

New South

Reaching across Kentucky, Tennessee, the Carolinas & the world, partnering and supporting ministries to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Volume 19 - October 2013



FALL - Autumn

Apple cider, donuts, pumpkins, falling leaves, colors red, orange, yellow, kick offs, retreats, hikes, bike rides, craft fairs, school, crisp temperatures, hayrides, harvest parties. Do you love it! I do. What great opportunities to invite a friend or neighbor to one of your fun events and show them the love of Jesus!

Coming Eagle Ridge Retreat Center Event

Oct 25-27, Youth Retreat,

Nov 1-3 Ladies Retreat

Pastors, God's gift to the church.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Ephesians 4:11-12 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Scripture declares that pastors are God's gift to the church, but do we treat them this way? Many of us treat them like super heroes, believing that they will fly in with their special clothes, special powers, and perform in a special way every time, according to our special expectations. These men and women

are not super heroes, they have a special job, with a special calling, with gifts and talents for a special task. They don't fly, leap tall buildings, stop bullets or stop all bad things from happening. They bleed, bounce and burp just like us.

However, they are special, they have the responsibility to equip us to do God's work. What a task, equipping broken clay pots to carry the life giving water of Jesus to a dry and dusty world. A task that some clay pots think they are too broken to be used, and other clay pots think they are only for decoration and never to be used. A task so important that if I was God, I wouldn't choose clay pots to use . . . but He does. And He chooses Pastors to work with these cracked pots to carry out His purpose.

Pastors are charged with getting these pots ready to hold Living Water, so they may carry God's water to the world. We sometimes think that if the sermon, teaching, or prayer isn't just right for our

liking, it's not right. But there are lots of cracked pots, and God's glue (Scripture) doesn't depend upon your approval to work. God's glue doesn't even depend on clever, well crafted words to work. God's glue works every time when pastors try and cracked pots want to be used by God.

The pastor's job is a big one, thank them, look for ways to encourage them and appreciate them during October and throughout the year.

Ron Balzer,
Superintendent New South Conference

Missions Focus

I was recently shown a book called The 100 Most Influential Women of All Time. It didn't take long to note the author's spin, and if it were my book, I would have thrown it away.

But it did start me thinking about current influential women in missions that I know, and Phyllis Sortor tops the list. She is older than I am, yet she buzzes all around the most populous country in Africa, Nigeria by jeep, (or canoe when roads end). She may be found petitioning heads of the government on behalf of a persecuted nomadic tribe of Muslims or getting a truckload of wheelchairs for polio victims. Recently, she has started an ICCM school so far out in the proverbial boondocks that no government teacher is willing to live there, but a FM couple has now gone, and the first item of business is digging a pit toilet. Phyllis is very well-funded, but we pray for her often.

Then there's Adam Teacher's wife Rebecca. Before they married, she agreed to serve with him in the world's most hostile country, and while they wait for God to open the way, they teach in a less oppressive Communist regime a few miles from their goal and their 2 kids (9 & 7) speak the languages better than their parents. They will be in at least 8 places in our conference in October. Don't miss their report!

Of course, Cindi Angelo makes my list because she inspires me in so many ways. She lives in the Word and she lives the Word. She fasts, God hears, and mighty things are done for the Kingdom through her life in Portugal.

Family camp this summer gave me the privilege of really getting acquainted with Beth Gomez. I knew she had a servant's heart when she befriended the 2 gals we brought with us from Murphy, who adored her. Now she goes joyfully to live in Columbia, the country of her husband's birth where she thought she would never have to serve since it's not particularly safe. But missions organizations change policies, and the Gomez family hopes to be there by January.

In closing, I want to mention our superintendent's wife Tammy. She carried her passion for African widows joyfully, along with tears, as she sacrificed to go to Burundi and see firsthand the burdens of the women there. I am excited that she will be speaking to our women in Murphy next month. Schedule her if you haven't already done so.

Lois Huff, NSC missions promoter

Praises/Prayer Requests

Burundi Trip - I just want to thank everyone for the prayer and financial support you all gave me for Burundi. I feel privileged and blessed to have been able to go and to speak to Female Pastors, Widows and Supt. Wives. I was pure joy to meet our Widows Candide & Floride. Please pray for these precious women as they live a very difficult life.

Please pray for retired pastor **Bro. Doyle Sadler & wife June**, he had to have part of his leg amputated due to a blood clot.

Praise: Gallatin FMC reported 5 kids baptized in August. In attendance for the event were the families of these unchurched children! Very exciting times.

Your pastors met together for an awesome weekend of encouragement and fellowship Sept 13-15th our annual Pastors Enrichment, guest speaker was Steve "Mac" Macaluso from the FM foundation.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 25-27 Youth Retreat at ER

Nov. 1-3 Ladies Retreat **NEW Format** Friday Night begins at Living Hope Church BG (you may arrive at ER at anytime Fri. to settle in) at 7p with guest speaker **Angela Thomas**, cost for this portion is \$20 which includes Fri & Sat conference and Sat. lunch, tickets need to be purchased thru LHC by Sept 30th to get this price, return to sleep at ER Fri night, breakfast at ER, back to LHC for Angela Thomas and lunch, back to ER for rest, relaxation, dinner and fellowship. Sunday worship and communion. Registration for ER portion of weekend is \$25 due Oct. 14th. We will still have our silent auction and SEED so bring \$ to spend and items to donate for the auction.

Nov. 8-9 MEGA meeting at Wilmore. BOA, MEG and MAC will be meeting. Supt. Ron will be sending out the schedule.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

We are blessed with a great team of pastors in the NSC.

You love your pastor and appreciate him/her so very much, RIGHT? Well October is a great opportunity to express it in inventive, exciting, new, creative, phenomenal ways. Let's see: a note of thanks, dropping off a treat at the office, taking them out for breakfast, write them a poem, make them a scarf, give them a monetary gift or gift card, send them on a middle of the week getaway, provide child care for a date night, wash their car, change the oil in their car, do some yard work for them. The possibilities are endless!!! Just do it! Show them that they are loved, appreciated and truly a gift to your church from your loving heavenly Father.

Caretaker/Groundskeeper ERRC

Eagle Ridge Retreat Center is currently seeking person(s) to serve as Caretaker and Groundskeeper. Free housing and utilities serve as remuneration for this ministry opportunity. Qualifications include, but are not limited to, skills in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, small engine repair, building and grounds maintenance. Interested individuals should have a desire for Christian ministry and uphold the mission of ERRC.

Camp Manager for ERRC

Eagle Ridge Retreat Center is currently seeking person(s) to serve as Camp Manager. Free housing and utilities serve as remuneration for this ministry opportunity. Qualifications include, but are not limited to, basic accounting skills, highly organized, attention to detailed record-keeping, excellent public relations, excellent verbal and writing skills, computer proficiency. Interested individuals should have a desire for Christian ministry and uphold the mission of ERRC.

Send a resume and letter of interest to: Supt. Ron Balzer prb143@mfi.net
And to Rachel Brown, Chair of ERRC mandrbrown@comcast.net