

# Northeastern District Family Newsletter

The Northeastern District of The Christian and Missionary Alliance; 6275 Pillmore Drive; Rome, NY 13440  
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## Thoughts from Dan

Missions Conference season is upon us again. Missionaries from our regular District tours and those from two Inter-district tours will be visiting almost all of our 80 churches over the next two-and-a-half months. What an exciting time of year this is! The opportunity to meet new missionary friends or renew past acquaintances is a wonderful one.

IMAGINE – hearing what God is going in so many different parts of the world like Russia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Venezuela, Africa and Brazil, to name only a few. What a tremendous privilege we have as Alliance people to be involved in completing the Great Commission not only at home but worldwide.

There are many blessings that come with our Annual Missions Conferences. I'll mention three from my point of view.

There is the blessing of receiving first-hand, eye witness reports of the gospel's progress in particular parts of the world. God is working everywhere to build His family. What a joy to hear about it and partner with our missionaries.

There is the blessing of being an encouragement to tired and discouraged missionaries. Some of our dear missionaries come to Home Assignment pretty weary and wounded – some are thinking about giving it up. It's just too hard. I specifically remember one such woman who came to our church several years ago. She was tired; she was discouraged; she was beat up; she was burned out. This servant was ready to throw in the towel. She made no secret of her condition.

Praise God! The people of the church ministered His love and grace to her during her week with us. They laughed with her, cried with her, prayed with her and showed great interest in her work. Everywhere she went throughout the week, she was encouraged and affirmed. When she left us her testimony was one of great gratitude to God for what He had done for her through the ministry of His people. This missionary left so greatly encouraged – to think there were people at home who genuinely cared not only about her work but also about her.

Maybe the Lord will bring a missionary like that your way this year. Will your church be ready not only to be ministered to but to minister in return?

One more blessing (there really are many more) is that of helping people new to the C&MA come to a better understanding of our heartbeat for missions. Unless you grew up in the Alliance, you can probably remember that it really took some time to get a good understanding of the "who's," "how's," "where's" and "why's" of our missionary passion. Annual Missions Conferences probably played a big part in your "education." I know they did (and do) in mine.

From my experience I know that much effort must go into preparation for your conferences. As you and your church missions teams are making that effort, please keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and your focus on the many possible blessings that will result from your efforts and be encouraged.

Keep looking up, *Dan*



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**Northeastern  
District  
Office Staff**

**District Superintendent**  
*Rev. Daniel D. Miller*

**Director of  
Church Health and  
Multiplication**  
*Rev. Jon A. Martin*

**Executive Secretary**  
*Billie L. Merrick*

**District Business  
Manager/Bookkeeper**  
*Mr. Frank E. Whiting*

**Church Health  
and Multiplication  
Administrative Assistant**  
*Mrs. Debra A. Martin*



# *Church Health and Multiplication*

## **HOLISTIC...WHAT?**

Recurring themes grab my attention! In attending and leading seminars, reading a variety of books, listening to tapes and speaking one on one with pastors, one theme that has emerged over and over again has been the parallel between churches that are thriving and their dynamic small group body life. Natural Church Development (NCD) refers to healthy small groups as Holistic Small Groups.

### **Symptoms for Holistic Small Groups**

- ◆ Less than 60% of your congregation is involved in disciple-making small groups
- ◆ Small group leaders are functioning without training
- ◆ No continuing support structures exist for leaders such as coaching and a training meeting at least once a month
- ◆ Few newcomers find their way into small groups
- ◆ Cell groups tend to stagnate without multiplying
- ◆ Pastor(s) are doing the majority of the pastoral care
- ◆ Few support groups are formed for those with special needs
- ◆ Apprentice leaders have been identified
- ◆ Lack of clear leadership and endorsement of small groups

The **Advantages of Holistic Small Groups** are numerous but here are a few that NCD mentions:

- ◆ Your small group helps you with the challenges in your life
- ◆ Your small group helps you to grow in your spiritual life
- ◆ You are a member of a group in your church where it is possible to talk about personal problems
- ◆ The people in your small group trust each other
- ◆ Your small group actively seeks to multiply themselves
- ◆ Your small group leaders are trained for their tasks
- ◆ You feel at home in your small group and people pray with you as needed
- ◆ Your small group makes it easy for newcomers to be integrated

A good way to start a holistic small group ministry in your church is with a prototype group which includes leaders and apprentices utilizing the above principles to multiply the small group ministry in your community. The Office of Church Health and Multiplication has some excellent resources to help you begin or restart the journey.

