

New South

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

Volume 20 - January 2014

Happy New Year

from the New South Conference

Praying that you found great joy and peace during the Christmas Season. May God bless you with His Holy presence throughout the coming New Year.

Superintendent Ron & Tammy Balzer

Check out in this issue:
the NSC 2014 Calendar
Please update your personal
calendars so you are sure not to
miss an event.

“Happy New Year!”

Sounds kind of cliché-ish. Can we actually have a happy New Year? I believe so, but it doesn't just happen because somebody wishes you a Happy New Year.

One of the phrases I've learned since arriving in New South is “lean into it.” I've learned a lot of phrases, but few carry the weight or meaning of “lean into it.” I've heard it while using a shovel or hammer, but I've heard it also used about the Bible. I grew up singing “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms,” and I knew what it meant to lean, but lean into it takes on a posture greater than just a lean. I can lean on a wall or on a counter top but, I don't put my full weight into a lean. “Lean into it,” whether it's a shovel or the Word of God, is the idea of putting your weight into it. It's giving away the stability of

your own strength and power to something else. In the case of the shovel, it's the idea that if the shovel doesn't hit the ground, you'll fall flat on your face. You're trusting in the steel of the shovel and the hickory of the handle to hold you up. In the case of the Bible, the Word of God, it's doing what it says even if it doesn't make sense to you, your co-workers or your friends. It's trusting God and His words to hold you up. It's leaning so heavily on what the Bible says, that you've gone past the point of losing your balance and it all rest there.

Am I saying that we make our own happiness by what we lean into? I don't think so. I do know that when we lean into the wrong stuff, we end up on our faces in the dirt and that's not happy. Wrong stuff could be weak, temporal things that moth and rust destroy. Wrong stuff could be

anything that, if you invest in it, it takes you places you don't want to be or leads you away from where you know you should be. Wrong stuff could even be good stuff out of priority. Leaning into the wrong good stuff can let you down and leave you disappointed.

Happiness based on your current situation is very temporary and fleeing, but leaning into things that makes you the person you want to be, it might be hard, but it feels good, it's right. Leaning into Jesus or His Word might not make you happy, but it heads you towards happiness. Happy New Year!

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)

No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,[a] but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Missions Focus

I love a good story –especially when it’s true, don’t you? I want to tell you about a church in the New South Conference. Yes, this is a true story.

This particular church was not doing much with missions, but when one of the teens returned from teen camp, his excitement about giving to the conference teen missions project that year was infectious. The church began supporting the project along with the teens. Then within a short time this spread to giving monthly to Eduardo and Cindi Angelo. They started by giving \$100 per month, and considering this was a new thing, it was a great start. Then one Sunday in October of this year, well, how about I share the email I received:

Also wanted to let u know that last week that the members of the congregation were stirred from the pulpit to make a monthly commitment of 370.00 for Cindi and Eduardo and the works in Portugal. This will bring our total commitment to 470.00 per month. Praying everyone will keep their commitment.

Doing the math, their commitment jumped one Sunday from \$1200/year to \$5,640/year. What happened to cause that change? I wasn’t there, and I don’t know for sure, but I do know they have a missions promoter who keeps the congregations focused on giving. The words, ‘stirred from the pulpit’ make me believe the pastor is also much involved –as well as the Holy Spirit!

So as we begin 2014, it is time to prayerfully consider how our churches can bless our ‘boots on the ground’ in Asia, Columbia and Portugal with the financial resources they need to serve where they believe God has placed them.

Our story here in Murphy is that last week (December 24) our treasurer not only was able to complete our commitment for 2013, but also learned how to send in payments on line. Debra Hancock at headquarters joyfully walked her through the process over the phone. What will your story be in the coming year?

Lois Huff, NSC missions promoter

Praises/Prayer Requests

Please keep **Pastor Red Sebring** of Fairview FMC, Gainesboro TN in your prayers as he has suffered a mini-stroke.

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

NSC 2014 Calendar

January

- 19 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 31 - 2/1 Equipping for Excellence St. Pete FL

February

- 2 Freedom Sunday
- 3-4 Equipping for Excellence Spring Arbor MI
- 27 District Leaders Mtg Cumberland Falls SP
- 28 MEG Interviews Cumberland Falls SP
- 28 - 3/1 Pastors & Spouse Retreat Cumberland Falls SP

March

- 1 MEG Interviews Cumberland Falls SP
- 14-16 Teen Spring Retreat Eagle Ridge

April

- 11 District Leader Mtg Wilmore
- 11 MAC Mtg Wilmore
- 12 NSC BOA Mtg Wilmore
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 25-27 Women’s Spring Retreat

May

- 1 National Day of Prayer
- 2-3 NSC Annual Conference Greeneville TN
Heartland FMC

June

- 15-22 Teen Camp Eagle Ridge
- 17 District Leader Mtg Eagle Ridge
- 18-22 Family Camp (w/Teen Camp) ER
- 23-27 Kids Camp Eagle Ridge

July

- 5-10 Free Methodist Youth Conference
Colorado State University

September

- 12 District Leader Meeting Eagle Ridge
- 12-14 Pastors Enrichment Eagle Ridge

October

- 3-5 Mustering of the Men Eagle Ridge
- 18 MEGA BOA Mtg TBD
- 31- 11/2 Fall Teen Retreat Eagle Ridge

November

- 2 NDoP for the Persecuted Church
- TBD Ladies Fall Retreat Eagle Ridge
- 27 Thanksgiving
- 30 First Sunday of Advent

December

- 25 Christmas