell III

Being Set Free

March is here in Sidney and the snow is still falling. Praise the Lord for we know there is a new season soooooon!! Next week we set our clocks forward as spring creeps closer, otherwise, we would not know that winter is coming to a close.

This past month the youth outdid themselves at the youth service, as we learned the value of working together. 5-year-old Sam offered special music singing "This Little Light of Mine". All were truly blessed. We are not sure what the youth will come up with this month, but it is EXCITING to see our youth growing in the Lord. Our chili feed raised \$515.00. God is so good. These funds will be used for sending our youth to camp next year. We will also be holding our annual indoor yard sale the first week in May, as we look forward to traveling to Feast. This will help fund the trip.

Passover is seven weeks away and we are looking forward to having our Passover Celebration. Last year several members of the community attended, and Jesus was exalted in our midst. We look forward to seeing all of our brothers and sisters at Feast of Pentecost!!

God's Word is powerful. I would like to share with you just how powerful. There is a young man I have been ministering to in our county jail for about 6 months. When I first met him he seemed very

Seeking Obedience

As always, God is so good! We had good reports about people we have been praying for with cancer. In both reports the cancer cells are shrinking. Our Sister Rose Myers moved to Conner Towers in Johnstown. This is a good move for her and we ask blessings on her new place of residence.

We have been going to a Bible Study in Blairsville. In our own Bible Study, we are still studying the catechism.

We have some outreach events coming up. On the 19th we are having a Hymn sing at our church. If you can come, we would ask you to bring your talent and participate. We are also having a soup sale on the 29th of March. Please place your orders by the 25th.

Please keep our church in your prayers. We are seeking the blessing of the Lord as promised in Deuteronomy 28:1-14, and my prayer is that we will be fully obedient.

Bishop Lester Lohr

knowledgeable about the Word of God, and had all the vocabulary down and would attend church and Bible Study when I came into the jail. After a few times of coming in, he started to be very aggressive in his arguments about the Bible and things he had opinions on. The Holy Spirit was very good and always gave me the right words to say to give him a satisfactory answer to his questions. He started not to come out to church or Bible Study and it disappointed me greatly. The Lord worked through a fellow inmate and got him to come back out after about 3 weeks. He has been growing in the Lord ever since. We go in every other Sunday to have church and on our off Sunday another preacher comes in and ministers. This man got in an argument with the other preacher and left the service. We had been teaching about honor for about 3 weeks and if we honor the man of God that is sent to us, God will honor us. This man felt very convicted about the argument he had with the other preacher, and the next time he came in the inmate apologized and honored the man of God. The very next day God honored the inmate, and he is going to be able to bond out of jail and see his family. He thought this would not happen. God is good.

Bless you all,

Bishop Jim Harmon

All-Powerful God

God is alive and still on the throne. We need to remember that no matter what we face in our life, God is more powerful. We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus. We recently faced a power other than God's at our local church. Yes, it was a demon-possessed person. God is on the throne, and in the name of Jesus demons must flee. Through prayer and the name of Jesus, they were set free from demon possession and then accepted Jesus as their personal Savior! It is awesome to see a dramatic change in a person's life when Christ enters.

We know God is still moving in our midst. We are looking forward to seeing His hand move at the Marriage Retreat. We hope each Pastor has made it a point to promote and plan to attend it themselves. I hope to see you there.

Bishop Jesse Cook

God Still Moves

It has been a busy month in Greensburg! We have been busy practicing MIA and Timbrel for the up and coming feast while conducting our weekly Bible Study where we are teaching on prophecy. We then take time to fit in a fundraiser and nursing home visits and in our spare time have been doing some remodeling. Isn't it good to know where our strength comes from?

God is moving in The Church of God. A couple of weeks ago while we were at church we had a phone call from someone who had found us on the internet and asked if they could come and talk with us that day. While we were waiting to meet with them, Pastor Jesse and I were discussing how we need God to send in people and when he changes their life that it would be such a change that everyone would have to give God the Glory! When we got to meet with this person there were some definite needs in their life that only God could change and with the leading of the Holy Spirit they had the opportunity to meet Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Hold Our Banner High

As you know, Pastor Roy & Pastor Dave were on a 3 week mission trip to Africa in February. We were glad that Pastor Roy scheduled Pastor Ralph to minister at our church. He and Sister Patty came on Saturday Feb 19th. Sister Patty gave testimony and Pastor Ralph ministered to us on "Becoming God's Friend" and used his text from John 15:15-16. He pointed out that we were chosen by God and our friendship has requirements and how special that friendship is. After service we went to lunch together. The fellowship was great.

When Pastor Roy returned to Wednesday night Bible Study, he shared a little of his trip with us and taught on the Church Flag. He left several of the flags with our congregations in Africa. We can't lose our passion for what that flag means to us. Bible Study has been great!