For a Healthy Today and Tomorrow,

**Jon**

# District Items of Interest

## Births

**David Peter Outman**, born June 2, 2006 in Serbia, was adopted by **Julie and Jim Outman**, June 6, 2008



**Morgan Elizabeth Bieber**  
to **Jill and Rob Bieber**,  
June 26, 2008  
7 lbs. 3 oz.

## In Transition

**Rev. Tom G. and Lucy Stamatinos**  
to Southeastern District

**Mr. Matthew J. and Melanie Thornton**  
not in official C&MA ministry

**Mr. Michael L. and Glenda Tillinghast**  
not in official C&MA ministry

## Congratulations

*Niagara Falls Alliance Church*  
and *Wheatfield Neighborhood Church*  
on your "merger" service,  
September 7, 2008

**Adirondack Alliance Church**  
72 Canaras Ave.  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983  
on the Dedication of your new  
Sanctuary Addition  
September 21, 2008, 10:00 AM

**Tracy Creek Memorial Church**  
Vestal, NY  
on your October 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

## Future District and Prayer Conferences **April 21-23, 2009**

Auburn, NY

*Introductory Packet* items due at  
District Office: **January 13, 2009.**  
*Delegate/Events Reservation* deadline:  
**March 31, 2009**

**April 19—22, 2010** at Wheatfield, NY

## With Deepest Sympathy

**Joshua Park**  
Brother of  
Rev. Jude E. Park  
August 17, 2008



## Welcome

**Mr. Ricardo and Christian (Chris) Volcy**  
Assistant Pastor – Syracuse, NY  
Home: 315-469-0352  
3138 Midland Ave.  
Syracuse, NY 13205  
(effective early September).

**Rev. Shawn F. and Heather Wallace**  
Pastor, Troy, NY  
Home: 154 Third St. (Top Apt.)  
Troy, NY 12180  
shawnheather96@yahoo.com

## Looking for Pastors Interim Pastors in NY

Andover, Ballston Spa,  
Orchard Park, Saratoga Springs  
and Schoharie

## Looking for Assistant or Associate Pastors in NY

Corning, Horseheads  
and Kingston

**District Resource:** An electronic copy of the 2008 *District and Prayer Conference Proceedings* (including current *District Bylaws*, *Conference Policies* and *DEXCOM Policies*) is available by contacting Mr. Frank E. Whiting at: [fe\\_whiting@northeasterncma.com](mailto:fe_whiting@northeasterncma.com)

## *Directory Updates*

### Cell Phone Number Request

**To: Northeastern District Official Workers.** If you have a **CELL** phone and the number is not listed in the District Directory, it would be very much appreciated if you would please consider sending it to: [office@northeasterncma.com](mailto:office@northeasterncma.com) or 315-336-4720, Ext. 201

If you prefer that it **not** be printed in the District Directory, please indicate that as well in your communication. Thank you for your help!

**Delta LBCC**, Pg. 5  
Thomas Browka – [facilities08@deltalake.org](mailto:facilities08@deltalake.org)

**Baldwinsville**, Pg. 6  
[www.baldwinsvillealliancechurch.com](http://www.baldwinsvillealliancechurch.com)

**Ticonderoga**, Pg 6  
[www.ticornerstonealliance.com](http://www.ticornerstonealliance.com)

**Ticonderoga**  
518-597-4752  
[admin@ticornerstonealliance.com](mailto:admin@ticornerstonealliance.com)

**Dover Plains, Location** (NOT Mailing)  
V.F.W. Post 5444, Route 22, Dover Plains

**Rev. Daniel P. Groh**  
Home: PO Box 462, Wingdale, NY 12594  
(e-mail & home phone, unchanged); Cell: 845-891-4017

**Mr. Kevin T. Ellwood**  
231 South Blvd., Nyack, NY 10960  
Cell: 315-269-6433 (e-mail unchanged)

**Rev. Timothy C. Koffkey**  
Home: 5 Louisiana Ave., Plattsburgh, NY 12903

*pray for our children*





## Parsonage to Parsonage

Here's a true tale of two girls.

Trish was a college student when we began our ministry in Fulton 22 years ago. She arrived at night as a surprise at our doorstep, introduced herself, opened her Bible, read a verse or two, and left. *Was she an angel?* She was, but I knew Trish was also human because the next time she visited, she brought ice cream. Other times she arrived at mid-day. Hoping to give me a break from motherhood, she whisked my young children away for an adventure that always included ice cream. I've never met anyone like her...

Becky was in High School the same year I met Trish. She arrived for Missions Conference. I was surprised to learn it was her first time at the Fulton Church—a high school friend invited her and she came. The missionary gave an evangelistic message. Afterwards, Becky knelt at the altar accepting Christ as her Savior. The next evening Becky returned to hear the missionary again. That night this 24-hours-old Christian was at the altar once more—this time responding to God's call to be a missionary. She graduated Valedictorian and headed to Nyack. I've never seen God work so powerfully...

Where are these girls now? They are in Fulton; both on home assignment. Trish Eggleton is God's angel in Russia and Becky Derksen serves Jesus in Guinea. On September 26 and 27, you can meet them too. They are two of four missionaries (Kathy Petteys and Bev Clark being the other two) who will share their hearts at the Alliance Women Fall Refocus retreat at Delta Lake. You won't want to miss what the Lord has for you. Come meet my friends. You will be blessed. You might even get some ice cream!

Hope to see you there, *Elaine*

## Alliance Women Ministries

**Northeastern District  
Alliance Women Ministries  
FALL REFOCUS  
September 26-27, 2008  
Delta Lake Bible Conference Center  
Rome, NY**



**Missionary Speakers  
Trish Eggleton, Russia  
Kathy Petteys, Venezuela  
Becky Derksen, Guinea  
Bev Clark, Brazil**

### Schedule Overview

**Friday 5:00 pm - Registration Begins**

**Friday 5:30-6:15 pm - Dinner  
by RESERVATION ONLY**

**Friday 7:00 pm - First Group Gathering**

**Saturday 3:00 pm—Fall Refocus Ends**

## Dates to Remember

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – District Office Closed
- 9 DEXCOM Meeting at District Office 10:00 AM
- 11 Missions Tours Begin
- 11 Evangelism Committee Teleconference 3:00 PM
- 13 South-Central Breaking the 65 Barrier Seminar Saturday, \$6.00 per person, Apalachin C&MA (8:30 AM Registration) 9:00 AM--3:00 PM
- 18 GHC I Registrations due at Faith Alliance Church, Albion
- 20 Central: Breaking the 500 Barrier Seminar Saturday, \$6.00 per person, Syracuse Alliance Church (8:30 AM Registration), 9:00 AM—3:00 PM
- 26--27 AWM Fall Mini-Refocus, Delta LBCC

### OCTOBER

- 7 LO&CC Agenda items due at District Office
- 11 GHC I, Faith Alliance Church, Albion, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
- 14 Ordination/Consecration In-Service Training (Continuing Education), DLBCC, 10:00 AM—3:30 PM
- 21 LO&CC Mtg., District Office, 10:00 AM
- 23 Missions Com. Mtg., District Office, 10:00 AM
- 24 District Events Calendar Dates Due at Dist. Office
- 24-25 Alliance Men's Retreat, DLBCC

## *The Orchard Foundation*

Recently I delivered two checks to an Alliance Church totaling about \$40,000 and that church will receive approximately \$20,000 more when the estate is settled. Likewise the C&MA – GCF will also receive approximately \$60,000 from this estate. How did this come about? Was it by accident or coincidence? No! It happened because an Orchard Representative was invited to the church to speak about stewardship and the possibility of leaving a legacy. This individual met with the Orchard Representative and he assisted her in structuring her estate plan. Several years later, at her death the legacy is now being passed on for Kingdom Ministry. Could this happen in your church? Yes, if you too would invite your Orchard Representative into your church to speak to your people about stewardship and leaving a legacy.