I am still conducting a Bible Study in Scottdale on Mondays at 6PM. We have about 15 attending. We have been studying the commandments this month. Brother Chad Miller visited us this month, and we were privileged to have him participate.

I am looking forward to Passover on April 18th with enthusiasm, can't wait! Let's prepare ourselves for this wonderful time together.

Bishop Kenny Butts

(THAT'S WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT!) God still moves in the hearts of people!

God is not just moving in our local church, we also hear of how God has been moving in Africa. We thank God for our ministry in Africa that has been sharing the gospel with our brothers and sisters. We also thank God for using men like Bishop Lam and Bishop Piper to go teach, preach, and share the love of God with our African brothers and sisters. Welcome home, Bishops! We are looking forward to hearing about the mighty move of God in all that you have done. We also thank God for answering prayer for hedging His protection around you and bringing you home safely. We serve an awesome God.

Let us all continue to let our light shine for Jesus that He would be lifted up for the world to see.

God Bless you in the labors of your hands,
Bishop David Dillie

Engaging our Youth

Can you believe it's March already?!?! Time flies when you're working for the Lord! The territory youth had an outing at Hidden Valley in February. There were 31 people who went snow tubing and 16 people who went swimming. Everyone had a great time being together. Then it was off to Youngstown for fellowship, hot dogs, and hot chocolate. What a great day with God's people!

There are a few events the youth leaders need to remember. The pre-feast lunch on Sunday, April 17, the Youth Rally on May 14 in New Florence, Family Camp the week of July 10 - 16, and Teen Camp the weekend of July 29 - July 31. I would like to encourage every youth leader, if at all possible, to please be at these events. The kids are in our charge, and this year our Guest Speaker will be our Chief Bishop Samuel Kramer and Deaconess Sara Mae Kramer. What a blessing that is going to be! With all of our church schedules everyone is very busy. May God continue to bless you throughout the year as we continue to go forward and keep on working for the Lord.

There is one more thing that I am looking for. That is for people who have a burning desire to be teachers this year to help mold the minds of our youth. What an awesome job it is because they are the church of today and future leaders of tomorrow.

May God Richly Bless You,
Bishop Mike Piper
Territorial Youth Director

Working For the Lord

This last month we had the pleasure of going to Youngstown to help make sausage. It is always a good time when we all get together, and this day was no different. We (or I should say "they" - as I had my arm in a sling and couldn't do much) cut up six pigs and made loose sausage as well as patties. It went so fast that we got done early enough to package it all the same day! Then on the following day, we made the annual pancake breakfast. It was a good time in the Lord, and everyone that participated was blessed. If you don't usually get involved with the fundraisers, you don't know what you're missing. Sure it can be work, but it is a blessing to all who work together to accomplish what needs done for the work of the Lord! The money that is raised is used for outreach - and we all need to take a part in that. There are a lot of sick and dying people around us that need the gospel!

God bless you - and see you at the next fundraiser!
Minister Margie Funk

Visiting the Greensburg Youth

Praise the Lord! Last month we had the privilege of visiting the Greensburg Church during their Youth Service. We were very excited to see what all the youth had to offer to the Lord. We were very proud of each one as they offered their best to the Lord. It is always a good time when you can gather together with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Brother Jason ministered the Word to us. He spoke about "Time is Crucial". We need to be around those who you can trust, be obedient to what God is asking you to do, and be the spiritual teacher that God is calling you to be. We all have someone watching us so be careful how you live. As we are leading our youth it is very important for all of us to be cautious of how we do all things. Great Job! Bro. Mike and I are very proud of the work that Bro. Jason and Sis. Felicia are doing in our Greensburg church as they are going forward working for the Lord! Keep on going! Win souls for the Lord!

I would like to encourage everyone to tell our youth directors how proud we are of the work they do for the Lord. Together we can make it! We need each other to survive! God Bless.

In His Service,
Minister Marlene Piper

SOA Men's Advance

(mistakenly omitted from the Feb newsletter.)

Our theme was "Mentoring Men for God's Service". Our services started at 7 PM with Bishop Kenny Butts and Bishop David Lam opening with comments. From this opening through praise and the reading of the Word, God was there to meet every need. From testimonies to hearing God's Word, God was there to meet every need. I know men were touched by this Word and the testimonies that were brought forth.

It was a blessing to see all the new faces! Bro. Jerry Dohey was there for the first time as he just turned 13. Praise the Lord!

After the opening service we had a great time of fellowship, roasting hot dogs, and eating all the good snacks.

I want to thank each one who came out and I'm looking forward to seeing each one at the men's prayer breakfast on April 24th at the New Florence church.

Brother Don Overly

Hearts are Touched

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go up to the house of the Lord! This is what we did the last weekend of February when all of the sisters came together for our annual Retreat. The teachings from the ministry were just what we all needed to encourage us to keep working to support our husbands, families, and the Church.

The Proverbs 31 woman was our model, and what a blessing it was to hear the truth about how much godly women are able to accomplish. The work is endless and takes dedication and strength, but the rewards are priceless.

Thank you to the WORI leadership who worked so hard to put this weekend together. It was well-organized, and many were fed by your words. I also want to thank Sis Pat Allen and Sis Debra Ross for making the trip to attend. I was personally touched by your sharing time and want you to know I appreciate the sacrifices you made to be here.

Sisters, please commit to attending next year. Something wonderful happens to your heart when you're there.

In His Service,
Sister Virginia Dohey

Feb Youth Service @ Y-town

This month we were down on our numbers for our youth service, but that's ok because the Bible says wherever two or three are gathered God will be there, and He definitely was with us. We had a great youth service with our youth, young and old, singing praises to God, reading scriptures, and playing instruments.

After the youth were finished, I (Sister Jen) preached on Salvation. It's something that seems so simple, but people pass it up every day. I spoke how we need to not take it for granted, and it's something we need to cherish and tell the world about. I also spoke on how we sometimes need a refresher, and we should say the prayer of salvation when we get down on ourselves or are going through a really bad time to remind us what an amazing blessing we have. It's not once saved always saved. I ended my sermon with the prayer of salvation, and we all gathered around and had prayer.

We want to thank everyone who participates each month in our youth services. We appreciate all of you and don't ever want to take any of you for granted. Please come out next month and support our youth. God Bless all of you.

Bro. Jerrod and Sis. Jen Piper

Youngstown Youth Directors

Aggh, I Can't Stop!!!

Snow tubing was a lot of fun, even though we had no way of slowing down. Many people hit the wall at the end of the ramps, and brother Ken went over it! People were there from all the PA churches, and from what I heard swimming in the heated pool with hot tub and sauna was fun, too. By the time we left everybody had had a cup of hot chocolate.

Godspeed and see you at the next youth outing,

Brother Jerry Dohey

Snow Tubing - Fun For All

Everyone had fun on the snow tubing trip. It was the most fun I ever had! For those of you that don't know what Hidden Valley resort is.... It's a ski resort where you can also go snow tubing. We went halfway up, then we got on a mini escalator, then came down. There was a smooth track and a bumpy track. I went on the bumpy track. I had a lot of fun but, I



think Sis. Margie's husband Kenny had the most fun.

Your sister in Christ,

Sister Leah Brinko

Being Bread to the Elderly

Hello Fellow Brothers and Sisters!

A good report from Greensburg to encourage all of you to join your leaders in nursing home visitations! We go monthly to two different homes and always find new and/or special blessings awaiting us from our Heavenly Father as He watches. He sees our faithfulness and compassion in reaching out to these dear "oldsters" who are confined to quarters, as it were.

We visit the Greensburg Care home on the 3rd Saturday of every month. We also visit Oak Hill and Walnut Ridge alternating each location on the first Saturday of every month. God pours out His wonderful blessings as we lead the people into praise and worship before Him. Mostly we sing old songs of the Church that these precious elderly saints can relate to easily. Then we intersperse the songs with encouragements of prayer, giving Jesus their burdens and requesting forgiveness for our sins of omission and commission.

We almost always have residents' family members who are visiting their relatives come and take time to join the services. They express their heartfelt appreciation on behalf of their loved ones who are living there. It's a wonderful thing to be invited into their "home" and try to bring a little sunshine into the lives of these dear people. We read the newsletter reports each month and rejoice with the other nursing home ministry teams in all the ways God uses this particular ministry in outreach.

There are always "special" people in these various homes we truly look forward to seeing each month, and we remember to keep them in prayer as a congregation. Praise God it's as the Psalmist declared, "Once I was young, but now I'm old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken—nor their seed begging bread." Aren't you glad God is using you as an extension of His bread of life to nourish these oldsters?

Love,

Sister Jeannie Piper



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- March 13 Roast Beef Dinner @ Youngstown from 12 PM - 3 PM
- March 13 Roast Beef Dinner @ Greensburg from 12 PM - 3 PM
- March 13 Chicken Biscuit Dinner @ Clarion from 11 AM - 2 PM
- March 19 Hymn Sing @ New Florence from 4 PM - 9 PM
- March 20 Pastors' Meeting @ New Florence starting at 9 AM
- March 29 Soup Sale @ New Florence. Choose from Vegetable or
Chicken Noodle. \$4/Quart. Please place order by Mar 25.
- April 1 - 3 Marriage Retreat @ the New Stanton's Days Inn
Please sign up & turn your \$50 deposit in by Mar 12
- April 16 - 17 Territorial Pre-Feast of Passover Services @ Youngstown
- April 24 SOA and WORl Prayer Breakfasts starting at 8 AM
SOA in New Florence
WORl in Greensburg

Next Deadline for News Article Submission: April 3

E-mail to eastdeer@verizon.net

**Please hold bulletin and newsletter submissions
to church information only**