I am scheduling meetings for winter/spring 2009. My current open dates are:

**Feb. 1, 8, 22**  
**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**  
**April 26**  
**May 3, 17**

Contact me to schedule a date or to get more information. Don't delay!

**Kenneth Furl**  
**Regional Assistant VP**  
**The Orchard Foundation**  
**PO Box 549**  
**Cortland, OH 44410**  
**Office: 330-638-1622**  
**Cell: 330-219-1909**  
**Fax: 330-638-6953**

## *Evangelism Minute*

Summer is a great time of warm weather and family vacations. It is also a great time for evangelism. Many churches plan Vacation Bible Schools, which is still a very good means of outreach. This year at New Life Bible Church in Walworth, we did a VBS camp. Our theme was "God's Big Back Yard". We preceded the event by making a float and entering it in a local parade. We handed out more than five hundred invitations along with other church information. Some of the children who ended up attending were unchurched, for which we were grateful to have had the opportunity to present to them the Gospel. We did get one family who started attending our church as a direct result of the effort. We had a very positive experience and are already beginning to plan towards next year's event.

Events are a good way to impact others with the Gospel, but so is personal evangelism. Your Evangelism Committee wants to encourage you to be a faithful ambassador of our Lord and His Gospel. Pray who the Lord would have you share His Truth with this week.

Fellow Servant of Christ  
Pastor Tom Howell  
District Evangelism Committee Member

*Great and Mighty is the Lord our God*



### Have your Preparations for the Fall included Safety?

It is easy for the church to make all the plans and preparations for Fall programming as far as staffing and other necessary elements of the ministry – but have you stopped to consider whether you are prepared with people and places that provide Safe ministries and ministry? It is imperative as followers of Christ that we do all that we can to protect the people God entrusts to our care. A fine workbook that could be helpful is **Safeplace**. For further information, or on-site appraisal / consultation, please contact

Rev. Tom Cameron  
[tandjcameron@yahoo.com](mailto:tandjcameron@yahoo.com)  
585-798-1073 [Mon.-Thurs.]

## Evangelism Ministry Planning Tool (EMPT)

### The Discovery Phase (Steps 1-4)

**Step 1: *Prayer and Fasting*** by church leadership is the most important element in this process. The goal of this step is to hear from God concerning *His* heart for building bridges to lost people. Throughout planning, please note that prayer is a vital component and cannot be neglected.

(Note: Steps 2 and 3 can be interchanged or developed concurrently)

**Step 2: *Community Needs*** is where we assess the needs we see in our community. Are these needs being met and by whom? These needs can be described as the “Cries of the Community” or as “Ministries of Compassion” and offer practical help for physical or emotional needs that lead to a hearing of the Gospel. This cultivates a receptivity or openness for the love of Christ.

**Step 3: *Vision & Passion*** is discovering the connection between the community’s need(s) and the local church’s God-given purpose and passion. There may be churches that already have developed a ministry and vision statement but need to refocus their priorities.

**Step 4: *Gifts, Natural Connections & Resources*** is the discovery of how each local congregation is uniquely gifted by God and how God desires to use their distinctive gifts. There may be congregations that collectively display certain strengths. This too should be considered. In addition, the identification of individuals’ connections within the community can be recognized and utilized for maximum effectiveness. These connections may open up opportunities for greater influence.

### The Action Phase (Steps 5-6)

**Step 5: *Ministry Ideas*** is the gathering of creative uses for the items that were uncovered during the Discovery Phase. Questions that could be asked:

What could we be accomplishing?

How do we imagine this ministry unfolding?

What ministry activity could generate the most excitement or encourage the most participation from the congregation and at the same time will meet the discovered needs of the community?

This step includes the evaluation of past successes and failures but does not limit the gathering of ideas for ministry.

**Step 6: *Goals*** provides the framework for ministry. It establishes priorities, direction, accountability, and responsibility for each ministry. This is the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of ministry.

We emphasize that prayer must undergird each phase and must continue throughout each ministry. Without the power of prayer all that we have planned and worked for will not experience the blessing of God. (District Evangelism Committee Report to District and Prayer Conference)

Discover and Action Phases of EMPT; Conference 2008